



Situation Report #6

July 26, 2023

The World Health Organization has confirmed 53 attacks on health care operations since mid-April. This particular facility in Khartoum continued to receive patients following an attack in June. This photo was sent to Project HOPE by hospital staff who asked to remain anonymous due to security concerns.

Key Highlights



Project HOPE's two Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHKs) have arrived in Port Sudan and are currently clearing customs for onward distribution to Khartoum and surrounding communities.



More than **3.5 million people** have been displaced by the conflict, which entered its **100th day** this week.



Reports of rape, sexual violence, and abuse have increased significantly since the start of this crisis, with approximately **4.2 million women and girls** affected by the conflict at an increased risk of gender-based violence (GBV).



Our local partner, **Nada Elazhar for Disaster Prevention and Sustainable Development (NADA)**, has activated a hotline for GBV survivors and is providing health, counseling, and case management services to displaced families and refugees in North Darfur State and Northern State.

Situation Overview

The conflict in Sudan has passed the 100-day mark with no progress in peace talks or consistent ceasefire agreements. Since the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces began fighting in mid-April, the Federal Ministry of Health has reported 705 people killed and 5,287 injured, although this number is likely underreported as only injuries and deaths reported to health facilities are included in that count. Reporting from news outlets paints a grim picture, with CNN reporting today that over the past two months more than 10,000 people have been killed in El Geneina, a city in West Darfur. In addition, towns have been burned to the ground and houses looted, suggesting that true death and injury counts are much higher.

The humanitarian situation has continued to deteriorate over the past three months. More than 3.5 million people have been displaced by the conflict, with 2.6 million internally displaced in Sudan and almost 750,000 crossing the border into neighboring countries.

The Health Cluster team in Sudan, coordinated by WHO, has reported that 75% of Khartoum's health facilities are non-functional. In addition, there have been 53 attacks on health care operations in the country since April 15, including attacks on health facilities, personnel, warehouses, and transport.

Project HOPE's partners in Sudan have reported that **health providers in Khartoum are overworked, unpaid, underfed, and living inside hospitals in an effort to support their communities**. Of additional concern are the reports that health workers have been targeted by the warring forces for interrogation or worse.

The number of sexual violence and GBV incidents has increased dramatically as community safeguards for women and children have broken down due to the violence. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has stated that nearly 100 reports of sexual violence against women and girls have been reported by Sudan's Ministry of Social Development, but the true numbers are expected to be much higher as shame, fear of retaliation, and the chaos of war prevent many survivors from reporting and/or seeking care. With more than 3.5 million people displaced, many women and children are living in informal settlements and other situations that put them at an increased risk of sexual violence and GBV. Additionally, with limited access to food and water, women and children are forced to travel farther than usual to secure essential resources, which also increases their risk of harm.

Project HOPE's local partner, NADA, has been operating a GBV hotline and providing mental health counseling and case management services to survivors of gender-based violence. NADA has identified GBV as a significant threat throughout this crisis and reports working with at least one family that lost a loved one to suicide who was raped. This is of grave concern as the nearly 4.2 million women and girls affected by the conflict are at an increased risk of gender-based violence (GBV).



Project HOPE's partner, NADA, distributes dignity kits to newly arrived IDPs affected by the conflict in the Al-Fashir area. Photo by NADA staff, 2023

The scale of humanitarian need in Sudan has grown exponentially since fighting began, with **24.7 million people** — more than half the country's population — in need of urgent humanitarian support. To meet the needs of the Sudanese communities and families trying to survive this crisis, humanitarian actors like Project HOPE will need reliable access to safe and secure supply routes, the lack of which has been a constant and complex obstacle since mid-April.

How Project HOPE and Our Partners Are Responding

Project HOPE has been responding to this crisis through our local partner, **Nada Elazhar for Disaster Prevention and Sustainable Development (NADA)**, to provide support for internally displaced people (IDPs), Sudanese communities experiencing an influx of IDPs, and refugees looking to leave the country entirely.

NADA has been providing support to displaced families and refugees in North Darfur State and Northern State through comprehensive case management, counseling, provision of medications, and referral services to higher-level care.

NADA has also activated a hotline to reach sexual violence and GBV survivors and provide psychosocial support services remotely in coordination with the United Nations Population Fund. NADA personnel are currently able to provide support in Amharic, Tigre, Tigrinya, Arabic, and English.

Additionally, NADA has provided Psychological First Aid training to health workers in Kassala and West Nile States, both of which are seeing high numbers of IDPs. NADA also has continued to hold information sessions for IDPs on Explosive Ordinance Risk Education (EORE) and created social media posts for North Darfur State's Information Department.

NADA launched and completed four public information campaigns in Al-Fashir, Zalingei, and Jebel Marra, focusing on GBV, EORE, and child protection. In addition to in-person sessions, an estimated 125,000 people were reached via radio messages across Sudan in the first two weeks of July.

Project HOPE has been working with both local and international partners to deliver two IEHKs to health facilities operating in Khartoum and the surrounding areas. Combined, these IEHKs will be able to serve the primary health needs of 20,000 people for up to three months. The kits arrived in Port Sudan earlier this week and are currently clearing customs for onward delivery. An additional shipment of 36,000 bottles of antibiotics is currently being scheduled for offloading from the Port of Sudan.

Even prior to this conflict, Sudan was home to a dire humanitarian situation. The country's health system was already stretched thin due to a lack of skilled health workers and inconsistent access in rural areas, which contributed to high child and maternal mortality rates and an increased number of deaths from outbreaks of communicable diseases. The current crisis has only exacerbated these challenges.

Project HOPE continues to secure funding and additional supplies to support the dire humanitarian needs in Sudan. Our team will continue to coordinate with local and international actors and agencies to determine other potential avenues of support and we will continue to adapt our intervention to address the greatest needs as the context evolves. Project HOPE echoes our counterparts in calling for the designation of safe and secure delivery routes for the provision of urgently needed humanitarian assistance.

Project HOPE previously operated in Sudan during the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting more than 1,200 health workers and 14,000 community members through mental health and COVID-19 response training.