



In numbers



24.7 million people,
including **14 million children**,
in need of humanitarian assistance
and protection



20.3 million people in
high acute food insecurity



3.5 million children under
5 years of age acutely malnourished



Nearly **5.8 million** people
displaced since the war erupted in
April 2023, including +4.6 million
people internally displaced and
nearly 1.2 million crossing into
neighbouring countries



60–80% of the population relies
on agriculture as a main source of
food and income

Key points

- Between July and September 2023, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) responded to dire food security needs exacerbated by the outbreak of conflict in the Sudan. Through its emergency seed distribution campaign across 16 states, nearly 10 000 tonnes of seeds were delivered to 1 million farming households (5 million people) in time for the critical planting season. This not only strengthens their food security and nutrition for at least 12 months. As a multiplier effect, it also ensures farmers can produce enough food during that period to meet the cereal needs of between 13 and 19 million people.
- Between October and December 2023, FAO is providing agro/pastoralists with both vital livestock support to ensure their animals stay alive and healthy, and seeds to grow nutritious vegetables for the winter season. But a critical funding gap exists and vulnerable communities are at risk of losing support when they need it most.

Challenges facing food security and agriculture

The agriculture sector has the highest potential to increase food security and reduce rural poverty in the Sudan. However, serious challenges are limiting its potential, including climate change, overdependence on rainfed production systems in areas suitable for irrigation, a poorly maintained irrigation and drainage system, and inadequate rural infrastructure.



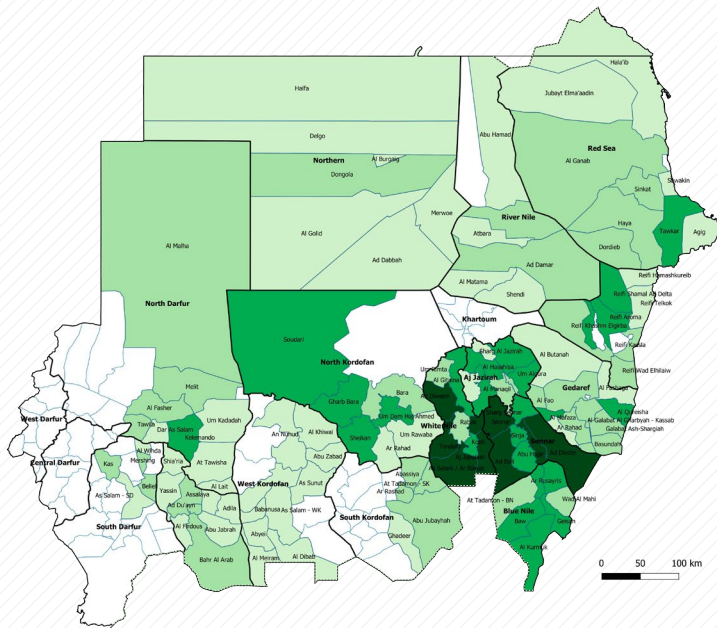
Further hindering the sector is an increasingly depleted natural resource base, limited skills in modern farming practices, the use of outdated farming technologies and farm management practices, and limited access to agricultural inputs (e.g. seeds and fertilizer), as well as land and water. The armed conflict, which erupted on 15 April 2023 between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, is exacerbating these challenges, thus worsening food security and plunging the population into a humanitarian crisis.

To alleviate the impact of the ongoing conflict on agriculture and address the high level of food insecurity, support to affected communities must be urgently scaled up to boost food production and rebuild livelihoods.

The summer planting season, which concurs with the rainy season from July to September, is the main crop production season in the Sudan, primarily for staple food crops (sorghum and millet). The armed conflict adversely affected the start of the agriculture season in June/July. The shortage and high cost of agricultural inputs, coupled with a lack of financial resources and a highly fragile security situation, were the main challenges affecting the start of the planting season.

According to FAO's forthcoming report on the progress of the 2023 main season agricultural performance, the total planted area of all crops is estimated to be 15 percent lower than the annual average during the summer season. Due to numerous challenges faced by farmers, there is a possibility that this reduction in planted area could have been higher. Therefore, this result can potentially be attributed to the seeds distributed by FAO and the efforts of its partners as well as of the farmers who proved willing to continue planting.

FAO seed distribution for the summer season (July–September 2023)



Number of households reached per locality



Final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.

Source of data: Authors' own elaboration based on seed distribution data from FAO Country Office in the Sudan.
 Source of map: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. 2023. Sudan - Subnational Administrative Boundaries. [Dataset]. In: *Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX)*. Khartoum. [Cited 26 October 2023].
<https://data.humdata.org/dataset/cod-ab-sdn/>

Funding

Under revised Humanitarian Response Plan (May–December 2023)

FUNDING GAP

USD 75.4 million

79%



FUNDING TO DATE*

USD 20 million

* Includes funding that was received in 2022 and reprogrammed following the events of 15 April 2023



FAO requires
USD 95.4 million



to assist
15 million people

Resource partners

The Governments of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and the United States of America, the United Nations' Central Emergency Response Fund and the Sudan Humanitarian Fund

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries. Dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

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Planned activities

Between November and December 2023, FAO plans to support 2 million agro/pastoral households through the following priority activities:

- **Protect and restore 1.3 million vulnerable households' livestock.**
 Support packages include animal health support (vaccination and treatment) and the distribution of milking goats, concentrate animal feed and mineral licks.
- **Enhance local food production through agriculture-based livelihoods assistance to 0.7 million households.**
 Assistance packages include vegetable seeds for the winter season (carrot, cucumber, okra, onion, tomato and watermelon).

Response to date

As of end-September, FAO reached nearly 1 million farming households (5 million people) with about 10 000 tonnes of seeds (sorghum, millet, sesame and groundnut) in 16 out of the 18 states of the Sudan. This support helps strengthen household food security and nutrition for at least 12 months. As a multiplier effect, it also ensures farmers can produce enough food during that period to meet the cereal needs of between 13 and 19 million people.

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