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COI QUERY RESPONSE – Sudan

Security and political developments in Sudan, particularly in the Khartoum state, including civilian impacts

1. Security and political developments

Sudan has been in a period of transition to civilian rule since the April 2019 removal of President Omar Hassan El-Bashir. A civilian-led government replaced him under a civilian-military power-sharing agreement, however in October 2021, there was a military coup. Since then, the country has been without a civilian government.¹ The country has been ruled by a council of generals headed by General Abdel Fattah-al Burhan, head of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and de facto President, and the paramilitary force, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), headed by Burhan's deputy and leader of the RSF, General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, also known as Hemedti.² In April 2023, the two leaders disagreed on the direction of the country, the transition back to civilian rule, how the 100 000 fighters of the RSF would be integrated into the new military, as well as who would lead that force.³

As a result of the disagreements between the two leaders over the future direction of Sudan's governance, on 15 April 2023, fighting between the SAF and the RSF broke out in Khartoum and other Sudanese cities.⁴ The outbreak in violence led to hundreds of dead and injured, within the context of an already deep humanitarian crisis in which 15 million people required assistance during the year.⁵

According to a BBC investigation, fighting in April 2023 took place in 'heavily populated areas' and Sudan's capital Khartoum has turned into 'a war zone'.⁶ As reported by Human Rights Watch on 4 May 2023, '[t]he fighting quickly spread to Khartoum's adjoining cities of Omdurman and Bahri—a metropolitan area of 6.5 million inhabitants—as well as provincial towns including El Fasher, Nyala and then El Geneina in Darfur and El Obeid in North Kordofan'.⁷

A report published by International Crisis Group on 22 June 2023 stated that 'Sudan is careening toward state failure', noting that '[t]he fighting has settled into a grinding stalemate centred in Khartoum and a few provinces, notably in Darfur, but it is spreading to other parts of

¹ UN News, Background to a Crisis: In Sudan, the stakes are high for the whole of Africa, 28 April 2023, [url](#)

² BBC News, Sudan: Why has fighting broken out there? 24 April 2023, [url](#)

³ BBC News, Sudan fighting: The military rivalry behind the clashes in Khartoum, 15 April 2023, [url](#); Reuters, Sudan's years of political strife, 16 April 2023 [url](#)

⁴ Reuters, Sudan's years of political strife, 16 April 2023, [url](#)

⁵ UN News, Background to a Crisis: In Sudan, the stakes are high for the whole of Africa, 28 April 2023, [url](#)

⁶ BBC News, Sudan fighting: Khartoum violence mapped as civilians flee city, 22 April 2023, [url](#)

⁷ HRW, Sudan: Explosive Weapons Harming Civilians, 4 May 2023, [url](#)

the country'.⁸ In July 2023, the fighting continued in Khartoum, the Darfur states, Kordofan states, and Blue Nile.⁹

According to an article by Deutsche Welle (DW) published on 6 July 2023, Khartoum was 'largely controlled' by the RSF at the time.¹⁰ In a report from 21 July 2023, International Crisis Group wrote that the RSF had a 'superior position' in Khartoum. At the same time, the army was in control of the capital's outskirts, most of Omdurman, and eastern and northern parts of Sudan.¹¹

A July 2023 protection brief by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) described the security situation in Sudan as 'deteriorating', with armed clashes continuing in urban areas including Khartoum, Geneina, Zalingei, Nyala, and El Fasher. The same source noted that the fighting was accompanied by an increased criminality and 'the general breakdown of law and order' in the country.¹² According to the same source, 'the urban area of Khartoum continued to see the highest levels of violence'.¹³

As of 1 August 2023, fighting continued in 'all localities across Khartoum state'.¹⁴ On 7 August 2023, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) reported that the conflict in Sudan was ongoing, and that the areas most affected were Khartoum and West Darfur. Additionally, fighting between the SAF and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N)¹⁵ took place in locations in the South Kordofan and Blue Nile states.¹⁶

