

SUDAN

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER BRIEFING 2018



Humanitarian Figures

5.5 million

People in Sudan need humanitarian assistance, according to a September-October report by [OCHA](#)

2 million

Internally Displaced People [IDPs] need support in Sudan. New crises are emerging in southern and eastern states ([UN Report](#))

1.2 million

Refugees are seeking asylum in Sudan. A total of 763,270 people have travelled from South Sudan ([UN Report](#))

4.8 million

People are living at emergency levels of food insecurity in Sudan, according to the [Food Security Technical Secretariat \(FSTS\)](#)

694,000

Children are suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition. Many states in Sudan have a malnutrition prevalence above 15% ([UN Report](#))

Highlights

- > About [58,000 people](#) from the refugee and host communities in 'open areas' in Khartoum State will receive assistance, [OCHA](#) reports
- > Annual inflation rate reached [70 per cent](#) by the end of September, leading to a rise in the cost of living
- > The Foreign Minister of Sudan attempts to promote bilateral relations on European tour

Key Developments

- > In November, the [European Union stated](#) its readiness to work with Khartoum depending on internal reforms and compliance with international human rights law. The [EU is urging](#) Sudanese authorities to respect the right to freedom of expression, press, access to information, association and peaceful assembly.
- > The US is considering lifting Sudan's designation as a state sponsor of terror. The associate director of the Human Rights Watch has expressed fears that Sudan's removal from the list could prevent the government from being held accountable for its "appalling" human rights record, and the move could allow violations to continue with impunity.
- > The government has called on the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North to allow deliveries of aid to reach vulnerable populations in SPLM/N-controlled states of Blue Nile and South Kordofan. The UN says it is prepared to work with the Government of Sudan and SPLM/N officials to coordinate more sustainable access to the Two Areas.

Key Individuals, Places and Groups

- › Khartoum: capital city, centre of government and of commerce
- › Omar al-Bashir: President of Sudan 1989 – Present
- › UNAMID: The United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur
- › ICC: International Criminal Committee (International tribunal in the Netherlands)

Context:

Conflict between Sudanese Arabs and Indigenous African tribes emerged in reaction to decades of ethnic and religious persecution in Sudan. Adhering to Sharia Law and the government in Khartoum, [97 per cent](#) of the Republic of Sudan practice Sunni Islam, while Christian minorities and those following different divisions of Islam are marginalised in fragile conflict states in the south.

President Omar al-Bashir was convicted by the International Criminal Court for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity for his actions in Darfur that killed [300,000](#) indigenous Africans. Since the start of the civil war, which resulted in the split of South Sudan into a separate nation in 2011, an estimated 2 million civilians have been killed under the [scorched earth policy](#) which destroyed health facilities, infrastructure, and places of education and religious worship.

The government continues to restrict religious freedoms: violent conflict has erupted in Blue Nile and South Kordofan, amongst many other states, as ethnic minorities are locked into political dispute with Khartoum. Humanitarian organisations and aid agencies are refused entry in conflict zones. Food scarcity, displacement, and ongoing threats of religious and ethnic persecution affect many minority communities.

A Map of the Republic of Sudan



Demographics

Sudanese Arabs account for [70%](#) of the total population. The minority is made up of groups such as Nuba, Copts and Beja, and peoples belonging to more than 500 other tribes.

The current estimate of Sudan's post-independence population is placed at [41.5 million](#). Projections suggest that one million live in Blue Nile, representing more than [40](#) ethnic groups, and [2.5 million](#) people account for the multi-ethnic population of South Kordofan.

Latest Developments

Sudan Could Be Removed from Terror Blacklist

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement/ Army has urged the US Department of State to reconsider "[normalising its relationship with a blood stained criminal](#)" as it discusses removing Sudan from the blacklist of states sponsoring terrorism. The leadership of the SPLM/A [expressed confusion](#) as the US considers "rehabilitating" Sudan into the international community while the well-documented list of ongoing crimes and atrocities under the Government of Sudan is "impossible to refute".

Thousands Struck Down by Virus

By the end of October, [19,804](#) Chikungunya virus cases were reported from Kassala State, [172](#) cases from Red Sea State and [47](#) confirmed from Al-Gedaref State. The virus is carried by mosquitoes, and can cause further complications for those with chronic health problems or weak immune systems. No deaths have officially been reported since the outbreak began in Sudan's eastern states in August. Believed to have reached its peak in early October, the Chikungunya virus is now declining towards containment.

Sudan Claims Peace Talks Will Resume

On November 21, The Government of Sudan reported that talks are underway with the African Union High Implementation Panel (AUHIP) to resume negotiations with rebel factions. The government spokesperson Bishara Aror was quoted by the semi-official Sudan Media Center (SMC) as saying the recent AUHIP meetings comes "[within the framework of the ongoing arrangements to push forward the peace process](#)", adding that government leadership has shown a "[strong political will to achieve peace in Darfur and the Two Areas](#)".

Israeli Convoy Said to Have Met Sudan Officials

Secret talks were held in Istanbul last year as part of efforts to establish diplomatic relations between Sudan and Israel. A senior Israeli official has [said the talks were part of a plan to lay groundwork](#) for normalising ties with Muslim-majority countries in Africa. As Sudan officials deny the talks, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's attempt to forge relations with authoritarian regimes such as those in Sudan and Chad has been described as "unforgivable."

Corridors Opened to Deliver Aid to South Sudan

In a [cross-border operation](#), four humanitarian caravans carrying aid from White Nile State have been dispatched into Upper Nile and Bahr el-Ghazal provinces in South Sudan. Sudan has opened four corridors along the border, which will allow the World Food Programme to reduce expensive airlift and airdrop operations in a time where the "[international agency faces serious financial challenges](#)". Following the move, the WFP has said it will increase the volume of humanitarian aid being delivered into South Sudan.

Timeline

September

[5.5 million people in Sudan are reported as needing humanitarian assistance](#)

October

[Chikungunya virus that struck thousands declines towards containment](#)

November

[EU adopts conclusions on Sudan](#)

[US considers removing Sudan from state sponsor of terror blacklist](#)

[Negotiations resume as Sudan claims talks continue with rebel factions](#)

[Secret talks uncovered to normalise relations between Israel and Sudan](#)

[Human Rights Watch: Decades of abuse in Sudan ignored by US](#)