



# SUDAN

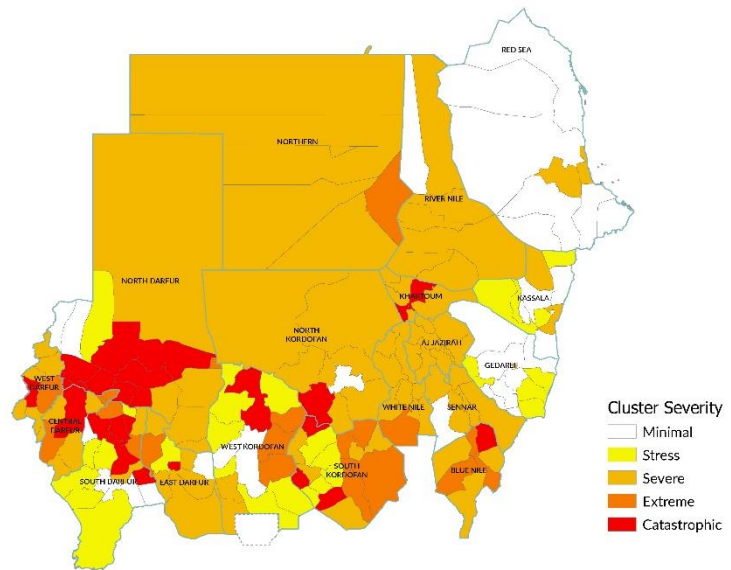
## Protection Analysis Update

Unabated violations against civilians increase the impact of protection risks on the population

JULY 2023

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has persisted since the beginning of hostilities on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023, resulting in widespread violence across various regions in Sudan, including Khartoum, Kordofan states, Darfur states, and Blue Nile state. Despite a declared ceasefire by both SAF and RSF on 27 June, armed clashes continued, even during the recent Eid al-Adha holiday. As of 30 June, the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) has reported **1,133 deaths and 11,796 injuries across the country since 15 April**. The true figure is likely much beyond that. **Over 2.8 million people had to flee their homes, resulting in 2.2 million internally displaced and approximately 615,000 persons seeking**



**refuge in neighboring countries such as Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, and South Sudan.** Alarming reports indicate **indiscriminate attacks on civilian infrastructure, including markets and hospitals**, as well as widespread **looting of homes**, humanitarian facilities, and critical records from public institutions such as courts and land offices. These distressing trends highlight the breakdown of the rule of law and institutions to protect the civilian population, intensifying the humanitarian crisis in Sudan. The protection of civilians remains a significant concern, with reports of escalating use of sexual and gender-based violence, targeted attacks on - or harm against - civilians based on ethnicity, grave violations of children's rights, family separations, theft, extortion, and the threat posed by unexploded ordnances. Moreover, the closure of schools and limited access to social services have increased the vulnerability of children to recruitment or association with armed groups.

Total PIN	Displaced	Refugees	Returnees	Non-Displaced Vulnerable Residents
<b>24.7M</b>	<b>7.2M</b>	<b>1.1M</b>	<b>1.3M</b>	<b>15.1M</b>

*The above figures are from the Revised HRP 2023 Sudan Response.*

The protection risks requiring immediate attention in the period covered by this analysis are:

- 1. Attacks on civilians and other unlawful killings and attacks on civilian infrastructure**
- 2. Gender-based and conflict related sexual violence**
- 3. Theft, extortion, looting, and destruction of public and personal property**
- 4. Forced child separation compounded by children’s exposure to violence, abuse and neglect, including alleged forced recruitment and trafficking**
- 5. Presence of mines and other explosive ordnances**

## URGENT ACTIONS NEEDED

It is imperative that stakeholders responsible for violations of International Law, International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law are held accountable.

- Calls on all parties to the conflict to respect International Humanitarian Law (IHL) at all times. Swift, impartial, and independent investigations should be established to examine allegations of human rights violations against civilians including humanitarian workers, human rights defenders and journalists.
- Requests that all parties to the conflict allow for safe, secure, rapid and unhindered humanitarian access at all times.
- Requests that all parties to the conflict enable safe and unimpeded civilian evacuations, allowing people to take belongings, including documentation, while leaving Sudan or seeking safety within its borders.
- Calls on all parties to the conflict to respect and protect humanitarian personnel, property, and relief items used for humanitarian operations by vacating humanitarian offices, premises, and warehouses, and preventing the looting thereof.
- Calls on parties to the conflict to respect and protect children and in particular to immediately stop all child rights violations according to the Security Council Resolution 1612.

