

HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OVERVIEW

Since December 2020, there has been a significant increase in resource-based intercommunal violence between Arab and non-Arab tribes in the Darfur region, located in western Sudan (Reuters 23/06/2022; VOA 13/06/2022; HRW 22/06/2022; IDMC accessed 08/08/2022). Between January–July 2022, more than 470,000 people were internally displaced in Darfur, with violence cited as the main reason (IOM 16/01/2022 and 13/07/2022). In 2021, violence resulted in the displacement of around 442,000 people, which is more than five times higher than the number of displaced in 2020 (IDMC accessed 08/08/2022). As at July 2022, there were 3,095,210 IDPs across the five states of Darfur (North, Central, South, East, and West Darfur), representing 83% of the total 3.7 million IDPs across Sudan (IOM 13/07/2022). The region of Darfur is estimated to have a population of 11.01 million people (OCHA accessed 10/08/2022).

Ethnic tensions between Arab and non-Arab ethnic groups in Darfur go back as far as 1939. Clashes remained sporadic until non-Arab ethnic minorities, who complained of discrimination, established armed groups in 2003. The Government in Khartoum responded by mobilising a non-government armed group, referred to as 'Janjaweed' (BBC 26/04/2022; Government of Sudan 19/01/2005).

The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) was established in 2007 to stop violence that had been ongoing in the region since 2003 between government forces and Janjaweed and rebel forces (UN 13/12/2009; ISS 24/06/2019; Reuters 27/04/2015). The conflict killed around 300,000 people and displaced 2.7 million people between 2003–2007 (UN 13/12/2009).

A surge in violence in late 2020 is linked to UNAMID ceasing operations in the area. UNAMID stopped patrolling in Darfur on 1 January 2021 (Al Jazeera 06/02/2022; Reuters 18/01/2021; BBC 21/07/2021) ahead of a complete withdrawal on 30 June 2021 (UN 27/07/2021 and 30/12/2020), leaving the Government of Sudan to take charge of maintaining peace in the region (UN 27/07/2021). The decision to withdraw UNAMID came after the Sudanese authorities and two armed groups in Darfur reached the Juba peace agreement in October 2020 (UN 30/12/2020 and 08/12/2020).

Intercommunal violence in Darfur intensified further after the military coup in October 2021 (OHCHR 15/06/2022), when the Sudanese military seized power from the transitional government who had been running the country following a popular uprising that forced former president

Omar al-Bashir from power in 2019 (CFR 25/10/2021; France 24 25/10/2021). The Sudanese Government has been slow in implementing the Juba peace agreement, which entails the disarmament and integration of non-government armed forces into government forces and the formation of joint forces for Darfur. This has increased civilians' exposure to violence (HRW 14/12/2021).

ANTICIPATED SCALE AND SCOPE

The escalating political tension and the worsening economic crisis in Sudan are likely to limit the Government's ability to dedicate enough resources to tackling the increasing violence in the region (TNH 15/04/2022; UNSC 24/01/2022).

Intercommunal violence is likely to increase during the post-rainy season (harvest season), between November 2022 and January 2023 (FEWS NET 16/07/2022), as conflicts in Darfur are mostly a result of competition over land and natural resources (HRW 22/06/2022; FEWS NET 16/07/2022). Acts of violence during the harvest season include the destruction of crops, which affects people in the region and increases humanitarian needs (UNSC 24/01/2022).

HUMANITARIAN CONSTRAINTS

Insecurity is disrupting the continuity of aid delivery in the region, leaving affected populations unable to access much-needed food, health, and shelter services. In December 2021, following three looting incidents in its warehouses in El Fasher city (WFP 30/12/2021), WFP suspended operations in North Darfur state for over a month before resuming partially (WFP 01/03/2022). In March 2022, several aid agencies were forced to suspend operations after two aid workers were killed in Jebel Moon locality in west Darfur, as increased insecurity threatened the lives of aid workers (NRC 18/03/2022).