According to an article by Sudan Tribune from 8 August 2023, a local news provider, 'looting, attacks on public institutions and the occupation of private homes' continued in Khartoum, 'while clashes persist in four out of the five states of Darfur region'.¹⁷ On 10 August 2023, BBC News reported on some of 'the most intense fighting' since the beginning of the conflict taking place in Omdurman, including 'massive aerial bombardments' and shelling in an attempt by the SAF to remove the RSF from parts of the city.¹⁸

⁸ International Crisis Group, A Race against Time to Halt Sudan's Collapse, 22 June 2023, [url](#)

⁹ International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch, Sudan, April-July 2023, [url](#)

¹⁰ DW, Sudan: Sexual violence against women spikes, 6 July 2023, [url](#)

¹¹ International Crisis Group, Time to Try Again to End Sudan's War, 21 July 2023, [url](#)

¹² UNHCR, UNHCR Protection Brief – Sudan – July 2023, 16 July 2023, [url](#), p. 2

¹³ UNHCR, UNHCR Protection Brief – Sudan – July 2023, 16 July 2023, [url](#), p. 6

¹⁴ IOM, DTM, DTM Sudan - Situation Report (15), 1 August 2023, [url](#), p. 1

¹⁵ SPLM-N is an armed opposition movement controlling parts of the South Kordofan and Blue Nile states. It is estimated to have tens of thousands of men and heavy weapons, and its possible involvement in the conflict caused fear of the conflict spreading to southern Sudan. They engaged in clashes with the RSF, too. See: Reuters, Rebel mobilisation in southern Sudan raises fears of conflict spreading, 8 June 2023, [url](#), and USDOS, 2022 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Sudan, 20 March 2023, [url](#), p. 11

¹⁶ UNOCHA, Sudan Situation Report, 7 August 2023, [url](#)

¹⁷ Sudan Tribune, Chadian ministerial summit pushes for final ceasefire in Sudan, 8 August 2023, [url](#)

¹⁸ BBC News, Sudan conflict: Call for gravediggers in Omdurman as fighting intensifies, 9 August 2023, [url](#)

While the fighting in Khartoum did not take a racial or ethnic turn¹⁹, the spread of the fighting into West Darfur, one of the five Darfur states, reignited the ethnic conflict from the past.²⁰ UNHCR noted that the fighting between the SAF and the RSF ‘unleashed a markedly ethnic or intercommunal dimension igniting tribal rivalries’, which affected West Darfur in particular.²¹ Amnesty International (AI) reported on ‘ethnically targeted violence’ by the RSF and other Arab militias, mostly aimed against ethnic Masalit men and boys, in the town of El Geneina, West Darfur.²² In a report from 11 July 2023, Human Rights Watch wrote that the RSF and allied Arab militias ‘summarily executed at least 28 ethnic Massalit’ in West Darfur.²³ At the same time, reports about sexual violence against women and girls in the region emerged.²⁴

Ceasefires brokered by the US and Saudi Arabia during the so-called Jeddah talks have largely failed to stop the fighting.²⁵ Previously agreed suspensions of hostilities included a 72-hour ceasefire of 25 April 2023, a one-week ceasefire announced on 22 May 2023, a 24-hour ceasefire of 10 June 2023, a 72-hour ceasefire of 17 June 2023 and ‘unilateral’ ceasefires announced by both warring parties on the first day of the Eid al-Adha holiday on 27 June 2023.²⁶ Up to 24 July 2023, at least 16 agreements on ceasefire have failed.²⁷ Foreign ministers of the neighbouring countries met in Chad on 8 August 2023 to discuss ‘final ceasefire’ in Sudan.²⁸ No further information on the results of the meeting could be found in the sources consulted in time constraints.

