

HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 350 Sudanese refugees have returned to Darfur since April after having spent more than 10 years in refugee camps in Chad, according to UNHCR.
- IPC estimates that between May and July 2018 up to 6 million people in Sudan or 14 per cent of the total population will require food assistance.
- Staple cereal price increases are driven by seasonal increases in demand and reductions in supply, combined with fuel shortages and increased transportation costs – FEWS NET.
- About 85,500 IDPs in El Neem IDP camp, the largest in East Darfur, are able to access safe water for 12 hours a day.

FIGURES 2018

# people in need in Sudan (2018 HNO)	5.5 million
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# people in need in Darfur (2018 HNO)	3.1 million
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GAM caseload (2018 HNO)	2.3 million
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South Sudanese refugees – total	763,144
Pre-2013	352,212
Post-2013	410,932

(UNHCR 31 May 2018)

Other refugees and asylum seekers UNHCR (31 Jan 2018)	153,620
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FUNDING

279 million
US\$ received in 2018



A convoy with refugees returning to Darfur from camps in Chad (UNHCR, June 2018)

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Voluntary repatriation to Sudan continues

As part of a voluntary repatriation programme, in early June, some 180 people - who have been living as refugees in neighbouring Chad - officially returned to their places of origin in Sudan. Registered in Tina, a border town in North Darfur State, the returns were managed under the auspices of Sudan and Chad refugee authorities and the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

Since the start of the programme in April this year, UNHCR has assisted a total of 353 refugee returns to Darfur from Chad. The refugee returnees received return packages containing essential items such as shelter tarpaulins, jerry cans and cooking utensils, and cash assistance. Food assistance for three months has also been provided by the World Food Programme (WFP).

Returning refugees arrived at a 'reception center' in Tina town, before moving to villages in Tina, Kornoi, Kebkabiya, Kutum, El Fasher, and Saraf Omra localities in North Darfur. A small group of 33 people has returned to Jebel Moon in West Darfur State.

While UNHCR works continuously with government and other partners to ensure refugees return in safe and dignified conditions, the Return, Recovery and Reintegration sector (RRR), chaired by the government's Voluntary Return and Reintegration Commission, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) are expected to support reintegration assistance for returning populations, including enhancing basic services in return areas.

The convoys will pause for the June – August rainy season and resume after the rainy season. UNHCR plans to repatriate at least 3,500 refugees to Sudan by the end of the year.

Over 300,000 Sudanese refugees remain in Chad, and UNHCR will continue to work with the Governments of Sudan and Chad to facilitate their voluntary repatriation, within the framework of the Tripartite Agreement signed in May 2017 by the two Governments and UNHCR.

Under the Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2018, the Recovery, Returns, and Reintegration (RRR) sector in Sudan had received US\$2.1 million of the required \$37.5 million. Noriko Yoshida, UNHCR Representative for Sudan, has appealed to donors to assist the Government of Sudan in its effort to provide sustainable and durable solutions for those returning, and for some two million internally displaced persons (IDPs), and their host communities.



Hawa and her six children returned to Tina town in Darfur after more than 10 years in Chad (UNHCR, June 2018)

Number of food insecure projected to six million during Sudan's lean season (May-July)

IPC estimates that between May and July 2018 up to 6 million people in Sudan or 14 per cent of the total population will require food assistance

The latest [Sudan Acute Food Insecurity Situation Overview report](#) indicates that from May to July 2018, the number of people in Crisis [equivalent to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 3] and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food security and requiring food assistance is expected to rise to six million from 5.5 million people in April. According to IPC, this represents a marginal increase from 13 per cent of the total population analysed in April to 14 per cent in May. The estimate corresponds to a year-on-year increase of 45 per cent.

