

Sudan Emergency IDP Site Mapping: Darfur Region & Northern State

September 2025 | Sudan

Key Messages

- Across six states, **310 active** sites host **1,120,084 IDPs** in **228,236 households**, with **60.3% female** and **43.6% children** (*note: the percentage of children includes female children*). The **average site population is 3,851 individuals**, and **80% of sites report persons with disabilities**, averaging **69 PWDs per site**. Data was successfully collected for **291 sites**, as **authorities restricted access in 9 sites** and **key informants declined in 10** - highlighting that findings represent most, but not all, displacement sites.
- **Food assistance (61%), health services (45%), and water supply (42%)** are the most cited needs, showing that essential services remain insufficient for a large displaced population. With **78% of sites self-settled or in collective centers** and **57% managed by community leadership**, formal management is rare (**only 8% by (I)NGOs and 11% by government**), meaning most sites operate without structured oversight.
- **Of 383 sites mapped, 19% (73 sites) are closed** with IDPs relocated, while **310 remain active**, concentrated in North, South, East, West, and Central Darfur, plus Northern State. These active sites form the core of displacement in the region, illustrating the scale and geographic spread of humanitarian needs. An active site is a location currently hosting displaced populations and requiring humanitarian attention. A closed/inactive site is a location where displaced people lived previously but are no longer present.

Context & Rationale

Since the outbreak of conflict in mid-April 2023, Sudan has faced an unprecedented displacement crisis. The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) rose from 8.6 million in mid-April 2023 to about 11.3 million by April 2025, before slightly declining to 10.5 million in May 2025 due to some return movements¹. This remains the world's largest displacement crisis, with nearly one-third of Sudan's population - about 15 million people - displaced internally and externally². Most IDPs originate from Khartoum, South Darfur, and North Darfur. At the same time, these two later states host the largest IDP populations together with River Nile. Over half (52%) of IDPs are children under the ages of 18 according to IOM DTM data³.

Around 43% of IDPs are living in sites⁴. This underscores the urgent need to strengthen site mapping systems to capture critical data such as site location, population estimates, and management structures. This need is further intensified by the deteriorating humanitarian situation which resulted to a projected expansion of famine risks across Darfur in 2025⁵ - a projection now validated, as famine has already been confirmed in El Fasher (North Darfur), Kadugli (South Kordofan), and 20 other areas currently at risk⁶. Between December 2024 and May 2025, an estimated 8.7 million people were in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) or Phase 5 (Catastrophe), highlighting the severe vulnerability of displaced populations across Sudan⁴.

1 [Two years of conflict in Sudan](#)

2 [IOM Sudan Mobility Update Number 17](#)

3 [IOM Sudan Mobility Update Number 13](#)

4 [DTM Mobility Update Number 9](#)

5 [Sudan: Acute Food Insecurity Situation](#)

6 [Sudan: Famine confirmed in El Fasher and Kadugli towns](#)

Mapping Coverage

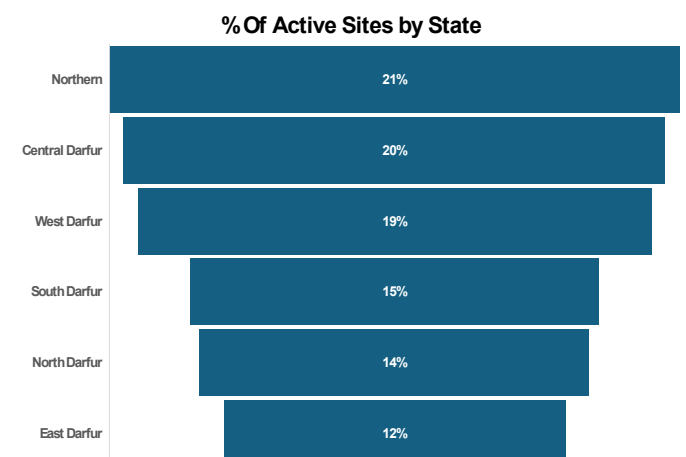
The Northern State has the highest number of closed sites. As shown in the chart below, it also records the highest number of active sites among the six states included in this mapping exercise.