In Darfur, the threat of killing and injury limits people's access to humanitarian assistance and service facilities, as well as restricting humanitarian aid delivery to people in need. Explosive hazard contamination further hampers early recovery and development efforts. Limited information and lack of awareness put IDPs, returnees, and refugees at higher risk of local landmine or explosive remnants of war (ERW) contamination within their settlement areas (OCHA 02/12/2022).

Water logging and floods during the rainy season render many roads in the region impassable. This affects the delivery of humanitarian assistance and restricts people's ability to seek humanitarian services (OCHA 18/07/2022 and 20/06/2022).

SECTORAL NEEDS

Food security

As at June 2022, 3.4 million people in the Darfur region (out of a population of 11.1 million) were projected to experience crisis levels of food insecurity or worse (IPC Phase 3 and higher). Food insecurity is most prevalent in West Darfur, with over 40% of the population in IPC Phase 3 and above (IPC accessed 21/07/2022; OCHA accessed 10/08/2022).

Clashes result in loss of livelihood assets and livestock, affecting people's ability to access food (FEWS NET 07/05/2022; ICRC 28/04/2022). The conflict-affected population in Darfur is unable to implement mitigation measures to alleviate the impact of food insecurity. Coping mechanisms such as stocking on food during the harvest season, when produce is cheaper, are not feasible because people move frequently to flee violence, and food stocks are often stolen (ICRC 28/04/2022; OCHA 02/12/2021).

Food prices in Sudan nearly tripled in 2022 compared to 2021 and are projected to continue to rise, reaching 400–500% above average by the beginning of 2023. Higher food prices are affecting people's access to food and overall food security levels in Darfur, as resource-based intercommunal violence disrupts access to income-generating activities, rendering affected people unable to afford food (IPC 21/06/2022).

IDPs remain one of the most vulnerable groups to food insecurity because of limited access to disposable income and income-generating activities. IDPs are also more reliant on markets for accessing food and are therefore more affected by the increase in food prices (FEWS NET 07/05/2022). As at July 2022, the Darfur region hosted close to 3.1 million IDPs (IOM 13/07/2022). Around 85,000 IDPs in Kereneik (West Darfur), displaced by intercommunal violence in April 2022, are experiencing large food consumption gaps suggesting food insecurity at Emergency levels (IPC Phase 4) (FEWS NET 04/2022).

Livelihood

As a result of increased insecurity, people are unable to engage in agricultural and animal grazing activities (OCHA 02/12/2021). Around 90% of the population in Darfur depends on agriculture as a source of income and personal consumption (CRS 16/04/2021). Natural disasters, including droughts and floods, have reduced production and resulted in loss of harvest and livestock. The 2021 harvest season was 35% lower than average, causing direct

economic loss to farmers (OCHA 02/12/2021; IPC 21/06/2022). The impact of the poor harvest is likely to persist, as the 2021–2022 harvest season is projected to be over 30% lower than previous years (FAO 20/06/2022).

WASH

Over 50% of the 11.1 million population in Darfur are in need of WASH assistance (OCHA accessed 10/08/2022). Across the country, over 40% of Sudanese people do not have access to water services, more than 65% do not have access to sanitation, and 75% do not have access to hygiene. This poses a severe threat to their health and livelihoods (WB 29/09/2021).

Since the military coup on 25 October 2021, the delivery of WASH services has become more complicated, as the sector works through a partnership between government line ministries and departments (the Water and Environment Sanitation department, State Water Cooperation, and the Ministry of Health) to deliver WASH services (OCHA 30/06/2022).

Shelter

As at July 2022, Darfur hosted around 3.1 million IDPs (IOM 13/07/2022). Shelters in North and West Darfur states are inadequate, and conflict causes significant damage to shelter and public facilities in campsites. For example, in Krinding camp, around 12,000 shelters were damaged or destroyed. In West Darfur, shelters are overcrowded and lack privacy (Global Protection Cluster 05/2022 a and 05/2022 b).