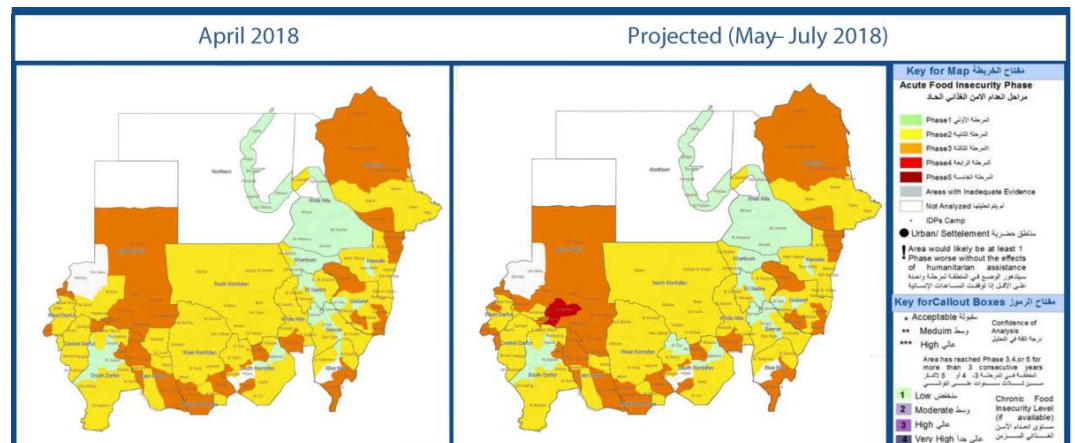
IPC reports that food insecurity has increased in 13 per cent of households, implying considerable consumption gaps. During projected period, households are expected to face a reduction in the number of meals or shift to less nutritional food. It is estimated that food insecurity is likely to affect half of the refugee population.

Similarly, FEWS NET reports in its May [Key Messages update](#) that as the lean season gets underway, parts of Kassala and North Darfur states affected by severe dryness in 2017, and IDPs in Jebel Marra will face Crisis levels of food security through September.

FEWS NET noted that food insecurity among IDPs in areas controlled by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) in South Kordofan will deteriorate from Crisis to Emergency levels between June and September 2018. Most other parts of Sudan will likely remain at Minimal (IPC Phase 1) or Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute levels of food security through September 2018, following above-average 2017/18 harvest.

Current and projected food security levels in Sudan

Source: IPC



Response to fuel shortages and commodity pipeline break challenges

WFP's [April Country Brief](#) update indicates that IDPs are particularly affected by food insecurity in North Darfur, and in parts of South Darfur and South Kordofan states. Fuel shortages and related commodities pipeline breaks are affecting distributions in the area. To address these challenges, WFP has initiated a contingency plan. It is importing fuel to offset disruptions in fuel availability. WFP is also providing fuel to transporters to ensure that dispatches can be made and is prioritizing the delivery of food assistance to the hardest-to-reach areas first.

In response to a drought in North Darfur, in April, WFP provided assistance to about 97,000 severely food insecure people across eight localities. WFP Sudan is also scheduled to provide half-rations followed by Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities to drought-affected families.

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Staple food prices increase at lean season start – FEWS NET

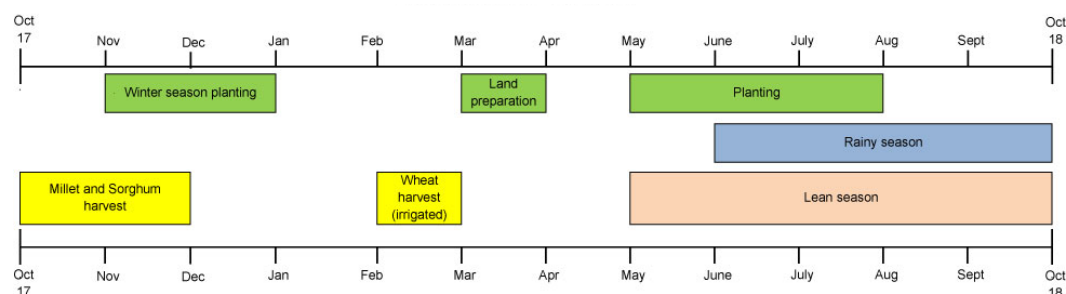
Staple cereal price increases are driven by seasonal increases in demand and reductions in supply, combined with fuel shortages and increased transportation costs – FEWS NET

Price hikes for staple cereals across Sudan are driven by seasonal increases in demand for cereals and reductions in supply, combined with fuel shortages and consequent increased transportation costs, FEWS NET reported in its May [Key Messages update](#) as a follow-up to an April 2018 Food Security Outlook report. During April, sorghum and millet retail prices increased by 5 to 15 per cent across most markets monitored by FEWS NET compared to the previous month, with higher increases of up to 25 per cent in some markets, such as Ed Daein market in East Darfur.

In May, however, sorghum prices in East Darfur increased by only 1 per cent, according to WFP's [May Market Update](#). Overall, during May the national average retail price of sorghum significantly increased by 9.7 percent in areas monitored by WFP, compared to the previous month.

