

REGIONAL SITUATION REPORT (OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2024)

Sudan, South Sudan & Chad

Sudan is experiencing one of the world's most severe humanitarian crises, fueled by a civil war that began in April 2023. The conflict has displaced 11.5 million people, making it the largest internal displacement crisis globally, with children comprising over half of the displaced population (UNHCR). In late 2024, offensives by the armed groups resulted in territorial gains but were marked by atrocities, including massacres in Gezira State that claimed over 300 lives. The war has crippled Sudan's economy, leaving nearly 26 million people acutely food insecure. Famine conditions have been reported in North Darfur's Zamzam camp and other conflict-affected areas, including South Darfur, South Kordofan, West Darfur, West Kordofan, Al Jazirah and Khartoum, which are classified as IPC Phase 5 (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification), marked by starvation, malnutrition, and mortality (UNICEF). Over 30% of children in some regions suffer from severe malnutrition, while less than 25% of health facilities remain operational (WHO). Disease outbreaks such as cholera and measles are escalating, and women and girls face increased risks of violence and exploitation. Despite \$200 million in aid from the U.S., the response remains inadequate. With two-thirds of the population requiring urgent assistance, immediate action and global engagement are critical.

The crisis has destabilized neighboring **South Sudan**, where violent clashes along the Sudan-South Sudan border have displaced hundreds of thousands. Over 901,000 people have been recorded crossing into South Sudan at the beginning of December 2024, with an additional 337,000 people expected to arrive in 2025, overwhelming healthcare facilities (UN-OCHA).



A Community Nutrition Volunteer in Sudan, explaining to the mother about the MUAC tape before she takes the measurement - November 2024.

A cholera outbreak in Renk, South Sudan, has further strained resources, with 509 cases and three deaths reported by December 31, 2024.

Chad is facing a severe humanitarian crisis, with 6.9 million people in need of aid, including 1.1 million refugees and 386,000 Forcibly Displaced Persons (FDPs). Conflict, Climate shocks, and economic instability worsen the situation.

According to a recent need assessment conducted by Relief International, Wadi Fira hosts over 86,000 Sudanese refugees, including 20,500 new arrivals in late 2024. In October 2024, 120 households arrived in Tiné from El Fasher and Al Geneina. Despite these numbers, 89% of refugees and host communities lack clean water. Tiné has 27 health workers, but only one doctor and one midwife, with no MHPSS training. There are critical shortages of essential medications.



RELIEF INTERNATIONAL'S RESPONSE

Health + Nutrition

In Sudan, Relief International provided integrated primary healthcare services across 46 facilities in Blue Nile, Red Sea, Gedaref, and North Darfur, while also supporting health cluster coordination and leadership roles. These efforts were enhanced by integrating Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), protection, and nutrition interventions. Relief International implemented a comprehensive emergency nutrition program to address Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and offers supplementary feeding, focusing on early detection and Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counseling. The program demonstrated high recovery rates and strong coordination with local and international partners.

In South Sudan, Relief International continues its vital support in Renk Civil Hospital and Transit Centers 1 and 2, addressing health issues such as Acute Respiratory Infections, Malaria, and Acute Watery Diarrhea. Mental health and psychosocial support services are provided for individuals with conditions like Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), epilepsy, and psychosis. Vaccination efforts targeted children under two years of age, ensuring immunization against diseases like measles.

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"We are deeply grateful to Relief International for not forgetting us during such a challenging time. The floods brought sickness, and we were worried for our children and ourselves, especially with malaria and diarrhea spreading. It was a difficult period, and the uncertainty weighed heavily on us. When we saw the medicines arrive, we felt a deep sense of relief and hope. Relief International brought us the support we so desperately needed, and for that, we are truly thankful,"

Nyadeng Guek, women leader of Kiechkuon, Upper Nile South Sudan.



Women leaders gather in prayer at Kiechkuon after witnessing the arrival of essential medicines and facility materials delivered by Relief International from Juba - December 2024.

KEY ACTIVITIES (OCT-DEC 2024)

Health Facility Support and Consultations

- Supported 46 health facilities in Sudan and conducted 147,744 outpatient consultations.
- Conducted 32,213 outpatient consultations at Renk Civil Hospital and Transit Centers in South Sudan.