## CONTEXT

VERIFIED CIVILIANS INJURED	VERIFIED CIVILIANS KILLED	HUMANITARIAN OFFICES/ASSETS LOOTED/ATTACKED	HUMANITARIAN WORKERS, LOST THEIR LIVES	IDPS	NON- DISPLACED- VULNERABLE RESIDENTS
11,796	1,133	60	15	7.2M	15.1M

The situation in Sudan currently presents a distressing scenario characterized by a lack of respect for IHL, violent urban warfare, civil unrest, and a surge in criminal activity. This alarming state of affairs has led to a substantial increase in the number of individuals requiring urgent protection and humanitarian assistance, reaching 24.7 million in May 2023—a staggering rise of 57 percent from the estimated figure of 15.8 million in November 2022<sup>1</sup>. After the first week of the conflict between SAF/RSF, the geographic scope of the fighting expanded to multiple regions including West Darfur, South Darfur, Central Darfur, North Darfur, South Kordofan, North Kordofan, Blue Nile, Kassala, and Red Sea. Concerningly, the violence in Ag Geneina, the capital of West Darfur, quickly developed into large-scale deliberate ethnic targeting and killings as it exacerbated pre-existing tensions between different groups. As a result, the violence across West Darfur and particularly in Ag Geneina has been particularly intense, characterized by ongoing attacks on civilian residential areas and infrastructure necessary to support the survival of the civilian population. From 15 April hostilities between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have led to heavy bombardments and clashes in numerous cities, resulting in civilian casualties, injuries, and extensive damage to vital infrastructure, including water, healthcare, and power facilities.

Indiscriminate attacks on civilian infrastructure, such as markets and hospitals (incl. pediatric and birth facilities), as well as the widespread looting of homes, belongings, and humanitarian facilities, destruction of important and critical records such as courts files and identity records, have emerged as distressing trends across different regions of Sudan. The increase in

criminality further underscores the breakdown of the rule of law and the mechanisms established to safeguard the civilian population. The deteriorating socio-economic conditions have fueled pre-existing intercommunal tensions, particularly in regions that were already volatile. This escalation carries severe implications for areas already plagued by violence, insecurity, displacement, and other human rights violations, such as Darfur, the Kordofans and Blue Nile states. The presence of security vacuums resulting from the redeployment of security forces to conflict areas, along with the collapse of an already weak protective social system, have contributed to heightened insecurity, prompting preemptive displacements. Consequently, instances of intercommunal violence have emerged following the redeployment of security forces, leading to deliberate attacks on civilians, including children.

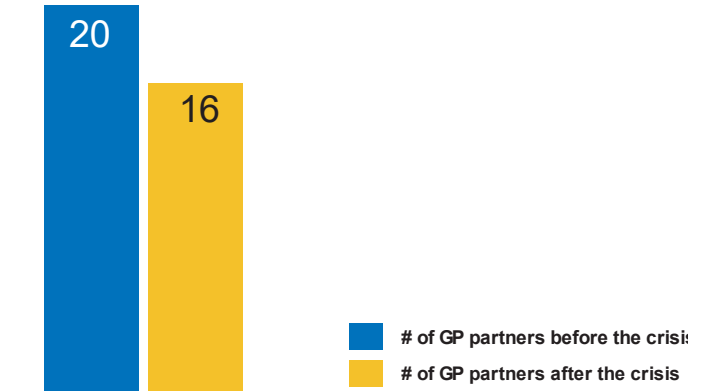
Since 15 April over 2.8 million individuals have been forcibly displaced from their homes, of whom 1.5 million are children. This includes refugees and migrants within Sudan<sup>ii</sup>. The largest numbers of new IDPs recorded are in West Darfur, White Nile, River Nile, and Northern states. It is estimated that 3% of the total population displaced are children separated from their primary caregiver and are at risk of exploitation, including recruitment. Khartoum has experienced the highest outflow of civilians. The number of newly displaced persons within a span of just over five weeks (15 April to 23 May) is comparable to the total displacement recorded in the country between 2020 and 2022. Furthermore, over 644,000 individuals have crossed into neighboring countries<sup>iii</sup> in search of safety, including to Egypt, South Sudan, Chad, the Central African Republic, and Ethiopia.

The overall humanitarian and protection environment in Sudan presents grave concerns. Violations of International Humanitarian Law and Grave Child Rights Violations are reported, including killing and maiming of children, GBV against children, attacks on hospitals and schools, abductions, along with attempts of recruitment of children. The inability of many civilians to meet their basic needs is compounded by skyrocketing food prices, movement restrictions, disruptions in economic activities, power outages, communication challenges, bank closures leading to cash shortages, and the absence of essential services. This aggravates the existing state of insecurity. The gravity of the situation is evidenced across Sudan, where the destruction and looting of markets has left the civilian population unable to obtain food and other essential items for their subsistence. The collapse of health services has further exacerbated the crisis, while the non-functionality of the municipal electricity system in multiple conflict affected areas has rendered many water points inoperable. Disturbingly, attacks on water points by various groups with the deliberate intention of denying civilians access to water have been reported in Ag Geneina. This puts children and women at disproportionate risk, since they traditionally fetch water and now have to cover even greater distances and in much riskier areas. Concerns persist for the safety of civilians trapped in their homes, unable to relocate to safer areas due to the presence of armed actors whose checkpoints have impeded the safe movement of those who want to flee. Some have directly targeted people fleeing on foot. Beyond state capitals, communities that are heavily dependent on humanitarian assistance are now largely cut off from support. Humanitarian actors face significant challenges in the resumption of their operations, including security constraints, breakdowns in communications, supply chain disruptions, cash flow issues, logistical hurdles and bureaucratic impediments. Moreover, the looting and massive destruction of humanitarian premises and assets has further intensified the dire situation.

Clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have persisted in several locations, including Khartoum, Ag Geneina (West Darfur), Zalingi (Central Darfur), Al Fasher (North Darfur), and Al Obeid (North Kordofan). According to the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH), as of 23 May, the death toll has reached at least 730<sup>iv</sup> people, with approximately 5,500 individuals injured throughout the country. Tragically, 15 humanitarian workers<sup>v</sup>, including representatives from MSF and World Relief, have lost their lives, while several others have sustained injuries.

## ACCESS CHALLENGES

There are ongoing efforts to secure a sustained and properly enforced cessation of hostilities. Several cease-fire agreements were concluded with the assistance of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America; however, adherence to cease-fire agreements has been inconsistent in Khartoum, minimal in other conflict affected areas, and not respected in Darfur. This has reduced the potential for humanitarian assistance to reach populations most in need of support and protection. In the Darfur and Kordofan regions major access constraints include: ongoing conflict between SAF, RSF, and Sudan People's Liberation Movement North (SPLM-N), leading to restricted access and attacks on aid workers, widespread insecurity, poor infrastructure, funding shortages, restricted population movement and limited entry for humanitarian actors, heavy regulations on organizations and logistical challenges, active hostilities and the presence of UXO and mines. These challenges must be addressed for effective humanitarian assistance. There are additional complexities due to the presence of armed militias, self defense groups and Juba Peace Agreement signatory and non-signatory armed groups in the region. Negotiations for humanitarian access and delivery of supplies must be undertaken with a range of actors on the ground before any movement can proceed.



Even prior to the current conflict, the annual rainy season posed challenges to the implementation of humanitarian operations. The rainy season lasts for four months, from June to September, and drives the creation of new needs in areas subject to recurrent flooding as well as impeding access by rendering roads in flood-affected areas impassable. In 2022, more than 310,000 people were affected by floods and heavy rain in Sudan. It is anticipated that the forthcoming rainy season will further heighten access challenges that must be overcome in order to address humanitarian needs<sup>vi</sup>. At the same time the rainy season marks the start of the agricultural season, during which conflict between farming and herding communities tends to spike.

## PROTECTION RISKS

### RISK 1

**Attacks on civilians and other unlawful killings or maiming and attacks on civilian infrastructure, including schools and hospitals, resulting in denial of assistance and services**

The protection of civilians is of critical concern amidst the ongoing crisis in Sudan. Thousands of civilians, including women and children, have lost their lives, and thousands have survived horrific violence, including sexual abuse, while others have been severely injured since the commencement of the conflict. This has resulted in significant displacement as people have fled their homes in search of safety and access to food, water and health services. Reports indicate that civilians of all ages are being subjected to various human rights violations and abuses<sup>vii</sup>, including the six grave violations against children and conflict related sexual violence<sup>viii</sup>. There were reported cases of at least 435 children killed, and of a further 2,025 children injured (still under verification). Additionally, civilian property and infrastructure are being greatly affected by the ongoing crisis. Instances of looting and shortages of vital resources, such as food, water, healthcare (including reproductive healthcare), fuel and other essential goods and services, are placing a significant burden on the civilian population. The impact is especially severe in densely populated residential areas like Khartoum, Bahri, Omdurman, and towns in Darfur and North Kordofan. These regions

are witnessing power outages, a lack of healthcare facilities and basic services, and a rapid depletion of food, water and medical supplies. The majority of civilian casualties are a result of collateral damage during the fighting primarily between RSF and SAF, particularly in urban areas of Khartoum where heavy weapons and airstrikes have been used indiscriminately and disproportionately by various parties to the conflict, posing a significant threat to civilians in these heavily populated areas.

The Protection Sector in Darfur received reports of at least nine instances of inter-communal clashes within the first month of the conflict - such as in Tawila locality in North Darfur, where armed individuals attacked civilians in the market of Tabit village, and which resulted in fatalities and injuries. Clashes in Masterei (Beida locality, West Darfur)<sup>ix</sup>, which was a persistent hotspot for intercommunal tensions even prior to the outbreak of the conflict, have reportedly resulted in the displacement of the entire civilian population of the town. In Ag Geneina (West Darfur), large scale ethnically motivated killings and targeting are reported by survivors crossing into Chad. This includes targeted killings of leaders of specific communities, most notably the Governor of West Darfur who was killed on 14 June. There are also reports of the deliberate destruction of hundreds of homes, and that members of targeted tribes are being prevented from fleeing Ag Genaina to seek safety in Chad.

The concentration and mobilization of forces in specific areas, such as towns, as a result of the conflict between the SAF and RSF, have created an even greater lack of state provision of civilian protection in peripheral regions. With state actors failing to protect civilians during raging violence, reports have emerged indicating that civilians in various locations across Darfur are arming themselves. Parties to the conflict's calls on the population to take up arms<sup>x</sup> and fight cast grave concerns, with risks of forced recruitments, escalation into an all-out civil war, and growing civilian casualties. The Protection Sector is deeply concerned about the safety and well-being of vulnerable groups, including women, children, people with disabilities, older persons, refugees and migrants, who may face disproportionate violence, be left behind or face increased risks of trafficking and separation from their families during their attempts to flee escalating hostilities.

