

↓↑ Sudan Crisis: Cross-Border Assessment

Area of Origin: Reports on the situation in settlements in **Khartoum State** - Round 2

23 June 2023
South Sudan

KEY MESSAGES

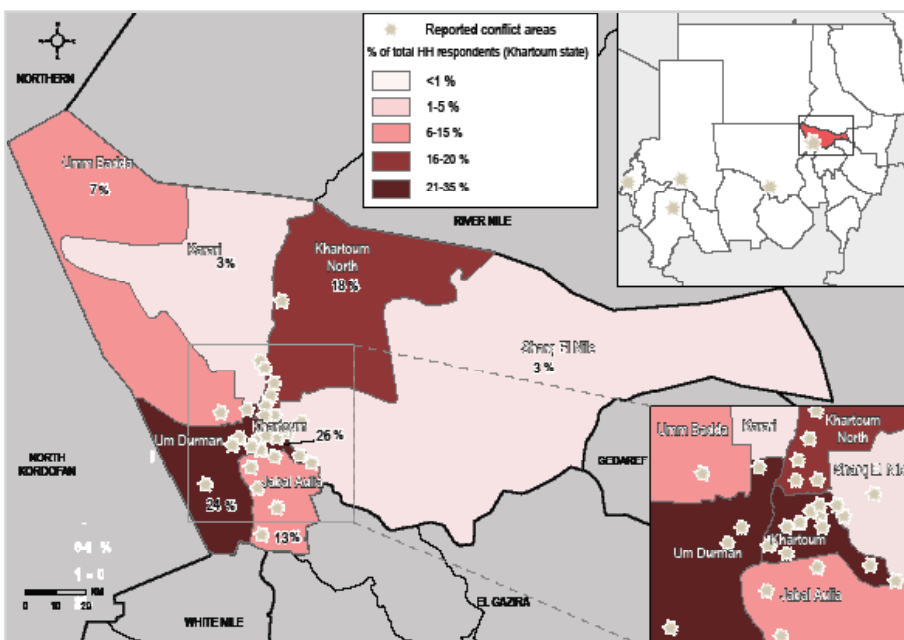
- As violence persists in the capital, responses from key informants indicate that communities are trapped in Khartoum State. A majority of key informants reported residents who planned to leave their areas but were unable to, owing to safety and security concerns, road closures, and cost-related barriers.
- KI responses suggest that the remaining residents in Khartoum State, already in a vulnerable economic state, are particularly vulnerable to the detrimental effects of price increases and loss of income since 15 April.
- KI responses support warnings that remaining populations which were already experiencing food insecurity are now facing worsened food access, which is likely to further deteriorate in the next agricultural season.
- Basic services are at breaking point: the conflict has severely disrupted basic services, with key informants reporting that educational facilities, electricity networks, markets and shops, and water supplies have ceased functioning since April 15th.

19 May All KI respondents had been present in, or in contact with, their area of origin (AoO) after the 19th May. Findings presented in this overview therefore refer to information received from Khartoum State after 19th May.

At least two key informants reported coming from each of the seven districts of Khartoum State. **28/40** reported coming from **Khartoum, Um Durman** or **Bahri** districts. Findings presented in this overview therefore refer to the situation in Khartoum State, with particular relevance to these Khartoum, Um Durman and Bahri districts.

Map 1: Reported districts of origin in Khartoum State

Reported districts of origin of households interviewed for the cross-border assessment
(conflict data source: [ACLEDA](#))



CONTEXT & RATIONALE

Conflict erupted in Sudan on the 15th of April 2023, leading to displacement of hundreds of thousands of Sudanese nationals into neighbouring countries. The conflict, subsequent displacement, and anticipated macroeconomic consequences are likely to exacerbate the already severe humanitarian situation in Sudan and its neighbouring countries.

