



SUDAN COUNTRY BRIEF

THE STATE OF THE
HUMANITARIAN SYSTEM 2026

2. CONTEXT: SUDAN'S HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

Since fighting erupted on 15 April 2023 between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), Sudan has suffered the world's largest displacement crisis (UNHCR, 2025). By mid-2024, more than 10 million people had fled their homes during what UN officials have described as a 'crisis of epic proportions' (IOM, 2024; UN, 2024). The conflict has destroyed the nation's infrastructure, decimating the banking sector and leaving 70%–80% of health facilities in conflict zones non-functional (WHO, 2025). Acute food insecurity has intensified, with famine conditions confirmed in parts of North Darfur and threatening other besieged regions (IPC, 2025).

By mid-2025, the crisis had expanded beyond displacement into a broader collapse of basic services and civilian coping capacity. At that time, 30.4 million people required urgent humanitarian assistance and 24.6 million faced acute food



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insecurity, including around 637,000 people at catastrophic levels of hunger. Many households had been displaced multiple times due to renewed fighting, siege dynamics and insecurity in sites for internally displaced persons (IDPs) (Protection Cluster Sudan, 2025).

Conventional humanitarian delivery and coordination mechanisms have been constrained by need and also by the operating environment, which is characterised by staff harassment and systematic delays due to travel permit denials, refusals to approve projects and import clearances. These constraints are reported to be particularly acute in Darfur and Kordofan (WHO, 2025; IPC, 2025).

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs recorded 198 access denials in the first half of 2025 (OCHA (2025)). The International Rescue Committee (IRC) has also documented severe access constraints faced by international NGOs (INGOs). In SAF-controlled areas, only 40% of INGO visa applications were approved between September 2024 and March 2025 (IRC, 2025). These access barriers are being reinforced through parallel control systems, with RSF authorities (namely the Sudanese Agency for Relief and Humanitarian Operations) duplicating Humanitarian Aid Commission-style procedures, including oversight demands that create negotiation-heavy delays and leave agencies stuck between the two authorities. IRC has also documented how these constraints play out along key

corridors: aid 'trickles' across the Adre crossing into Darfur, with a World Food Programme convoy that departed on 8 January 2025 reportedly taking three months to reach Tawila due to roadblocks and escalating violence.

These constraints have intersected with major funding shortfalls. In late January 2025, the United States Government ordered a temporary pause in foreign assistance and issued stop-work orders affecting many awards funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Prior to this, US funding was central to Sudan's response, accounting for ~44% of humanitarian funding for food, security, nutrition and health, plus water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) (ACAPS, 2025). In addition, other major donors have scaled back their funding to Sudan, including Germany whose contribution went down from US\$108 million in 2024 to US\$63.5 million in 2025. As of 21 July 2025, UN agencies received only 23% of the US\$4.2 billion required to support nearly 21 million people inside Sudan, while the Regional Refugee Response Plan was only 17% funded. This has limited predictable coverage and reinforced reliance on locally embedded responders and informal support systems in hard-to-reach areas (UN, 2025).