

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

September, 2023
Sudan

KEY MESSAGES

- According to Key Informants (KIs) in assessed settlements, safety and security deteriorated in the month prior to data collection across assessed settlements in both urban and rural localities. While general insecurities were reported by KIs for men and women across age as safety and security risks, physical harassment/ violence and sexual abuse were mentioned as risks for women and girls by KIs in around a third of assessed settlements.
- Along with a reported deterioration of safety and security, KIs reported worsened or limited access to basic services, food, livelihoods, improved water sources, healthcare, and shelter, indicating an overall worsening of the impact of the conflict in Sudan on the assessed settlements of West Darfur.
- Across almost all assessed settlements, KIs reported that people in the hard-to-reach settlement had not received assistance in the month prior to the data collection. The need to communicate how to access humanitarian assistance and medical care was reported by KIs in around half of the assessed settlements, with direct communication from NGOs and communication through community leaders being reported as the preferred communication channels.

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

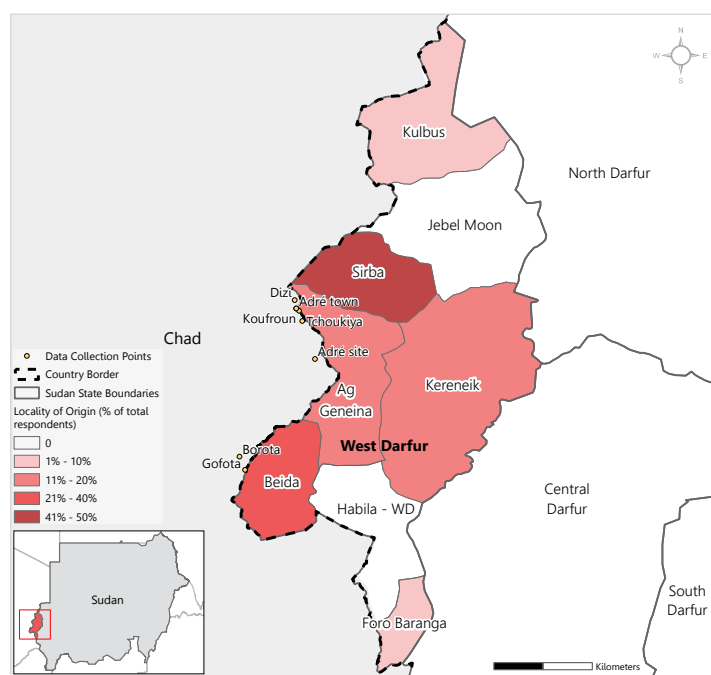
A total of 239 key informants (KIs) from or with knowledge about the humanitarian conditions in 87 hard-to-reach settlements in West Darfur were interviewed in Ouaddai Province in Chad from 10 - 19 September, 2023.

During the interviews, KIs were asked about their displacement journey from their settlements in West Darfur to their current location in Chad, the top priority needs in their current location, and needs of people in the hard-to-reach settlements they had recently left behind in West 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 11](#).

The factsheets presenting the findings for East, South and Central Darfur states can be accessed via the [Sudan Crisis Thread](#) on the [REACH website](#).

