



HIGH-LEVEL SPECIAL EVENT

Sudan cross-regional update: strategic insights into WFP's humanitarian operations

Wednesday, 28 February 2024, 16:30-18:00

Auditorium, WFP headquarters – Hybrid format event (In-person + Zoom platform)

Context

The crisis in the Sudan has created a humanitarian crisis on an unprecedented scale. The Sudan is at severe risk of becoming a hunger catastrophe in 2024 starting with this year's upcoming lean season if WFP and the humanitarian system are unable to expand their operations dramatically and maintain access to people trapped in conflict areas. It is estimated that over 25 million Sudanese will require humanitarian assistance in 2024. Eighteen million Sudanese are already acutely food insecure.

The ongoing crisis in the Sudan is simultaneously impacting multiple countries, cutting across East and West African regions and causing a massive humanitarian emergency. This crisis already has significant regional and continental implications.

The Sudan is now officially the world's biggest displacement crisis, with 6 million new internally displaced persons since April 2023 and 1.7 million people having fled the country, with numbers growing daily. The escalation of this ongoing conflict has triggered displacements into neighbouring countries, particularly Chad (540,000) and South Sudan (500,000). This is overwhelming an already stretched humanitarian response. WFP has declared a corporate scale-up for the Sudan regional crisis.

Multiple mediation efforts for the Sudan crisis have stalled, threatening to destabilize the entire region. Recent tensions in the Red Sea have the potential to further undermine WFP's ability to deliver food into the Sudan. Urgent action is needed to prevent the crisis from spiralling out of control.

Objective

This high-level event aims to highlight and call attention to the rapidly worsening crisis in the Sudan and the impact on its neighbouring countries, particularly Chad and South Sudan. A deeper discussion will present WFP's operational situation, ongoing efforts and challenges in the country/region, and outline required actions and the support needed to help reduce and alleviate urgent needs.

Agenda

High-level panel:

Moderated by Ms Rania Dagash-Kamara, Assistant Executive Director, Partnerships and Innovation Department.

Statements by high-level speakers:

- Ms Cindy McCain, Executive Director, WFP
- Ms Clementine Nkweta-Salami, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Republic of the Sudan
- H.E. Ms Santa Ndem Ngoidi, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Economy, Development Planning and International Cooperation, Republic of Chad
- Mr Raouf Mazou, Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- Mr Michael Dunford, Regional Director, Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa and Corporate Response Director
- Mr Murithi Mutiga, Director for Africa, International Crisis Group

Remarks from the floor:

Upon completion of the speakers, an opportunity for questions and further discussion is open to the floor.