

HIGHLIGHTS

- Sudan hosts 906,000 refugees – the 8th largest refugee population in any given country, according to UNHCR.
- HAC in Kass, South Darfur reported that an estimated 2,150 people have been displaced from parts of Jebel Marra and arrived in Kass town since May due to fighting.
- A new report by GIEWS raised concerns over 2018 cropping season due to shortages and high prices of fuel and agricultural inputs.
- WFP shift to cash assistance in Otash camp since 2016 benefits IDPs.

FIGURES 2018

# people in need in Sudan (2018 HNO)	5.5 million
# people in need in Darfur (2018 HNO)	3.1 million
GAM caseload (2018 HNO)	2.3 million
South Sudanese refugees – total	766,064
Pre-2013	352,212
Post-2013	413,852
(UNHCR 15 June 2018)	
Other refugees and asylum seekers UNHCR (31 Jan 2018)	153,620

FUNDING

294 million
US\$ received in 2018

28% funded
(FTS, as of 10 June 2018)



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Host of 8th global refugee population – Sudan needs more support - UNHCR

Urgent funds are needed to support some 1.2 million refugees and host communities in Sudan today, said a joint statement on World Refugee Day (20 June) by Sudan's Commission for Refugees (COR) and the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), called for. With 84 per cent of its refugee population stemming from South Sudan, funding for the South Sudanese refugee response in Sudan is at 8 per cent of the US\$327 million required for 2018, according to the [South Sudanese refugee response data portal](#).

“On behalf of the refugees and host communities in Sudan, we are grateful for contributions, and we urge donors to step up funding to allow these communities safety and dignity until circumstances allow for the return to their home countries,” said Ms. Noriko Yoshida, UNHCR's Country Representative.

Coinciding with UNHCR's 50th anniversary in the country, the [joint statement](#) highlighted Sudan's ranking as the eighth global refugee host. Additional asylum seekers and refugees come from Eritrea, Syria, and Yemen, among others. The statement commended the country's historical and continuous hospitality to refugees over the last five decades.

“With most refugees [in Sudan] living out of camps, especially South Sudanese refugees, I would like to recognize the role played by local communities, who are often the first to help refugees and returnees upon arrival,” said Ms Yoshida.

In the run-up to World Refugee Day, UNHCR released on 19 June its flagship annual [Global Trends Forced Displacement Report 2017](#), an analysis of the changes in UNHCR's populations of concern, geared towards deepening public understanding of ongoing crises. UNHCR counts and tracks the numbers of refugees, internally displaced people, people who have returned to their countries or areas of origin, asylum-seekers, stateless people and other populations of concern to UNHCR.

Some 68.5 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced by the end of 2017, including 25.4 million refugees, 40 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 3.1 million asylum-seekers, said UNHCR. Among these are 16.2 million people displaced in 2017, either for the first time or repeatedly – equivalent to a little over three times the population of Khartoum state, or 44,500 people being displaced each day, or a person becoming displaced every two seconds.



Refugees in Khartoum at a WRD event UNHCR June 2017

Inter-agency mission identifies new IDPs

HAC in Kass, South Darfur reported that an estimated 2,150 people have been displaced from parts of Jebel Marra and arrived in Kass town since May due to fighting between government security forces and an armed movement

A report by the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) issued on 21 June in Kass, South Darfur, said since May an estimated 2,150 people were newly displaced from parts of Jebel Marra because of ongoing armed conflict. A joint inter-agency rapid needs assessment mission visited Kass town in South Darfur State between 5 and 7 June, and received reports of the arrival of about 450 families. These are preliminary estimates and the exact number of new IDPs will be available upon registration and verification of the new arrivals. HAC, the State Ministry of Health (SMoH), Water and Environmental Sanitation Department (WES), UN agencies, and national and international NGOs took part in the assessment.

The new IDPs—the majority women and children—have taken refuge in Kass IDP camps, including Erli, Abdulgabar, Al-Battery, Kass Kabir, and Al-Nahda area of Kass town, according to the preliminary findings of the mission. Community leaders report that more people were displaced but are stranded due to insecurity, and blocked routes to safe areas.

