



Briefing Notes Summary

Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration

Sudan – July to December 2024

31 December 2024

15 July 2024

Ongoing battles

On 11.07.24, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) announced on Facebook that attacks by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on the city of Sennar (Sennar state) had been repelled. Following the capture of the regional capital Singa on 29.06.24, this was considered a success.

The fighting is not only taking place in the city, but also in other regions of the state. The SAF is supported by various militias and Islamist groups such as the El Baraa Bin Malik Brigade. Despite the reported successes, the situation remains tense and uncertain. According to UN OCHA, up to 136,000 people have already been displaced due to the fighting in Sennar.

The NGO Sudan War Monitor warns that the RSF is advancing on the city of Sennar from the north, south and west and could soon encircle it. The NGO also said that there is increasing concern that the RSF could advance further into the state of Gedaref.¹

Humanitarian situation

According to media reports, the supply situation in two towns of Ed Damazin and El Roseires in Blue Nile state is deteriorating as they are isolated from the surrounding area. Due to the advance of the RSF in the northern state of Sennar, more and more people are fleeing to the two towns. In addition, the onset of the rainy season has restricted the movement of goods from the south, causing supply bottlenecks and price increases. The rain has currently cut the connections to South Sudan and Ethiopia. Another problem is that the communication networks in Blue Nile have been down for around twelve days. The only option is to use the Starlink service which is very expensive.

On 10.07.24, the NGO Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) announced the withdrawal of its team from the Turkish hospital in Khartoum. The hospital is located in the RSF-controlled El Kalakla neighbourhood. According to MSF, several violent incidents inside and outside the hospital over the past twelve months and multiple threats against medical staff led to the decision to withdraw the team. As areas controlled by the RSF are sanctioned and isolated by the SAF, no medical supplies can be delivered there. This also makes it impossible to rotate the MSF team. According to MSF, the hospital is still in operation after the team's withdrawal, but surgery is no longer possible. The Bashay Teaching Hospital, which is also supported by MSF, was repeatedly targeted by violence in the form of attacks and looting in recent months. Surgery was suspended between October 2023 and January 2024 due to the poor security situation.²

22 July 2024

Humanitarian situation

The UN-initiated talks in Geneva between the Sudanese military (SAF) and the paramilitary organisation Rapid Support Forces (RSF) ended on 19.07.24 largely without results. The talks lasted from 11.07. to 19.07.24 and were conducted indirectly by envoys of both parties. The main objective was to establish secure access to humanitarian aid in the country. According to the UN Special Envoy for Sudan, however, there were only announcements of unilateral commitments to improve the humanitarian situation and the protection of the civilian population by the representatives of the SAF and RSF.

According to the UNHCR, up to 143,000 people have been displaced from the city of Al Fasher and its surroundings in the past three months alone because of the ongoing fighting between the army and the RSF. With a current total of over eleven million internally displaced people, Sudan is the country which has the largest proportion of internally displaced persons worldwide, says the UNHCR. Of these, 7.8 million people have been displaced specifically by the ongoing fighting since April 2023. In addition, over two million people have fled abroad since April 2023, reports the UNHCR.

The three UN organisations FAO, UNICEF and WFP are warning of a drastic deterioration in living conditions for the people of Sudan. Currently, 755,000 people are in a disastrous situation (IPC-5) due to the continuing deterioration of the situation. This is the first time that IPC Phase 5 has been declared in Sudan since 2004. There is also a risk of famine in 14 regions, with 25.6 million people affected by acute hunger (IPC-3+), according to these UN organisations.³

29 July 2024

Ongoing battles

According to media reports, units of the paramilitary organisation Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have captured the town of El Souki in the state of Sennar. Sennar has been heavily contested for several weeks, especially after the RSF succeeded in capturing the regional capital Singa (cf. BN of 15.07.24).

In North Darfur, at least 25 people were killed in a drone and artillery attack by the RSF on the regional capital El Fasher. According to unconfirmed reports, also chemical weapons were used in the attack.⁴

New negotiations

At the instigation of the USA, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the RSF have been invited to Switzerland for talks on 14.08.24. The format is organised by the US and Saudi Arabia, with the African Union, the UN, Egypt and the UAE participating as observers. The aim is to bring an end to the violence throughout the country and create access for humanitarian aid. A control mechanism is also to be implemented to monitor all future agreements and their implementation.