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

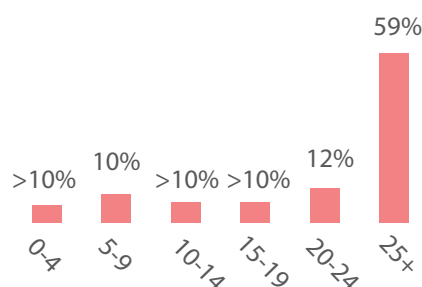


* Locality refers to admin level 2 in Sudan

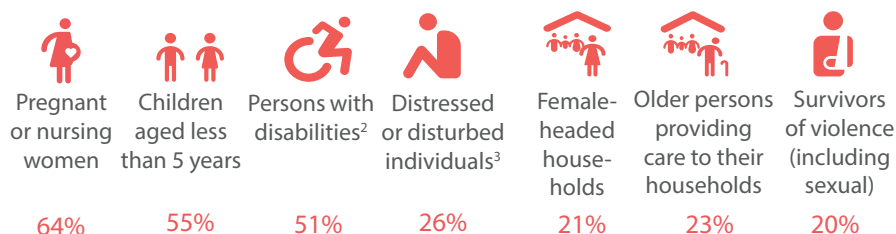
DISPLACEMENT

This section of the factsheet includes the main findings about the KIs reported displacement journeys from their hard-to-reach settlements in West Darfur to their current location in Chad as reported by the KIs. Unless otherwise stated, the findings are presented as the proportion of the KIs reporting the given response.

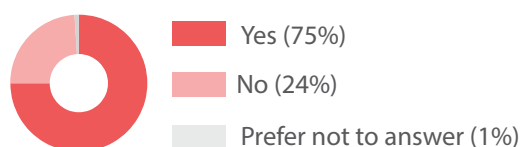
Reported number of people in displacement group¹, by % of KIs:



Reported presence of vulnerable individuals in displacement groups, by % of KIs:



% of KI reporting facing difficulties during travel:



Reported type of difficulties during travel, by % of KIs, disaggregated by gender⁴:

| | Lack of money | Asked for bribes | Looting or theft of property | Subjected to physical violence | Threatened with violence | Difficulties due to community or ethnicity |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Male (51 KIs) | 51% | 45% | 35% | 25% | 31% | 18% |
| Female (98 KIs) | 38% | 37% | 38% | 43% | 26% | 23% |
| Total (149 KIs) | 42% | 40% | 37% | 37% | 28% | 21% |

UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN

27% of the KIs reported that they had been separated from at least one member of their groups during displacement

of whom **39%** of the KIs reported children being separated from all adult family members

¹ Displacement group refers to the group of people the KI travelled with for the majority of their travels from their settlement to their current location

² Includes mental or physical disabilities.

³ In the questionnaire, this category was phrased as following: "Anyone who was so distressed or disturbed that they were unable to carry out daily activities were completely or almost completely inactive."

⁴ 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 West Darfur. Unless otherwise stated, findings are presented as the proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported the given

Most commonly reported priority needs, by % of assessed settlements⁵:



Food
86%



Healthcare
76%

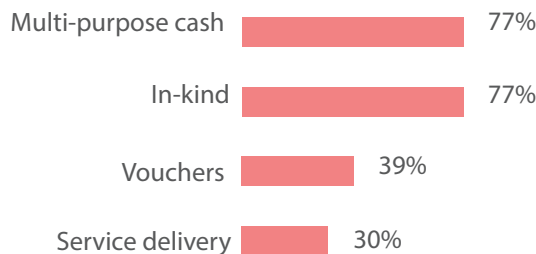


Non-food items
40%



In 93% of the settlements KIs reported that people had not received assistance in the month prior to the data collection.

Reported preferred modalities to receive assistance, by % of assessed settlements⁵:



In 36% of the assessed settlements KIs reported that some groups were less likely to receive aid, even if they were in need

Reported population groups who are less likely to receive assistance if it was provided, by number of assessed settlements where KIs reported that some groups are less likely to receive aid (36% of assessed settlements):



Persons with disabilities
n=13



Mostly communities which are disproportionately affected by the conflict⁶
n=9



Mostly older women (60+)
n=9

⁵ KIs could select up to 3 options.

⁶ The phrase "communities which are disproportionately affected by the conflict" was used in the questionnaire as a proxy for targeted communities. In "other" responses, some respondents specified that their own ethnic group in the AoK was less likely to receive aid.

