Sudan Crisis: Assessment of hard-to-reach areas in East Darfur, Sudan

September, 2023
Sudan

KEY MESSAGES

- According to Key Informants (KIs) in assessed settlements, safety and security had either remained the same in the month prior to the data collection or slightly improved. However, in around a third of the assessed settlements KI reported that most people did not feel safe most of the time.

- In the majority of the assessed settlements KIs reported that access to basic services including shelter and protected water sources had not changed in the month prior to the data collection. Additionally, in around two third of assessed settlements KIs reported that access to food had improved in the hard-to-reach settlements. However, in 40% of the assessed settlements KIs reported hospitals and health facilities being unavailable, and that people were facing barriers accessing healthcare.

- Across almost all assessed settlements, KIs reported that people in the hard-to-reach settlements and in their current location had not received assistance in the month prior to the data collection. Healthcare, food and WASH was reported as the top priority need in both hard-to-reach settlements and the current location of the KIs with in-kind and multi-purpose cash reported as the preferred assistance modality in the hard-to-reach settlements.

Map 1: Reported locality* of origin of key informants interviewed.

* "Locality" refers to admin level 2 in Sudan.

CONTEXT & RATIONALE

Armed clashes in multiple cities across Sudan broke out on April 15th between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), resulting in displacement across the country and a deterioration of the already severe humanitarian needs in the country.

Given the rapidly changing humanitarian context, and the access constraints in many areas of the country, REACH conducted an assessment of hard-to-reach areas in Sudan, to provide humanitarian actors with information on the extent of humanitarian needs in shock-affected and difficult to access parts of Sudan.
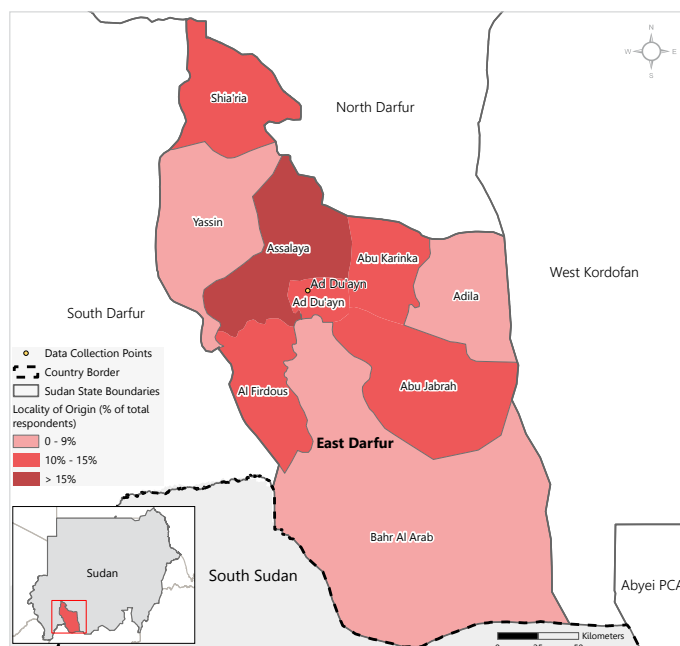
ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

A total of 234 key informants (KIs) from or with knowledge about the humanitarian conditions in 70 hard-to-reach settlements in East Darfur were interviewed in Ad Du'yan, from 10 - 19 September, 2023. The data for this assessment was collected with support from Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

During the interviews, KIs were asked about the top priority needs in their current location and the humanitarian conditions and needs of people in the hard-to-reach settlements they had knowledge about or had recently left behind in East Darfur .

The findings are indicative and cannot be generalised with a known level of precision. Given the ongoing conflict, the situation in areas of knowledge might have changed since KIs' last contact with the area. Where possible, findings should be triangulated with new information. For more information on the methodology, please refer to page 9.

The factsheets presenting the findings for West, South and Central Darfur states can be accessed via the Sudan Crisis Thread on the REACH website.

PRIORITY NEEDS AND ASSISTANCE PREFERENCES IN KIs CURRENT LOCATION

This section of the factsheet includes the main findings about the priority needs and assitance preferences in the current location of the KIs (Ad Du'yan, East Darfur). Unless otherwise stated, the findings are presented as the proportion of the KIs reporting the given response.

