

Sudan Regional Crisis

EMERGENCY SITUATION UPDATE
JANUARY 2024

OVERVIEW

The current situation in Sudan, South Sudan, and Chad paints a grim picture of interconnected humanitarian crises fuelled by escalating conflict, widespread displacement, and climate shocks. Each nation faces unique challenges, yet they share a common thread of desperate need demanding immediate global attention.

In **Sudan**, the ongoing battle between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) shows no signs of abating. The RSF offensive has captured several towns in Al Jazira, including Wad Madani, the second-largest city, raising concerns about further expansion towards southern and eastern regions.

Confrontations between SAF and RSF also occurred in various regions, including West Kordofan, Nyala, South Darfur, and El Fasher. The uncertainty of RSF activities in Sennar, Kassala, and Gedaref persists, but the trajectory suggests a continued offensive. The stability and safety of these regions are thus uncertain. In a separate incident, a WFP warehouse in Al Jazeera was looted after RSF took over Wad Medani, leading to significant displacement of IDPs and host communities to various regions. Many Jazeera staff were relocated to the Blue Nile office following the conflict.

The Wunthow/Joda Border in Renk County State of **South Sudan** is the primary entry point for individuals escaping the Sudanese conflict, comprising 85% of all new arrivals in South Sudan. From mid-April 2023 to January 31, 2024, 452,886 individuals from 100,202 households entered South Sudan through this border. Children under 5 make up 19%, with women constituting 51%. Refugees, accounting for approximately 33%, include slightly over half of Sudanese. By January 31, 161,074 individuals had their movement facilitated beyond Renk County. UNHCR and IOM moved an average of 3,000 people out of Renk weekly in January, creating a backlog of over 5,000 individuals weekly. Renk hosts around 58,599 individuals, with 58% settled in the host community and the rest in collective centers. The New Transit Center (TC2), the Old (TC1), and the adjacent outside area accommodate 25,415 individuals, with refugees comprising about 52%. UNHCR transports 300-400 refugees to Maban weekly, although notable resistance exists among refugees to relocate to Maban camps.

An estimated 5.8 million people, over 32% of **Chad's** population, require humanitarian assistance due to protracted conflict, displacement, and climate shocks. The influx of nearly 500,000 Sudanese refugees since April 2023, almost doubling the total refugee population, puts immense pressure on resources and infrastructure.

Nearly 2.9 million people are projected to face acute food insecurity during the lean season, with eastern Chad bearing the brunt due to below-average rainfall, refugee influx, and disruption of livelihoods. Insecurity in Lac Province further hinders access to emergency food aid, highlighting the urgent need for secure humanitarian corridors. Children, women, and the elderly in both refugee and host communities face urgent needs for shelter, healthcare, food, clean water, sanitation, and protection services. Addressing gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response within refugee camps and host communities is also crucial.



Supportive Supervision visit, Mobile clinic, Sennar State emergency response with the generous support of USAID (United States Agency for International Development) and SHF (Sudan Humanitarian Fund) January 2024.



PERSISTENT NEEDS

The escalating humanitarian crises in **Sudan, South Sudan, and Chad** demand immediate and coordinated global action.

In **Sudan**, The surge in internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sennar, stemming from the Al Jazirah situation, has strained available resources, necessitating emergency funding for mobile clinics and secondary care services. Protection Sector hotspot mapping highlights North Darfur as one of the most affected states with 38 hot spot sites, emphasizing the urgent need for early warnings and responsive actions. Al Fasher locality, housing nearly 4 million at-risk individuals, faces heightened concerns of conflict-related sexual violence. The Protection Sector underscores critical prevention and response measures, including case management, Clinical Management of Rape (CMR), Mental Health & Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS), family tracing, and support for unaccompanied children, highlighting the imperative role of these services amid communication challenges and community stigma.

In **South Sudan**, both transit centers are surpassing capacity, accommodating 1,148 households, with some residing in open spaces. Returnees and refugee arrivals face critical needs for shelter, food, health services, and WASH. The host community, accommodating 58% of arrivals, strains limited resources, particularly in health services and WASH facilities. Renk Hospital, the sole secondary health care unit, lacks specialized care facilities and has limited laboratory capacity. Referral for health care beyond Renk needs more support. Recent Mass Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening in late January 2024 reveals a worsening nutrition situation, with under-5 children and pregnant/lactating women showing global acute malnutrition rates of 25% and 14%, respectively.