INFORMATION NEEDS

Most commonly reported information needs, by % of assessed settlements⁷:



COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES

Most commonly reported preferred channels to receive information, by % of assessed settlements⁷:



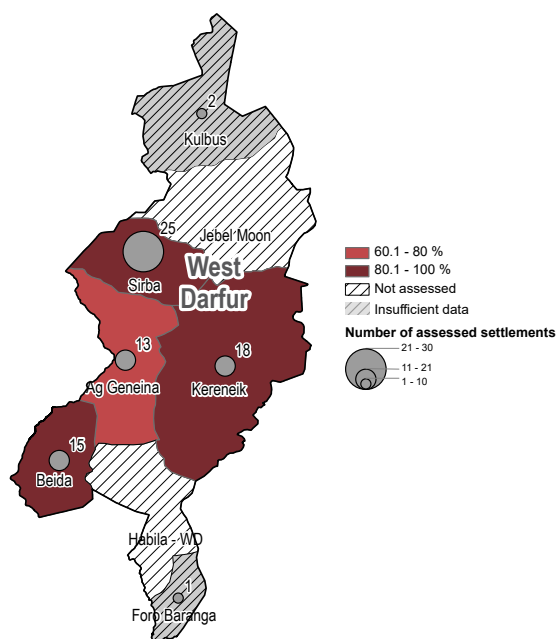
Most commonly reported preferred channels to communicate feedback on the international aid response, by % of assessed settlements⁷:



⁷ KIs could select up to 3 options.

PROTECTION: PERCEIVED SAFETY & SECURITY

Map 2: % of assessed settlements where KIs reported that MOST people did not feel safe in the settlement in the month prior to data collection, per locality:



in **85%**

of assessed settlements KIs reported that MOST people did not feel safe in the settlement in the month prior to data collection:

in **32%**

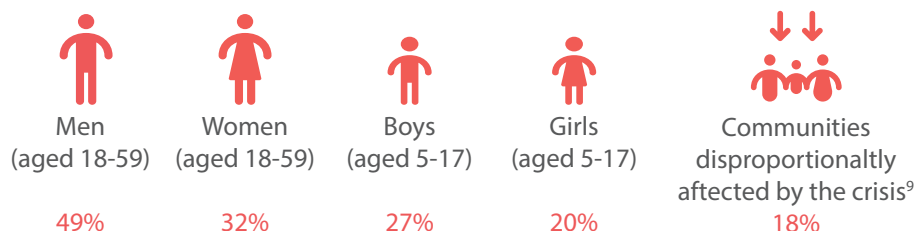
of assessed settlements KIs reported that safety and security of the population have worsened in the month prior to data collection:

in **55%**

of assessed settlements KIs reported that safety and security of the population remained the same in the month prior to data collection:

PROTECTION: SAFETY & SECURITY RISKS FOR THE REMAINING POPULATION:

Most commonly reported population groups most likely to feel unsafe, by % of assessed settlements where KIs reported that most people did not feel safe (85% of assessed settlements)⁸:



Most reported safety and security risks, by % of assessed settlements disaggregated by population group¹⁰:

| | Females (aged 18 years and over) | Girls (aged 0-17 years) | Males (aged 18 years and over) | Boys (aged 0-17 years) |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Insecurity | 63% | 67% | 85% | 66% |
| Abduction / Forced Recruitment | 29% | 29% | 51% | 32% |
| Physical harrassment / violence | 33% | 30% | 26% | 26% |
| Sexual abuse | 45% | 39% | 11% | <10% |
| Criminality | 14% | 11% | 41% | 34% |
| Discrimination | 18% | 16% | 36% | 18% |

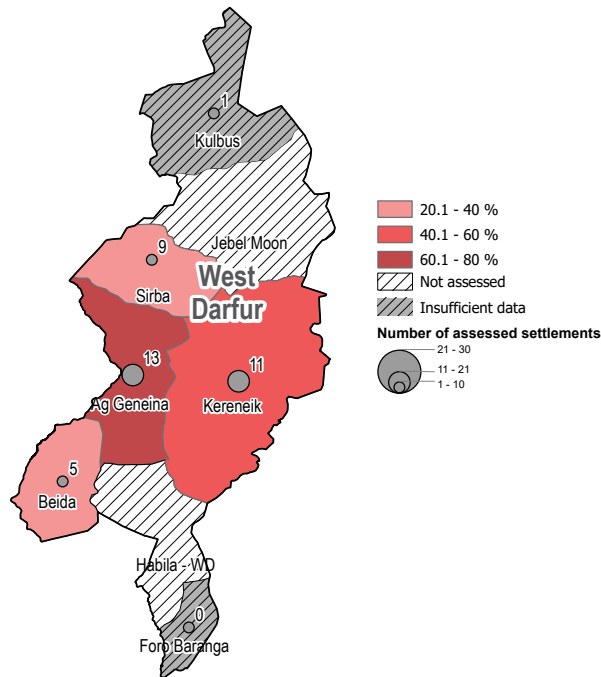
⁸ KIs could select up to 2 options.

