

**FLASH UPDATE** (14 May 2023)**SUDAN: Clashes between SAF and RSF - Flash Update No. 12 (14 May 2023)****HIGHLIGHTS**

- Fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has lasted for four consecutive weeks, with devastating consequences for civilians and civilian infrastructure, especially in Khartoum and Darfur.
- A factory that produced vital supplies for the treatment of malnourished children in Sudan was burned down in Khartoum.
- The conflict is threatening the main planting season, while prices of staple goods have risen dramatically, heightening the risk of food insecurity in the period ahead.
- Partners are delivering assistance, including food, therapeutic feeding and safe learning spaces, to people impacted by the fighting as well as those who were already in need.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Clashes between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have continued for 30 consecutive days, especially in and around Khartoum, as of 14 May, killing at least 676 people and injuring 5,576 since the fighting began, according to the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) as of 11 May. In addition, inter-communal violence in West Kordofan on 8 May resulted in 25 deaths and 90 injured people. In White Nile, disputes in Kosti City killed 29 people and injured 40, according to FMOH, before a localized ceasefire was agreed among the communities.

The UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, has [welcomed](#) the signing by SAF and RSF representatives of the [Declaration of Commitment](#) to protect civilians and guarantee the safe passage of humanitarian aid in the country. The declaration signed on 11 May in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, recognizes the obligations of both sides under international humanitarian and human rights law to facilitate humanitarian action to meet the emergency needs of civilians and respect humanitarian workers and assets. However, reports of attacks continued and, on 12 May, violence in Ag Geneina reportedly escalated.

Over 936,000 people have been newly displaced by the conflict since 15 April, including about 736,200 people displaced internally since the conflict began, and about 200,000 people who have crossed into neighbouring countries, according to the International Organization for Migration ([IOM](#)) and the UN Refugee Agency ([UNHCR](#)), respectively. This includes at least 450,000 children who have been forced to flee their homes, including some 368,000 who are internally displaced and 82,000 who have fled to neighbouring countries, according to the UN Children's Fund ([UNICEF](#)). Also, among the displaced are thousands of refugees and asylum seekers who had sought refuge in Sudan before the conflict and who have been displaced once again. Many of these refugees and asylum seekers have arrived in Aj Jazirah and Gedaref states in search of safety, according to [UNHCR](#). Women and children represent over 75 per cent of the secondarily displaced refugees. Prior to the conflict, there were 3.7 million people internally displaced and 1.1 million refugees and asylum seekers in Sudan.

The ongoing conflict threatens the planting season, which is set to begin at the end of May. If the season is missed, the number of people going hungry will increase. This additional threat to Sudan's food system will impact women the most, according to [CARE](#). Before the crisis, 42 per cent of households headed by women already had less food compared to 31 per cent of male-headed households, and women are eating less since the conflict began. In addition, prolonged suspension



of food assistance is anticipated to increase food insecurity in areas where aid was previously assessed to be preventing worse outcomes—especially in greater Darfur, parts of greater Kordofan and parts of greater Nile—according to [FEWS NET](#), which is reviewing the situation.

Although markets are generally open, prices have increased dramatically for staple goods and there are shortages of imported goods such as wheat flour, oil, and tomato paste, according to a market assessment conducted by [Mercy Corps](#) in nine locations across Sudan. In some areas, shops have closed because of insecurity or lack of goods. Access to cash remains a significant issue in Khartoum and South Darfur, while the increase in fuel prices and transportation costs has hindered both daily life and the ability of people to move out of insecure areas.

Amid continued fighting in Khartoum, a factory that was producing vital supplies for the treatment of malnourished children in Sudan has been burnt down. The factory produced 60 per cent of the ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) (“plumpy nut”) utilized by [UNICEF](#) to treat children with severe acute malnutrition in Sudan last year as well as ready-to-use supplementary food (RUSF) provided by WFP to children with moderate acute malnutrition. The fire destroyed supplies to treat some 14,500 malnourished children as well as the factory’s machinery, according to UNICEF.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Humanitarian partners are working intensively to ramp-up their operations, in complement to the efforts of civil society organizations, who have continued to deliver assistance and support to communities in the most conflict-affected areas.

