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SUDAN DISPATCH

Aid at ‘breaking point’ in North Darfur amid RSF siege and blocked deliveries

UN World Food Programme unable to access Sudan’s largest camp for internally displaced persons

FRI 7 MAR -- Humanitarian work in North Darfur is on the brink of collapse amid an ongoing siege by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and continued obstacles to aid deliveries. On Thursday, the UN’s top official in Sudan warned that access to Zamzam, the country’s largest camp for internally displaced persons (IDP), had become “nearly impossible” and that humanitarian services were at “breaking point”.

It comes just a week after fighting around nearby El Fasher and attacks on Zamzam itself forced the UN World Food Programme (WFP) to suspend food distributions and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) to halt all operations in the camp. People in Zamzam face shortages of food and medical supplies, a collapsing public health system, and a severe lack of safe drinking water that is increasing the risk of waterborne communicable diseases.

Recent attacks on [52 neighbouring villages](#) have caused civilian casualties, widespread destruction, and further forced displacement into Zamzam. On Sunday, at least six civilians were killed in RSF shelling of a crowded market in Abu Shouk, another IDP camp in the El Fasher area, according [to the BBC](#), and on Tuesday [further shelling killed or injured](#) a total of 80 people, a camp official said. The attacks came at the start of the holy month of Ramadan.

Over the weekend, Relief International (RI), one of the only humanitarian organisations still operating in Zamzam, was able to deliver water which should meet the needs of 1,600 individuals per day. With the camp population estimated to be between 500,000

to one million people, a significant scaling up of water supply is needed to meet the minimum international standards for the famine-stricken population.

“Access to Zamzam camp is nearly impossible - just when people need support the most,” Clementine Nkweta-Salami, the UN’s Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan, said [in a statement](#). “We need unimpeded humanitarian access to deliver life-saving aid. Humanitarian services are at a breaking point. Water is scarce, medical & nutrition supplies are running out. The situation is deteriorating fast. Urgent support is needed.”

RI is still awaiting the delivery of 200 metric tonnes of medical supplies to North Darfur which have been stuck in Chad and Koma for over five months. Until SARHO, the aid agency run by the RSF, approves the necessary travel permits, RI will lack essential supplies such as the therapeutic food used to treat severe acute malnutrition, which the WFP [has said is already killing children](#) in Zamzam.

“With medical supplies, food, and water on the brink of running out, the RSF must urgently halt all hostilities in the area to allow the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance to the civilian population of El Fasher and Zamzam” said **Shayna Lewis, Sudan Specialist at Avaaz**.

Although \$22 million in additional aid for Sudan [has also been announced by Tom Fletcher](#), the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, the figure is a fraction of the total [\\$6 billion required by the UN](#) in 2025 to respond to the country’s humanitarian crisis, the largest the world has ever seen.

On Thursday, Sudan [filed a case against](#) the United Arab Emirates, which has long denied smuggling weapons to the RSF, at the International Court of Justice, accusing it of complicity in RSF attacks and of violating its obligations under the Genocide Convention.

News in Brief

International

- Canada has imposed targeted economic sanctions on a range of senior figures on both sides of the conflict in Sudan. Those targeted include the commander-in-chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces, Abdel Fattah Abdelrahman al-Burhan, and the leader of the RSF, Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo. Also affected were the commander of the Sudanese Air Forces and a company manufacturing weapons for the SAF as well as two RSF-affiliated leaders in Darfur and Al Khaleej Bank, a financial institution with links to

the RSF. The Canadian government said the SAF and RSF had both shown “little willingness to engage in international mediation efforts” and had “continued to... inflict terror against the Sudanese people with complete disregard for their suffering”. Source: [Canadian government website](#)

- Since April 2023, tens of thousands of people, including women and children, have been arbitrarily detained in overcrowded, unsanitary facilities controlled by the RSF and SAF in Khartoum State and other parts of Sudan. Detainees have faced severe beatings, torture, and lack of food, water, and medical care, leading to many deaths in custody. Reports indicate that children as young as 14 have been used as guards, while 13-year-olds have been detained alongside adults. Sexual violence against women detainees has been documented in RSF-controlled facilities. Ethnic discrimination is widespread, with detainees from Darfur and Kordofan targeted based on perceived affiliations with opposing forces. Many detainees have been held without their families being informed. Recent months have seen transfers of detainees to unknown locations. Source: [OHCHR](#)
- Armed groups in southeast Central African Republic (CAR) have committed grave human rights violations, targeting Muslim communities and Sudanese refugees, according to a recent investigation. Fighters from Wagner Ti Azandé (WTA) and Azandé Ani Kpi Gbé (Azanikpigbe) carried out executions, sexual violence, torture, and forced labor, with at least 24 people killed in attacks on Dembia and Rafaï in October 2024, and 12 more in a Fulani camp near Mboki in January 2025. Victims included women and girls subjected to rape, and seven Fulani men were tied up and thrown into a river. Source: [UN](#)