2. Fatalities

According to an AI report from 3 August 2023, ‘civilians have been repeatedly targeted’ since the start of the fighting, across the country, and mostly by the RSF and related Arab militias.²⁹ The same source described attempts of civilians to find safety in the areas affected by the fighting as ‘extremely difficult’, and that they were killed at their homes or while searching for necessities such as water.³⁰

¹⁹ BBC News, Sudan conflict: Women tell BBC horror stories of rape, 31 July 2023, [url](#)

²⁰ AI, Sudan: “Death came to our home”: War crimes and civilian suffering in Sudan, 3 August 2023, Index Number: AFR 54/7037/2023, [url](#), pp. 18-26; UNHCR, UNHCR Protection Brief – Sudan – July 2023, 16 July 2023, [url](#), p. 3

²¹ UNHCR, UNHCR Protection Brief – Sudan – July 2023, 16 July 2023, [url](#), p. 3

²² AI, Sudan: “Death came to our home”: War crimes and civilian suffering in Sudan, 3 August 2023, Index Number: AFR 54/7037/2023, [url](#), p. 18

²³ HRW, Sudan: Darfur Town Destroyed, 11 July 2023, [url](#)

²⁴ BBC News, Sudan conflict: Women tell BBC horror stories of rape, 31 July 2023, [url](#)

²⁵ Al Jazeera, 100 days of conflict in Sudan: A timeline, 24 July 2023, [url](#); France24, Fighting resumes in Sudan after 24-hour ceasefire ends, 11 June 2023, [url](#); International Crisis Group, A Race against Time to Halt Sudan’s Collapse, 22 June 2023, [url](#); UNHCR, UNHCR Protection Brief – Sudan – July 2023, 16 July 2023, [url](#), p. 2

²⁶ Al Jazeera, 100 days of conflict in Sudan: A timeline, 24 July 2023, [url](#);

²⁷ Al Jazeera, 100 days of fighting in Sudan and no peace in sight: What to know, 24 July 2023, [url](#)

²⁸ Dabanga Sudan, Sudan conflict: Chad summit strives for ceasefire, 8 August 2023, [url](#); Sudan Tribune, Chadian ministerial summit pushes for final ceasefire in Sudan, 8 August 2023, [url](#)

²⁹ AI, Sudan: “Death came to our home”: War crimes and civilian suffering in Sudan, 3 August 2023, Index Number: AFR 54/7037/2023, [url](#), p. 16

³⁰ AI, Sudan: “Death came to our home”: War crimes and civilian suffering in Sudan, 3 August 2023, Index Number: AFR 54/7037/2023, [url](#), p. 30

Sources reported that already the first two weeks of fighting led to over 400 civilian deaths.³¹ In the period of 15 April to 14 June 2023, over 866 people in Sudan were reported as killed and 6 083 as injured due to the fighting, according to the Sudanese Ministry of Health; though the World Health Organization (WHO) remarked the number was likely to be much higher.³² According to an UNHCR report dated 16 July 2023, quoting Sudanese government sources, ‘more than 3,000 fatalities and at least 6,000 injuries were recorded because of the conflict. Actual figures are undoubtedly higher, with unverified reports of deaths in El Geneina [West Darfur] alone exceeding that figure’.³³

In Khartoum specifically, the official death toll reported by the Health Ministry and circulated to aid agencies put the death toll the state at 234 people killed as of July 5, according to civilian hospital reporting. However, local organisations stated that the count was likely more than double the official figures and cited at least 580 deaths of civilians in Khartoum due to airstrikes, artillery, and gunfire.³⁴

3. Illustrative incidents

During the conflict, there were reports of fighting parties using tactics in urban areas of Khartoum such as artillery, air strikes,³⁵ drone strikes, gunfire, raids, and physical attacks.³⁶ The following are examples of security incidents found during the reporting period:

- In April, after the beginning of the fighting, a boy was shot and injured by RSF after he refused to give them his phone in Khartoum.³⁷
- On 1 May 2023, a man was shot and injured by RSF in Khartoum after they’ve accused him of being a spy.³⁸
- On 13 May 2023, RSF soldiers broke into a Coptic Church in Khartoum, shot and injured five clergymen, verbally attacked those present, and stole money and a gold cross. They demanded to know where the girls living in the complex were, but the girls managed to hide.³⁹ Similar attacks on churches in Khartoum were also reported on 22 and 23 May 2023.⁴⁰
- On 19 May 2023, a man was shot dead by a RSF soldier in a restaurant in Khartoum.⁴¹

³¹ BBC News, Sudan fighting: The military rivalry behind the clashes in Khartoum, 15 April 2023, [url](#); IMC, Sudan, Conflict Situation Report #1, 24 April 2023, [url](#); NPR, As Sudan's conflict continues into its second week, here's what to know, 27 April 2023, [url](#)

³² WHO, Sudan health emergency Situation Report No.1 15 April – 14 June 2023, n.d., [url](#), p. 2

³³ UNHCR, UNHCR Protection Brief – Sudan – July 2023, 16 July 2023, [url](#), p. 5

³⁴ Reuters, Sudan’s war death toll in Khartoum double official figures, independent tallies show, 28 July 2023, [url](#)

³⁵ BBC News, Sudan conflict: Air strike kills at least 22 in Khartoum, 8 July 2023, [url](#); AFP, 16 killed as homes hit in Khartoum air, artillery strikes, 25 July 2023, [url](#)

³⁶ Guardian (The), Sudan: Attacks on health workers jeopardise remaining hospitals operating in Khartoum, 21 July 2023, [url](#)

³⁷ Al, Sudan: “Death came to our home”: War crimes and civilian suffering in Sudan, 3 August 2023, , [url](#), p. 17

³⁸ Al, Sudan: “Death came to our home”: War crimes and civilian suffering in Sudan, 3 August 2023, , [url](#), p. 17

³⁹ Al, Sudan: “Death came to our home”: War crimes and civilian suffering in Sudan, 3 August 2023, , [url](#), p. 17

⁴⁰ Al, Sudan: “Death came to our home”: War crimes and civilian suffering in Sudan, 3 August 2023, , [url](#), pp. 17-19

⁴¹ Al, Sudan: “Death came to our home”: War crimes and civilian suffering in Sudan, 3 August 2023, , [url](#), pp. 16-17

- On 30 June 2023, a staff member of a hospital in Khartoum North was killed, and patients were beaten, by RSF soldiers.⁴²
- On 3 July 2023, the RSF killed a student of medicine in the Khartoum state.⁴³
- On 4 July 2023, an employee was killed in a maternity hospital in Omdurman.⁴⁴
- On 8 of July 2023, 38 people were killed in Omdurman after an airstrike on a neighbourhood inhabited mostly by the Rizagat tribe, to which Hemedti belongs, as reported by The Guardian.⁴⁵ According to the BBC News, the SAF airstrike in Omdurman on the same day killed between 22-31 people, including women and children.⁴⁶
- On 14 July 2023, nearly 40 civilians were killed in Omdurman as a result of fighting in Khartoum.⁴⁷ Another source stated that ‘at least 30 people’ were killed in Omdurman after the shelling of a local market by the army.⁴⁸
- On 19 July 2023, at least 14 people located near a military convoy were killed by drones in Khartoum.⁴⁹ According to Sudan Tribune, the attack was done by the RSF whose drones hit ‘a civilian gathering’ south of the Khartoum city.⁵⁰
- On 21 July 2023, medics associated with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) were threatened, assaulted and their vehicle was stolen by ‘the armed men’ in Khartoum.⁵¹
- On 8 August 2023, clashes were reported from various neighbourhoods in Omdurman, as reported by Sudan Tribune, resulting in an unspecified number of wounded and death civilians.⁵² According to Al Jazeera, ‘at least 20 people died’ on that day in Omdurman⁵³, while Africa News reported on 9 civilian deaths⁵⁴.