About 50,000 people in Kassala, Gedaref and White Nile have received emergency food aid from the [World Food Programme \(WFP\)](#), as of 11 May, while [UNICEF](#) is also supporting displaced children and families, striving to ensure the continuity of essential services, including the provision of nutrition supplies to help keep more than 80 per cent of facilities functioning in affected areas. [CARE](#) continues to run therapeutic feeding programs for children and support pregnant and lactating mothers in 47 health centres in East Darfur, Kassala, Gedaref and South Darfur. In some of the same regions, CARE supports over 5,000 women with seed, farm inputs, fertilizer and animal husbandry. To support education, [UNICEF](#) operates 42 E-learning centres in Kassala, Red Sea, White Nile, South Darfur and East Darfur. These centres provide children with safe and secure learning spaces, with a particular emphasis on promoting their psycho-social well-being.

Meanwhile, [UNHCR](#) and partners are providing life-saving assistance in the refugee camps in Kassala State, including hot meals, medical support and referrals, shelter, basic NFIs, water, and protection services. To decongest the reception centre in Shagarab camp, where over 1,700 people have arrived, UNHCR has started the allocation of 72 newly constructed shelters. In Blue Nile State, schools at refugee camps have reopened. Essential services, such as health, WASH continue to run.

The [UN Humanitarian Air Service \(UNHAS\)](#) is scaling up the transport of supplies and humanitarian staff into Sudan, within operational limitations, to meet the humanitarian’s community needs for international flights to Sudan, between Sudan and neighbour countries and planning for flights between hubs inside Sudan, whenever possible.

Additional supplies continue to arrive to Sudan. A UNICEF shipment of water, sanitation and hygiene supplies landed in Port Sudan this week, and 34,000 cartons of nutrition supplies are being shipped from France. These supplies are especially urgent following the destruction of the main factory in Sudan producing therapeutic food for children suffering acute malnutrition. A relief flight by the Kuwait Red Crescent with 10 metric tons of medical supplies arrived in Port Sudan in recent days. The third Saudi Arabian relief flight organized by the [King Salman Centre for Relief and Humanitarian Aid \(KSrelief\)](#) arrived at the Port Sudan International Airport on 10 May carrying 10 metric tons (MT) of food, shelter and medical supplies.



However, insecurity and attacks against humanitarian and health facilities and supplies continue to hamper operations. At least 28 humanitarian organizations have had their offices or stocks looted over the last three weeks in South Darfur alone and widespread lootings are considered as one of the main risks for the continuation and scale-up of humanitarian operations. The fragile security situation, damage and occupation of health facilities during the conflict, and lack of medical supplies continue to hamper health care delivery, according to FMoH. However, in South Darfur, 19 hospitals in the state are gradually returning to operate.

FUNDING

Humanitarian partners are in the process of reviewing the [Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\)](#) to capture the new needs arising from the conflict and the response required. As of 13 May, the HRP which was developed prior to the conflict was only 15.9 per cent [funded](#), with US\$276.7 million received so far this year.

The [European Union](#) has newly allocated €200,000 (about US\$219,000) for immediate relief and first aid assistance to people injured or exposed to high risk in the capital, Khartoum, and other areas affected by the ongoing violence. It supports the Sudanese Red Crescent Society in providing first aid, evacuation services, and psychosocial support. This funding is on top of the €73 million (about US\$80 million) already allocated to Sudan in 2023 in humanitarian assistance. In addition, the EU has allocated €200,000 to the Egyptian Red Crescent, for support to refugees arriving in Egypt from Sudan. This comes on top of contributions recently announced by [Australia](#), [Canada](#) and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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