Most commonly reported priority needs, by % of KIs[1]:
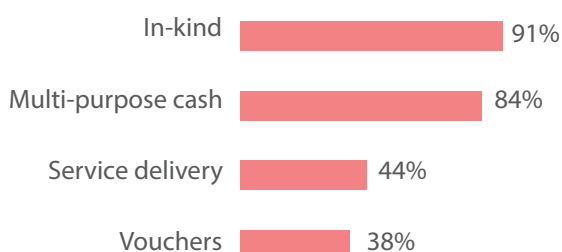
Healthcare	Food	WASH
88%	68%	41%

92% of the KIs reported that people in Ad Du'yan had not received assistance in the two weeks prior to the data collection.

Reported preferred modalities to recieve assistance, by % of KIs[1]:

In-kind	91%
Multi-purpose cash	84%
Service delivery	44%
Vouchers	38%

COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES IN KIs CURRENT LOCATION

Most commonly reported preferred channels to communicate feedback on the international aid response , by % of KIs[1]:

In person	50%
By phone	47%
Through community leaders	44%
Direct contact with NGOs	42%
Through neighbourhood groups (e.g., resistance committees and/or active emergency rooms)	35%

[1] KIs could select up to 3 options.

PRIORITY NEEDS AND ASSISTANCE PREFERENCES IN HARD TO REACH SETTLEMENTS

This section and the rest of the factsheet includes findings about the reported needs of people in hard-to-reach settlements assessed in East Darfur. Unless otherwise stated, findings are presented as the proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported the given response.

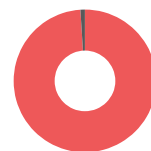Most commonly reported priority needs, by % of assessed settlements[2]:
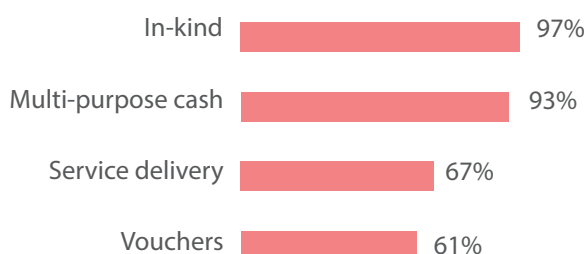
Healthcare
91%

Food
86%

WASH
67%

In **99%** of the settlements KIs reported that people had not received assistance in the month prior to the data collection.

Reported preferred modalities to recieve assistance, by % of assessed settlements[2]:

In-kind	97%
Multi-purpose cash	93%
Service delivery	67%
Vouchers	61%

In **17%** of the assessed settlements KIs reported that some groups were less likely to recieve aid, even if they were in need

Most commonly reported population groups less likely to receive assistance if it was provided, by number (n) of assessed settlements where KIs reported that some groups were less likely to recieve aid (reported in 12 assessed settlements)[3]:

Children aged
0-4 years
n=7

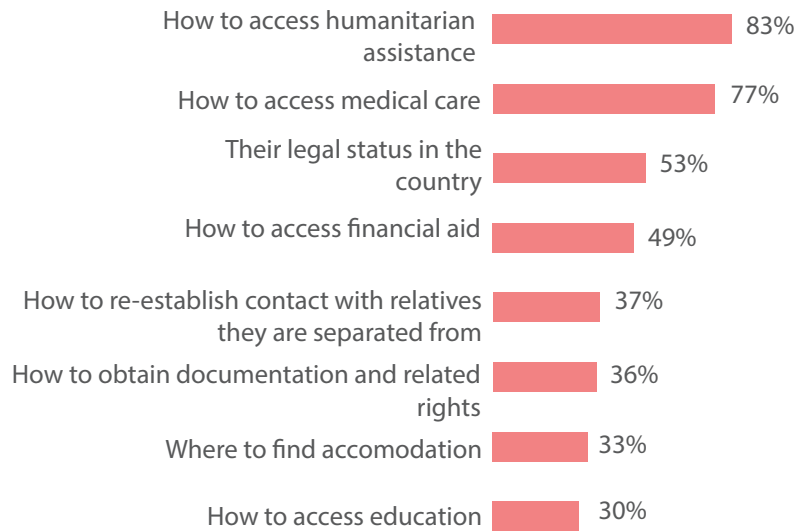Mostly older
women (60+)
n=6

Mostly older
men (60+)
n=4

Funded by European Union

h——h
H2H Network
Humanitarian
Action Support

UKaid
from the British people

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

INFORMATION NEEDS

Most commonly reported information needs, by % of assessed settlements[4]:

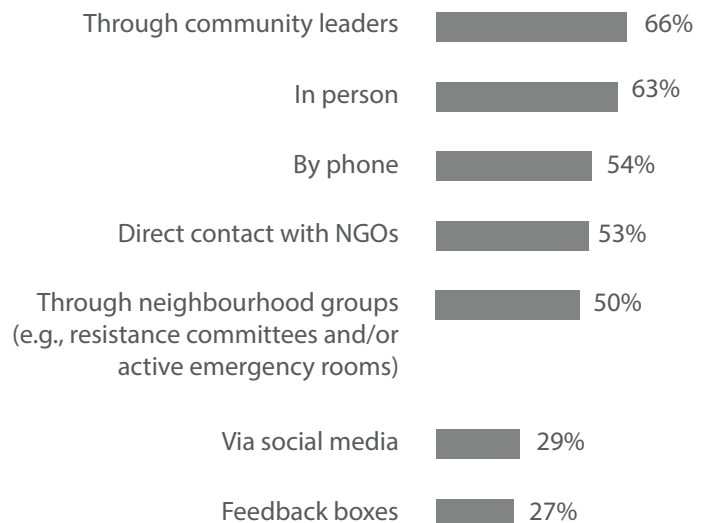| Information need	%
How to access humanitarian assistance	83%
How to access medical care	77%
Their legal status in the country	53%
How to access financial aid	49%
How to re-establish contact with relatives they are separated from	37%
How to obtain documentation and related rights	36%
Where to find accomodation	33%
How to access education	30%

COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES

Most commonly reported preferred channels to recieve information, by % of assessed settlements[4]:
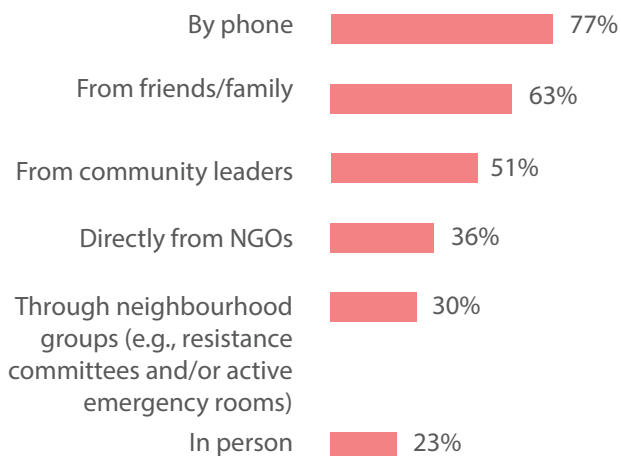
Channel	%
By phone	77%
From friends/family	63%
From community leaders	51%
Directly from NGOs	36%
Through neighbourhood groups (e.g., resistance committees and/or active emergency rooms)	30%
In person	23%

Most commonly reported preferred channels to communicate feedback on the international aid response , by % of assessed settlements[4]:

Channel	%
Through community leaders	66%
In person	63%
By phone	54%
Direct contact with NGOs	53%
Through neighbourhood groups (e.g., resistance committees and/or active emergency rooms)	50%
Via social media	29%
Feedback boxes	27%

[4] KIs could select up to 3 options.

PROTECTION: PERCEIVED SAFETY & SECURITY

Reported changes in perceived safety and security in the month prior to the data collection, by % of assessed settlements:

No consensus (7%)   Worsened (3%)

Improved (13%)

No change (77%)
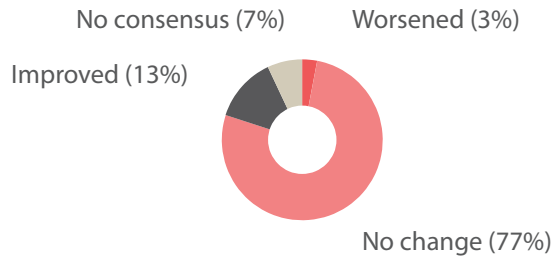
In **33%**

of settlements KIs reported that most people in the hard-to-reach settlement did not feel safe most of the time.

