

SITUATION UPDATE: SUDAN DECEMBER 2025

Why Are We Asking You to Keep Eyes on Sudan?

The people of Sudan are suffering a crisis escalating at a pace the world is barely registering, even as it becomes one of the largest humanitarian catastrophes of our time. Over two years into the war, millions are displaced, famine is spreading, and civilians are facing systematic violence while aid remains obstructed. Despite the enormity of the crisis, global attention and diplomatic engagement remain dangerously low.

All of us, collectively, have a responsibility to uphold the rights and dignity of others, wherever they are. We must refuse to be silent in the face of inaction, amplify truth, and help ensure the people of Sudan are not ignored. To use your voice to speak up for the people of Sudan, you must know what is going on. This update aims to focus your attention on the rapidly evolving situation, outline the risks of further deterioration, and highlight the urgent actions needed now to prevent an even deeper collapse.

War in Sudan and the World's Largest Displacement Crisis

The war in Sudan has fueled what is currently the largest displacement crisis in the world. Millions of people have been forced to flee their homes as hostilities between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), and allied groups engulf cities, villages, and essential civilian infrastructure. As regional and international actors provide political, financial, or military support to the rival factions, violence has deepened, prolonging the crisis.

Sudan once hosted the [second largest](#) refugee population in Africa. Now, families have been uprooted multiple times over, including the more than one million refugees who sought safety in Sudan before war broke out. Displaced people are in overcrowded camps, informal settlements, and neighboring countries, oftentimes with little access to food, water, or medical care. Over [nine million](#) people are currently internally displaced in Sudan, and over [four million](#) others have fled to neighboring countries. This mass displacement crisis has created a humanitarian emergency marked by hunger, disease, and the breakdown of basic services, leaving civilians—especially already vulnerable groups—in increasingly desperate conditions.

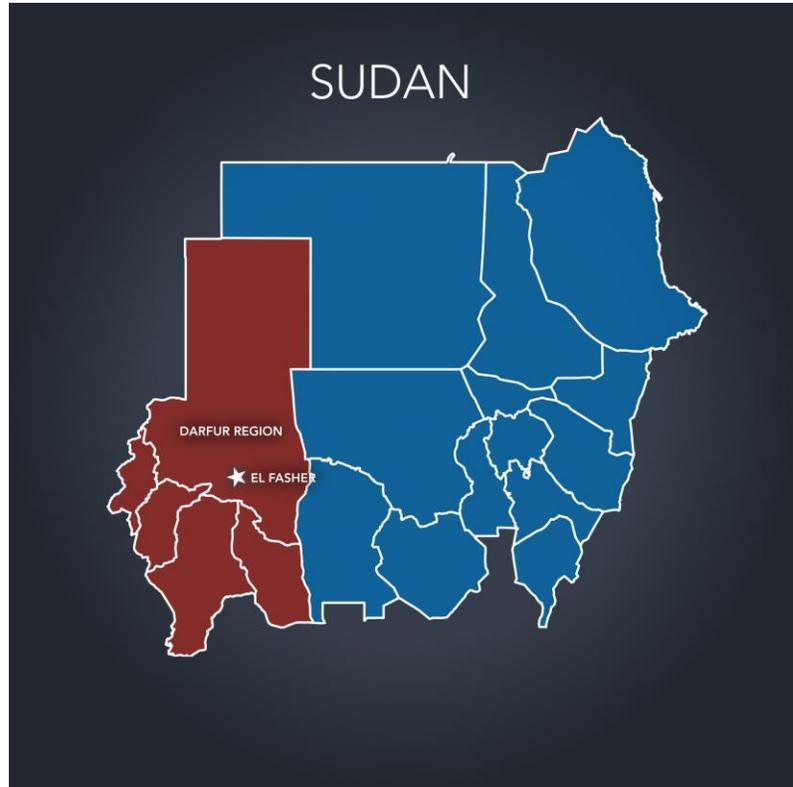
To understand how these broader displacement and protection crises are unfolding, the following sections examine key flashpoints of the conflict, beginning with El Fasher and then turning to the Kordofan region. In both areas, escalating violence and siege tactics have gravely undermined the protection of civilians and driven some of the most severe humanitarian consequences.

El Fasher

The besieged city of El Fasher, the capital of Sudan's North Darfur State, has collapsed into catastrophe. Once home to [1.5 million people](#), including 800,000 internally displaced people (IDPs), El Fasher was the only city in Darfur not captured by the paramilitary RSF. After over a year under

blockade, the RSF seized control of the city in late October 2025, unleashing a wave of mass killings, summary executions, and sexual violence against civilians.

Throughout the more than 500 days of siege, civilians in El Fasher were cut off from food, clean water, medical care, and other forms of aid and were subject to mounting atrocities. In August 2025, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) [called](#) El Fasher “an epicentre of child suffering,” with at least 130,000 children trapped and suffering from starvation and disease while exposed to grave violations such as rape, abduction, and recruitment by armed groups. On October 22, as the city marked 18 months under siege, Save the Children [reported](#) that nearly one in five civilians killed in El Fasher during the month of October 2025 were children, including an infant.