The current plans follow the UN's most recent unsuccessful attempt in early July 2024 to bring the warring parties to the negotiating table. At that time, one of the invited delegations did not turn up for the agreed talks.⁵

05 August 2024

Ongoing battles

According to media reports, a Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) base in Jabiat, around 100 kilometres south of the interim capital Port Sudan, was attacked by a drone that killed five people on 31.07.2014. At the time of the attack, an army graduation ceremony was taking place, which was also attended by General al-Burhan. Al-Burhan blamed the paramilitary organisation Rapid Support Forces (RSF) for the attack and announced that he would no longer negotiate with the RSF. He cancelled his participation in the talks scheduled in Switzerland for 14.08.24 (cf. BN of 29.07.24). A spokesman for the RSF denied any responsibility for the attack.

The deputy commander-in-chief of the SAF explained that the SAF intended to fight until the RSF was defeated or had given up. He also said that al-Burhan had announced that he would resign and hand over his office to one of his deputies.

According to media reports, the army has managed to take control of several neighbourhoods in the west of the city of Omdurman since 01.08.24 pushing back RSF units. In addition, the first battles between the SAF and RSF in Blue Nile state took place on 03.08.24, with the SAF repelling an attack by the RSF, the reports said. Contrary to this, the RSF claimed to have conquered areas in Blue Nile State. The respective statements could not be independently verified.⁶

Humanitarian situation

On 01.08.24, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) declared that the Zamzam Camp in El Fasher, North Darfur, exceeded the threshold for the classification as famine (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification - IPC 5) in June 2024. In two other camps in the region around El Fasher, Abu Shouk and El Salam, a famine is likely according to FEWS NET, but cannot yet be classified accordingly due to a lack of data. FEWS NET also believes that the conditions in the city of El Fasher itself is likely to be categorised as famine (IPC 5). IPC 5 is the highest level of this system defining areas in which at least one in five persons or households suffers from acute food shortages and is at risk of hunger and hardship. Since the system was introduced 20 years ago, the current classification is the third time that a famine has been declared.⁷

12 August 2024

Ongoing battles

According to media reports, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) bombed the Zamzam camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) south of the town of El Fasher (North Darfur) in the night of 04.08. to 05.08.24. According to the reports, two barrel bombs were dropped, one of which did not detonate. Nevertheless, more than 20 dwellings were destroyed and several people were injured. This was the first time that the Zamzam camp, which is home to around 500,000 people, has been hit in the ongoing conflict. Two other camps in North Darfur, Abu Shouk Camp and Abuja Camp, have each been hit several times in recent months by shelling from the SAF or the paramilitary ha On 03.08.24, the town of El Fasher itself was also shelled by RSF artillery, resulting in 23 deaths and 60 injuries.⁸

19 August 2024

Ongoing battles

According to media reports, units of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) militia attacked a village on the western bank of the Blue Nile in the state of Sennar last week. More than 100 civilians were killed in the attack. The cause of the escalation was an attempt by some RSF fighters to abduct women and girls, which male villagers prevented. A few hours after the incident, reinforced RSF forces returned to the village and opened fire indiscriminately.

According to further media reports, RSF forces attacked several villages in the states of Sennar and El Gezira on 16.08.24, forcing some of the residents to flee and looting their homes. In other cases, the residents were prevented from fleeing and the wounded were not treated. In total, almost 30 people lost their lives.

On 17.08.24, members of the resistance committees from Khartoum North reported the bombing of a residential neighbourhood in this area of the city by the Sudanese army (SAF). Nine people were killed.⁹

Negotiations to end the talks and humanitarian situation

The talks in Geneva initiated by the US took place on 14.08.24 without the participation of representatives of the SAF (cf. BN of 29.07. and 05.08.24). According to the US special envoy for Sudan, the three-day talks between the RSF and the delegations from Egypt and Saudi Arabia were nevertheless very positive. Despite the boycott by the SAF, they were in constant contact with both parties and were thus able to mediate.