Maternal and Child Health Services

- Provided antenatal care to 12,513 beneficiaries in Sudan.
- Attended 2,847 skilled births in Sudan.
- Vaccinated 1,412 children (aged 0-2) in South Sudan, including 254 measles vaccinations.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

(MHPSS): Delivered MHPSS sessions to 148 individuals in South Sudan.

Referrals for Critical Conditions: Referred 694 individuals for secondary care in South Sudan.

Treatment for Malnutrition

- Treated 1,578 children for SAM in Sudan.
- Screened 40 PLWs in South Sudan, diagnosing 6 with MAM and 1 with SAM for referral.

Supplementary Feeding: Provided supplementary feeding to 4,900 children and 1,656 PLWs in Sudan.

Screening for Malnutrition

- Screened 43,794 children under five and 4,650 PLWs in Sudan.
- Screened 74 children in South Sudan, all found normal.
- Screened 61 children at Kaya checkpoint in South Sudan, identifying 12 with MAM and 2 with SAM.

Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF)

Counseling: Conducted IYCF counseling sessions for 17,087 caregivers in Sudan.



RELIEF INTERNATIONAL'S RESPONSE

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

In Sudan, Relief International supports and delivers WASH interventions, including water delivery, hygiene promotion, water-borne diseases response, and medical waste management in health facilities.

In South Sudan, Relief International works to improve water, sanitation, and hygiene services. In Maban, it is ensured a consistent supply of safe and clean water to thousands of beneficiaries through the maintenance of motorized boreholes, hand pumps, and water pipelines. Latrine construction efforts were undertaken using a community-led sanitation approach, improving hygiene and reducing the risk of disease. Environmental cleaning and hygiene promotion campaigns were conducted to strengthen sanitation practices, while cholera prevention measures were actively implemented to combat the outbreak in Renk County.

RELIEF INTERNATIONAL'S RESPONSE

Protection

In Sudan, Relief International provided protection services focused on child protection, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, and MHPSS. Relief International has established safe spaces, conducted parenting sessions, and supported improved access to MHPSS services. Staff training on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) works on raising awareness within targeted communities.

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"I learned that even in pain, there can be hope. Today, I am proud to support other mothers, just like others helped me. It was a hard time. When we arrived in El-Fasher, we had nothing. We lived in a place with no water and bad toilets. However, I joined a mother's support group at the Relief International Health Center. There, I learned to prepare nutritious meals with limited resources, maintain cleanliness in my kitchen, and care for my children's health more effectively. Now, I share what I've learned with others, helping mothers in my community, just as I was helped. The strength we give each other brings light to even at the darkest times."

**Maryam, Abushouk Health Center,
El Fasher, North Darfur, Sudan**

KEY ACTIVITIES (OCT-DEC 2024)

Safe Water Supply: Delivered 450 m³ of safe water in Sudan (benefiting 20,617 people) and 248,598.45 m³ in South Sudan (benefiting 205,894 individuals).

Hygiene Promotion: Conducted hygiene campaigns for 40,502 individuals in Sudan.

Infrastructure and Waste Management: Repaired 175 water pipelines, flushed 57 boreholes, and supported 563 households in constructing latrines, benefiting 4,233 individuals in South Sudan.

Medical Waste Management: Managed medical waste in 12 health facilities in Sudan.

Child Protection: Provided psychosocial support to 2,731 children and case management services to 8 children in Sudan.

Parental Support: Conducted structured parenting sessions for 2,524 parents in Sudan.

GBV Support: Established 2 women and girls' safe spaces and supported 21 GBV survivors in Sudan with medical and psychosocial services.



Maryam from Sudan conducting an awareness session on health and nutrition in her community, and teaching other mothers the same practices she learned - October 2024.



RELIEF INTERNATIONAL'S RESPONSE

Food Security & Livelihoods

In Sudan, Relief International started Food Security and Livelihood (FSL) initiatives by procuring seeds and tools for distribution amongst families and allocating food vouchers to support household food security.

In South Sudan, Relief International provided vocational training in practical trades such as electrical wiring, plumbing, catering, cosmetology, and computer skills, empowering participants with the knowledge and tools to secure sustainable livelihoods. Support for horticulture farmers enhanced their vegetable production and sales, contributing to household incomes. Savings and loan associations were strengthened through technical support, facilitating savings, loans, and social fund growth, which helped communities build resilience and economic stability.