4. Sexual violence

Since the beginning of the conflict, reports of sexual violence against women and girls, including abduction and rape, have been reported, particularly in Khartoum and Darfur.⁵⁵ It is

⁴² Insecurity Insight, Attacks on Health Care in Sudan, 28 June-11 July 2023, [July] 2023, [url](#), p. 1

⁴³ Insecurity Insight, Attacks on Health Care in Sudan, 28 June-11 July 2023, [July] 2023, [url](#), p. 2

⁴⁴ Insecurity Insight, Attacks on Health Care in Sudan, 28 June-11 July 2023, [July] 2023, [url](#), p. 2

⁴⁵ The Guardian, Army shelling of market kills dozens as Sudan violence escalates, 14 July 2023, [url](#)

⁴⁶ BBC News, Sudan conflict: Air strike kills at least 22 in Khartoum, 8 July 2023, [url](#)

⁴⁷ WFP, WFP Sudan Situation Report #10: 12 July 2023, 14 July 2023, [url](#), p. 1

⁴⁸ The Guardian, Army shelling of market kills dozens as Sudan violence escalates, 14 July 2023, [url](#)

⁴⁹ The source does not explicitly mention whether those killed were civilians. See: Germany, BAMF, Briefing Notes (KW30/2023), 24 July 2023, [url](#), p. 10

⁵⁰ Sudan Tribune, 14 civilians killed in RSF drone strike on civilian gathering in Khartoum, 19 July 2023, [url](#)

⁵¹ BBC News, Sudan conflict: Medics whipped in Khartoum after convoy attacked - MSF, [url](#)

⁵² Sudan Tribune, Fierce clashes engulf Omdurman as Sudanese Army and RSF collide, 8 August 2023, [url](#)

⁵³ Al Jazeera, Fighting in Sudan’s Omdurman intensifies as displaced tops 4 million, 8 August 2023, [url](#)

⁵⁴ Africa News, Sudan Armed Forces clash with RSF in Omdourman, last updated 10 August 2023, [url](#)

⁵⁵ Al, Sudan: “Death came to our home”: War crimes and civilian suffering in Sudan, 3 August 2023, [url](#), p. 27; DW, Sudan: Sexual violence against women spikes, 6 July 2023, [url](#); Reuters, ‘Alarming’ rise in rape and abduction from

estimated that the verified cases of sexual assault are only a fraction of actual cases, according to aid agencies.⁵⁶

According to AI, cases from ‘in and around’ Khartoum were reported, and the perpetrators were identified as the RSF and related Arab militias.⁵⁷ The same source noted how difficult it is for survivors to access any help ‘as many are unable to access any kind of service’.⁵⁸

The WHO described a rise in the incidents of sexual and gender-based violence in Sudan as ‘alarming’.⁵⁹ According to the UNHCR, these incidents were committed ‘in an atmosphere of total impunity’.⁶⁰ According to the UN human rights chief, as reported by the BBC News, the RSF soldiers were identified as the perpetrators ‘in almost all cases’ known to them, which included 21 incidents of sexual violence affecting at least 57 women and girls in at the beginning of July 2023.⁶¹

5. Civilian infrastructure

Sources reported that the conflict broke out and continued in densely populated urban areas.⁶² Examples of affected locations in Khartoum in the first week of fighting included the Al-Sahafa neighbourhood in central Khartoum, where the international airport is located, the Al Siteen Street, also in central Khartoum, and the Al-Ma Una street in Khartoum North.⁶³

According to a Human Rights Watch report from 4 May 2023, the fighting parties ‘have repeatedly used explosive weapons in urban areas’, frequently resulting in ‘indiscriminate attacks in violation of the laws of war’.⁶⁴ Critical infrastructure, including power and water plants, bridges, and hospitals, was damaged or destroyed.⁶⁵ A report by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) published on 16 May 2023 noted that ‘indiscriminate’ attacks on civilians infrastructure resulted in ‘widespread destruction’ in Khartoum and other parts of the country.⁶⁶