On 15.08.24, the transitional military government announced that the border crossing with Chad near the town of Adré would be opened for humanitarian supplies for three months. The process would be coordinated and organised in cooperation with Qatar.¹⁰

02 September 2024

Humanitarian situation

In addition to the effects of the ongoing fighting in Sudan, the humanitarian situation of the population is deteriorating drastically due to climatic effects. Above-average rainfall is causing flooding in western, southern and eastern Sudan.

In the southern part of the Red Sea state, the Khor Baraka River repeatedly burst its banks on 01.09.24, flooding large parts of the town of Toker and parts of the town of Agig to the south. As the region relies on agriculture and is struggling with bottlenecks in the drinking water supply, the Famine Early Warning Network has classified both towns as the second-highest level (Phase 4 - Emergency).

In North Darfur, the camp for internally displaced persons Abu Shouk, located near El-Fasher, was hit by floods, destroying more than 3,000 shelters. In addition, all general kitchens in the camp have been out of order for over a month due to a lack of food and financial support.

The Northern State is suffering from numerous floods caused by heavy rainfall on 27.08.24, which destroyed houses and roads. The media report nine fatalities.¹¹

09 September 2024

Ongoing battles

According to media reports, at least 21 people died and more than 70 were injured in a heavy artillery attack staged by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) militia on the town of Sennar (Sennar State) on 08.09.24. Since the capture of the regional capital Singa at the end of June 2024, Sennar has been the focus of the RSF's military efforts. The latest attack reportedly targeted the city's main market, including the fish market and residential neighbourhoods.

The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) claimed that the largest drone attack to date on the town of El-Fasher (North Darfur) was repelled on 08.09.24. According to the report, around 30 drones were shot down.

With reference to eyewitness reports, the media report that the SAF stepped up its efforts to attack positions and towns under RSF control in the last three weeks. As the civilian population is repeatedly harmed in the process the SAF's activities provoke strong protests.¹²

Humanitarian situation

Due to the ongoing fighting and the resulting deterioration of the supply situation, more and more diseases are spreading in the country. According to the Ministry of Health, no medical aid can be provided in the areas under RSF control, nor can they be epidemiologically monitored. For example, although it is known that a new variant of Mpox (also known as monkeypox) has emerged, there is insufficient information about its spread. Similar problems concern the spread of cholera, bacterial dermatitis, scabies, tuberculosis, hepatitis, measles and other diseases.¹³

30 September 2024

Ongoing battles

According to media reports, the Sudanese army (SAF) launched a large-scale offensive against positions of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) militia in the capital on the evening of 24.09.24. The fighting continued until at least 28.09.24.

Shortly after the outbreak of the war between the SAF and RSF in April 2023, RSF units succeeded in taking control of large parts of the capital and are holding them to this day. The latest offensive is the SAF's first major attempt in several months to recapture areas in the capital. The extent to which the offensive was successful for the SAF or whether it is continuing was not clear from previous reporting.

Fighting is also ongoing in El-Fasher, North Darfur. On 27.09.24 RSF artillery attacks killed 19 people and injured dozens. Civilian targets such as the town's cattle market and the two refugee camps Abu Shouk and Zamzam are repeatedly coming under heavy fire.¹⁴

21 October 2024

Worsening of the humanitarian situation

According to the latest reports in the press, clashes have occurred once again between the rival forces of the Sudanese Army (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). Humanitarian aid organisations are said to be leaving the region as a result. Local emergency relief facilities run by civilians have also been unable to contain the crisis. According to the UN, the military conflict has also caused the world's largest displacement crisis, with more than 11 million people having fled to refugee camps and neighbouring countries. The UN further reported at the beginning of October 2024 that famine and the outbreak of diseases such as cholera had further exacerbated the already critical humanitarian situation.¹⁵

04 November 2024

Fighting continues

Mid-October once again witnessed heavy fighting between the Sudanese army (SAF) and the paramilitary militia Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in the Gezira region. RSF attacks on a number of villages and small towns reportedly left 120 people dead, 200 injured and drove up to 47,000 people from their homes. The UN Security Council suspects that war crimes may have been perpetrated. The attacks are also said to have entailed serious sexual violence, including rape, abductions in particular of women and girls and looting. According to reports in the media, the heavy fighting was sparked by RSF commander Abu Aqla Keikel's defection to the Sudanese army, together with a number of troop units.

