



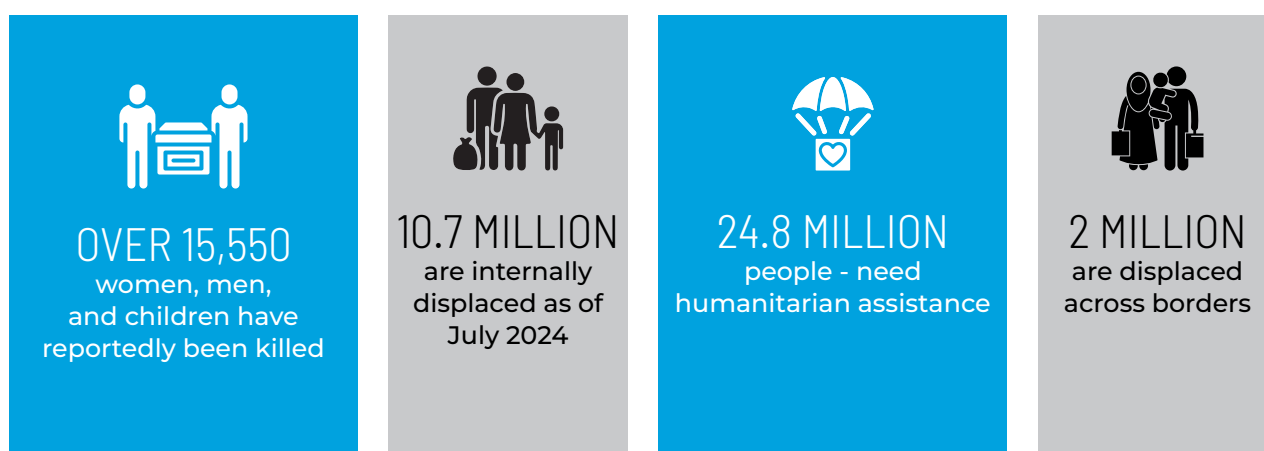
UN WOMEN SUDAN 12-MONTH CRISIS RESPONSE FRAMEWORK



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Situation Overview

Fourteen months since fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) erupted in Khartoum on 15 April 2023, the Sudanese people, especially women and girls continue to pay a heavy price: over 15,550 women, men, and children have reportedly been killed.¹ 7.4 million are internally displaced and an additional 2 million are displaced across borders, marking the world's largest displacement crisis.² Over half of Sudan's population – 24.8 million people - need humanitarian assistance.



Sudanese women and girls, who constitute 53 per cent of internally displaced persons (IDPs),³ are bearing the brunt of both this humanitarian crisis and its severe underfunding.⁴ Delivery of services to meet their needs takes place against significant humanitarian access constraints and operational impediments⁵, compounding already existing barriers to essential services for women and

girls due to pre-existing gender inequalities. With highly obstructed access to healthcare, women are dying because of preventable complications during pregnancy or childbirth, and more than 5,500 pregnant women and 7,000 new mothers could die in the coming months if their nutritional and health needs remain unmet.⁶

1 <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/sudan/>, accessed 21 June 2024.

2 IOM (2024). [DTM Sudan Mobility Update #3](#).

3 IOM (2024). [DTM Sudan Mobility Update #3](#).

4 The Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan 2024 is funded at 17.4% as of June 2024 <https://fts.unocha.org/plans/1188/summary>

5 IASC Principals (May 2024). [No time to lose as famine stalks millions in Sudan amid intense fighting and access denials](#)

6 Sudan Nutrition Cluster: <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-nearly-230000-children-and-new-mothers-likely-die-hunger-without-critical-action-save-children>

BOX 1: Key figures – gendered impacts



53%

of women and girls constitute internally displaced persons;



29%

of all IDPs, facing unique protection risks including of FGM and child marriage are Girls under the age of 18

94%



of displaced women and girls report challenges in affording available food;



OVER 6.7 MILLION



million people are at risk of gender-based violence;

OVER 5,500

pregnant women and 7,000 new mothers could die in the coming months if their nutritional and health needs remain unmet;



1.63%



of the country's humanitarian pooled funding was allocated to women-led organizations In 2023, only

90%

of women-led organizations experienced a budget cut, severely impacting operations.



The recent Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis (June 2024) indicates that



25.6 MILLION people are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity – a 45% increase compared to six months ago.⁷



Gender norms that dictate that men and boys have access to meals before women and girls meant that even in June 2023, only two months into the crisis, more than twice as many women (30%) than men (12.6%) reported eating fewer meals.⁸



The economic impact of the conflict has further marginalized women, stripping them of livelihood opportunities and pushing many towards extreme measures, further exposing them to the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse.