Sudan war, aid agencies say, 7 July 2023, [url](#); WHO, Sudan health emergency Situation Report No. 2 15 June – 16 July 2023, n.d., [url](#), p. 1

⁵⁶ Reuters, ‘Alarming’ rise in rape and abduction from Sudan war, aid agencies say, 7 July 2023, [url](#)

⁵⁷ AI, Sudan: “Death came to our home”: War crimes and civilian suffering in Sudan, 3 August 2023, [url](#), p. 27

⁵⁸ AI, Sudan: “Death came to our home”: War crimes and civilian suffering in Sudan, 3 August 2023, Index Number: AFR 54/7037/2023, [url](#), p. 28

⁵⁹ WHO, Sudan health emergency Situation Report No. 2 15 June – 16 July 2023, n.d., [url](#), p. 1

⁶⁰ UNHCR, UNHCR Protection Brief – Sudan – July 2023, 16 July 2023, [url](#), p. 6

⁶¹ BBC News, Sudan conflict: Women tell BBC horror stories of rape, 31 July 2023, [url](#)

⁶² AI, Sudan: “Death came to our home”: War crimes and civilian suffering in Sudan, 3 August 2023, [url](#), pp. 30, 39; BBC News, Sudan fighting: The military rivalry behind the clashes in Khartoum, 15 April 2023, [url](#); HRW, Sudan: Explosive Weapons Harming Civilians, 4 May 2023, [url](#); ICRC, Sudan: Fighting in densely populated areas endangers civilian lives; Humanitarian organizations must be able to reach those in need, 16 April 2023, [url](#)

⁶³ BBC News, Sudan fighting: Khartoum violence mapped as civilians flee city, 22 April 2023, [url](#)

⁶⁴ HRW, Sudan: Explosive Weapons Harming Civilians, 4 May 2023, [url](#)

⁶⁵ HRW, Sudan: Explosive Weapons Harming Civilians, 4 May 2023, [url](#)

⁶⁶ UNSC, Situation in the Sudan and the activities of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan; Report of the Secretary-General [S/2023/355], 16 May 2023, [url](#), para. 31

Many residents remained ‘trapped’ in Khartoum, without access to food, water, or transportation, and at risk of being robbed outside by criminal groups if they tried to flee.⁶⁷ Leaving the city remained difficult for many residents due to the limited routes and risks related to the ongoing fighting and vandalism.⁶⁸

Regarding the situation in Khartoum, International Crisis Group wrote in a report from 22 June 2023 that ‘[t]he city has practically ceased functioning, with almost no service provision for the millions who remain trapped there’, and noted the lack of food and water, as well as nonfunctional hospitals, schools, banks, and businesses.⁶⁹ Sources have also reported on looting of properties by both sides, but mostly by the RSF.⁷⁰

On 31 July 2023, BBC News reported that the RSF ordered civilians to evacuate their homes in the Jabra neighbourhood, south Khartoum, declaring it a ‘war zone’.⁷¹

On 10 August 2023, BBC News reported on ‘heavy fighting’ taking place in Omdurman, causing civilians trying to flee to safer parts of the city or out of the Khartoum state. The same source noted that leaving the country ‘is now almost impossible’ due to the closed borders. For those who stayed in Khartoum, ‘life is getting increasingly hard’, accompanied by power cuts, limited availability of food on the market, as well as to cash due to the looted banks.⁷²

6. Humanitarian situation

A UNSC report from 16 May 2023 noted that the humanitarian situation in Sudan deteriorated ‘drastically’ since the beginning of the fighting on 15 April 2023.⁷³ According to the WHO, half of the population of Sudan - some 25 million people - were in need of humanitarian assistance in July 2023.⁷⁴

