



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

Thursday, 20 June 2024, 11:00–12:30
Hybrid format event (WFP Auditorium/Zoom)

Context

The conflict that erupted in the Sudan mid-April 2023 has created an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe. The country is likely to be at risk of famine during the ongoing lean season (May to September), as the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis is being finalized and preliminary results project that around 750,000 people in the Sudan could be in IPC phase 5 (catastrophic/famine) by the end of the lean season.

WFP is scaling up its emergency response to avert a famine and mitigate the effects of widespread malnutrition and potential starvation. WFP is ramping up assistance to over 5 million people by end of the year, increasing rations and cash-based transfers, prioritizing assistance to over 40 hunger hotspots at high-risk of slipping into IPC phase 5 (catastrophic/famine).

WFP is also stepping up humanitarian diplomacy to expand access and open new humanitarian corridors amid a complex operational environment characterized by ongoing clashes, extremely dangerous conditions for humanitarians to deliver, and access constraints. As part of its implementation plan, WFP is pre-positioning assistance at key crossings and supply routes as the rainy season starts when many roads in Darfur and other regions across the Sudan become impassable.

The Sudan is considered the world's biggest displacement crisis since the beginning of the year, with record numbers of people fleeing and numbers growing daily. Some 7.1 million people have been newly displaced internally since April 2023, while 2.1 million people have fled the country. The escalation of this ongoing conflict has triggered displacements into neighbouring countries, particularly Chad and South Sudan. This is overwhelming an already stretched humanitarian response and WFP has extended and expanded on its corporate scale-up for the Sudan regional crisis.

Beyond the crisis in the Sudan itself, the impact of the conflict is spilling over into neighbouring countries and spreading across the East and West African regions. The wider implications risk destabilizing entire regions and triggering a massive humanitarian emergency spanning across the continent.

Mediation efforts for the Sudan have thus far failed, as the conflict continues to spread to new areas in the country, further exacerbating humanitarian needs. While a ceasefire is the only sustainable solution to address rapidly increasing levels of hunger, WFP's response throughout the remainder of this year will play a critical role in mitigating the worst effects and saving lives amid what could become the world's worst hunger crisis.

Objective

This event aims to highlight WFP's proactive role as a major humanitarian partner amidst this man-made catastrophe, being operationally capable and nimble to quickly and flexibly respond amid skyrocketing levels of hunger and malnutrition. It will also inform WFP's Member States about the ongoing milestones, upcoming scale-up plans, and funding requirements for WFP's operations both in the Sudan and in neighbouring countries. A deeper discussion will present WFP's operational situation, preliminary results of food insecurity in-country, ongoing efforts and challenges in the country/region, and outline required actions and the support needed to help reduce and alleviate urgent needs.

WFP speakers

- Mr Carl Skau, Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, WFP
- Ms Betty Ka, Director, Supply Chain and Delivery Division, WFP
- Mr Eddie Rowe, Country Director, the Sudan, WFP

Remarks from the floor

Following the interventions by the speakers, the floor will be opened to members and observers for a question and answer session.