Humanitarian needs of the new IDPs

The new IDPs need food, emergency shelter and non-food items (ES/NFIs), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), protection, health, nutrition and education services, said the assessment report. Partners such as UNICEF and Care International Switzerland carried out water and nutritional assessments for the newly displaced, with referrals to malnutrition programmes. An estimated 200 families (about 1,000 people) are reportedly sheltering in unsafe areas with no access to basic services or food.

Protection, Health and Education

Three cases of unaccompanied and separated children and four cases of missing children were reported. The assessment team recommended strengthening the family tracing and reunification (FTR) system, and the existing community-based child protection network to support and respond to child protection. At the beginning of the school year, in August, over 100 children between 5 to 14 years from the newly displaced community are likely to seek enrolment in the already over-burdened local school system.

Access to health services is also of concern, with diarrhoea, malaria, eye infections and upper respiratory infections commonly reported amongst the new IDPs. New arrivals are reportedly unable to afford SDG 20 (about \$1.11) healthcare in Kass town.

Concerns over 2018 cropping season

A new report by GIEWS raised concerns over 2018 cropping season due to shortages and high prices of fuel and agricultural inputs

Shortages and high prices of both fuel and agricultural inputs may compromise Sudan's 2018 cropping season, warned a new [Country Brief report for Sudan](#) issued by the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS).

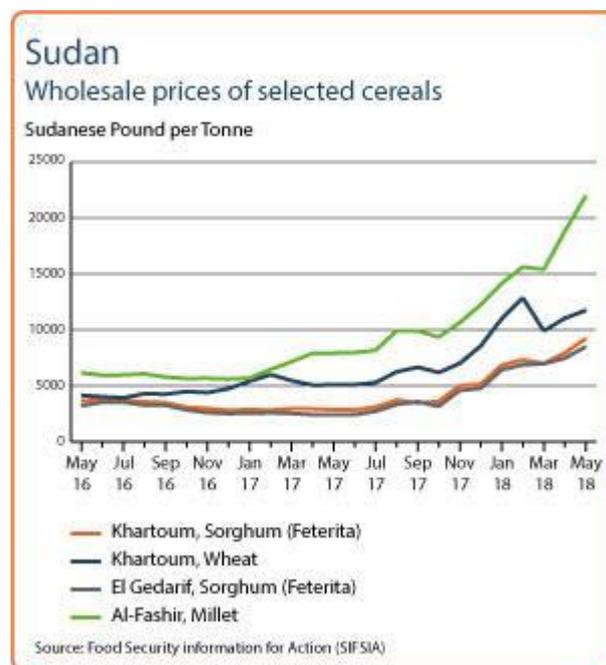
Planting of 2018 crops, for harvest from October began in May, because of the early onset of the June-to-September rainy season, GIEWS reported. According to the latest [Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum \(GHACOF\) weather forecasts](#), while average to above-average seasonal rains are expected, planted area and yields may be compromised by severe fuel shortages, and by low availability and high prices of agricultural inputs. This is due to both sustained inflation and dwindling foreign currency reserves resulting in imports constraints.

Prices of cereals surging to record levels

As of May, prices of sorghum, millet and wheat were more than twice their year earlier levels and at record or near-record highs in all monitored markets

As of May, prices of sorghum, millet and wheat were more than twice their year earlier levels and at record or near-record highs in all monitored markets, after having surged since late 2017, according to GIEWS. Prices of sorghum more than doubled between October 2017 and May 2018 in the capital, Khartoum, and in El Gedaref market. The latest Food Price Monitoring and Analysis ([FPMA](#)) [Bulletin](#) issued on 11 June indicates that prices of sorghum increased strongly again in May after faltering in March and April after subsidized sales by the Government's Strategic Reserve Corporation.

Prices of millet - mainly grown and consumed in western regions - and prices of wheat grain - mostly sourced from the international market - followed similar trends. The surge in cereal prices was mainly driven by the removal of wheat subsidies in the 2018 budget, which increased demand for millet and sorghum as substitutes for wheat and the strong depreciation of the local currency, triggering a significant rise in the general inflation rate. The Sudanese Pound value in US dollar terms declined sharply since late 2017, after the partial lifting of international sanctions scheduled to end a two-decade trade embargo and unfreeze the country's financial assets, but which caused an upsurge in demand by importers for US dollars. The removal of subsidies on household electricity, coupled with limited availability of fuel across the country, with consequent higher transport costs, contributed to underpin increased food prices. Localized 2017 crop production shortfalls provided further reason for the increase in the price of cereals.



