

EMPHNET
The Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network

▶ GHD I EMPHNET: working together for better health

January 4, 2024

Health Situation in Sudan

Situation Overview

Amidst the array of global crises, Sudan stands out as the largest displacement and protection crisis in the world. Over eight months of conflict have inflicted substantial damage on the nation destroying lives, livelihoods, and critical infrastructure, with communities experiencing horrific violence. This situation has resulted in the displacement of millions, including those recently displaced, individuals already living in protracted displacement, refugees that found shelter and support in Sudan, and host communities that have generously taken in millions of displaced people from conflict-affected areas. Remarkably, approximately three million are displaced, making it **the country with the highest number of displaced children in the world.**

In Numbers since April 15, 2023

5.5 million
Internally Displaced People

3 million
Displaced Children

24.8 million
People in Need of Assistance in 2024

Delivery of Health Care Services

In conflict-affected areas, approximately three-quarters of hospitals have ceased operations, leading to widespread lack of access to healthcare. Which in turn leaves the majority of the population deprived of their right to health services including Primary Health Care. The operating health facilities are overstretched and facing challenges due to unavailable or inaccessible medical supplies. The process of transporting medical supplies is marked with high risks, including frequent incidents of looting, and a notable lack of secure channels for the delivery of medical aid and services. Cancer patients and patients with renal failure suffered a shortage of supply and facilities for dialysis and oncology care. Notably, In Aj Jazirah state, the sole centers offering cardiology, dialysis, and oncology services, which served both the displaced and local residents, ceased operations following the RSF's attacks on the Madani locality on December 15, 2023.

70% **Health Facilities are no Longer Operational in Conflict-Affected States**

65% **of Population Lacking Access to Health Services**

60 **Attacks on Health Facilities**



SFETP resident team conducting demographic and health profiling for IDPs, Elfashaga locaity, Gadarif State, May 2023

Communicable Diseases

Prior to the conflict, Sudan has been already facing outbreaks of Vector-borne and vaccine-preventable diseases. This included **measles, rubella, cVDPV, and dengue fever.** The conflict has further hindered efforts, interrupted interventions and immunization which has contributed to the worsening of these outbreaks.

The country had planned to conduct a national measles and rubella vaccination campaign in December targeting Nine accessible states affected by the outbreak. Needless to say, this was postponed due to the escalation of conflict and the extension to Aj Jazirah state, the operation center for immunization in the country. The inability to implement outbreak response and catch-up vaccination campaigns amidst the interrupted routine immunization service and the interruption of other outbreak control interventions will make a large outbreak of VPDs inevitable.

In addition, the conflict has triggered new outbreaks associated with the poor Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH). On 26 September 2023, the Federal Ministry of Health declared a cholera outbreak and now it is reported in 9 states out of the 18, with **8,267 suspected cholera cases were and total deaths 224, 15% of cases are children under five years of age.**

In Numbers up to December 2023

3660
Reported Measles Cases

411
Reported Rubella Cases

6929
Reported Dengue Fever Cases



Cholera treatment center in Blue nile state 2023

Food Security

Between October 2023 and February 2024, almost half of Sudan's population -15 Million- are expected to suffer acute food insecurity according to the projections from Integrated food insecurity classification and acute food insecurity analysis. In addition to the food crisis. Before the conflict, approximately 3.5 million children under the age of five are malnourished. Between April 15 and October 31, 6% of the screened children under the age of five years, were admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition, (UNICEF). With the 23 million children in Sudan one can conceptualize the extent of the problem.

15 million are expected to suffer acute food insecurity.

Women Health

The need for reproductive health (RH) services is critical, where there are nearly 167,000 internally displaced pregnant women and 55,764 expected births in the next three months. According to UNFPA, **4.2 million displaced women in Sudan are at risk of Gender Based Violence (GBV)**; however, only 330 women received GBV response services, including clinical management of rape, since the start of the war up to 27 December. On 30 November, the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commission was alarmed particularly by "the escalation of the sexual violence committed in the conflict, primarily by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF)." This included reports of sexual exploitation, slavery, trafficking, rape, and acts tantamount to enforced disappearances. The escalating risk of GBV puts a high demand on GBV prevention and response services.

References

- Office for coordination of humanitarian affairs(OCHA), "Humanitarian Needs and Response," no. December 2023, pp. 8–10, 2022.
- U. Response and F. Status, "Situation," no. December, pp. 1–12, 2023.
- World Organization Health, "Attacks on Health care : Sudan 15th of April- 27th of Dec 2023," surveillance system for tracking attcks on health care, 2023. https://extranet.who.int/ssa/LeftMenu/PublicReportList.aspx?start=2023-04-15&end=2023-12-27&countryList=205&typeList=0 (accessed Dec. 27, 2023).
- Expanded Programme on Immunization, "Measles and Rubella Epidemiological Situation up to Week 50, 2023," 2023.
- Health Emergency and Epidemics Response Department Federal Ministery of Health, "Sudan Surveillance report," 2023.
- Office for coordination of humanitarian affairs(OCHA), "Situation Report," 2023. doi: 10.4324/9780203060551-17.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM), "WEEKLY DISPLACEMENT SNAPSHOT (14)," 2023.
- "Sudan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024 (December 2023) - Sudan | ReliefWeb." https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-humanitarian-needs-and-response-plan-2024-december-2023?_gl=1*1j1momx*_ga*MTA1Mjg3MjMzNy4xNzAzNTg5NjM0*_ga_E60ZNX2F68*MTcwMzU4OTYzMy4xLjAuMTcwMzU4OTYzMy42MC4wLjA. (accessed Dec. 27, 2023).
- Sudan | Situation Reports (unocha.org)
- https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/unfpa-sudan-emergency-situation-report-no9-27-december-2023
- https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/11/sudan-un-experts-appalled-use-sexual-violence-tool-war
- Sudan: About 7,600 children fleeing homes daily in world's largest child displacement crisis | Save the Children International
- Sudan | Displacement Tracking Matrix (iom.int)
- Sudan: IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis | June 2023 - February 2024: Issued August 2023