KEY ACTIVITIES (OCT-DEC 2024)

Agriculture and Food Support: Provided agricultural tools and seeds to 2,000 households in Sudan, with 900 households set to receive food vouchers in January 2025.

Vocational Training: Conducted TVET training in South Sudan across five trades: electrical wiring, plumbing, catering, cosmetology, and computer training.

Economic Empowerment: Supported horticulture farmers in South Sudan to generate vegetable sales worth 8,248,500 South Sudanese Pounds (SSP) and backed 55 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) with savings of 18,648,400 SSP, loan disbursements of 215,032,600 SSP, and reimbursements of 105,283,350 SSP and 3,541,100 SSP in the social fund.

Strengthening Localization

Relief International has been deeply involved in localization efforts in Chad, with recently conducted rapid assessments to analyze the urgent humanitarian needs in collaboration with SPONGAH (Secrétariat Permanent des Organisations Non Gouvernementales et des Associations Humanitaires), CONA-T (Coordination Nationale des ONG au Tchad), and international actors. It is documented that there are over 370 local NGOs registered with SPONGAH, Chad's national coordination body, it is estimated that fewer than 50 of these NGOs are fully operational and regularly engaged in humanitarian programming. These assessments revealed a critical need for stronger coordination, local NGO mapping, capacity-building initiatives, mentorship program, and access to direct funding for local actors. RI's extensive experience in fragile contexts, combined with its commitment to local leadership, positions it as a key partner for advancing localization goals in Chad. Relief International is also committed to advancing localization in Sudan by fostering partnerships with capable national organizations and empowering local actors. Through capacity-strengthening initiatives, we aim to enhance the technical and operational capabilities of our partners, enabling them to take a lead role in delivering impactful humanitarian and development programs. Our localization efforts align with global commitments to shift power and resources closer to affected communities, ensuring that interventions are contextually appropriate and sustainable. By prioritizing collaboration with seven different local organizations, RI has multiplied its reach and access to people in need.



Relief International's Director of Strategic Partnerships, Gonzalo Codina, interacting with local community leaders in Chad - November 2024.

Humanitarian Coordination & Advocacy

In Sudan, ongoing fighting in North Darfur limits access to healthcare. Safe corridors and accessible health and nutrition services are vital for many in Sudan right now. Urgent and sufficient support and funding are needed to counter rising food insecurity and malnutrition. Attacks on health facilities highlight the need for protecting humanitarian operations under international law. South Sudan faces increasing cases of water-borne disease outbreaks and is dealing with severe resource shortages. The need to set up and strengthen epidemic control, WASH improvements, and onward transportation assistance to ease overcrowding and health risks is vital. In Chad, humanitarian support to refugee and host communities, as well as a focus on enhancing local NGO capacities are urgent needs now.

Our Donors in Sudan, South Sudan & Chad



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PRESS STATEMENTS

- ◆ **TELEGRAPH:** "The need really is unimaginable," says Melanie Kempster, global health and nutrition director at the Relief International
- ◆ **DARFUR24 - Thousands Forced to Flee From Sudan's Largest Displacement Camp**
- ◆ **THE GLOBAL AND MAIL:** Famine-wracked camp in Darfur hit by deadly artillery shelling as war worsens
- ◆ **RELIEFWEB:** Relief International clinic receives critical injuries and is forced to suspend activities in some health facilities.

DIGITAL FOOTPRINTS

- ◆ In Zamzam, North Darfur, the impact is devastating—35% of children under 5 are acutely malnourished.
- ◆ Our Mobile Medical Units are bringing life-saving services to remote areas of South Sudan and mothers' groups and community leaders play a vital role!
- ◆ Relief International is on the ground in Sudan and South Sudan delivering life-saving support, but it's not enough to meet mounting needs.
- ◆ We recently met with CONA-T and Agence Panafricaine de développement Economique et social at the Chad Climate Finance Expo to discuss this critical question

About Relief International

Relief International is an international non-profit organization that partners with communities impacted by conflict, climate change and disaster to save lives, build greater resilience and promote long-term health and wellbeing.

Our team of more than 5,000 staff and local volunteers work in 15 countries across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, providing Health and Nutrition, WaSH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), Education and Livelihoods programming that creates the foundation for community resilience.

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