⁹ KIs additionally reported that most people from their community had left their settlement and another community is residing there now. The KIs reported limited safety and security concerns among the population currently in the settlement.

¹⁰ KIs could select multiple options

SHELTER

Map 3: % of settlements where KIs reported that access to adequate shelter had worsened in the month prior to data collection, per locality:



in **46%**

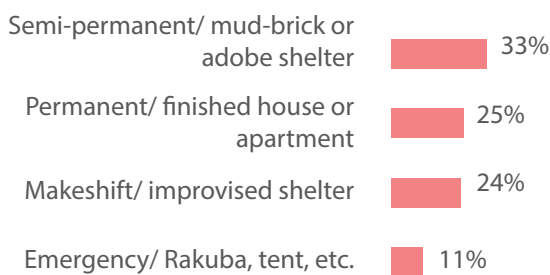
of assessed settlements KIs reported that access to adequate shelter had worsened in the month prior to data collection.

Among the 40 settlements where KIs reported that access to adequate shelter had worsened

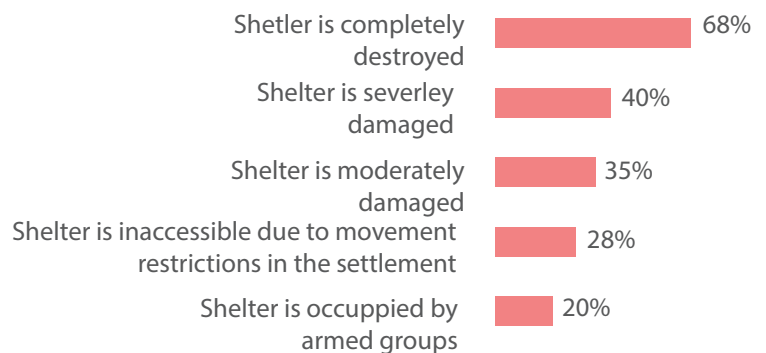
68%

reported that shelters in their settlement had been completely destroyed.

Main shelter type reported, by % of assessed settlements¹¹:



Most commonly reported barriers to shelter, by % of assessed settlements¹²:

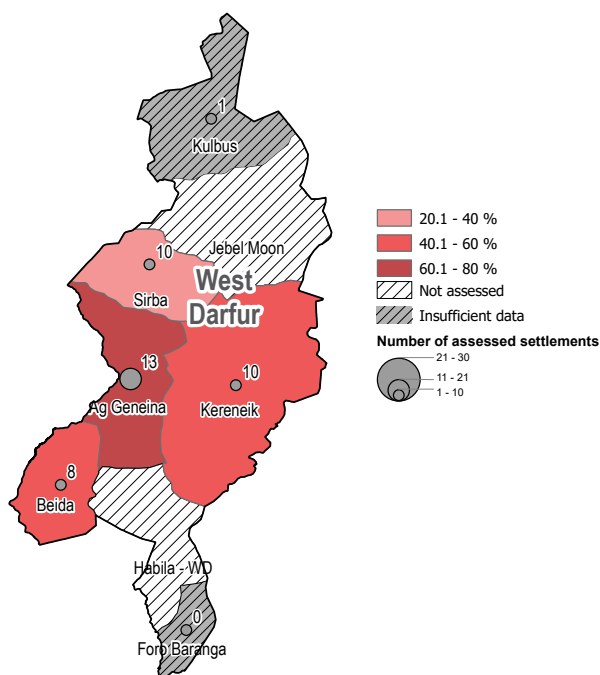


¹¹ Other shelter types mentioned, but reported by KIs in less than 10% of the assessed settlements, included public buildings/communal shelters.