According to ACAPS and the UK government, the Northern State plays a role as both a transit point and destination for IDPs¹, and the prevailing security conditions do not meet the threshold for a generalized risk of serious harm². The relative safety and stability of Northern State therefore likely explain the closure of several IDP sites, as many displaced households may have opted for local integration or permanent settlement. Nonetheless, these closures may also reflect government-led relocation initiatives or other evolving displacement dynamics³.

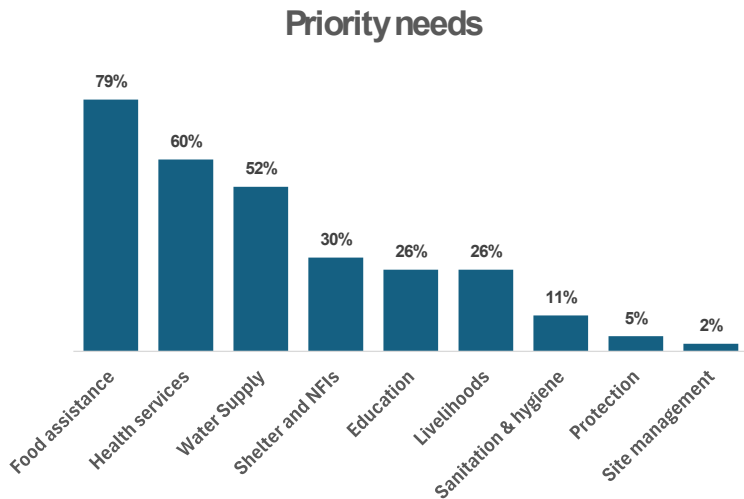
1 [Sudan: Northern State pre-crisis and current situation](#).

2 [Sudan: Security Situation](#)

3 [Sudan: Impact of long-term displacement in the North](#)



Priority Needs



Percentages surpass 100% because multiple options could be selected.

In most sites where data was collected and priority needs were reported, food assistance emerged as the top need. Specifically, **79% (n=231)** of the camps, **food assistance was identified as a priority**, followed by **health services (60%)** and **water supply (52%)**.

These findings, particularly regarding food assistance, reinforce **projections of an expanding famine risk in the Darfur region** as outlined in the rationale. Moreover, the recent siege, overrun, and displacement from the city of Al Fasher in North Darfur¹ are likely to further intensify humanitarian needs among IDPs in receiving sites and camps, underscoring the urgent need for response agencies to prioritize life-saving interventions amid ongoing constraints.

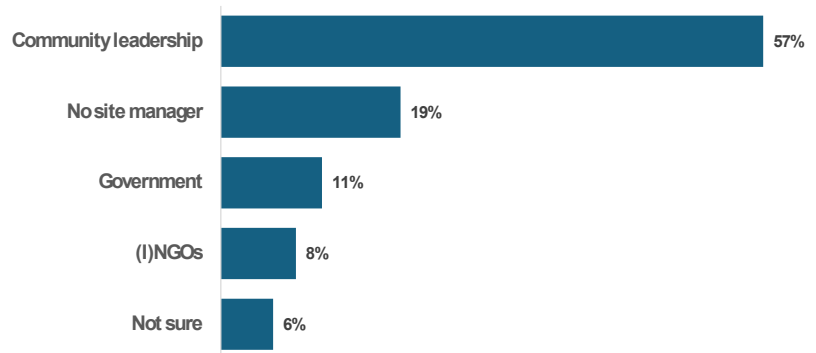
¹ [A Dramatic Shift in Sudan's Civil War](#)

Site Management

Approximately **57% (n=166)** of sites are managed by the community or through community leadership, compared to **11%** managed by government entities and **8%** by (I)NGOs. Additionally, key informants reported that **24% of sites either lacked a site management agency** or were **unsure of its identity**, if any existed.