A year further into the crisis and with famine now looming,

94%

of women and girls reported facing challenges in affording available food, and



54% of displaced women and girls struggle to afford water.⁹

Over 6.7 million people are at risk of various forms of gender-based violence (GBV)¹⁰. Reports of conflict-related sexual violence, intimate partner violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, increased risks of female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriages, and trafficking in persons are widespread and increasing. Yet limited supplies, restricted access, and severely limited availability of specialized services are the norm in conflict-affected states.

Women and girls, often the first responders in crises, are pivotal to the survival and resilience of their communities. Since the onset of the current war, they have come together in solidarity to form neighbourhood committees, emergency rooms and women's situation rooms, while women-led organizations (WLOs) have adapted their interventions to provide life-saving humanitarian aid to women and girls most in need. These formal and informal

organizations have provided a range of support, from provision of water, food and medication, to welcoming displaced people to offering specialized services to GBV survivors. They have consistently advocated for gender-responsive humanitarian response which places the rights and leadership of women at the centre.

**OVER
6.7 MILLION PEOPLE**
are at risk of various forms of
gender-based violence (GBV)

7 IPC (2024). [Rapid deterioration leaves 25.6M people in high levels of acute food insecurity, 14 areas at risk of Famine](#)
 8 UN Women (2024). [In-depth gender assessment report](#), based on data collection conducted in June 2023.
 9 UN Women analysis of IOM DTM data, accessed June 2024.
 10 Sudan [Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024](#)

Despite the critical role of WLOs, their contributions are often not visible and increasingly underfunded against the severity of challenges. For 2023,

\$1.32 million out of the \$81.2 million from the Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF) was allocated to Sudanese women-led organizations, amounting to

1.63% of the country's pooled funding.



This allocation is notably lower than the global average, where

5% of all Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) were directed to women-led organizations in 2023.

Already thin funding has dropped further as the conflict intensifies: a survey by the GBV sub-cluster of 41 WLOs across the country revealed that a staggering

90% experienced a budget cut in the last quarter of 2023, severely impeding their operational capabilities.¹¹



They also deliver services at great personal risk - female humanitarian volunteers report facing targeted sexual violence as they attempt to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance.¹²

Women of Sudan have consistently played a key role in shaping Sudan's political development, peace, security, and resilience, and led the revolution against the government of Al Bashir in 2019. Following the eruption of the armed conflict on 15 April 2023, Sudanese women and women's groups

have organized themselves in an unprecedented manner to unite against war and call for peace, and to demand accountability for sexual violence. At regional level they have formed peace committees and strengthened their ties with women in the diaspora to advocate for permanent resolution of the conflict and peace. They have been at the forefront of advocating for peace while providing humanitarian aid and monitoring and reporting of the various human violations. However, despite their efforts, women remain marginalized in high-level political consultations and dialogues. Mediation and diplomatic efforts since April 2023, led by regional organizations and neighbouring countries, have not successfully halted the war or sufficiently involved women in the resolution process.

UN Women in Sudan

UN Women has been active in Sudan since 2005¹³, exercising its triple mandate through its work on women's leadership and participation in decision-making, women's economic empowerment, elimination of violence against women and girls, advancing the women, peace, and security (WPS) agenda and gender-responsive humanitarian action. UN Women has also been a part of strategic planning for the UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS), and through a UN-wide prioritization exercise in 2019 placed WPS and gender equality at the centre of the current UN framework. Since the beginning of the conflict, UN Women has supported women and girls in Sudan and in exile to help meet their immediate needs and to build the groundwork for a lasting peace in the country.

Our work in Sudan since the breakout of the current conflict is fundamentally rooted in our long history of partnering with Sudanese women activists and women-led civil society groups. UN Women has continued to facilitate women's voices in the political dialogue and peace process, linking them with key regional and global actors, such as the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the UN Secretary-General's Personal Envoy on Sudan, the Arab League, key political mediators, and UN-led processes. UN Women has furthermore been constantly advocating for gender integration in successive UN Security Council resolutions on

¹¹ GBV AoR (2024). Survey of Women-Led Organizations, December 2023.

¹² 2023 Sudan Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting Arrangements (MARA) WG inputs to the 2023 report of the SRSG on CRSV

¹³ Formerly as UNIFEM from 2005-2010.

Sudan, the different political transitions, as well as the peace processes. Through the “Peace for Sudan” platform and comprehensive consultations across 14 states, UN Women [supported the development of a feminist peace agenda](#) and articulation of collective humanitarian priorities by women activists, dubbed “the Kampala Feminist Declaration”.