Residents trapped in Khartoum, as well as those who have sought refuge in neighboring South Sudan and Chad, have recounted their experiences of witnessing civilians being killed and injured in heavy fighting, airstrikes, and shelling in residential areas. Regrettably, none of the parties to the conflict appears to have taken sufficient measures to minimize harm to civilians during attacks or the deployment of forces, as prescribed by IHL.

Despite a cease-fire agreement and the Jeddah Declaration brokered by Saudi Arabia and the United States on May 22<sup>xi</sup>, fighting and attacks on civilians persist in Khartoum and several key towns in the Darfur region. At least 51 attacks on health care facilities and staff have been verified by WHO since 15 April. Since the signing of the Jeddah Declaration 14 new reports of attacks on healthcare facilities have been verified. Numerous residents have expressed their inability to transport the deceased or injured to medical facilities due to the ongoing fighting. The protection and well-being of civilians in Sudan remains of paramount importance, necessitating immediate and decisive action to safeguard their lives, uphold their human rights, and ensure access to essential services and resources.

In addition, the widespread use of conventional weapons including field artillery, mortars, air-dropped weapons and anti-aircraft guns have left unexploded ordnances (UXOs) in all regions affected by the hostilities. Many of the clashes occurred in areas previously unfamiliar with conflict, where the population had received little to no explosive ordnance risk education. Children are particularly vulnerable as are refugees and internally displaced persons due to their increased movements, which often heightens their risk and exposure to UXOs. Explosive hazards put civilian infrastructures at risk and limit access to roads, water, schools, food, shelter and health care facilities, further exacerbating existing vulnerabilities of at risk civilians as well as hindering and endangering humanitarian response efforts.

## RISK 2 Gender-based and conflict related sexual violence

Prior to the conflict, Sudan was grappling with worrying gender-based violence (GBV) trends. Women and girls in Sudan continue to be at high risk of all forms of GBV and conflict related sexual violence<sup>xii</sup>. The fragile security situation coupled with declining ability to meet basic needs amidst a collapsing economy has exacerbated stressors at the household level that increase risks of intimate partner violence. In parallel, the outbreak of conflict and the proliferation of armed actors has further heightened risks of sexual assault and abuse for those in conflict affected areas.

All forms of GBV are increasing. Since 15 April, the GBV sub-sector in Sudan and service providers have received surging reports of cases of GBV, including sexual violence, particularly against internally displaced persons (IDPs) fleeing from one state to another and when homes are being looted, as well as an increased number of domestic violence cases. Older women, adolescent girls and women and girls living with disabilities face additional concerns and challenges in this unstable environment. Vulnerable men and boys are also exposed the risks of GBV.

Limited access to services, in particular in conflict affected states, and shortage of supplies are two of the most serious challenges to service provision. While both GBV and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services continue to function in many states, there are severe shortages of supplies and medications, including clinical management of rape (CMR) kits, dignity kits, female hygiene supplies and other life-affirming and life-saving care. Given the centralization of warehouses/pre-positioned supplies and international staff and coordination systems in Khartoum, fighting and destruction of property there are of critical concern.

The Sudanese Unit for Combating Violence against Women and Children announced that it had documented 12 new cases of sexual assault in Khartoum, bringing the number of cases documented by the Unit to 36 in Khartoum alone. Reportedly, survivors were between 12 and 17 years old. These cases are likely to represent only a small proportion of the conflict-related sexual violence that has occurred, with reporting hampered by ongoing fighting, telecommunications network breakdowns and mistrust in the authorities. Women and girls have also reported that they have experienced harassment and sexual assault during displacement, while travelling in search of safety and while sheltering at temporary accommodations which lack security and privacy. In some cases, displaced women and girls have had no choice but to sleep in open areas, exposing them to GBV and other forms of sexual violence.

Coupled with a complicated legal system on the provision of sexual and reproductive health care, girls and women who have survived sexual violence have, if any, very limited choices. Although GBV services are available in some areas, survivors face challenges to access the services due to insecurity and movement restrictions, the lack of/limited trained human resource from the government or protection actors, particularly in the hotspot areas. It is estimated by GBV AOR that the number of individuals in need of GBV services has increased by one million during this conflict.<sup>xiii</sup>

## RISK 3 Theft, extortion, looting, and destruction of public and personal property

Within one week of the commencement of the conflict, the withdrawal of SAF forces from states not directly affected by the conflict was observed. In South Kordofan, SAF forces were withdrawn and redeployed to El Obeid (North Kordofan). During periods of military redeployment in certain regions, such as South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, checkpoints were removed, leading to an increase in criminal activities. Reports of criminal gangs ambushing vehicles and robbing passengers became more prevalent in these areas. Additionally, the redeployment of security forces from conflict zones to other regions, like Khartoum, Darfur, and North Kordofan, has had adverse effects on the security of the areas they left behind. Markets in many regions have been looted and destroyed, among them the Old Omdurma market.