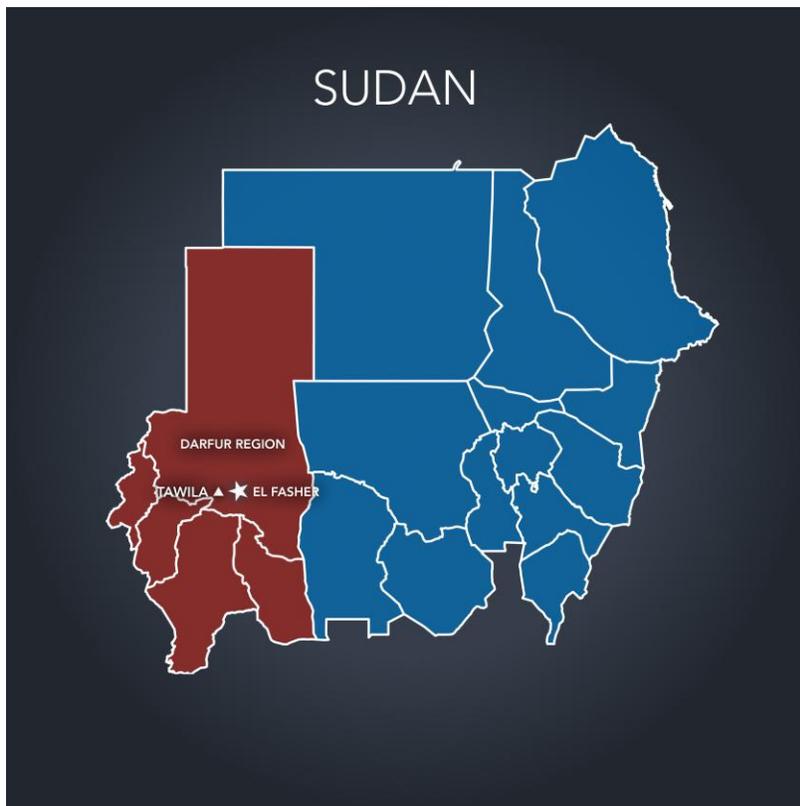
Most were burned alive. These atrocities have largely taken place in [attacks](#) on the Dar al-Arqam Displacement Centre.

The RSF repeatedly targeted displacement camps in and around El Fasher, including [Zamzam camp and Abu Shouk camp](#). The targeting of camps, meant to shelter people who had already fled unimaginable violence, transformed supposed safe zones into sites of renewed terror and displacement. In the April 2025 assault on Zamzam—the largest IDP camp in North Darfur—the RSF reportedly [killed](#) hundreds of people, including at least 12 humanitarian workers, set homes on fire, raped women and girls, destroyed civilian infrastructure like schools and hospitals, and [displaced](#) over 300,000 people yet again.

Following 18 months under siege and days of constant bombardment, El Fasher fell to the RSF at the end of October 2025. On October 26, the RSF announced its control of El Fasher and on October 27, the SAF announced its withdrawal of forces from the city. On October 27, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) [detailed](#) “alarming reports” of the RSF perpetrating ethnically motivated killings of civilians in El Fasher, summary executions, detention, and sexual violence. Thousands of families were [forced to flee](#), while thousands of others were left trapped.

Satellite imagery of El Fasher showed [evidence](#) of bodies consistent with reports of executions and mass killings of people attempting to flee the city during the takeover. Evidence of blood staining the sand was also shown in the images. On October 30, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Tom Fletcher, [briefed](#) the UN Security Council and decried the world's inaction in El Fasher and Sudan, stating that there is not only "blood on the sand" but also "blood on the hands."

In a November 14, 2025 address to the UN Human Rights Council, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk [called](#) the atrocities in El Fasher "foreseen and preventable," constituting "the gravest of crimes."



Many of those who could escape El Fasher—primarily women and children—fled to Tawila, a 70km journey filled with horror. Tawila already [hosted](#) over 652,000 IDPs as of September 2025, but following displacement from El Fasher, the locality received over 13,000 additional displaced people. Humanitarian organizations receiving arrivals from El Fasher in Tawila [documented](#) survivors harrowing accounts of what they had endured, including killing, robbery, and rape on the roads to Tawila. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)/Doctors Without Borders [detailed](#) treating new arrivals who experienced torture, sexual

violence, gunshot wounds, malnutrition, and witnessed massacres.

On November 27, one month since the fall of El Fasher, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) [reported](#) receiving at least 400 children who fled El Fasher and arrived in Tawila without their parents. Children became separated from their parents while fleeing or their parents were killed, missing, or detained. The agency noted that children arrived in Tawila "exhausted and deeply distressed, often after days of walking through the desert."

