European Commission | Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection

Sudan

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

Estimated **5.4 million** people are in need of humanitarian assistance (**13%** of the population)

Number of Internally Displaced People (IDPs):

- in Darfur: 2.55 million (223000 new IDPs since January 2015)
- in South Kordofan and Blue Nile: 378 000

(source: UNOCHA)

Number of refugees & asylum seekers:

363 361 incl. 197 635 refugees from South Sudan

(source: UNOCHA)

Sudan appears in the European Commission's 2015 Forgotten Crisis Index

European Commission humanitarian aid:
- over €200 million since 2011
- in 2014: €27 million
- in 2015: €32 million

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Key messages

- More than 10 years since the start of the Darfur conflict, violence and insecurity continue to cause displacement, despite the Doha Peace Agreement[1]. More than 2.5 million people live internally displaced in Darfur due to the fighting between government forces and rebel groups and intertribal conflict. Since the beginning of the year, 223 000 people were uprooted from their homes.
- In the South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, fighting has affected over 1.1 million people with hundreds of thousands fleeing to neighbouring Ethiopia and South Sudan or to other parts of the country. Adding to the complexity of the humanitarian situation, over 197 000 people have taken refuge in Sudan following conflict in South Sudan.
- The levels of child malnutrition are worrying in many parts of the country. Over 2 million children under five are believed to suffer from acute malnutrition.
- Humanitarian organisations operate in a difficult and constrained environment. Unimpeded and timely access to populations is vital to assess their needs and deliver aid.
- In 2015, the European Commission has allocated €32 million for life-saving assistance to displaced families, refugees and people affected by disasters in Sudan, bringing the Commission's total humanitarian funding to over €200 million since 2011. Aid is primarily focused on health and nutrition, water and sanitation, shelter, food security and livelihoods.

[1] The Doha Document for Peace in Darfur was signed between Sudanese government and rebels in 2011 to end the Darfur Conflict. More information: http://unamid.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=11060

Humanitarian situation and needs

The humanitarian situation in Sudan remains critical following years of conflict compounded by natural disasters and underdevelopment. Sudan is classified by the European Commission as a 'forgotten crisis', i.e. a protracted crisis which receives little attention from media and the international community. The country counts more than 3 million internally displaced people, is plagued by malnutrition and characterised by a lack of infrastructure and basic services. About 5.4 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance across the country. This number has increased since 2013 following massive population displacements in Darfur and prolonged crises elsewhere in the country which hinder long-term recovery.

In Darfur, 4.4 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, including 2.55 million displaced, the majority of whom live in camps. Due to the insecurity and administrative hurdles, humanitarian personnel and operations have been reduced. This is preventing the independent assessment of needs and an analysis of what impact humanitarian aid is having. Since 2013, tribal fighting and the presence of militia have made large areas unsafe, including the state capitals, with civilians bearing the brunt of the fighting.

Tensions also remain high in the so-called transitional areas of **South Kordofan and Blue Nile** along the border with South Sudan. It is difficult to gauge the extent and severity of the crisis given the lack of first-hand information and access for humanitarian organisations. Access to around 250 000 IDPs in need of assistance is hampered in areas controlled by the rebel organisation Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N). It is estimated that over 1.1 million people have been affected by conflict since May 2011. There have been mass displacements both internally and to South Sudan and Ethiopia where more than 243 000 and 36 000 people respectively have sought refuge.

The **East** of the country has some of the worst malnutrition indicators among children under five. There are limited opportunities for international organisations to work in the area making it difficult to link humanitarian and development aid. The region also hosts more than 170 000 Eritrean refugees and asylum seekers who continue to cross into the country at a rate of 1 000 per month.