In **21%**

of settlements KIs reported that most people in the hard-to-reach settlement were not able to move freely and safe in and out of the settlement in the month prior to data collection.

PROTECTION: SAFETY & SECURITY RISKS FOR THE REMAINING POPULATION:

Most reported safety and security risks, by % of assessed settlements disaggregated by population group[5]:

	Females (aged 18 years and over)	Girls (aged 0-17 years)	Males (aged 18 years and over)	Boys (aged 0-17 years)
Insecurity	66%	67%	69%	69%
Abduction / Forced Recruitment	10%	<10%	34%	30%
Physical harrassment / violence	44%	44%	<10%	<10%
Criminality	41%	43%	50%	51%
Discrimination	16%	14%	26%	13%
Domestic violence	20%	17%	16%	23%
Being killed by explosive hazards	<10%	<10%	30%	29%

Most commonly reported population groups most likely to feel unsafe, by number (n) of assessed settlements where KIs reported that most people did not feel safe (23 assessed settlements)[6]:

No specific group
n=15

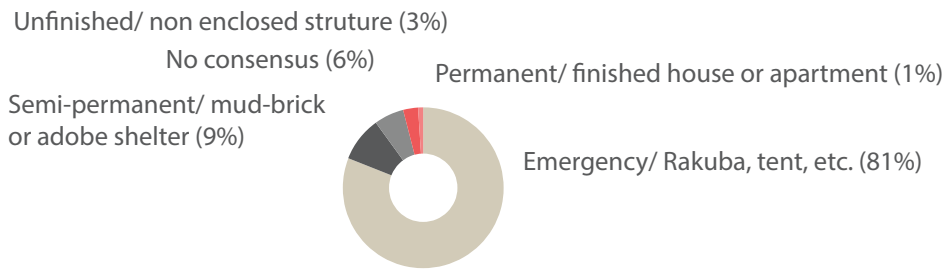Boys (aged 5-17)
n=9

Girls (aged 5-17)
n=8

Children aged 0-4 years
n=6

[5] KIs could select multiple options
[6] KIs could select up to 2 options.

SHELTER:

Reported main shelter type, by % of assessed settlements:

Unfinished/ non enclosed struture (3%)

No consensus (6%)

Permanent/ finished house or apartment (1%)

Semi-permanent/ mud-brick
or adobe shelter (9%)

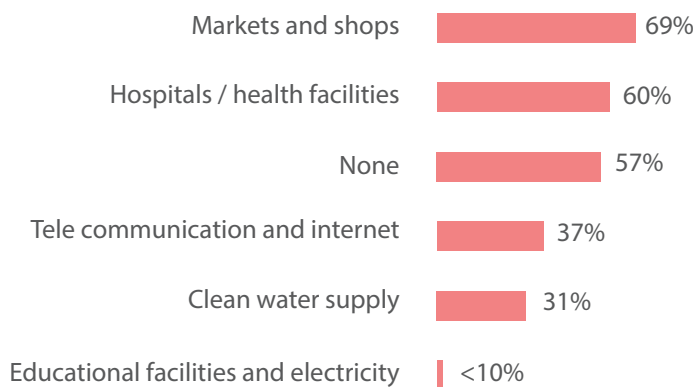Emergency/ Rakuba, tent, etc. (81%)

in **93%** of assessed settlements KIs reported that access to adequate shelter had remained the same in the month prior to data collection.