As a member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and the Humanitarian Country Team, UN Women has been providing technical support, [evidence](#) and [analysis](#) to mainstream gender in key humanitarian response plans and instruments, including the [2024 Sudan Famine Prevention Plan](#). In addition, it continues to partner and develop the capacities of women-led organizations and women’s community groups to deliver targeted humanitarian assistance that addresses the safety and basic needs of women and girls and to influence the larger humanitarian response.

Support to women-led and women’s rights organizations is also driven through the [Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund](#) (WPHF) which has been active in Sudan since 2020 focusing on creating an enabling environment for WPS, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding & recovery. WPHF offered its CSO partners with flexible funding options, including transitioning from programmatic activities to institutional funding to sustain local women-led and women’s rights organizations (WROs/WLOs), and employed its Emergency Process to fast-track funding to them. Furthermore, the focus of WPHF funding in Sudan now also includes protection of women and girls and humanitarian assistance.

Operational Response: June 2024-May 2025

UN Women’s response to the crisis in Sudan, in the context of the [IASC Scale-Up](#), is structured around the three pillars focused on humanitarian action (Pillar 1 & 2) aligned with the corporate [UN Women Humanitarian Strategy](#), and on advancing peace and security (Pillar 3) aligned with UN Women’s [Gender Equality Accelerator on Women, Peace, and Security](#).

Pillar 1: Strengthen accountability towards gender commitments in the coordination and implementation of the humanitarian response

Pillar 2: Provide life-saving assistance to women and girls

Pillar 3: Support Sudanese women to meaningfully participate and influence peace and political decision-making at all levels

Our ultimate **goal** is that:

Women and girls in Sudan benefit from gender-responsive humanitarian action and targeted assistance that responds to their basic needs, and from opportunities for their meaningful participation in peace, political and humanitarian processes.

Through this plan, UN Women will reach **25,000 women and girls** with life-saving information, goods, services, and productive resources; primarily in Gedarif, Kassala, and Al Gezira States, pending improved humanitarian access to Al Gezira. We will support gender-responsive humanitarian assistance through our co-leadership of the national Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group to provide the humanitarian system with gender expertise, tools, and up-to-date data and analysis on the gendered impacts of the crisis and how well the response is serving women and girls.

Across the nexus, we will provide capacity strengthening and targeted support to **40+ women-led and women’s rights civil society organizations** that need urgent assistance to sustain their operations in order to advocate for and provide critical services to affected women and girls, and to strengthen their leadership and participation in the peace and humanitarian processes. Direct funding support will be provided to at minimum **20 women-led organizations** in this regard.

This work will furthermore be complemented by enhancing opportunities for Sudanese women to meaningfully participate in and influence decision-making processes across the plurality of ongoing peace processes at national, regional, and international levels.

PILLAR 1: Strengthen accountability towards gender commitments in the coordination and implementation of the humanitarian response

Under this Pillar, UN Women will ensure that the humanitarian system adheres to its commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in line with the [updated IASC](#)

[Gender Policy](#). This will be done through three clusters of work: firstly, by providing up-to-date data and analysis on the gender dynamics of the crisis; secondly, by providing technical gender expertise in inter-agency coordination; and finally, by strengthening the engagement of women leaders, activists and their organizations and networks with the humanitarian system so that they can effectively advocate for the rights and needs of IDP and crisis-affected women and girls.

KEY ACTIVITIES



Provide technical gender expertise and advocate at Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG), select clusters, and other fora to ensure that gender is integrated in key humanitarian planning, policy and monitoring instruments;



Establish, co-chair, and lead the development and implementation of the work plan of the inter-agency Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) Working Group as the main coordination platform for gender mainstreaming throughout the humanitarian architecture;



Produce regular Gender Alerts at country and regional levels that provide up-to-date data and information on key issues of concern for women and girls to inform the actions and prioritization of humanitarian stakeholders;



Conduct capacity building of humanitarian stakeholders, including up to 400 frontline workers from WFP and FAO and their partners involved in emergency food distribution with the goal of them reaching 30,000 vulnerable women and girls in targeted states;



Support gender-responsive implementation of the inter-agency community complaints and feedback mechanism and community engagement as part of overall system-wide efforts to advance Accountability to Affected Populations;



Establish and regularly convene a Women's Advisory Group to the Humanitarian Coordinator/ HCT representing diverse women's voices and perspectives in order to ensure the humanitarian leadership in the country directly engages with local women leaders, based on lessons learnt and good practices from other contexts;



Convene "Women-led humanitarian response fora" in 5 states which bring together local women's organizations and serve as platforms to build solidarity, engage in advocacy, exchange experiences as well as increase their knowledge and capacity to engage with the humanitarian system;



Advocate for and support WLOs' access to humanitarian decision-making and implementation structures and to humanitarian funding.