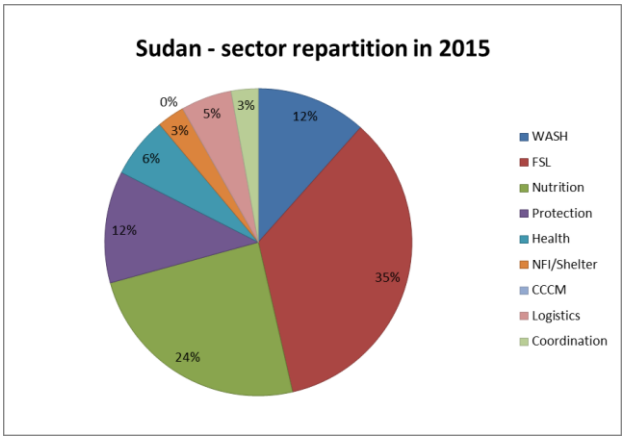
Close to 200 000 **South Sudanese refugees** have arrived in Sudan since fighting erupted in their country in December 2013. They live in open areas, camps or with local communities in Khartoum, White Nile, South and West Kordofan. Basic needs are being addressed by national and international organisations, but huge gaps exist in particular for those in overcrowded camps.

Since South Sudan's independence an estimated 363 000 South Sudanese continue to live in Sudan in often precarious conditions. More than 34 000 people are stranded in open areas in and around Khartoum.

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

Funding

The European Commission with its humanitarian funding responds to emergency needs resulting from conflict, severe food insecurity and malnutrition. Since 2011, the Commission has spent over €200 million for live saving assistance to vulnerable people in Sudan. In 2015, the initial allocation of €25 million was twice increased by a total of €7 million due to the deteriorating humanitarian situation.



In December 2015, the Commission released an additional €79 million for the greater Horn of Africa, including Sudan, as one of the most affected regions by the El Niño phenomenon.

Projects

The European Commission is providing support in the fields of health and nutrition, water and sanitation, shelter, food security and livelihoods. It caters for the needs of those affected by conflict with a focus on the on-going crisis in Darfur where the Commission funds the provision of education and psychosocial support for children caught up in the violence. Beyond Darfur, emergency preparedness and response for the most vulnerable populations in various parts of the country remain a priority for the Commission's humanitarian aid activities.

Throughout the country, an estimated 2 million children are estimated to have suffered from acute malnutrition in the course of 2015. This is mostly due to food insecurity, but also poor access to health care and clean water. The Commission contributes to improved nutrition care in some of the most critically hit regions. Regrettably, most humanitarian organisations that were providing nutrition aid in eastern Sudan had their projects suspended by the authorities in 2012.

Food assistance accounts for the bulk of the Commission's humanitarian aid funding in Sudan.

Examples of EU funded Humanitarian Projects in Sudan

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In 2015, the European Commission's contribution enabled the World Food Programme (WFP) to assist more than 125 000 children, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers, most of them in Darfur, through provision of emergency assistance. It also provided food vouchers for around 490 000. The vouchers enabled families to buy fresh produce such as meat, vegetables and eggs, which are impossible to include in traditional food rations. Voucher programmes also boost the local economy by creating a demand for local products.

With funding from the European Commission, CARE has provided water and sanitation services for vulnerable people both in and outside of camps. CARE has reached over 350 000 people with life-saving assistance in four camps for internally displaced in Nyala. The high number of deaths and emergency levels of malnutrition in Nyala have been attributed to food insecurity, limited livelihood opportunities and poor hygiene practices. The project has provided clean drinking water, latrines and hygiene training with the aim of preventing communicable diseases and decreasing malnutrition, especially among children under five and women.

Funded from the EU Children of Peace initiative, a programme for humanitarian projects that provides education in emergency situations, **ZOA** runs a programme to create 'safe haven' schools for children in Gereida, in Sudan's troubled Darfur region. Children aged 6 to 14 who have often only known conflict, are given the opportunity to learn and play in a protective environment in and around camps for displaced families. ZOA has rehabilitated or constructed 50 classrooms and improved the schools' sanitation facilities. It also provides training to teachers, parents and community leaders on how to recognise and deal with child rights violations, as well as with children who experience psychosocial problems. © ZOA