BASIC SERVICES:

Reported availability of basic services, by % of assessed settlements[7]:

Markets and shops	69%
Hospitals / health facilities	60%
None	57%
Tele communication and internet	37%
Clean water supply	31%
Educational facilities and electricity	<10%

Reported changes in access to basic services in the month prior to the data collection, by % of assessed settlements:

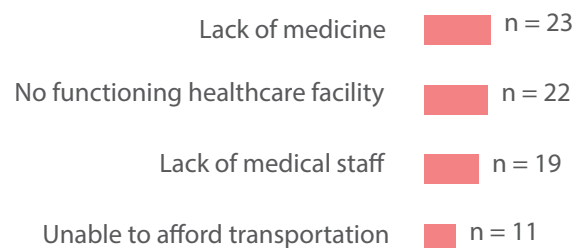Improved (6%)   Worsened (3%)

No consensus (7%)

No change (84%)
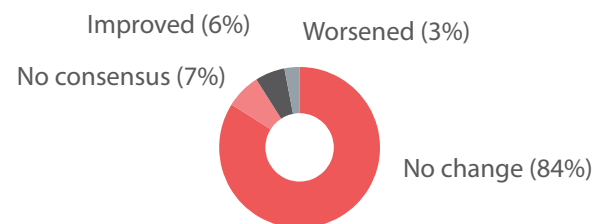
HEALTH: ACCESS TO SERVICES

% of assessed settlements where KIs reported barriers to accessing healthcare in the month prior to data collection:

No consensus (9%)

No (50%)

Yes (41%)
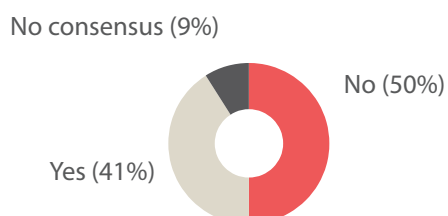
Most commonly reported barriers to access healthcare, by number of assessed settlements where KIs reported barriers to accessing healthcare (29 assessed settlements)[7]:
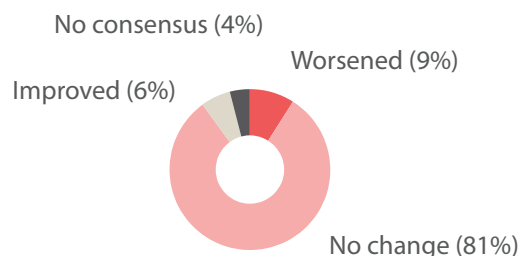
Lack of medicine	n = 23
No functioning healthcare facility	n = 22
Lack of medical staff	n = 19
Unable to afford transportation	n = 11

[7] KIs could select multiple options.

NUTRITION: ACCESS TO SERVICES

% of assessed settlements where KIs reported that feeding programs were available:
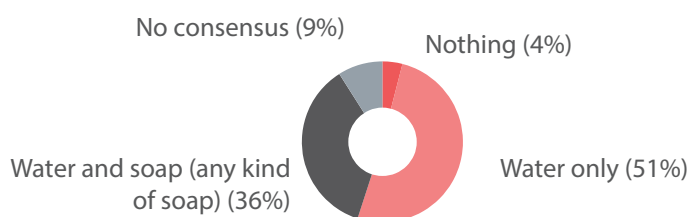
No consensus (3%)

Yes (7%)

No (90%)
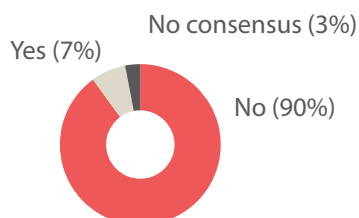
Reported change in access to nutrition services, by % of assessed settlements:

No consensus (4%)

Worsened (9%)

Improved (6%)

No change (81%)

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Reported handwashing practices, by % of assessed settlements:

No consensus (9%)

Nothing (4%)

Water and soap (any kind of soap) (36%)

Water only (51%)

In **14%** of the assessed settlements KIs reported that the main drinking water source were unprotected[8].

In **16%** of the assessed settlements KIs reported that most people were not using any sanitation facilities, and were using open defecation instead.