¹² KIs could select up to 3 options.

FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

Map 3: % of assessed settlements where KIs reported that access to food had worsened in the month prior to the data collection, by locality:



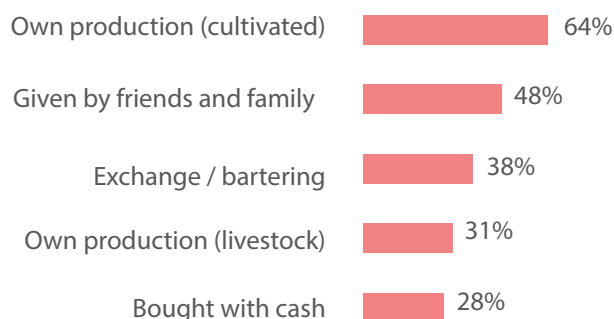
In **48%**

of the assessed settlements KIs reported that access to food had worsened in the month prior to the data collection.

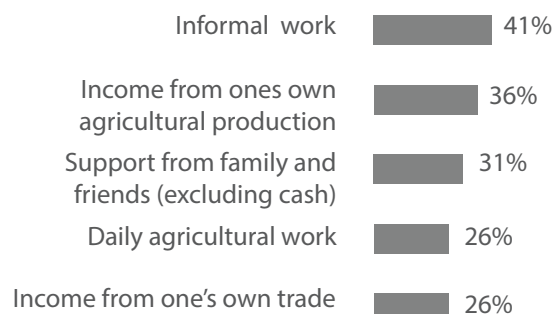
In **3%**

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

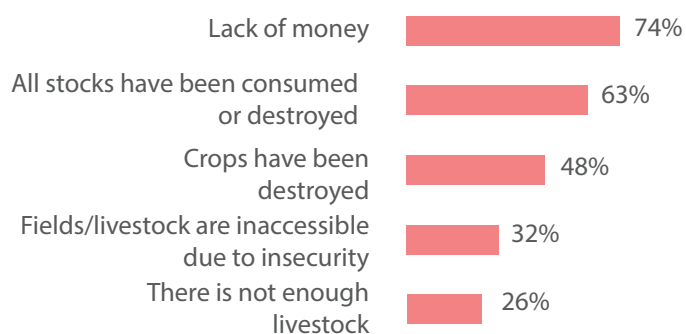
Most commonly reported sources of food, by % of assessed settlements¹³:



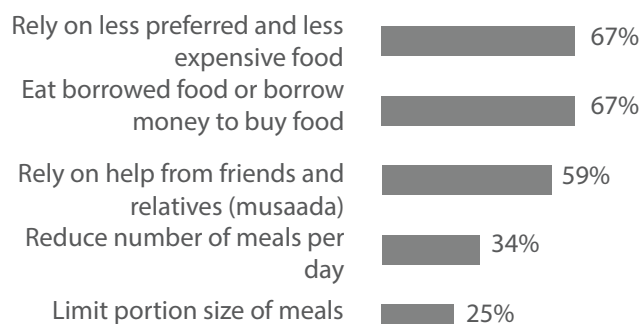
Most commonly reported sources of income, by % of assessed settlements¹³:



Most commonly reported reasons for lack of access to food or money to buy it, by % of assessed settlements¹⁴:



Most commonly reported strategies to cope with lack of food or money to buy it, by % of assessed settlements¹⁴:

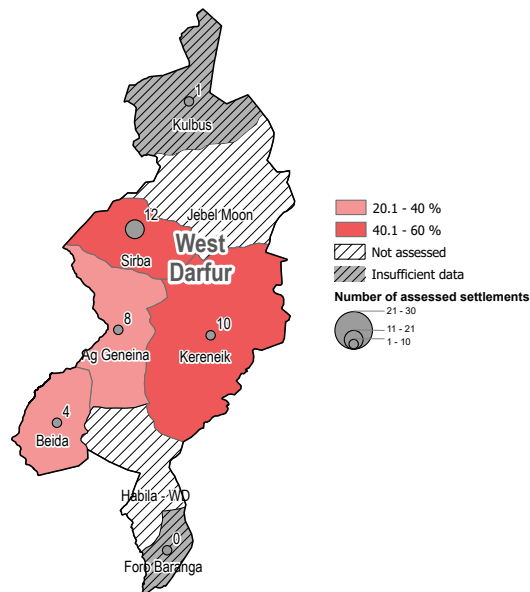


¹³ KIs could select up to 3 options.