Humanitarian

- Three health centres in Kassala, eastern Sudan that provided health services to around 30,000 people have been forced to close due to the freeze in U.S. foreign assistance. Source: [UN OCHA](#)
- The latest cholera outbreak in White Nile State, affecting over 2,700 patients, including 500 children, was triggered by an RSF projectile which caused mass power outage and affected water pumps. Source: [MSF](#) and [UNICEF](#)
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) have expanded the Farchana humanitarian hub in Chad, increasing capacity to assist 220,000 more people affected by the war in Sudan. This expansion strengthens cross-border humanitarian operations into Sudan and will improve food, shelter, healthcare, and protection efforts. Source: [IOM](#)

Human Rights

- A UN report details the “widespread pattern of arbitrary detention, torture, and ill-treatment of detainees by the Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese Armed Forces in Khartoum State”. The report highlights the RSF using children as prison guards and the use of sexual violence against women detainees. There are also details of both the

RSF and SAF using discriminatory treatment based on the ethnic identity of detainees.
[Source: UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#)

Conflict Dynamics

- On 5 March, 2025, [footage](#) began circulating online showing RSF and SPLM/N Al-Hilu soldiers announcing their takeover of Malik Agar's last remaining base in the Seida area of Tadhamon Locality. In the video, an RSF commander stated they had chased and arrested some of Malik Agar's forces. The commander displayed one of the arrested soldiers and asked him to address Malik Agar directly. He claimed the rest of Agar's forces fled to an IDP camp in South Sudan, where they would no longer pursue them but were calling on South Sudanese authorities to arrest them. Following a recent agreement signed in Nairobi between different factions including RSF and SPLM/A-N AA, the two armed forces are now fighting together on the ground. Source: [Abu Kiyani Facebook page](#)
- On 6 March 2025, SAF announced the recapture of El Dali and Mazmum localities in Sennar State, regaining control of the 66th Infantry Brigade base that had been under RSF control since July 2024. In Khartoum, SAF also announced recapturing most of East Nile locality, with the Sudan Shield Force securing Hillat Koko and the northeastern entrance of Al Manshia Bridge. Source: [Sudan War Monitor](#)
- A battalion of Colombian mercenaries, known as “Lobos del Desierto” (Desert Wolves), has been fighting alongside RSF in Sudan. Between 350 and 380 former Colombian soldiers have been recruited through a transnational network led by Colonel Álvaro Quijano in partnership with the Emirati security firm Global Security Service Group. Many arrived under false promises of security jobs, only to be sent into combat. Mercenaries have been involved in drone, mortar, and sniper operations, particularly in Al Fasher, North Darfur, where three Colombians have been killed. Some recruits have escaped, citing unpaid wages and extreme combat conditions, while new recruitment continues via Spain, Ethiopia, and Somalia. Source: [La Silla vacia](#)

Footage & Images

- [Footage](#) of the aftermath of RSF bombardment on Abu Shouk IDP camp in El- Fasher. Source: Sudan War Updates
- [Footage](#) of RSF drones targeting Merowe Airport in Northern State. Source: Sudan War Updates

Latest Stats

- Since the beginning of 2024, 221 cases of child rape have been recorded across nine states in Sudan, with children as young as one year old among the survivors. Of these, 147 victims (66%) are girls, while 74 (33%) are boys. Sixteen survivors are under the age of five, including four one-year-olds. In addition to these cases, 77 other incidents of sexual assault against children, primarily attempted rape, have also been reported. Source: [UNICEF](#)

- Between 1 and 2 March 2025, approximately 4,684 households were displaced from various villages across Dar As Salam locality, North Darfur due to heightened insecurity. Source: [DTM](#)

*Avaaz's weekly dispatch features the latest developments, first-hand testimony, footage, photos, stats and analysis on Sudan. **We can connect you with voices from the ground, experts and survivors of the war.** For more info: sudan@avaaz.org*

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