PILLAR 2: Provide life-saving assistance to women and girls

Under this Pillar, UN Women will continue working with women’s organizations, partners, and other UN agencies to provide life-saving assistance to women and girls in vulnerable situations to remain safe and cover their basic needs. Building on its previous programmatic work and established expertise and partnerships, UN Women will focus on the delivery of targeted assistance to **25,000 women**

and girls in relation to two sectors/clusters – food security and livelihoods, and protection and GBV, contributing to the overall [2024 Humanitarian Response Plan](#) and [Famine Prevention Plan 2024](#).

UN Women will partner with other UN Agencies to provide complementary and catalytic approaches for scale-up, namely FAO and WFP (in the area of food security and livelihoods) and UNICEF and UNFPA (in the area of GBV, protection, PSEA, and AAP).

KEY ACTIVITIES



Strengthen capacities of and provide direct funding to local women-led organizations, including by adjusting and expanding existing partnerships and managing new grants through the WPHF, to enable provision of needed services and support for crisis-affected and displaced women and girls;



Co-develop with WFP and FAO methodology/tool for identifying and targeting of particularly vulnerable women and girls in emergency food distribution and for subsequent post-distribution monitoring that can be leveraged by key humanitarian actors in the rollout of the Famine Prevention Plan;



Provide skills training, direct start-up grants, and capacity strengthening on livelihoods for 1500 women IDPs in target states, and provide support for the establishment of women-led cooperatives;



Enhance GBV prevention and response services, including strengthening referral pathways and offering psychosocial support, counseling, and referrals to survivors, by working closely with WLOs and other actors and organizations providing services;



Facilitate the creation and maintenance of safe spaces for women, ensuring they are well-equipped and resourced to provide essential services;



Disseminate PSEA materials and work with the PSEA Network to raise awareness among IDPs, host communities, and humanitarian actors on rights and access to community-based complaint and feedback mechanisms;



Engage male leaders and faith-based actors in advocating for women’s rights and combating GBV, challenging harmful practices, and discrimination.

PILLAR 3: Support Sudanese women to meaningfully participate and influence decision-making at all levels

Under this Pillar¹⁴, UN Women will continue to promote women’s participation in peace, political and decision-making processes by amplifying their voices, perspectives, needs and rights. The interventions will build on ongoing work to create opportunities for the women’s movement to advance a feminist peace agenda and articulate collective humanitarian priorities, and to sustain the highest levels of attention to the situation of women and girls in Sudan regionally and globally, including

at the Security Council.

UN Women will sustain support to capacity building, convening and knowledge exchange of women leaders, activists, and women-led civil society to facilitate their meaningful engagement in various ongoing peace processes, including those led by regional bodies (AU, IGAD, Arab League), as well as in key global intergovernmental spaces such as the Security Council. In addition, UN Women will work closely with partners such as OHCHR to strengthen mechanisms for accountability and safeguarding against all forms of human rights violations.

KEY ACTIVITIES



Facilitate and advocate for Sudanese women’s meaningful participation in strategic decision-making platforms on peace, security, and humanitarian response at national, regional, and international levels;



Support Sudanese women’s organizations/networks on developing and implementing strategies to be adopted to influence peace processes and facilitate coalition building, including through direct funding through the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund;



Support capacities of 30+ WLOs and youth-led organizations in leadership and conflict resolution to implement the WPS and humanitarian agenda at the community, national and local level, including through direct funding from the WPHF;



Provide support to women peace actors in Sudan through national and regional convenings, promoting knowledge exchange and learning to inform the Sudan political dialogue process.

END BOX:

The UN Women team expresses gratitude to contributors of **regular resources**. Regular resources investments enable implementation of our Strategic Plan worldwide by financing UN Women’s gender equality and women’s empowerment political leadership, technical expertise and specialized knowledge, catalytic programming, emergency response actions and institutional capacity.

In addition to regular resources, UN Women’s crisis response in Sudan is also being implemented with the support of the Government of Japan, the Government of Sweden, the Sudan Humanitarian Fund, and Central Emergency Response Fund.

¹⁴ Note that this Pillar does not represent the totality of UN Women’s WPS portfolio in Sudan nor the full scope of its regional and global advocacy work, but represents a selection of activities that complement the immediate humanitarian response.



UN Women Sudan

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