On December 3, 2025, Amnesty International [called](#) for the RSF's April attack on Zamzam camp to be investigated for war crimes. Later, a December 18 [report](#) from the OHCHR found that at least 1,013 civilians were killed in the attacks from April 11-13 and more than 400,000 people in Zamzam were

displaced once again due to the attacks. The report also revealed patterns of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) used as a weapon during the attacks, with at least 104 survivors who were subjected to rape, gang rape, and sexual slavery during the attack and as they tried to flee.

To date, communication with civilians still trapped in El Fasher is minimal, as is information about their protection and wellbeing, due to ongoing hostilities and blockades. Over [106,000 people](#) were displaced from El Fasher and surrounding villages between October 26-November 24 alone, and up to [150,000 people](#) remain missing.

Kordofan

To the east of Darfur, atrocities are surging in Sudan's Kordofan region (North Kordofan, South Kordofan, and West Kordofan). On December 4, at least three drone strikes were reported in Kalogi, a town in South Kordofan state. The strikes hit a kindergarten and a hospital. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Attacks on Health Care monitoring system [revealed](#) that the strikes killed at least 114 people, including 63 children, and injured 35 others. That same day, a World Food Programme (WFP) truck in a humanitarian convoy was hit by an [aerial strike](#) in North Kordofan as it transferred lifesaving aid to Tawila. In a December 7 [statement](#), the UN Secretary-General condemned these attacks and noted that "the humanitarian crisis in the Kordofan region continues to spiral."

Escalations in hostilities in the Kordofan region follow a November 7 [warning](#) from UN High Commissioner Türk, who underscored that in the Kordofan region, "developments on the ground indicate clear preparations for intensified hostilities, with everything that implies for its long-suffering people." On November 14, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) stated that almost 50,000 people had been displaced by conflict in North Kordofan in recent weeks, many having already been forced to flee. A second warning from the Human Rights Chief was [published](#) on December 4, detailing aerial strikes, artillery shelling, summary executions, sexual violence, abductions, and other violations occurring across the Kordofan region since October 2025.

In September 2025, famine was [confirmed](#) in the besieged South Kordofan town of Kadugli, as well as in El Fasher. On December 4, the Operational Humanitarian Country Team in Sudan [expressed](#) deep concern that civilians remain trapped in Kadugli and Dilling, enduring consistent attacks and living with little access to food and essential services. On December 9, UNICEF Executive Director, Catherine Russell, [highlighted](#) that children trapped in besieged areas like Darfur and Kordofan regions, "are especially vulnerable, where access to food, water and medical supplies remains practically cut off."

What Can We Do?

The rapidly deteriorating situation in the Darfur and Kordofan regions underscore the profound human cost of the widening conflict in Sudan. Intensifying attacks, mass displacement, and the entrapment of civilians in besieged areas demonstrate a clear pattern of disregard for international law. Repeated warnings from UN agencies, human rights officials, and civil society organizations

highlight not only the immediacy of the threat but also the foreseeable nature of an unfolding catastrophe. The consequences of this violence extend beyond Sudan's borders: escalating cross-border displacement flows, straining already underfunded and overwhelmed protection systems, and particularly impacting neighboring [South Sudan](#), where a political crisis and escalating armed conflict is fueling mass displacement as well. Without urgent, unimpeded access for aid and decisive international action to protect civilians, both Darfur, Kordofan, the country, and the broader region face deepening instability and worsening protection crises.

USCRI calls for:

- All warring parties must uphold their obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law to protect civilians, allow individuals to leave voluntarily, and allow the safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance to affected populations through all crossline and cross-border routes. The atrocities in Sudan must end.
- All warring parties must reach a permanent cessation of hostilities.
 - The UN Security Council, African Union, influential governments, and regional bodies should strengthen diplomatic engagement to stop the flow of arms and for sustainable peace and recovery in Sudan.
- Perpetrators of violations of international law must be held accountable.
 - This includes conflict-related sexual violence, which is a [violation of international humanitarian law and a war crime](#). Survivors must have access to justice and comprehensive medical care and psychosocial support.
- Donor governments and other actors must urgently scale up funding for the humanitarian response in and around Sudan.
 - This includes flexible funding for child protection and support for survivors of gender-based violence.

What is happening in Sudan is not unfolding in the shadows—it is happening right now in front of your eyes. Keep your eyes on Sudan. Stay informed, amplify the voices of the people of Sudan, and urge your elected officials to push for stronger diplomatic and humanitarian action. Ensure Sudan is not met with silence.

See below for more of USCRI's work on Sudan:

- [Sexual Violence: A Weapon of War in Sudan](#)
- [Children in Sudan](#)
- [Humanitarian Needs in Sudan](#)
- [Displacement in Sudan](#)
- [Situation Update: Sudan April 2025](#)
- [Sudan's War, the World's Silence](#)
- [The Humanitarian and Displacement Situation in Sudan - December 2024](#)
- [Severed Lifelines: The Obstruction of Humanitarian Aid in Sudan](#)

- [500 Days of War in Sudan | 500 Days of Global Apathy](#)
- [The Situation in Sudan After One Year of Conflict](#)