Already the first week of fighting left civilians without water and electricity, hospitals were hit by airstrikes and the main remaining hospitals in the city were ‘barely functional’.⁷⁵ Limited access to drinking water was increasing the risk of diseases due to the consumption of unsafe water, according to the WHO report from July 2023.⁷⁶

⁶⁷ Washington Post (The), Sudan’s warring generals closely matched ahead of latest cease-fire, 3 May 2023, [url](#),

⁶⁸ BBC News, Sudan fighting: Khartoum violence mapped as civilians flee city, 22 April 2023, [url](#); UNHCR, UNHCR Protection Brief – Sudan – July 2023, 16 July 2023, [url](#), p. 2

⁶⁹ International Crisis Group, A Race against Time to Halt Sudan’s Collapse, 22 June 2023, [url](#)

⁷⁰ AI, Sudan: “Death came to our home”: War crimes and civilian suffering in Sudan, 3 August 2023, [url](#), p. 44

⁷¹ BBC News, Sudan civilian suffering continues amid bombing, 31 July 2023, [url](#)

⁷² BBC News, Sudan conflict: Call for gravediggers in Omdurman as fighting intensifies, 9 August 2023, [url](#)

⁷³ UNSC, Situation in the Sudan and the activities of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan; Report of the Secretary-General [S/2023/355], 16 May 2023, [url](#), para. 36

⁷⁴ WHO, Sudan health emergency Situation Report No. 2 15 June – 16 July 2023, n.d., [url](#), p. 2

⁷⁵ BBC News, Sudan fighting: Khartoum violence mapped as civilians flee city, 22 April 2023, [url](#)

⁷⁶ WHO, Sudan health emergency Situation Report No. 2 15 June – 16 July 2023, n.d., [url](#), p. 2

Hospitals and health workers were attacked during the fighting and hospitals were forced to close.⁷⁷ In the period of 27 June 2023 - 8 July 2023, Insecurity Insight⁷⁸ documented multiple attacks on medical facilities and personnel in Sudan, mostly by RSF soldiers, in the Khartoum state, Darfur states, and in the North Kordofan state.⁷⁹ Furthermore, only 23 of the 78 hospitals and medical centres in Khartoum area were reported as functional as of 22 April 2023.⁸⁰ On 26 April 2023, 59 out of 82 hospitals in the Khartoum area were reported as not operational.⁸¹ Because of the fighting, aid agencies, including the Sudanese Red Crescent Society, relocated to Port Sudan.⁸² The World Food Programme (WFP) had temporarily halted their operations in all of Sudan after three of their employees were killed and two others injured after an attack in North Darfur, on 15 April 2023.⁸³ Up to 2 June 2023, WHO was able to verify 46 attacks on health care facilities in Sudan.⁸⁴ At least 18 humanitarian workers were killed between 15 April 2023 and 25 July 2023.⁸⁵

Properties of international actors were affected by the hostilities, too.⁸⁶ Both offices of the UNHCR in Khartoum were destroyed and their warehouse in West Darfur was looted.⁸⁷ Looting of hospitals and humanitarian warehouses of aid agencies was reported from Khartoum and other areas, particularly Darfur.⁸⁸ WFP estimates a loss of more than 60 million USD in stolen food and other items between 15 April and 2 June 2023.⁸⁹

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) described situation in Sudan as ‘critical’ in the regions most affected by the conflict, including Khartoum, with projected 42 % of the population facing ‘high levels of acute food insecurity’, according to a press release published on 2 August 2023.⁹⁰

On 8 August 2023, UNHCR warned about ‘rapidly deteriorating’ health conditions in Sudan, and in particular about ‘rising malnutrition rates, disease outbreaks and related deaths’.⁹¹

⁷⁷ Guardian (The), Sudan: Attacks on health workers jeopardise remaining hospitals operating in Khartoum, 21 July 2023, [url](#)

