



SUDAN CONFLICT

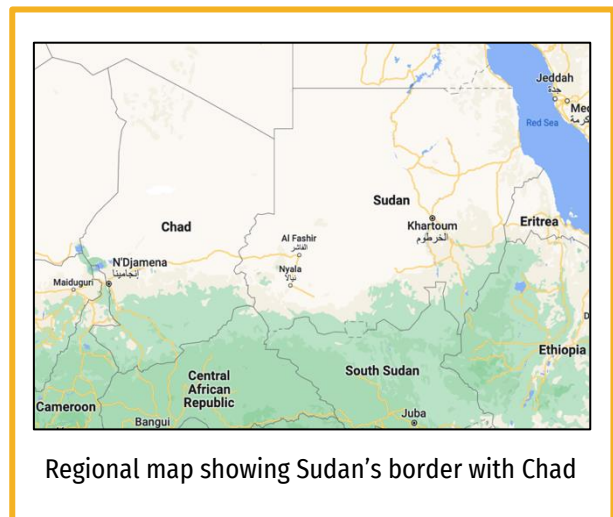
Ceasefire announced as neighbors prepare for a mass influx of refugees

Background

Following a week of brutal fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) that has killed more than 400 people and injured 5,000, parties to the conflict have negotiated a 72-hour ceasefire. Since April 15, persistent gunfire and airstrikes had been terrorizing civilians and led to evacuations of diplomatic personnel from Sudan's capital, Khartoum. The fighting also severely impacted humanitarian groups, leading to the deaths of four U.N. staff. The fighting comes at a time when humanitarian needs in Sudan were already considered at an "all-time high," according to the [Humanitarian Response Plan](#), as 15.8 million people in Sudan (nearly a third of the population) were already in need of humanitarian assistance. Even prior to the fighting, more than 11 million people were barely able meet minimum food requirements and 4 million women and children were acutely malnourished. Now, families have been forced to leave their homes and their livelihoods in order to survive. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates that approximately 3.7 million people are internally displaced within Sudan.

The crisis in Sudan has already spilled across borders as thousands of people have been forced from their homes. An estimated 42,000 people have already crossed the border into Chad – a number that is expected to grow to 100,000 people in the coming weeks. Eastern Chad already hosts 400,000 refugees from Sudan, and so new arrivals will be adding strain to public infrastructure that is already overstretched and under resourced. Many of the informal refugee settlements and in villages along the border lack sufficient water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, and some have no sources of potable water at all.

Initial assessments have shown that the majority of people crossing the border are in need of food and nutritional support with hundreds of cases of acute moderate malnutrition already identified in children.



New arrivals are also still reeling from the trauma they have experienced in the past week and are in need of psychosocial support.

Regional Response

CARE has a country office in Sudan and presences in many of its neighbors, including Egypt, Libya, Chad, South Sudan, and Ethiopia. We are prepared to meet the most critical needs of conflict-affected people on either side of the border. CARE has been working in Sudan since 1979, carrying out a comprehensive portfolio of development and humanitarian programming. In Sudan, CARE reached more than 1.5 million people in the last year, the majority of whom were women and girls. In the last six months of 2022 alone, CARE in Sudan reached 147,000 people with much-needed health services, 15,900 people with sexual and reproductive health support, and 465,400 people with WASH services. We also have active programming in Sudan's neighboring countries; for example in Chad, where CARE's teams reached 514,000 people in 2021, more than 70% of whom were women and girls.

"The conflict in Sudan is forcing women and girls to flee their homes to escape the fighting. Many are making extremely dangerous journeys to find safety, increasing the risk of gender-based violence. Sudan was already in the grips of a grueling humanitarian crisis before the conflict escalated. One in four people went to bed hungry and many of those leaving will only be able to take what they can carry. Refugees will need support with complex needs, particularly women and girls."

– Kate Maina-Vorley
CARE International Regional Director for East and Central Africa

Despite this very difficult situation, CARE is committed to continuing lifesaving and essential services to people in need. CARE is an active participant in humanitarian clusters in Sudan and neighboring countries, and our teams have strong relationships with other humanitarian actors working in the region for decades. We will coordinate with our partners to identify gaps and synergies to ensure that we carry out an impactful and efficient emergency response.

Response in Sudan

The conflict exacerbates an already difficult humanitarian situation for millions of Sudanese people. CARE will expand the delivery of lifesaving, critical services to affected communities – particularly women and girls affected by the armed conflict – through cash support, health and nutrition services, rehabilitation of water infrastructure and livelihoods recovery that will benefit **714,510 people**.

Livelihoods: CARE will provide livelihood support to **90,000 people**, including training of smallholder farmers, rehabilitation of markets and cash programming for food assistance, livestock recovery and agricultural inputs.

Health services: CARE will deliver lifesaving health services to internally displaced people (IDPs) and host communities through operational health facilities and mobile clinics reaching **450,000 individuals**. This includes the provision of essential drugs and medical supplies to promote infection protection and control.

Gender-based violence (GBV): CARE will also establish and **train community protection committees** to conduct community education on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as GBV risk mitigation and prevention. CARE will provide dignity kits to vulnerable and conflict-affected women and girls as well as sexual and reproductive health services, baby delivery kits, and emergency obstetric care.



A woman collects medication from one of CARE's primary health centers prior to the fighting

Food and nutrition security: CARE will operationalize Outpatient Therapeutic Program and Supplementary Therapeutic Program centers, mobile nutrition sites, and stabilization centers to offer lifesaving nutrition services to acutely malnourished children.

WASH: CARE will distribute WASH kits to **714,510 people**. In addition, we will construct and rehabilitate water facilities, provide water treatment and water quality testing, and train water committees to provide safe drinking water for their communities.

Response in Chad

CARE has extensive experience responding to refugee crises, and so we can anticipate which needs will be most pressing as the influx of refugee seekers grows along the border between Chad and Sudan. We hope to reach the growing number of refugees through our response activities, broken down as follows:

Cash assistance: CARE will provide U.S. \$70 cash assistance to refugees fleeing violence so that they can procure those items or services that are most important to them.

WASH: In order to prevent the spread of illness, and particularly waterborne diseases like cholera or vector-borne diseases like malaria, CARE will construct latrines, provide WASH trainings and distribute hygiene kits and water treatment products. Where possible, we will procure supplies from local markets so that our response can promote economic resilience of host communities as well.

Food and nutritional security: CARE Chad's supplementary nutrition units and ambulatory nutrition units will provide treatment for refugees who are showing signs of acute malnutrition – particularly children under 5 and pregnant or breastfeeding women.

GBV: We know that displacement can significantly increase the risk of GBV. Therefore, CARE teams will incorporate GBV prevention trainings into pre- and post-distribution meetings with targeted settlements and villages.

Conclusion

Innocent civilians have been forced to bear the burden of this bloody conflict. While people in Sudan may have a temporary reprieve from the violence during the temporary ceasefire, communities along the border with Sudan are bracing for a mass influx of vulnerable people seeking refuge. CARE's teams in Sudan and neighboring countries are ready to provide lifesaving assistance to families in need. CARE seeks to raise US \$8 million to support our emergency response activities. On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of people who stand to benefit, we thank you for your generous contribution to the Sudan Crisis Fund.¹

April 25, 2023



¹ In order to effectively manage the current emergency response and continue to be able to deploy resources for other emergencies, CARE will reserve 20% of donations to cover technical support, administration and emergency preparedness expenses, including the rapid deployment of staff to emergencies such as this one.