Sudan Seasonal Calendar

Source: FEWS NET



Persistent fuel shortages have continued since March 2018, according to FEWS NET. In areas such as North Kordofan, North Darfur, and Gedaref states, field reports suggest that fuel shortages have affected supplies of water for livestock consumption and irrigation of off-season crops. High fuel prices could also drive increased production costs during the main agricultural season in the semi-mechanized rainfed and irrigated sectors.

United States supports food insecure people in Sudan

A new food donation to Sudan by USAID will provide food assistance to 1.5 million of Sudan's most vulnerable people for the next six months

A new food donation to Sudan by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will provide food assistance to 1.5 million of Sudan's most vulnerable people for the next six months, said a USAID press release. Managed by WFP, the 55,000-metric ton donation of US-grown sorghum is scheduled for distribution to IDPs and refugees, including those from South Sudan, and other vulnerable groups.



Off-loading of sorghum provided by the US in Port Sudan (WFP, June 2018)

In 2018, WFP plans to assist 4.8 million vulnerable people in Sudan; this includes IDPs, refugees, communities affected by climate change, and other food and nutrition-insecure groups. WFP provides support through a range of activities, including emergency food assistance, cash-based transfers and nutritional support, as well as resilience-building activities, which help communities to become self-reliant.

More reliable water supply for IDPs in East Darfur to help reduce water-borne diseases

About 85,500 IDPs in El Neem IDP camp, the largest in East Darfur, can access safe water for 12 hours a day

Regular and improved access to clean drinking water is set to help reduce the incidence of water-borne diseases among 85,500 IDPs in El Neem camp, the largest IDP camp in East Darfur, according to the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF). A new water project by UNICEF and the international NGO Care International Switzerland (CIS) launched in March connected three boreholes in the camp to the city power grid and a solar-run back-up system.

Implemented by the CIS, the project has stabilised and increases access to safe water in the camp. “All three water points in the camp are functioning and sufficient fuel stock is in place to run the generators. This is key to ensure the operation of water pumps when the city power grid is not available, or when the solar back-up system cannot be utilized,” said UNICEF.

Supplied for 12 hours a day, the community has access to about 20 litres of water per person per day (l/p/d), according to WASH officials in Ed Daein, which is over the minimum SPHERE standard required amount of water per person, measured at 7.5 – 15 litres per day.

IDPs are allowed 10 free jerry cans of water per household per day, which is considered sufficient for a family of six. For any additional water, the community charges a fee to cover operational and maintenance costs. A steel barrel of water costs 5 SDG (about \$0.17), and 6 SDG (\$0.21) for a plastic barrel.

The provision of clean water helps improve hygiene and health, contributing to a decrease in the prevalence of water-borne diseases, the second leading cause of death of children under five in Sudan, after pneumonia (according to the World Health Organization).

Access to safe and sufficient drinking water is also helping to combat the immediate and underlying risks of malnutrition for 13,700 children under five, who represent about 16 per cent of the camp population.

Besides the obvious health benefits, the installation of the power grid with a solar system has reduced daily operational and maintenance costs by about 60 per cent. The solar system also saves on time spent for getting fuel and transportation, and reduces harmful emissions.



IDP women and girls collecting water at El Neem camp, East Darfur (UNICEF, May 2018)

Oxfam assists refugees and farmers in El Nimir refugee camp and Abu Karina, East Darfur

Oxfam is providing clean water and sanitation services to more than 15,500 refugees in El Nimir refugee camp and Abu Karinka in East Darfur

More than 15,500 refugees from South Sudan in El Nimir refugee camp and Abu Karinka in East Darfur are benefitting from WASH activities supported by the international NGO Oxfam, with funding from the EU Humanitarian Fund. As part of a 12-month project, which has started a year ago, and extended until December, so far, this year, 1,840 household latrines in El Nimir and El Ferdous refugee camps were built; about 6,100 hygiene kits were distributed; and 80 health promoters were trained to carry out hygiene education activities—including home visits, cleaning jerry cans, and mobilizing the community for a cleaning campaign.

Assistance to 600 farmers in eastern Sudan

With financial support from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and the Regione Toscana and Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano, Oxfam has provided this year 600 farmers with agricultural inputs in eastern Sudan's Sinkat locality. The agency also distributed 1,404 goats to 404 families in five villages, and undertook a vaccination campaign for 30,000 heads of cattle. Oxfam also rehabilitated six wells in two villages providing access to clean water to about 1,820 families.