GlEWS is part of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations which monitors food supply and demand, and other key indicators for assessing the overall food security situation in all countries. It issues regular analytical and objective reports on prevailing conditions, and provides early warnings of impending food crises at country or regional level.

Cash-based-transfers change lives

Where markets are functioning and local conditions favorable, cash transfers are an effective tool to accelerate progress towards Zero Hunger and reach the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The UN Secretary-General's Agenda for Humanity recommends that where markets and operational contexts permit, cash-based programming should be the preferred and default method of support. More humanitarian organizations are turning to cash-based transfers (CBT) as a new way to deliver assistance to their beneficiaries.

Cash transfers are increasingly being used for humanitarian response with the recognition that it can complement the provision of in-kind assistance during emergencies and especially in protracted displacement situations. These transfers come in various forms, from traditional banknotes, bank transfers or value vouchers to more innovative electronic platforms such as smart card or mobile money. Provision of cash, when appropriate and suitable, empowers the affected population, allowing it to decide how to meet needs using available local resources, according to aid experts.

In Sudan, WFP first introduced value vouchers in Darfur in 2011 and cash transfers in 2016 in Otash IDP camp



Multi-purpose cash transfers in West Darfur (WFP, May 2018)

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near Nyala, South Darfur with funding from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) for £3.1 million (about US \$4.3 million). The CBTs made a significant impact on the IDP community while still meeting their needs. Displaced people may use the cash to purchase not only food, but other things they may need, generating trade and contributing to local economic growth. Cash can be an effective and efficient means of delivering assistance, where markets and operational contexts permit.

Cash Transfers Impact Study

According to WFP's Cash Transfers Impact Study Report issued in June 2017, cash transfers increased the likelihood of a household being food secure by 15 and 23 percent respectively compared with in-kind and value vouchers.

In addition to increasing household food security, the cash transfers modality also increased household access to essential non-food items and services, including education, thereby enhancing overall household welfare. Cash and voucher transfers increased joint decision-making among men and women for both WFP and non-WFP related resources.

The study also showed that the injection of cash into the local economy through the cash transfer project did not lead to localized inflation. A comparative analysis indicated that cash and vouchers are more cost-efficient than food. This implies that the cost of delivery food assistance per beneficiary in monetary terms using the cash and voucher transfer modalities is lower as compared to the in-kind modality. However, cash interventions should be accompanied by nutritional awareness raising to mitigate the risk of households reverting to less nutritious diets.

The story of Ibrahim Hussein, an IDP-turned-trader in Otash camp, South Darfur

Ibrahim Hussein has been an IDP at Otash since 2004. To him, the cash-based programme made a significant impact on the IDP community. In 2008, Hussein started a small business between traders in Nyala town market and IDPs in Otash. Hussein was twice selected as a trader for in the voucher-based food assistance programme, and for the cash-based programme. He was contracted by the Blue Nile Mashreq Bank (BNMB) to implement the cash voucher system, outsourced to manage the voucher programme. IDPs exchange vouchers or cash for various food items, creating a market for small-scale traders in locally grown produce in addition to grains.



Ibrahim's stall in Otash IDP camp, South Darfur (WFP, 2017)

"Most of the money is circulated inside the camp, which increases the income of traders, and meets those needs that were not possible with general-food assistance," said Hussein.

WFP began in May 2018 a Multipurpose Cash Assistance transfer pilot with 502 recipients in Kereinik, under the Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF). They receive US\$27 per month, intended for either food and non-food needs. In addition, a DFID funded pilot in Nyala completed assessment and planning stages, and a third pilot is due to start in El Fasher in July.

At least 306,000 people were assisted up to June 2018 through CBT across the country. While 198,000 people receive paper vouchers, another 25,000 in Darfur receive food-specific debit cards. Also in Darfur, 77,000 people have received cash. In Red Sea state, six thousand people have been assisted with cash through Productive Safety Nets Resilience projects.

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