Given the rapidly changing humanitarian context, REACH conducted a cross-border monitoring assessment to provide humanitarian actors with up-to-date information on the extent of humanitarian needs in shock-affected parts of Sudan and among recent arrivals in neighbouring countries. This situation overview presents indicative findings on the humanitarian situation in communities of origin in Khartoum State, as reported by individuals from those communities who crossed the border into South Sudan. Additional data and analysis from the cross-border and other assessments on the Sudan Crisis can be accessed via the [Sudan Crisis Thread](#).

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

REACH enumerators conducted structured household interviews with refugees and returnees entering at relevant border crossing points and in reception centers in South Sudan.

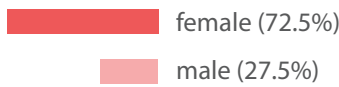
In addition to participating in the household survey on the conditions in area of displacement, household survey interviewees were asked to act as key informants (KIs) and report on the situation of the communities in their area of origin. Only those individuals who had been in contact with people remaining in their area of origin since the [previous round of data collection on Khartoum State](#) (19 May 2023) were selected for this second component, leaving a final sample of 40 KIs. Findings are indicative and cannot be generalised with a known level of precision. Given the volatile nature of the erupting conflict, the situation in areas of origin might have changed since KIs' departure from their community. Where possible, findings should be triangulated with new information. For more information on the methodology, please refer to page 4.

DEMOGRAPHICS*

Household-level findings

Total number of interviews: **189**

% of respondents per gender



% of respondents per nationality

1. South Sudan (76%)
2. Sudan (23%)
3. Other countries (1%)

*Findings relate to the **total sample of interviews** conducted for the cross-border assessment with **households who reported originating from Khartoum State**. Findings presented here focus on the demographics and displacement of interviewed households (HHs) who crossed the border into South Sudan. For more information, see the Methodology Overview on p4.

MOVEMENT*

Household-level findings

Top 3 most reported regions of origin

1. Khartoum, Khartoum State (26%)
2. Um Durman, Khartoum State (24%)
3. Bahri, Khartoum State (18%)

Most reported push factors	% of HHs
Active conflict in settlement	84%
Loss of livelihoods	33%
Desire to reunify with family	13%
Concern about eventual arrival of conflict in settlement	9%

As of 13 June

1,670,991

people [are estimated to be displaced](#) inside Sudan

528,147

people [are estimated to have displaced](#) to neighbouring countries, among whom an

estimated **110,980** [crossed the border](#) into South Sudan.*

*IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Round 8

REMAINING POPULATION*

Household-level findings

Displacement out of Khartoum State

Findings seem to corroborate IOM reports of [internal displacement of households from Khartoum State](#). Of the 189 households from who were interviewed, 94 reported there were no members of their household living in their area of origin (AoO), suggesting high levels of displacement from many settlements in the state.

Of the 84 households who reported that were still members of the household living in their AoO*, 40 perceived themselves knowledgeable on the situation in their AoO since conflict broke out on the 15th April, and reported being in contact with (or present in) their AoO since [the first round of cross-border evaluation on Khartoum State](#).

These 40 household survey respondents were selected as KIs and were asked follow up questions about the security, basic services, WASH, food security and markets in their AoO.

This factsheet presents the responses of those 40 KIs. Household responses from all states of Sudan are presented in a dedicated factsheet [here](#).

Involuntary immobility

Area of origin - KI findings

In line with reports of [populations trapped in Khartoum, Um Durman and Bahri](#), 31 of 40 KIs reported that there were residents of their AoO who planned to leave but were unable to.

*11 respondents did not wish to respond to the question or were unable to do so.

** 2 KIs reported that there were no basic services available in their AoO before 15 April.

11 of 31 KIs reported that all parts of the population are affected by this forced inability to relocate or move. 10 KIs reported that adult women are particularly affected, and 5 KIs reported adult men.

Vulnerable groups were also mentioned: 7 KIs highlighted elderly women, and 10 KIs reported that children are particularly unable to leave their AoO in Khartoum State.

