

Joining forces to expand humanitarian space in Sudan

Side event on the margins of the second regular session of the Executive Board, 2025

Wednesday, 19 November 2025, 13:30–14:30s

WFP Auditorium and webcast

Context

The conflict in Sudan continues to drive unprecedented levels of humanitarian needs. Over 30 million people require humanitarian assistance, yet the humanitarian needs and response plan has received only a quarter of the USD 4.2 billion required to reach 21 million people. In September 2025, at the peak of the lean season, an estimated 21.2 million people – 45 percent of the population – faced high levels of acute food insecurity (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) phase 3 or above), including 375,000 people in IPC phase 5 (catastrophe) and 6.3 million people in IPC phase 4 (emergency). El Fasher and the town of Kadugli are experiencing famine. The situation in El Fasher is of utmost concern. The already catastrophic food security crisis is being further aggravated by disturbing reports of deliberate and widespread violence against civilians, including humanitarian workers, which is deepening the suffering of the population.

Humanitarian assistance has scaled up in 2025. WFP and partners are now reaching an average of over 4 million people across Sudan each month, a 100 percent increase from the same period last year. This includes over 2 million in the Darfur States and 1.8 million in areas facing or at risk of famine, representing 86 percent of the food-insecure population in those locations. Locally led organizations such as the Emergency Response Rooms have demonstrated the ability to reach populations caught in conflict. However, in addition to limited funding, the humanitarian space remains under considerable pressure in Sudan, limiting efforts to scale up and sustain the response in critical areas. Despite efforts by stakeholders, the operating environment for humanitarian agencies remains challenging, particularly in the Darfur and Kordofan States, where the presence of humanitarian actors remains below what is required to meet the scale of needs. Efforts to secure humanitarian pauses and deliver assistance at scale have yet to deliver results.

WFP – as an enabler of system-wide humanitarian action through its various inter-agency services – is a catalyst in expanding humanitarian space to deliver assistance to affected people, wherever they may be. At the same time, Germany has made humanitarian diplomacy a priority in its new humanitarian strategy.

Joint humanitarian diplomacy of Member States and greater collaboration, particularly with regional bodies, neighbouring countries and those with interests in the stability and prosperity of Sudan present a particular opportunity to influence the operating environment for humanitarian in Sudan for the better – ultimately bringing relief to people in need.

Objective

This side event to the Executive Board aims to highlight and call attention to the continuing humanitarian needs in Sudan and identify opportunities to expand and improve the humanitarian space and operating environment to reach populations in need. The event will also follow up on the humanitarian aspects of the outcomes of the 24 September Sudan ministerial meeting at the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly. Speakers will address these issues through the perspectives of locally led response and humanitarian diplomacy.

Agenda

- Opening Remarks
Ambassador **Martin Selmayr** (European Union)
- Operational Briefing
Ross Smith, Director of Emergencies, WFP
- Keynote remarks
 - **Serap Güler**, Minister of State, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin
 - **Duaa Tariq**, Emergency Response Rooms, Khartoum
- Interactive Discussion and Q&A
- Closing Remarks
Ambassador **Tanguy Stehlin** (France)

Moderator: **Ina Heusgen**, Director for Humanitarian Affairs, German Federal Foreign Office