In the Darfur region, the Protection Sector has recorded over 50 incidents of armed robbery or looting in the first month of the conflict<sup>xiv</sup>. Incidents of armed robbery were reported along the roads in all Darfur States, as well as West and South

Kordofan States<sup>xv</sup>. Despite being aware of the generalized insecurity that persists on roads between different towns, civilians take the risk to travel in order to escape conflict-affected areas in search of safety and the means to meet their basic needs.

There are reports that inmates who have escaped from prison have joined these gangs. The most frequent reports of criminal activity and looting have emerged from Nyala (South Darfur) and Ag Geneina (West Darfur), although communication challenges are hampering the identification of incidents in Ag Geneina in particular. Armed militia members on motorbikes and four-wheel drive vehicles engaged in the looting of other tribes' properties. Reflecting the ongoing deterioration in the security context, in late May the Governor of the Darfur Region called upon citizens to take up arms to defend themselves and their property. State authorities have not attempted to rein in the looting being undertaken by armed militias and criminal elements in Ag Geneina, contributing to perceptions of impunity that were already gaining ground prior to the conflict.

#### RISK 4

### Forced child separation compounded by children's exposure to violence, abuse, and neglect, including alleged forced recruitment and trafficking

The ongoing conflict in Sudan has evolved into a critical child protection crisis, resulting in numerous casualties and injuries among children. Since the onset of the conflict, approximately 2 million persons have been displaced, with around 1.5 million of them being children. Additionally, an estimated half a million children have fled across the border in search of safety. The hostile environment exposes children to significant risks, such as association with organized criminal gangs involved in looting and potential recruitment by conflicting parties. The mass displacement of families has been accompanied by large-scale family separations, leaving many children unaccompanied and separated from their care givers.

Adolescent girls, particularly those who are homeless or living on the streets, as well as those who have departed from traditional religious institutions (khalwas) in Kordofan, face unique challenges. Many of these children, originating from conflict-affected regions such as Darfur, are exposed to an increased risk of sexual and gender-based violence and other associated dangers. The presence of unexploded ordnances (UXOs) poses a grave danger, resulting in the loss of lives or severe injuries among children. The risks these children are exposed to compound the pre-existing challenges they faced, as highlighted by the Humanitarian Response Plan 2023. Prior to the conflict 9 million children were already in need of humanitarian assistance, bringing the new total to 13.6 million children in need of urgent assistance. Local actors on the ground have identified grave violations, including killings, maiming, and alleged recruitment of children into armed forces/groups, rape and other sexual violence, abductions and kidnappings, attacks on schools and hospitals, as well as killings and injuries of children as highlighted under Risk 1. The disruption of national child-care systems further exacerbates the plight of children, particularly those who were already unaccompanied or residing in institutional care settings.

Even those children who have reached relatively safe locations, such as refugees and IDPs, have experienced severe disruptions of their well-being. The interruption of education and healthcare services, exposure to conflict-related stress and trauma, and deteriorating family environments due to extreme destitution have all taken a toll on their physical and mental health. Children's access to education has been severely impeded by the suspension of schooling, especially during crucial final exam periods, resulting in thousands of children being unable to complete their studies. Attendance rates at existing Child-Friendly Spaces has dropped as a result of forced displacement, and many children are compelled to engage in occasional labor to support their families. The prevailing socio-economic disruption has increased the risk of neglect and exploitation, as children lack proper family attention and care. In East Sudan reception centers, camps, and temporary shelters are overcrowded, increasing the challenges faced by unaccompanied children. Despite efforts from child protection organizations, there is a shortage of resources to address the specific needs of children, further exacerbating their vulnerability. Urgent action is required to address these pressing issues and provide comprehensive support to safeguard the well-being and rights of children affected by the conflict.



## RISK 5 Psychological/emotional abuse or inflicted distress

The ongoing emergency situation in Sudan has profoundly impacted a considerable portion of the population. Consequently their psychological well-being is expected to be substantially affected, leading to the development of trauma-related issues and various psychological manifestations stemming from the conflict.

Amidst limited access and the challenges faced by service providers, it is imperative to adopt alternative modalities for providing remote psychosocial support to at-risk groups. Prioritizing community-based protection networks and their ability to deliver Psychological First Aid (PFA) is of utmost importance. Establishing clear referral pathways to other service providers is crucial, in order to respond to the MHPSS needs of the affected population. Moreover, promoting and raising awareness about MHPSS-related topics within the affected communities can play an important role in fostering resilience.

Furthermore, integrating MHPSS services into the broader framework of general protection responses, including addressing gender-based violence (GBV) and child protection, is critical. The Protection Sector, in collaboration with its partners, has observed an unfortunate rise in stigma surrounding the utilization of mental health services among the affected individuals. In response, partners are actively developing sensitization materials to enhance the willingness of the population to seek mental health support<sup>xvi</sup>.