Most commonly reported movement barriers for the remaining population in Khartoum State were safety and security concerns (23 KIs) and road closures (17 KIs), followed by cost of checkpoint fees (11 KIs) or transportation costs (10 KIs). This reflects reports of [long and difficult journeys](#) for those trying to leave dangerous areas of Sudan.

These findings collectively indicate the presence of communities residing in dangerous circumstances who, despite the ongoing violence in the capital state, are unable to relocate to safer locations.

IMPACT ON ACCESS TO BASIC NEEDS & SERVICES

Area of origin - KI findings

In line with reports of [basic services at breaking point and severe price rises](#), KI responses from Khartoum State indicate that the remaining population is facing a lack of basic services, and a lack of access to affordable food and essential goods.

Basic services

36 of 38 KIs** reported that the conflict had negatively affected the basic services in their AoO.

KIs reported that educational facilities (21 KIs), electricity networks (21 KIs), markets and shops (18 KIs) and water supply (9 KIs), were no longer functioning in their AoO since 15 April. Echoing reports of [significantly reduced functional healthcare services in the capital](#), 11 KIs also highlighted the strain on hospitals and health facilities.

According to KIs, these services are closed due to insecurity (16 KIs) or damaged. 23 KIs reported some level of damage to basic services: 11 of whom reported that services are completely destroyed. These findings are reflected in [reports](#) that services remain damaged as trained professionals are unable to access them to conduct repairs.

Access to water

26 out of 40 KIs responded that access to water has worsened in their AoO since 15 April. According to KI reports, AoO residents are engaging in harmful coping mechanisms such as using surface water for drinking (10 KIs), and reducing water consumption (12 KIs). [Consistent with other reports on water access](#), 5 KIs also reported that residents of their AoO are fetching water at sources which may be dangerous.

Of the 12 KIs who reported reduced water consumption in their AoO, 7 reported reducing water use for

cleaning, 4 reported reduction of water for cooking. 4 KIs mentioned that residents of their AoO have reduced drinking water due to lack of water access

insufficiency of seeds (8KIs) and tools (8 KIs) in their AoO.

6/10 agricultural KIs were from Bahri district. 5 of 6 KIs in Bahri district reported that the planted area will be less or zero (1 respondent did not know).

Together, these responses support [warnings that populations which were already food-insecure are now facing worsened food access](#), which is likely to further deteriorate in the coming lean season.

Livelihoods

39 of 40 KIs reported that the conflict since 15 April has negatively affected livelihoods in the AoO.

When asked about main income sources in their AoO before and after 15 April, KI responses suggest an increase in the populations who have no independent income source: more KIs reported residents having zero income source after 15 April (13 KIs) than before (5 KIs).

According to KIs, the main ways in which the conflict has impacted livelihoods are destruction or loss of property (27/39 KIs) and destruction, inaccessibility, or non-functioning of markets (19/39 KIs). Some KIs also mentioned lack of access to cash and personal finances (8 KIs), and loss of external support, from government (7 KIs), relatives (7 KIs) or humanitarian organizations (3 KIs).

Markets

All (38) of the KIs who reported being knowledgeable about prices in their AoO reported that prices for food and NFIs have increased.

Basic products are also reportedly less available, or completely unavailable, in several AoOs (see table).

KI reports of money- and market-related barriers to food access, as well as monetary barriers out of their AoOs, suggest that the population remaining in Khartoum State is already economically vulnerable, and therefore particularly vulnerable to these price increases for essential goods.

Reported availability of basic goods in AoO:

Product	#KIs who reported reduced availability only in AoO**	#KIs who reported zero availability in AoO
Sorghum	8	24
Onions	6	13
Tomato paste	8	17
Cow meat	8	14
Vegetable oil	7	15
Sugar	13	10
Body soap	6	6
Charcoal	3	6
Clean drinking water	9	3

SAFETY & SECURITY

Area of origin - KI findings

As [ceasefires in the capital continue to collapse](#), reports of assault, [attacks on civilians, lootings and sexual violence](#) are escalating, with Khartoum and Darfur being of particular concern.