Health

Over 25% of the population in Darfur (2.9 million people) is in need of health services (OCHA accessed 10/08/2022). Shortage in medical supplies and the high cost of healthcare restrict people's access to health services. Even though public health services are free, lack of coverage and inadequate services force people to seek private health services, creating financial burdens for families. Medical personnel leave the country in search of better economic opportunities. Currency fluctuations and high inflation have caused a 1,000% increase in medication prices (OCHA 02/12/2021). In Sudan, there are 0.3 doctors and 1.1 midwives and nurses for every 1,000 people, while the global average is 1.8 doctors and 4 midwives and nurses for every 1,000 people (WB accessed 03/08/2022; WB accessed 09/08/2022).

Attacks on health facilities affect people's access to health services and result in the temporary suspension of services, interrupting treatments in progress as health workers have to flee without completing them (MSF 29/04/2022; WHO 11/01/2022). In April 2022, attacks on two health facilities resulted in the death of two health workers in Kereneik and El Genein towns, West Darfur state (WHO 28/04/2022).

Education

Around 30% of school-aged Sudanese children are not enrolled in school. Enrolment levels are even lower in conflict-affected states, down to around 50% of school-aged children in South Darfur (UNESCO 2019). Violent attacks that target schools cause children to fear going back (Save the Children 12/2019). Because of structural damage, the number of schools in the Darfur region is insufficient to accommodate all school-aged children, and classrooms are overcrowded – the pupil-to-teacher ratio is often 100:1 (OCHA 02/12/2021).

The continuity of education in schools in the region is affected by insecurity. In South Darfur, state authorities suspended education indefinitely because of insecurity and students' participation in anti-coup protests in March 2022 (UNICEF 21/07/2022; Dabanga 17/03/2022). Some schools were destroyed and others were repurposed as IDP shelters owing to the deteriorating security situation in Sudan (and particularly in West Darfur) (UNICEF 03/2022; OCHA 02/12/2021).

Sudanese children (in Darfur in particular) are unable to access education also because of financial barriers, including school-related fees, long distances, and lack of affordable transportation, as well as negative economic coping strategies, such as child labour or child marriage (OCHA 02/12/2021).

Protection

During 2021, more than 250 protection incidents took place in the five Darfur states, with the highest prevalence in West Darfur. Civilian protection incidents include unlawful killings, arbitrary detention, abduction, torture, gender-based violence, separated families, recruitment of children, ERW-related incidents, intercommunal conflict, and forced displacement. Protection incidents occur in an environment of impunity, as security forces lack response capacity (Global Protection Cluster 02/05/2022 and 10/02/2022). The rule of law and access to justice remain low in Darfur, particularly among IDPs and returnees, as police forces have limited presence and are not equipped to deal with protection incidents in the region (Global Protection Cluster 10/02/2022). Because of weak rule of law and lack of access to protection services, IDPs are often subject to attacks, including incidents of gender-based violence and kidnapping (OCHA 02/12/2021).

Since the coup in October 2021, Darfur has witnessed an increase in sexual violence incidents against women and girls, including rape and sexual assault (ISHR 15/03/2022; OCHA 02/12/2021). Both members of the Sudan Liberation Army and security personnel of the Sudanese Government have been involved in sexual violence incidents. Many such incidents go unpunished because of the lack of law enforcement and victims' inability to identify perpetrators (UNSC 24/01/2022).

The presence of landmines and ERW continues to affect the lives of host communities, IDPs, and returnees in the Darfur region. Many incidents go unreported because of the lack of access to authorities and medical facilities, particularly in non-government-controlled areas in Jebel Marra (UNSC 24/01/2022; UNMASS accessed 09/08/2022).

In Darfur, children are exposed to violence that will potentially have a negative impact on their psychological wellbeing. Violence results in displacement that increases children's risk of being involved in child labour and early marriage. It also increases their risk of being recruited by armed groups (Save the Children 08/12/2021).

