

Sudan crisis at two months: Spiralling needs amidst limited access and information

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KEY MESSAGES

- Although humanitarians continue to respond, access constraints and bureaucratic impediments mean the most vulnerable are also the hardest to reach. Swift and unhindered humanitarian action is needed to avert preventable loss of life. Improved access is also required to facilitate timely needs assessment and enable an evidence-based response.
- Needs were already at their highest in a decade before 15 April and are estimated to have only grown significantly since then. Humanitarian conditions are deteriorating and needs are spiralling, with little to no access to basic services, collapsing health infrastructure, and worsening food and water security.
- Sudan's neighbouring countries are receiving hundreds of thousands of refugees and returnees whilst continuing to cope with their own protracted and complex crises. Sustained funding to these humanitarian responses must also be maintained to ensure assistance can be provided to those most in need.
- The upcoming lean and rainy seasons in Sudan and its neighbouring countries reflects a severe risk of compounding the already-dire humanitarian conditions on the ground.

CURRENT SITUATION

Since clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) broke out on 15 April, more than 1.9 million people have been forced to flee from areas facing escalating violence and insecurity - including 1.4 million displaced internally and another nearly 500,000 people to neighbouring countries. Whilst data is limited on current needs on the ground, REACH's rapid cross-border assessments indicate that **basic services and infrastructure are widely unavailable, hunger is worsening, and the upcoming lean season points to a further deterioration in food security.**

This ongoing crisis comes amidst a complex and protracted humanitarian context in Sudan, with 15.8 million people estimated to be in need – the highest in a decade – prior to these events. Since 15 April, this number has risen to a staggering 24.7 million people. Prior to the recent conflict, the country has also faced persistent environmental risks, widespread food insecurity and economic challenges, prolonged internal displacement, and high refugee caseloads.

1.9M

people have been forcibly displaced

24.7M

people are in need of assistance ([OCHA](#))

1.4M IDPs ([IOM](#))

470k cross-border ([UNHCR](#))

2.6B

USD in funding required ([HRP](#))

16%

of HRP funded to date ([EST](#))

DIRE CONDITIONS INSIDE SUDAN REQUIRE SWIFT HUMANITARIAN ACTION TO AVERT PREVENTABLE LOSS OF LIFE

Findings from REACH cross-border rapid assessments corroborate accounts of mass displacement from conflict-affected areas in Darfur and Khartoum states. A sizable number of key informants (KIs) reported that no one remained in the settlements from which they fled, whilst others claimed that not everyone who wanted to leave were able to do so, primarily elderly persons (particularly elderly men) and persons with disabilities. Commonly reported barriers include insecurity, road closures, costs associated with movement, and people being too weak to travel. KIs also indicated that populations left behind remain at risk of severe violence, theft, and kidnapping.

These risks to safety and security come alongside severely limited access to food and water - with a resulting reduction in water consumption and worsening food insecurity reported. Destroyed health facilities, water supply networks, and sanitation networks indicate an increased reliance on unimproved water sources and a growing public health risk. Access to other basic services like markets, education facilities, and electricity networks were also reported to be restricted as a direct result of the conflict; KIs noted destruction and damage, occupation by armed groups, or service suspensions due to insecurity.

NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES ARE FACING THEIR OWN COMPLEX AND PROTRACTED HUMANITARIAN CRISES

Sustained funding to humanitarian responses in Sudan's neighbouring countries is also urgently needed. Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Ethiopia, and South Sudan have received hundreds of thousands of refugees and returnees from Sudan. Whilst these households have found safety from immediate conflict and violence, their countries of displacement are also in the midst of longstanding crisis.

An influx of new arrivals further strains limited resources and humanitarian operations that are already facing funding gaps. Particularly concerning is cross-border displacement into places [experiencing 'emergency' levels](#) of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 4). South Sudan remains gripped

by a protracted and complex humanitarian crisis, severe food insecurity, and weak infrastructure with little capacity to absorb further strains on resources. The country has already started to feel the effects of the conflict in Sudan, as recent market monitoring indicates a fairly dramatic rise in the costs of food and non-food necessities in Upper Niles and Unity States.

Households arriving to CAR must also contend with a complex humanitarian emergency and ongoing public health crisis in the country, as evidenced by an unprecedented mortality rate and high vulnerability to communicable diseases due to a lack of health infrastructure and low vaccination coverage.

LOOKING AHEAD: SEASONAL SHOCKS COMPOUND SEVERITY OF CONDITIONS

In the coming months, Sudan and its neighbours will continue facing heightened vulnerability due to lean seasons and annual flood risk. June through September will see the agricultural lean seasons in Chad and western Ethiopia, as well as lean seasons in South Sudan and northern CAR. This period will also include seasonal rains and corresponding flood risk across these countries, with the potential to further limit access to hard-to-reach areas with vulnerable

communities in urgent need of assistance. To prevent large-scale loss of life in affected communities, close monitoring of these risk factors and their impact on needs in displacement hotspots will be critical.

Further reading

Find links to all our latest data and publications on our [Sudan Crisis Thread](#).