¹⁴ KIs could select multiple options.

BASIC SERVICES

Map 4: % of assessed settlements where KIs reported that access to basic services had worsened in the month prior to the data collection, by locality:



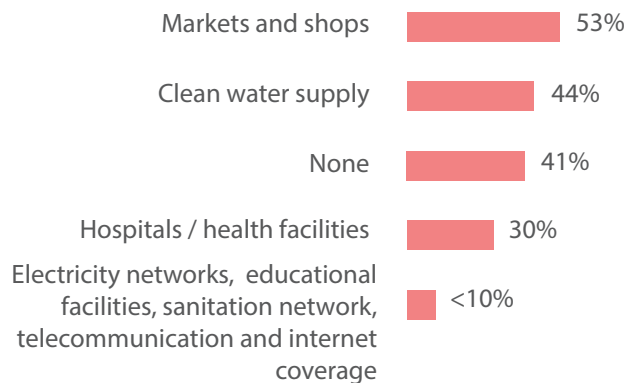
In **43%**

of settlements KIs reported that access to basic services had worsened in month prior to the data collection.

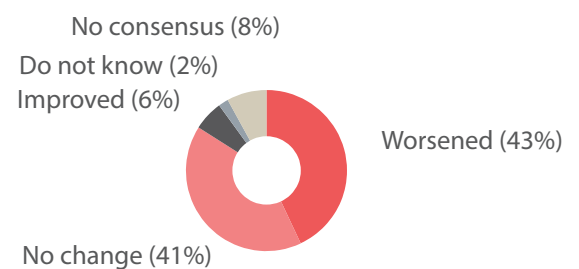
In **70%**

of assessed settlements where KIs reported that access to basic services had worsened (37 settlements), KIs reported it being because of damage due to the current crisis.

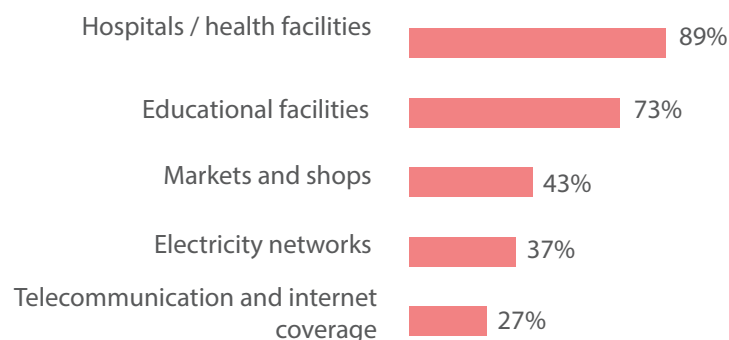
Reported availability of basic services, by % of assessed settlements¹⁵:



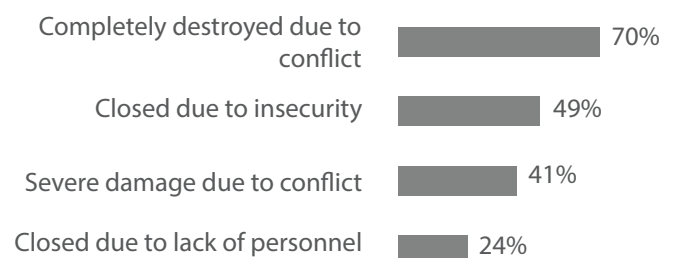
Reported changes in access to basic services in the month prior to the data collection, by % of assessed settlements:



Reported services that had been most impacted, by % of assessed settlements where KIs reported that access had worsened in the month prior to the data collection (43% of assessed settlements)¹⁶:



Reported reason for worsened access to services, by % of assessed settlements where KIs reported that access had worsened in the month prior to the data collection (43% of assessed settlements)¹⁶:

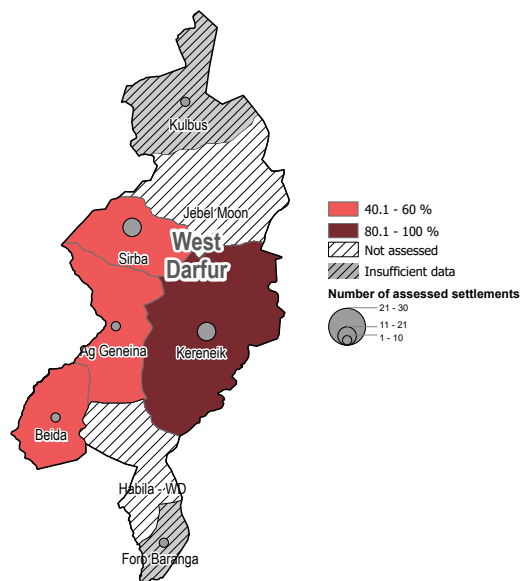


¹⁵ KIs could select multiple options.

¹⁶ KIs could select up to 3 options.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Map 5: % of assessed settlements where KIs reported that the main drinking water source is unprotected¹⁷, by locality:



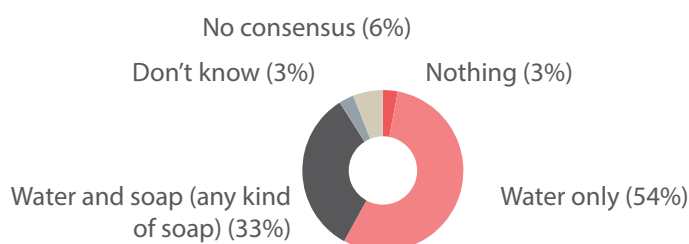
In **59%**

of the assessed settlements KIs reported that the main drinking water source were unprotected¹⁷.

In **26%**

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

Reported handwashing practices, by % of assessed settlements:



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 ¹⁸ |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Surface water | 44% | 63% |
| Public tap/standpipe | 13% | 25% |
| Unprotected well | 10% | 32% |
| Protected well | 10% | 24% |
| Borehole | <10% | 23% |
| Unprotected spring | <10% | 20% |
| Protected spring | <10% | <10% |
| Rainwater collection | <10% | 10% |
| Cart with small tank / drum | <10% | <10% |
| Piped connection to house | <10% | <10% |
| Water kiosk | <10% | 0% |

Reported sanitation facilities, by % of assessed settlements:

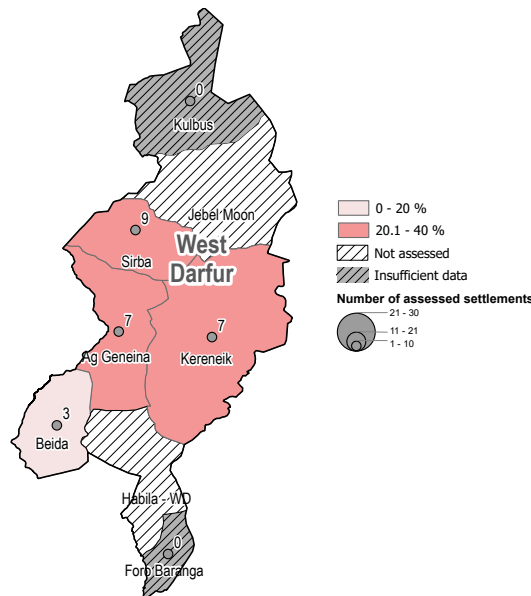
| | Main sanitation facility reportedly used by MOST of the population | Sanitation facility reportedly used by ANY of the population ¹⁸ |
|--|--|--|
| Pit latrine without slab (Open hole) | 38% | 59% |
| No facility, Bush, Field open defecation | 26% | 51% |
| Pit latrine with concrete/ plastic/ cemented blocks slab | 23% | 31% |
| Flush to septic tank | <10% | 13% |
| Flush to a well (groundwater) | 0% | 10% |
| Flush to piped sewer system | <10% | <10% |