Almost 25,000 people are said to have been killed and over 11 million people driven from their homes since the conflict broke out in April 2023.¹⁶

11 November 2024

Security situation and refugee movements

Dozens of civilians have reportedly been killed in air strikes carried out by the Sudanese army on the city of Nyala (South Darfur region). The number of casualties and the exact time of the attacks are unclear.

After several weeks of occupation by the paramilitary Rapid Support Services (RSF), 91 civilians are reported to have been killed in the town of Al-Hilaliya (Gezira region). The population of almost 100,000 lacks even the most basic provisions, particularly in the medical area. 79 people are said to have died after consuming food distributed by the RSF; 12 others have allegedly been shot dead. Ten civilians are believed to have been killed by RSF members in Barborab (Gezira region) on 04.11.24. HRW has condemned the RSF's actions against civilians in the region. The organisation accuses the RSF of having killed, injured and arrested many civilians and of having committed acts of sexual violence against civilians. The occupation of parts of Gezira took place after RSF commander Abu Aqla Keikel defected to the Sudanese army (cf. BN of 04.11.24) and has been ongoing since 20.10.24. In this period, 30 towns and villages are said to have been attacked, hundreds of people killed and 130,000 driven from their homes.

While the majority of those who have fled their homes all over the country are internally displaced, some are also fleeing to neighbouring countries. At present, approx. 1.2 million people have sought refuge in Egypt and 680,000 refugees are staying in Chad. Both host countries have spoken of problems providing the refugees with food, healthcare and accommodation.¹⁷

25 November 2024

Violations of children's rights in Sudan war

According to the latest reports in the press, Sudan is experiencing the worst hunger crisis for 20 years as a result of the war which has been ongoing for more than one and a half years. UNICEF reports that the civil war in Sudan threatens millions of children. It estimates that 730,000 children are suffering from malnutrition, putting their lives in immediate danger. UNICEF further observes that "the health system and basic care and services for children are

at the point of collapse on account of the violence." More children have lost their homes in Sudan than in any other country in the world.¹⁸

16 December 2024

HRW documents war crimes in South Kordofan

It emerges from a report published by HRW on 10.12.24 that the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and militant Arab militias perpetrated war crimes against civilians, including executions, rape and abductions, in South Kordofan state between December 2023 and March 2024. HRW has reported in the past on serious human rights violations by the RSF and allied militias in other parts of Sudan. Neither the UN nor the African Union appears to have taken any concrete steps to protect civilians, however.¹⁹

Humanitarian situation

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) describes the situation in Sudan as the greatest humanitarian crisis worldwide. This emerges from reports in the media covering the publication of the IRC's "Emergency Watchlist 2025" on 10.12.24. 14.6 million people are reported to have been driven from their homes and almost 26 million people are said to be suffering from a substantial food deficit. According to the IRC, a famine which broke out at the Zamzam camp in North Darfur in July 2024 after months under siege by the RSF has already reached extreme proportions (cf. BN of 05.08. and 12.08.24). In the face of the prevailing security situation, the health system is said to be on the verge of collapse and practically unable to treat any patients (cf. BN of 09.09.24). In October 2024 Doctors Without Borders was temporarily forced to suspend the treatment of malnourished children at the camp. The organisation's hospital was reportedly evacuated after the camp came under fire on 02.12.24.²⁰

23 December 2024

US secretary of state announces humanitarian aid

According to reports in the media, US secretary of state Antony Blinken announced at the UN Security Council on 19.12.24 that the USA would be providing US\$ 200 million of humanitarian aid for Sudan. In cooperation with Egypt, the UAE, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, the African Union (AU) and the UN, the USA has reportedly provided medicine, food and shelter for approx. 3.5 million people. In this context, Blinken called on those countries which are supporting the warring parties with arms and profiting from the conflict to bring their influence to bear with the aim of ending the conflict.²¹

Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration
Briefing Notes
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