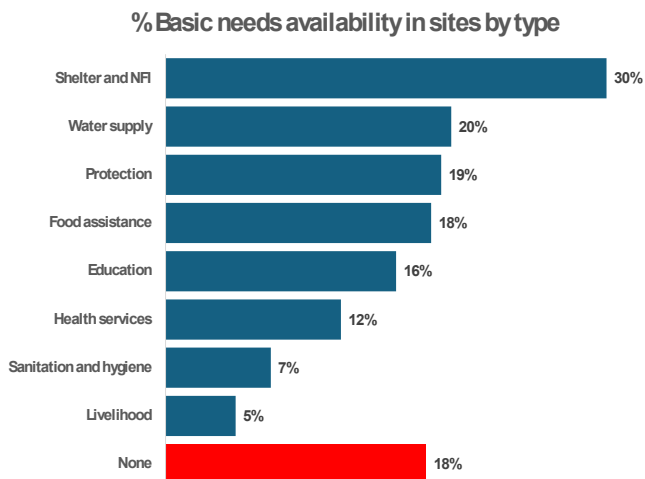
Given that UN agencies and the Sudanese Red Crescent, and to a lesser extent other (I)NGOs have dominated the response¹, particularly in areas where access and operations are feasible, their **limited representation in site management across the mapped sites**, highlights the **restricted depth and reach of the response in the Darfur region and Northern State as a whole**.

% Site management by management type



¹ [Humanitarian Access Score Report: Sudan](#)

Assistance availability



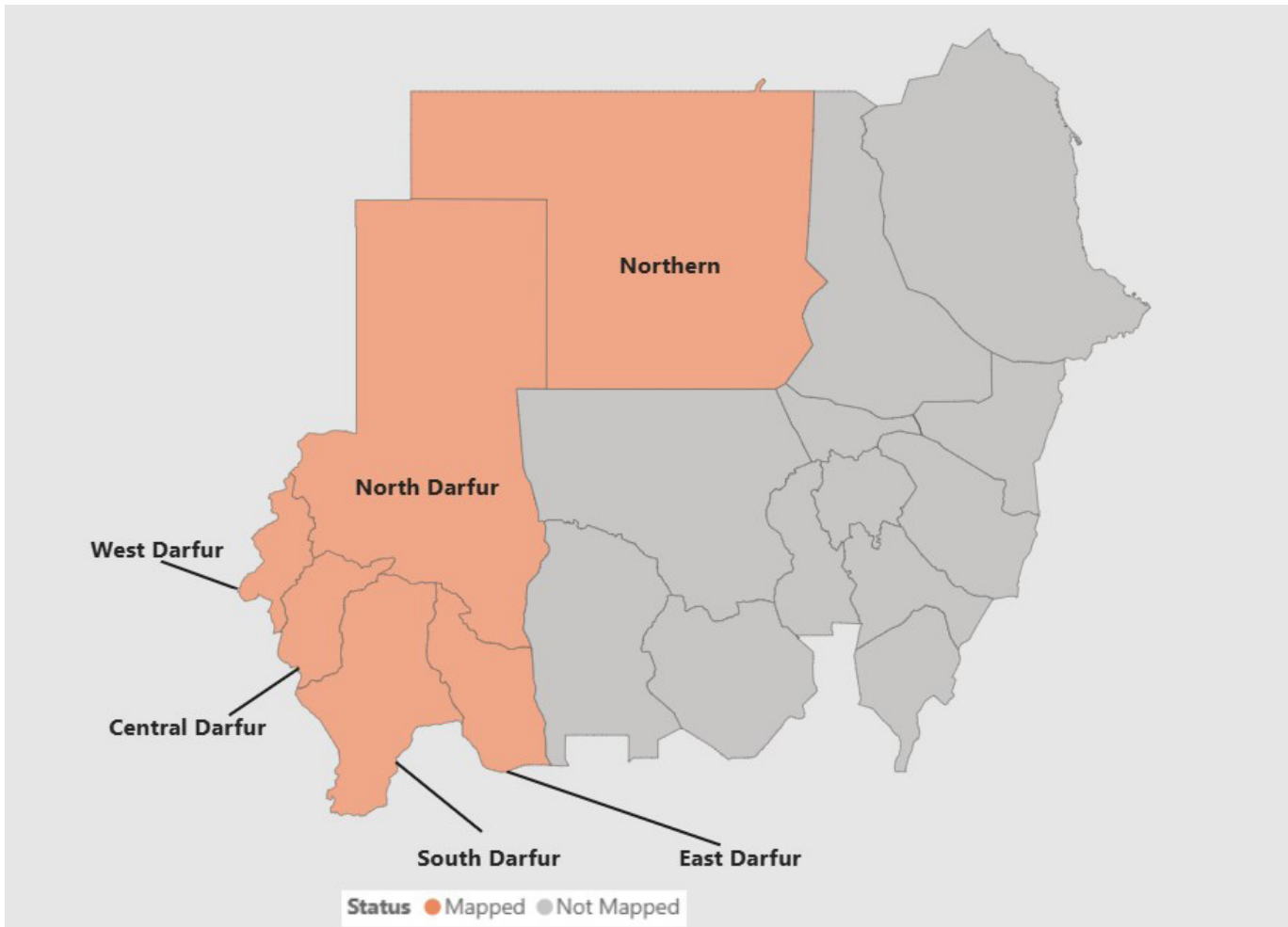
Percentages surpass 100% because multiple options could be selected.