To streamline service delivery, MHPSS Technical Working Group (TWG) has conducted a comprehensive mapping exercise to identify available MHPSS services throughout the country. This endeavor enables the establishment of efficient referral pathways for the most severely affected individuals, facilitating their access to appropriate support. Moving forward, the TWG remains committed to closely collaborate with stakeholders in the field, including various UN agencies, to provide the necessary technical support required to address the MHPSS needs arising from the crisis.

## RESPONSE

### PROGRESS MADE ON PROTECTION

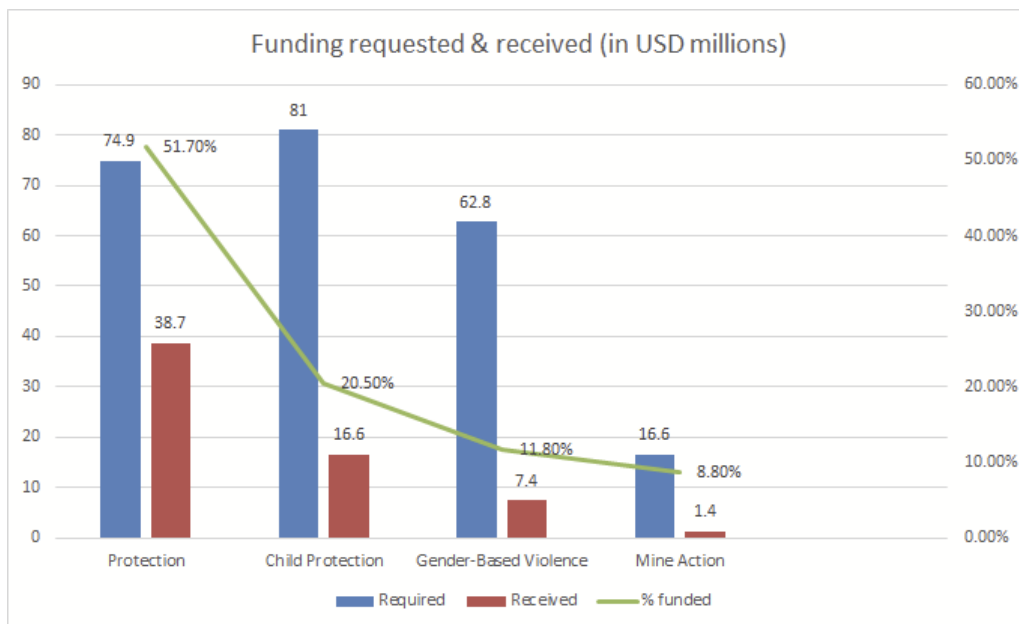
From January 2023 to July 15th, according to the HRP consolidated inputs, a total of 251,380 individuals have been reached and benefited from protection and AoR interventions. These partners have been actively involved in various initiatives to address the needs of vulnerable populations, providing support, protection, and assistance to those in distress. The impact of their efforts can be seen through different indicators. The collective efforts of sector partners have had a significant impact in serving the needs of vulnerable populations. Over 100,000 persons have been reached through both in-person and remote protection monitoring including over 80,000 since April 15. Through various initiatives such as 40 community support projects, referrals of 4384 PSNs to specialized services, establishment of/support to 156 community-based structures, essential needs have been met, and community resilience has been strengthened. Additionally, mental health support, information activities reaching 94,242 persons (including 59,066 since April 15), and training on protection issues for over 12,751 duty bearers have further enhanced the well-being and resilience of beneficiaries.

**The Child Protection AoR** has successfully supported the relocation of children from hotspot areas of Khartoum to safe areas. Child Protection AoR, together with other independent Agencies (ICRC) and Cluster Lead Agency (UNICEF) coordinated the safe evacuation of 297 children from Mygoma Orphanage Khartoum to a safer location. In addition, at least 3,269 unaccompanied and separated children were given alternative care or reunified with their families. Psychosocial support was provided to at least 70,192 children and their parents in Sudan through partners and community-based mechanisms while 2,308 community members, including children, were provided with messages/training on landmine and other UXOs and their dangers. In addition, 1,152 women girls and boys have been provided with safe and accessible channels to report sexual

exploitation and abuse, and over 41,045 women, girls and boys received access to gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions. Community structures including childrens’ clubs and community-based child protection networks have been activated in various locations to facilitate emergency responses and report violence against children. The AoR has engaged in continuous efforts to strengthen coordination mechanisms at sub-national level, including setting up coordination structures in new IDP hosting locations. Various trainings have also been provided to partners, such as on the implementation of life-saving interventions, including caring for UASC, parenting tips, MHPSS tools and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. Trainings on monitoring and reporting mechanisms for grave violations of child rights has also been a priority. The trained community-based child protection network members actively monitor and report violence against children. The relevant mechanism have been activated from the onset of the crisis but face some challenges in verifying the incidents.