AGGRAVATING FACTORS

Economic crisis

In June 2022, the value of the Sudanese currency against the dollar was over 20% lower compared to the same month the previous year and nearly 290% below the five-year average (FEWS NET 16/07/2022). Because of the liquidity crisis, the Sudanese Government opted to float the value of the local currency, leaving markets to decide its value based on supply and demand (AP 07/03/2022). Since the October 2021 coup, the Government has been unable to access international funding, which was critical to the country's ability to implement economic reform (France 24 28/10/2021; Reuters 08/12/2021).

In May 2022, inflation rates in Sudan were over 190%; even though this constitutes a 28% decline compared to the previous month, high inflation is still causing commodity prices to remain high (FEWS NET 16/07/2022).

Displacement and secondary displacement

As at July 2022, the Darfur region hosted close to 3.1 million IDPs (83% of the total number of IDPs across Sudan). The majority of them are living in South and North Darfur (IOM 13/07/2022).

STATE	NUMBER OF IDPS
North Darfur	870,715
South Darfur	1,065,597
Central Darfur	550,334
West Darfur	490,849
East Darfur	117,715
Total	3,095,210

Source: IOM (13/07/2022).

Most IDPs were displaced between 2003–2010. The majority of them live in formal settlements, while the rest are living in schools and public facilities, with relatives and friends within the host community, and in abandoned buildings. Intercommunal violence is one of the main drivers of displacement (IOM 13/07/2022). Burning of houses and looting of personal belongings and livestock increases the socioeconomic vulnerability of IDPs (OCHA 02/12/2021).

IDPs face major restrictions in accessing basic services (Global Protection Cluster 10/02/2022). Intercommunal violence disrupts the delivery of humanitarian aid across the region. The economic crisis affects the delivery of public services to IDPs, which increases their socioeconomic vulnerability (OCHA 02/12/2021). Durable solutions for IDPs are unachievable as the Juba peace agreement remains unimplemented (Global Protection Cluster 10/02/2022; OCHA 02/12/2021).

In 2021, violence displaced more than 440,000 people in Sudan; over 100,000 of them are currently secondarily displaced in West Darfur. Secondary displacement weakens coping capacity and increases the employment of negative coping strategies, including child marriage and survival sex (Global Protection Cluster 02/05/2022).

Floods

The rainy season in Sudan happens between July–September, with the peak of rains and flooding between August–September. As at August 2022, the rainy season had already affected more than 47,000 people (OCHA accessed 09/08/2022; OCHA 17/07/2022).

Flash floods are a recurrent natural hazard for Sudan, with the peak between August–September (OCHA 17/07/2022; OCHA 07/06/2022). On average, nearly 87,000 people are affected by flash floods every year, with North and West Darfur among the most flood-affected states in the country. Floods cause significant damage to houses, roads, public facilities, and crops, resulting in displacement and loss of livelihoods (OCHA 07/06/2022; OCHA 02/12/2021).

Floods cause damage to sanitation facilities and inundate water sources. This increases the risk of vector-borne disease outbreaks which are often linked to poor environmental health and sanitation, the most common being dengue fever, Rift Valley fever, and Chikungunya fever. Floods exacerbate humanitarian needs by reducing access to basic services, including health, WASH, and education (OCHA 07/06/2022; OCHA 02/12/2021).

War in Ukraine

Sudan is highly dependent on wheat imported from Russia and Ukraine, which makes up 60% of all imported wheat. Domestic production only covers 15% of the country's demand. Bread is a food staple in Sudan, and wheat makes up 20% of the kilocalorie intake of the population. High wheat prices will likely increase the demand for sorghum and millet, leading to an increase in their prices as well. The war has also contributed to increasing the prices of oil and fertilisers but also fuel, leading to an increase in transportation costs that spilt over to affect commodity prices. Higher prices are decreasing people's purchasing power (Save the Children 24/03/2022; IPC 21/06/2022).