⁷⁸ Insecurity Insight is a Switzerland-based non-profit association that ‘examines threats facing people living and working in dangerous environments’, aiming at providing relevant information to aid workers and agencies. See: [url](#)

⁷⁹ Insecurity Insight, Attacks on Health Care in Sudan, 28 June-11 July 2023, [July] 2023, [url](#), pp. 1-2

⁸⁰ BBC News, Sudan fighting: Khartoum violence mapped as civilians flee city, 22 April 2023, [url](#)

⁸¹ PHR, Sudan’s Warring Factions Must End Attacks on Hospitals, Protect Civilians: Joint Statement. 26 April 2023, [url](#)

⁸² The New Humanitarian, Sudanese aid workers face hundreds of job losses, 1 August 2023, [url](#)

⁸³ WFP, Statement by WFP Executive Director on developments in Sudan, 16 April 2023, [url](#)

⁸⁴ WHO, [Twitter], posted on: 2 June 2023, [url](#)

⁸⁵ UNOCHA, Sudan: After 100 days of fighting, attacks on civilians and humanitarian workers must stop, 25 July 2023, [url](#)

⁸⁶ UNSC, Situation in the Sudan and the activities of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan; Report of the Secretary-General [S/2023/355], 16 May 2023, [url](#), para. 22

⁸⁷ UNHCR, UNHCR Protection Brief – Sudan – July 2023, 16 July 2023, [url](#), p. 3

⁸⁸ AI, Sudan: “Death came to our home”: War crimes and civilian suffering in Sudan, 3 August 2023, [url](#), p. 45

⁸⁹ WFP, Statement on the looting of humanitarian warehouses in Sudan, 2 June 2023, [url](#)

⁹⁰ FAO, The Sudan: Food security crisis intensifies amid ongoing conflict and economic challenges, 2 August 2023, [url](#)

⁹¹ UNHCR, UNHCR warns of deteriorating health conditions in Sudan, 8 August 2023, [url](#)

7. Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

As of the end of July 2023, UNHCR reported on around 3.5 million forcibly displaced persons due to the conflict, including almost 2.7 million internally displaced and over 855 000 who fled to the neighbouring countries.⁹² Similarly, UNOCHA added that more than 3 million people were displaced across 18 states, of which 2.2 million have fled from Khartoum state.⁹³

International Organization for Migration (IOM) also reported on displacement in Sudan from 1 August 2023, stating that there were over 3 million internally displaced persons in Sudan, which represents almost 604 000 households. The highest numbers of newly arrived IDPs were recorded in the following four states: River Nile, Northern, North Darfur, and White Nile. The majority of the IDPs were from Khartoum, followed by the Darfur states (North, South, West, and Central Darfur).⁹⁴ According to a report by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) released on 12 July 2023, 'all IDPs' in the River Nile state, Northern state, and White Nile state 'reportedly' came from Khartoum, and most of them stayed with their relatives.⁹⁵

The Khartoum state recorded 38 365 IDPs, all from within the state, according to IOM. From the displaced, less than one percent were planning to return to their place of origin. Apart from the IDPs displaced within the Khartoum state, around 2 120 000 were displaced to other states in Sudan.⁹⁶

UNOCHA provides a map of clashes and displacement flows, as of 9 August 2023.⁹⁷

⁹² UNHCR, Sudan Situation, 25–31 July 2023, 3 August 2023, [url](#), p. 2

⁹³ Map available at: UNOCHA, Sudan – Situation Report – Last Updated 9 August 2023, [url](#)

⁹⁴ IOM, DTM, DTM Sudan - Situation Report (15), 1 August 2023, [url](#), p. 1

⁹⁵ IDMC, 10 years of displacements in 10 weeks, 12 July 2023, [url](#)

⁹⁶ IOM, DTM, DTM Sudan - Situation Report (15), 1 August 2023, [url](#), p. 5

⁹⁷ Map available at: UNOCHA, Sudan – Situation Report – Last Updated 9 August 2023, [url](#)

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