The GBV AoR has reported that from April – 15 June, the GBV partners have reached a total of 67,251 people with activities, such as provision of life-saving GBV responses, medical (including Clinical Management of Rape), legal, PSS, awareness training and material assistance to GBV survivors, as well as referrals to appropriate services. Information dissemination sessions were conducted on GBV related issues, including the availability of services and referral systems by utilizing community-based structures. Temporary and semi-permanent Women and Girls’ Safe Spaces in selected accessible gathering points were established/operationalized based on the consultation with women and girls as well as community leaders. Furthermore, to address the interruption of access to physical services, a total of the 964 frontline GBV service providers were trained on GBV, including 425 persons trained by the GBV Sub-Sector on the remote provision of GBV services, focusing on remote psychosocial support, psychological first aid, referrals, emergency response planning and PSEA. In parallel, standard operating procedures and protocols for remote GBV service provision have been developed for the first time in Sudan. Meanwhile, GBV Sub-Sector partners are scaling up GBV prevention and response services in the new IDP-hosting states, in particular Al Jazeera, Blue Nile and White Nile. Service providers were trained on psychological first aid, GBV in emergencies, GBV case management and referrals in order to ensure timely access to the multi-sectoral GBV response services, in addition to the procurement of over 54,000 kits in pipeline.

**CRITICAL GAPS IN FUNDING AND POPULATION REACHED**



## RECOMMENDATIONS

All recommendations provided in this analysis emphasize the urgency of prioritizing the protection of civilians, ensuring unrestricted humanitarian access, investigating and addressing human rights violations, and garnering international support to address the crisis in Sudan effectively.

### RISK 1

**Attacks on civilians and other unlawful killings or maiming and attacks on civilian infrastructure, including schools and hospitals, resulting in denial of assistance and services**

#### ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT

- Fully respect and abide by International Humanitarian Law (IHL) to ensure the protection of civilians.
- Enable civilians to safely leave conflict areas for secured areas should they wish to do so.
- Guarantee safe, secure, and unhindered humanitarian access, both during and beyond ceasefires, to deliver life-saving assistance to affected populations.
- Respect and protect humanitarian personnel, premises, and relief items from any interference or looting.
- Thoroughly investigate attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, such as schools and hospitals, to determine responsibility and hold those responsible accountable.

#### DONORS

- Exercise heightened human rights due diligence and conflict-sensitivity / do no harm to prevent any negative impacts on the conflict affected population and prioritize the respect for human rights.
- Advocate to members states and influencers for humanitarian access and humanitarian pause for the delivery of supplies and services.

#### HUMANITARIAN COUNTRY TEAM

- Promote the establishment of mechanisms to monitor the compliance of conflict parties with IHL and specific directives aimed at the protection of civilians and against property-related crimes.
- Promote the establishment of effective enforcement measures and consequences for violations to deter such actions and ensure accountability of combatants.

#### GOVERNMENTS

- Borders should remain open to receive Sudanese individuals seeking refuge, and they should not be forcibly returned. Adequate protection and assistance should be provided to those fleeing the conflict.
- International support should be provided to neighboring countries that are assisting refugees, including necessary resources and humanitarian aid.

### RISK 2

**Gender-based and conflict related sexual violence**

#### ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT

- Call parties to the conflict to protect the population against any form of gender-based violence, notably rape and other kinds of sexual assault/abuse.

## HUMANITARIAN COUNTRY TEAM

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- Support advocacy efforts to scale-up life-saving GBV services for conflict-affected communities. This includes the establishment of logistical pathways through which life-saving items, such as rape treatment kits, medicines, dignity kits and other essential NFIs, can be brought into Sudan free from bureaucratic impediments.

## DONORS

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- Increase funding amounts, as well as allow for increased flexibility of use of funds, to ensure that GBV services and the GBV coordination mechanism can scale up to meet increased needs in both IDP hosting sites and conflict affected states and provide life-saving GBV services, women and girls safe spaces, and GBV Confidential Corners, and ensure appropriate and updated referral mechanisms; Allow for strengthened remote GBV services provision and remote training, including setting-up additional helplines and training service providers on remote GBV case management and psychosocial support; Ensure adequate supplies of dignity kits, menstrual hygiene management commodities and rape treatment kits; Provide cash assistance to GBV survivors as part of GBV case management so that GBV survivors are able to travel to access services.
- Provide direct funding and refresher training/capacity development/Training of Trainers support to local organizations and networks, and in particular women's organizations working on the frontline.
- Additional support to enhance the inter-sectoral complementarity with GBV risk mitigation should be included within all sector strategies, planning, and programmatic interventions, to make all the spaces safe for women and girls.

## RISK 3 Theft, extortion, looting, and destruction of public and personal property

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### ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT

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- Parties of the conflict should urgently issue directives against property-related crimes with clear directives to all combatants and affiliated groups explicitly prohibiting theft, extortion, looting, and the destruction of public and personal property and emphasize the importance of respecting civilian property and the consequences for non-compliance.

### HUMANITARIAN COUNTRY TEAM

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- Support advocacy efforts to monitor compliance and enforce consequences by establishing mechanisms that oversee the adherence of conflict parties to directives against property-related crimes. Additionally, promote the establishment of effective enforcement measures and consequences for violations to deter such actions and ensure accountability of perpetrators.