¹⁷ Unprotected water sources included unprotected wells and springs and surface water

¹⁸ KIs could select multiple options

HEALTH: ACCESS TO SERVICES

Map 6: % of assessed settlements where KIs reported that any health services were available in the month prior to data collection, by locality:



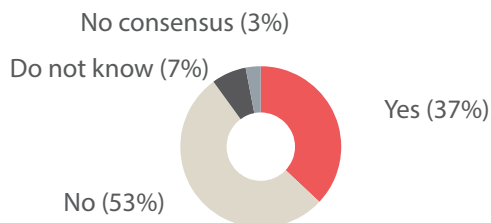
In **30%**

of assessed settlements KIs reported that any health services were accessible in the last the month prior to data collection

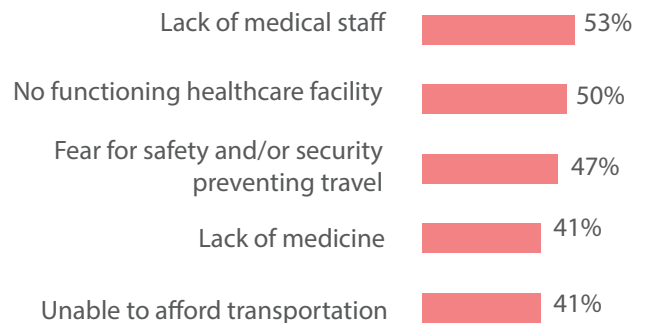
In **89%**

of assessed settlements KIs reported that healthcare was one of the most impacted basic services by the conflict in the last the month prior to data collection

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

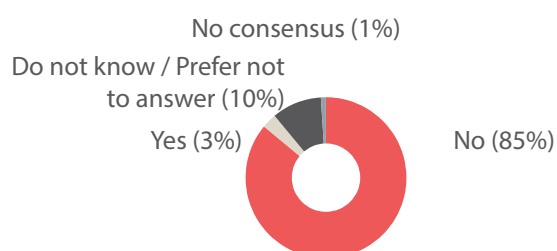


Most commonly reported barriers to access healthcare, by % of assessed settlements where KIs reported barriers to accessing healthcare (37% of assessed settlements)¹⁹:

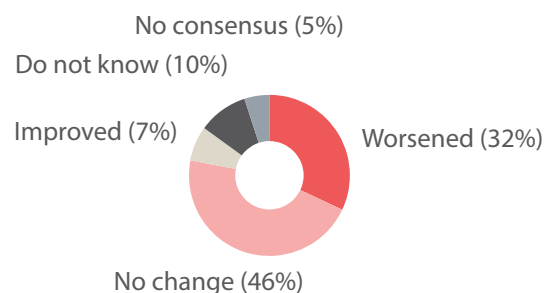


HEALTH: NUTRITION SERVICES

% of settlements where KIs reported that feeding programs were available:



Reported change in access to nutrition services, by % of assessed settlements:



¹⁹ 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 239 interviews conducted in Chad. During the interviews KIs were asked about their journey to their current location, the top priority needs in their current location (Chad), and needs in the hard-to-reach settlements they had recently left in West Darfur (their AoK). All interviews were conducted by trained enumerators.

Findings about KIs’ displacement journey and current needs are presented as the proportion of KIs reporting the given response, while findings about the needs in their AoK in West 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 |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| West Darfur | Ag Geneina | 33 | 21 |
| West Darfur | Kereneik | 47 | 20 |
| West Darfur | Beida | 51 | 16 |
| West Darfur | Kulbus | 2 | 2 |
| West Darfur | Sirba | 103 | 27 |
| West Darfur | Foro Baranga | 3 | 1 |
| Total | | 239 | 87 |