This alarming trend aligns with key informant responses: 16 out of 40 informants reported an increase in security risks for residents in their Areas of Origin since April 15th. However, this figure might be understated due to the sensitivity of the topic. Among these 16 informants, eight reported robbery as a risk, five mentioned threats of violence, and 4 each noted risks of kidnapping and physical harassment.

Gender based violence

Despite the sensitivity of the issue, 2 KIs cited that residents in their AoO are at risk of sexual harassment. This reflects [reports that women and girls are at increasing risk of gender-based violence](#).

A recent [Gender Analysis by CARE International](#) provides information on the context of GBV in Sudan pre-conflict, as well as the gendered impact of the current humanitarian crisis.

Access to Food

According to an [Intergovernmental Authority on Development \(IGAD\) regional report](#), 11.7 million people were facing high levels of acute food insecurity in Sudan in 2022.

34 of 40 KIs reported that access to food in their AoO has worsened since 15 April. 25 of 40 KIs reported that hunger is leading to exhaustion in the population of the AoO, while 10 reported that hunger in their AoO is so severe it is leading to death.

KI responses suggest that the primary reasons for food shortages in Khartoum State are related to monetary constraints and dysfunctional markets. Specifically, 28 KIs identified lack of money as a crucial factor contributing to food insecurity, while 24 noted that their AoO's population lacks food due to non-functioning markets, a result of the ongoing conflict.

Coping mechanisms for food access in Khartoum state are also related to obtaining food with cash or credit, rather than to food production. Most commonly-reported coping mechanisms for lack of food are borrowing food from a friend/relative (18 KIs) or purchasing food with borrowed money (10 KIs). 8 KIs also reported that residents of their AoO are asking non-relatives for food and another 8 reported AoO residents selling home assets.

KIs have also reported a risk to food production. Of the 40 key informants in Khartoum State, 10 reported agriculture as one of their main sources of income. Out of these 10 KIs, 8 foresee a smaller or even non-existent planted area in their AoO in the upcoming agricultural season. Of these 10 agricultural KIs, 8 reported that the planted area in their AoO will be smaller or non-existent in the next agricultural season. Agricultural KIs also reported an

*18 of 31 KIs reported that commerce is one of their key sources of income. All KI responses regarding markets are consistent with the responses of these 18 commerce-specific KIs.

** Some KIs selected "reduced availability" and "zero availability" for the same product. In these cases, their response has been counted as "zero availability"

METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

Time of data collection: 6-8 June 2023

In the absence of a comprehensive needs assessment on the situation in Sudan and neighbouring countries, the assessment consisted of two components to cover, as best as possible, the situation in areas of origin in Sudan as well as the situation of recent arrivals in South Sudan.

The first component consisted of a structured household survey with returnees and refugees crossing the Sudan-South Sudan border. In total, 438 households were interviewed about their current situation and movement intentions for this first round of data collection, of whom 189 households reported originating from Khartoum State. Household-level findings from the Khartoum household respondents are indicated in this factsheet with an *. Detailed findings for all 438 households are presented separately and can be accessed [here](#).

For the second component, household survey interviewees were asked to act as a key informant (KI) and report on behalf of their community in their settlement of origin about the situation. Respondents were selected for the KI component if they 1) reported that there were still people living in their settlement of origin and 2) confirmed that they felt knowledgeable on the situation in their settlement of origin since the 15 April. In total, enumerators interviewed 50 KIs among those households. To provide a comparison with the [first cross-border assessment on Khartoum State](#), this factsheet presents the responses of 40 KIs who had been in contact with their settlement of origin since the last data collection (17-19 May).

All interviews were conducted at border crossing points and in reception centers by trained enumerators.

Due to the purposive sampling, findings for both components 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 Detailed Analysis Plan (DAP), which will be made 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).