In **East Chad**, refugees and host communities, especially children, women, and the elderly, need shelter, health, nutrition, food, clean water, sanitation, waste management, and protection/GBV prevention



In **Sudan**,

- Two crucial mobile clinics were established in Singa and Sennar localities, Sennar State, in response to the Al Jazirah state conflict outbreak.
- In Wad Madani, there has been a recent displacement of approximately 275,796 IDPs (54% for the first time and 46% experiencing secondary displacement).
- BHA and SHF (via ALIGHT Consortium) co-funded mobile clinics providing integrated services to IDPs and host communities.
- RI mobile clinics conducted 788 OPD consultations in seven days, emphasizing significant healthcare demand.
- SHF funding facilitated successful medicine delivery from Port Sudan to Sennar State.
- Planned February activities include Mass MUAC screening, latrine desludging, hygiene sensitization, environmental sanitation campaigns, and MOH staff training on rape case management.
- In North Darfur, despite conflict disruptions, project activities persisted, including delayed key WASH initiatives.



RELIEF INTERNATIONAL'S RESPONSE - CONTINUED

- Relief International extended latrine desludging provision, conducted MOH training on various topics and established eight CBPNs in North Darfur.
- Also initiated a Multi-Sector Needs Assessment in Sennar, River Nile, and Red Sea, working closely with local authorities to meet immediate needs.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



- [Inside the Darfur camp where a child dies every two hours | Global development | The Guardian](#)
- [The Red Sea crisis is making it even harder to respond, said Kashif Shafique, the Sudan head of Relief International](#)

South Sudan: Relief International (RI) remains steadfast in delivering crucial integrated health and nutrition services in Renk and Maban. Notable activities in January include:

- 7,084 outpatient consultations in Renk, with prevalent morbidities including Acute Respiratory Tract Infection (31%), Malaria (19%), Eye Infection (13%), Acute Watery Diarrhea (9%), and skin diseases (4%).
- Relief International vigilantly monitors Acute Watery Diarrhea trends and detects a cholera-positive case. Responding to a schistosomiasis outbreak in December, Praziquantel tablets were distributed. Immunization efforts covered 890 children and 347 for measles.
- Antenatal care served 410 pregnant women, with 57 deliveries attended by skilled birth attendants. Malnutrition screenings identified 110 severe cases in under-5 children, necessitating RI's extension of services to a new transit center supported by a received ambulance.
- In Maban, vaccinations, deworming, and malnutrition screenings continued, and RI maintains active coordination at national and sub-cluster levels.



Relief International Team monitoring the Water Quality at Blue Nile with the generous support of USAID (United States Agency for International Development) January 2024.

Chad: Relief International is strategically positioned for humanitarian response in East Chad.

- Chad office received and stored medical supplies in Ndjamena, slated for dispatch to North Darfur to ensure effective project implementation in Elfasher and other operational areas in ND.
- Multi-sectorial Needs Assessments (MSNA) were completed in three camps (Zabout, Djabal, and Gozimir Refugee camps) in Sila province and three camps (Ourang, Metché, and Arkoum refugee camps) in Ouaddai province.
- Identified health, nutrition, WASH, and protection needs, recognizing the impact on Sudanese refugees and host communities. Emphasizing the importance of addressing host community needs to prevent tensions.
- Relief International actively coordinated with OCHA, the Logistic cluster, and other partners in N'Djamena and the East of Chad for effective collaboration.



Relief International Mobile Clinic Consultations in Sennar locality, Sennar State, January 2024.



DONOR MESSAGING



OCHA



World Food Programme



Sudan Humanitarian Fund



UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

Relief International extends heartfelt gratitude to donors for their crucial support in responding to the ongoing crisis, emphasizing the pressing and ever-growing needs in host communities and transit centers.

Urgent funding is sought to establish a comprehensive health clinic at the new Transit Centre, prepare for potential epidemic outbreaks, and enhance Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) conditions. The increasing refugee population in Maban demands additional resources, particularly for health, nutrition, WASH, and food.

The critical need for Onward Transportation Assistance (OTA) from Renk is highlighted to reduce shelter, water, and food requirements and alleviate overcrowding risks. Relief International adapts its programs to the evolving security situation and advocates for emergency assistance in Madani (Al Jazeera), Sennar state, and neighboring areas.

The organization advocates for the financing of core pipelines to address the shortage of nutrition supplies. Additionally, strong cross-border coordination is stressed, and efforts to secure additional funds for humanitarian response in Sila and Ouaddai provinces are underway.

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