## RISK 4 Forced child separation compounded by children's exposure to violence, abuse, and neglect, including alleged forced recruitment and trafficking

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### ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT

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- Protect schools and hospitals during the conflict, uphold IHL and hold those who violate IHL accountable. Safeguard civilians, especially children and ensure access to safe spaces.
- Urge all parties to the conflict to stop all recruitment and use of children in the conflict by issuing command orders that no boy or girl should be involved in the conflict in any combat or support role.
- Attacks on civilian infrastructure, such as schools and hospitals is one of the six grave child rights violations and should be thoroughly investigated to determine responsibility and hold those responsible accountable.

- Institute robust and comprehensive measures aimed at ensuring the protection, care, and safeguarding of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), who are particularly vulnerable in the context of the prevailing conflict.

#### HUMANITARIAN COUNTRY TEAM

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- Urgently institute robust and comprehensive measures aimed at ensuring the protection, care, and safeguarding of UASC.

#### DONORS

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- Support the scale-up of life-saving services for conflict-affected communities, including for children and survivors of GBV, in particular psychosocial services. This also includes the establishment of logistical pathways through which life-saving items, such as PEP kits, medicines and other essential NFIs, can be brought into Sudan free from bureaucratic impediments.
- Recognize the need for sustained support and funding for protection programs. The effects of conflict and displacement can be long-lasting, and protection interventions must be implemented over an extended period to provide ongoing support to the affected population.

### **RISK 5** Psychological/emotional abuse or inflicted distress

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#### HUMANITARIAN COUNTRY TEAM

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- Ensure the integration of MHPSS services and support into the overall humanitarian response framework. This includes incorporating MHPSS components into needs assessments, program planning, and resource allocation processes.

## Endnotes

- <sup>i</sup> Sudan: Revised Humanitarian Response Plan 2023 (Revision issued on 17 May 2023) <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-revised-humanitarian-response-plan-2023-revision-issued-17-may-2023>
- <sup>ii</sup> DTM Sudan - Situation Report 6 <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/dtm-sudan-situation-report-6>
- <sup>iii</sup> UNHCR Data Portal as of 20 June 2023, Situation Sudan situation ([unhcr.org](https://data.unhcr.org))
- <sup>iv</sup> Clashes between SAF and RSF - Flash Update No. 14 (28 May 2023) <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-clashes-between-saf-and-rsf-flash-update-no-14-28-may-2023-enar>
- <sup>v</sup> Idem
- <sup>vi</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/acaps-thematic-report-sudan-crisis-anticipated-impacts-2023-rainy-season-21-june-2023#:~:text=The%20rainy%20season%20typically%20occurs,08%2F12%2F2022>
- <sup>vii</sup> OHCHR Civilians bear devastating brunt of fighting in Sudan: UN experts <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/05/civilians-bear-devastating-brunt-fighting-sudan-un-experts>
- <sup>viii</sup> Crisis in Sudan - GBV AoR Sub-Sector Sudan: Situation Brief (23 May 2023) <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/crisis-sudan-gbv-aor-sub-sector-sudan-situation-brief-23-may-2023>
- <sup>ix</sup> Darfur Protection of Civilians Advocacy Brief 24 May 2023
- <sup>x</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/clashes-heard-sudans-capital-eid-holiday-begins-2023-06-27/>
- <sup>xi</sup> Agreement on a Short-Term Ceasefire and Humanitarian Arrangements <https://www.state.gov/agreement-on-a-short-term-ceasefire-and-humanitarian-arrangements/>
- <sup>xii</sup> UNFPA
- <sup>xiii</sup> UNFPA
- <sup>xiv</sup> Darfur Protection Advocacy Brief for all Darfur, page 3.
- <sup>xv</sup> For North Darfur, nine separate armed robbery incidents along the road between El Fasher and other localities were reported
- <sup>xvi</sup> PROTECTION BRIEF SUDAN - Operational Data Portal <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/101097>

## Methodology

The methodology employed in this analysis encompasses an extensive range of quantitative and qualitative data obtained from primary and secondary sources. These sources include protection monitoring, key informant interviews, as well as reports and analyses from reliable entities such as sector partners, UN agencies, clusters, international and national NGOs, community-based organizations, and individuals affected by the conflict.

## Limitations

The current situation in Sudan is characterized by distressing circumstances, including violent urban warfare, civil unrest, and a notable increase in criminal activity. These factors contribute to a pervasive sense of insecurity. As a consequence, NGOs encounter significant challenges in terms of access, and the security of humanitarian personnel is further impeded by restrictions on their movement and the implementation of relief efforts. This has affected access to affected communities and thus the ability to engage in protection monitoring and to verify all of the information contained in this update.



For further information, contact the National Protection Cluster coordination team: **Sriskun Watanasab** Senior Protection Cluster Coordinator [watanasa@unhcr.org](mailto:watanasa@unhcr.org) | **Muhammet Kalai** Protection Cluster Co-Coordinator [Muhammet.kalai@drc.ngo](mailto:Muhammet.kalai@drc.ngo)