Needs availability across sites is limited. Shelter and NFIs were the most common with **30% of sites reported to have shelter and NFI support**, followed by **water supply (20%)** and **protection (19%)**.

Nearly one in five sites (18%) reported no services at all. Health, education, and sanitation support remain minimal, highlighting critical gaps in basic needs provision.

These **findings highlight assistance gaps across key sectors.** Additionally, many sites are managed by community members rather than the entities that would typically deliver assistance, underscoring possible limited resource availability.

Site mapping Coverage map



Methodology Overview

This site identification and mapping exercise was conducted across six states: North, South, East, West, and Central Darfur, as well as Northern State. A representative sampling methodology was not used, hence findings are indicative and should not be generalized.

To guide field deployment, Sudan was divided into 1 km-radius hexagons. Using the IOM DTM site dataset (May round) as a baseline, IMPACT overlaid the GPS coordinates of potential sites onto these hexagons. Centroid points of the hexagons containing sites within the six target states were then shared with the data collection partner, DataQ.

DataQ field teams subsequently traveled to these locations to confirm the presence or absence of sites and to map them. In areas where direct access was not possible - such as El Fasher - proxy key informant interviews were conducted to validate site existence and characteristics.

Data were collected using KoboToolbox through Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with site focal points and community leaders. The tool captured data on site location, accessibility, typology, shelter category, population estimates, management structures, contacts of focal points, and priority needs.

Following data collection, DataQ shared the raw datasets with IMPACT/REACH for validation and analysis. Data cleaning and analysis were performed in R, with findings presented primarily in percentages and absolute figures where relevant.

It is important to note that the results are not statistically representative of all IDP sites in the six assessed states but rather reflect the conditions of sites that were located, verified, and mapped during this exercise.

For access to this data, stakeholders are advised to contact the **Site Management Cluster** (SMC) of Sudan at sudposmc@unhcr.org.

ABOUT IMPACT

Founded in 2010 and headquartered in Geneva, IMPACT Initiatives is a leading applied research organization and the largest independent provider of data in crisis-affected contexts.

Through our initiatives—REACH, AGORA, and PANDA—we enable humanitarian and other aid actors to make better, evidence-based decisions by delivering timely, relevant, and methodologically rigorous data and analysis. Our extensive presence across crisis-contexts allows us to collect data directly from crisis-affected people wherever needed, including among the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach.

ABOUT DataQ

DataQ is a Sudanese research and advisory firm dedicated to inclusive participation in Research and MERL processes as a pathway to more participatory and locally led humanitarian systems.

DataQ's approach focuses on leveraging local capacities and resources while equipping communities with the tools and platforms they need to shape the policies and programs that impact their lives. Since its' establishment DataQ has supported over 45 local and international partners through tailored research, MEAL, and capacity-building services.

Partners

Implementing partners for this phase of site mapping are the **Site Management Cluster of Sudan** and **DataQ**.

The Donor Agencies are the **European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO)** and **U.S. Department of State**.