Most commonly reported water sources, by % of assessed settlements:

	Main water source reportedly used by MOST of the population	Water source reportedly used by ANY of the population[9]
Tank/truck	33%	60%
Public tap/ standpipe	20%	43%
Cart with small tank	13%	47%
Rain water	<10%	51%

Most commonly reported sanitation facilities, by % of assessed settlements:

	Main sanitation facility reportedly used by MOST of the population	Sanitation facility reportedly used by ANY of the population[9]
Pit latrine without slab (Open hole)	67%	83%
No facility, Bush, Field open defecation	16%	57%
Pit latrine with concrete/ plastic/ cemented blocks slab	<10%	43%

[8] Unprotected water sources included unprotected wells and springs and surface water
[9] KIs could select multiple options
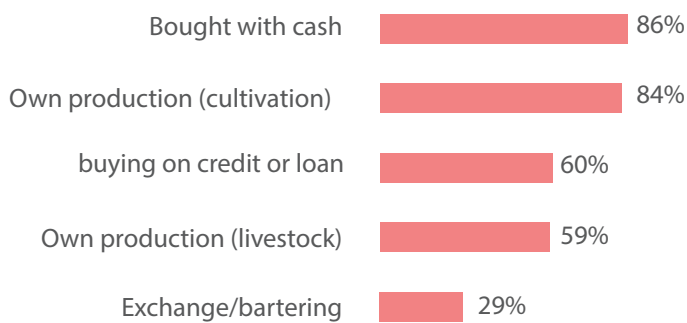
FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

Reported change in access to food during the month prior to the data collection, by % of assessed settlements:

No consensus (6%)

Worsened (7%)
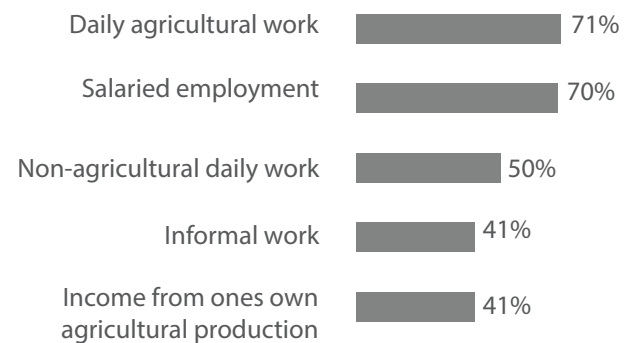
No change (11%)

Improved (76%)
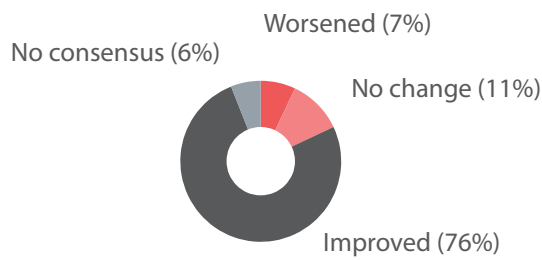
In **37%**

of the assessed settlements KIs reported that everyone in their settlement had access to enough food.

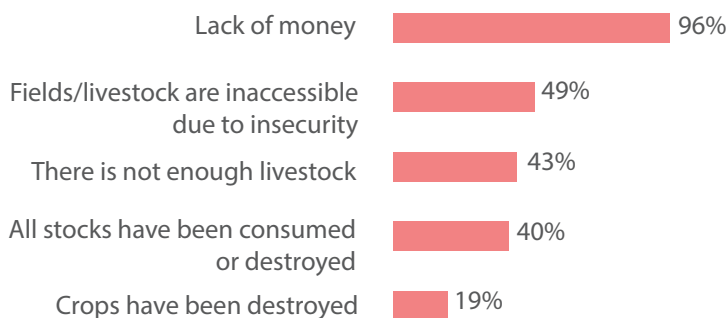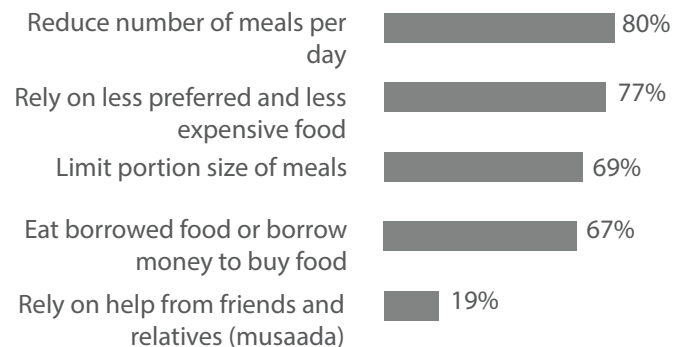Most commonly reported sources of food, by % of assessed settlements[9]:

Bought with cash	86%
Own production (cultivation)	84%
buying on credit or loan	60%
Own production (livestock)	59%
Exchange/bartering	29%

Most commonly reported sources of income, by % of assessed settlements[9]:

Daily agricultural work	71%
Salaried employment	70%
Non-agricultural daily work	50%
Informal work	41%
Income from ones own agricultural production	41%

Most commonly reported reasons for lack of access to food or money to buy it, by % of assessed settlements[10]:

Lack of money	96%
Fields/livestock are inaccessible due to insecurity	49%
There is not enough livestock	43%
All stocks have been consumed or destroyed	40%
Crops have been destroyed	19%

Most commonly reported strategies to cope with lack of food or money to buy it, by % of assessed settlements[10]:

Reduce number of meals per day	80%
Rely on less preferred and less expensive food	77%
Limit portion size of meals	69%
Eat borrowed food or borrow money to buy food	67%
Rely on help from friends and relatives (musaada)	19%

[9] KIs could select up to 3 options.
[10] KIs could select multiple options.

METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

In the absence of a comprehensive assessment of the humanitarian situation in Sudan, and considering the continuing access constraints in several parts of the country, REACH conducted an assessment to collect indicative data on the humanitarian situation in conflict-affected and difficult-to-access localities in the Darfur Region.

This assessment primarily used the Area of Knowledge (AoK) methodology, used by REACH in several countries. In the AoK methodology, KIs report on a settlement which they have knowledge about or recently left (their "area of knowledge" or AoK). For this assessment, KIs were required to fulfill the following criteria:

- KIs confirmed that there are people remaining in their AoK.
- KIs confirmed that they have been present in, or in contact with someone from their AoK in the month prior to data collection.
- KIs confirm that they have enough knowledge to report on the situation and needs in their AoK.

A total of 762 key informants (KIs) were interviewed in Ad Du'Ayn (East Darfur, Sudan) and in displacement sites in Ouaddaï Province in Chad from 10 - 19 September 2023.

The findings presented in this factsheet includes the results from the 234 interviews conducted in Ad Du'ayn (East Darfur) with KIs from East Darfur. During the interviews KIs were asked about the top priority needs in their current location (Ad Du'ayn), and needs in the hard-to-reach settlements they had recently left or had knowledge about in East Darfur (their AoK). All interviews were conducted by trained enumerators.

Findings about KIs' current needs are presented as the proportion of KIs reporting the given response, while findings about the needs in their AoK in East Darfur are presented as the proportion of settlements assessed where KIs reported the given response. The reason for this difference is because the responses about the needs in KIs' AoK has been aggregated at settlement level. As part of this aggregation a settlement was assigned one value for each question. If there was only one KI for a settlement, their answers automatically became the value for the settlement. If there were more than one KI, the value of the settlement was based on the majority of the responses. If there was no clear majority, e.g. 2 KIs report "yes" and 2 KIs report "no", the settlement response was coded as No Consensus (NC). For multiple choice questions, any option reported by a KI were included in the settlement-level data.

Multiple-choice responses are presented graphically or in tables. In most cases, only responses higher than 20% are included in graphs and tables. In some cases, all response options may be included if these options are seen to be particularly relevant to the humanitarian response.

Due to the purposive sampling, findings are not generalisable with a known level of precision and should be considered indicative only. As more information becomes available, it is recommended to triangulate findings with updated information where possible.

For more information on the sampling tools and methods used, please refer to the Research Terms of Reference (ToR) and the Data Analysis Plan (DAP), which are available available here.

New data, analysis, and outputs from other assessments on the Sudan conflict will be made available on the Sudan Crisis Thread on the REACH website.

ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).

ASSESSMENT COVERAGE

State	Locality	Number of KIs	Number of assessed settlements
East Darfur	Yassin	22	7
East Darfur	Assalaya	39	17
East Darfur	Shia'ria	27	3
East Darfur	Abu Karinka	23	4
East Darfur	Adila	22	4
East Darfur	Bahr Al Arab	21	6
East Darfur	Abu Jabrah	24	5
East Darfur	Al Firdous	25	7
East Darfur	Ad Du'ayn	31	17
Total		234	70