

ERC's first visit to Sudan and Chad to support the humanitarian operation in Sudan

The newly appointed UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), Tom Fletcher, visited Sudan from 23 to 28 November 2024. During his visit, he met with the President of the Transitional Sovereignty Council General Abdelfattah al-Burhan and RSF representatives. He urged parties to the conflict to protect civilians and facilitate unhindered access to population in need throughout Sudan. The Sudanese authorities announced the opening of airports in El Obeid, Kadugli, and Ed Damazine for humanitarian flights and the establishment of humanitarian supply hubs at these locations.

In November UNHAS started once a week flight to Kassala and Dongola and a humanitarian partner delivered medical supplies by air to Ed Damazine for the first time since April 2023.

Fighting and insecurity affecting humanitarian access

In November, hostilities along the Sudan-Chad border in North Darfur escalated, impacting delivery of critical aid supplies and services particularly to sieged town of El Fasher and Zamzam camp. Meanwhile, fighting escalated in Aj Jazirah, Sennar and Khartoum states, further jeopardizing civilian lives, supply chains, humanitarian movements and presence.

Active hostilities in many areas forced humanitarian organizations to rely on alternative routes and modalities to deliver assistance, but these routes are often subject to security risks and logistical constraints. They also entail the challenges of movements through conflict lines and long distances through rough remote desert areas where criminal groups are present

Bureaucratic impediments and obstruction of access

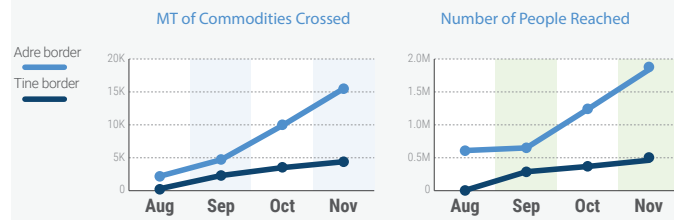
Bureaucratic and administrative impediments continue to hinder humanitarian access and assistance to vulnerable people. It was reported that parties to the conflict deliberately impeded population freedom of movement and in some extreme cases demanded ransom from civilians seeking to flee to safer areas. Furthermore, RSF reportedly issued directives banning civilians from traveling outside of Aj Jazirah, except for certain urgent cases. This has effectively trapped civilians in conflict zones, leading to casualties and suffering.

While there is an improvement in visa issuance, delays in obtaining visas and travel permits continue to hinder the effective deployment of humanitarian staff to the field and the transportation of essential supplies. For INGOs, out of 139 visa applications submitted during November only 25 were approved with 55 per cent pending for more than four weeks. Some planned humanitarian hubs are yet to be operationalized due to lack of approval from authorities and insecurity.

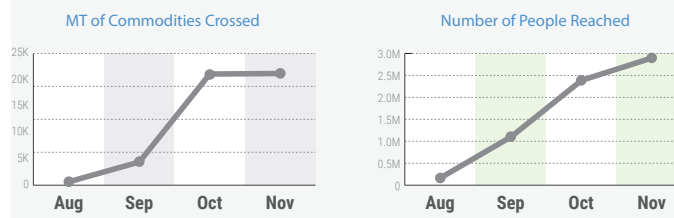
Cross-border aid movement

On 13 November, the Sudanese authorities decided to extend the use of Adre crossing point for additional three months to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid to those in need in Darfur. Since 20 August, over 560 relief trucks have crossed from Chad through Adre, transporting essential supplies like food, nutrition items, shelter materials, and medical equipment. This significant increase in aid deliveries demonstrates the importance of the Adre border crossing as a crucial lifeline for humanitarian assistance in Darfur and the need to open other cross border crossings to reach millions of affected people trapped in the conflict.

Humanitarian Convoy - cross border (Aug - Nov 2024)



Humanitarian Convoy - crossline (Aug - Nov 2024)



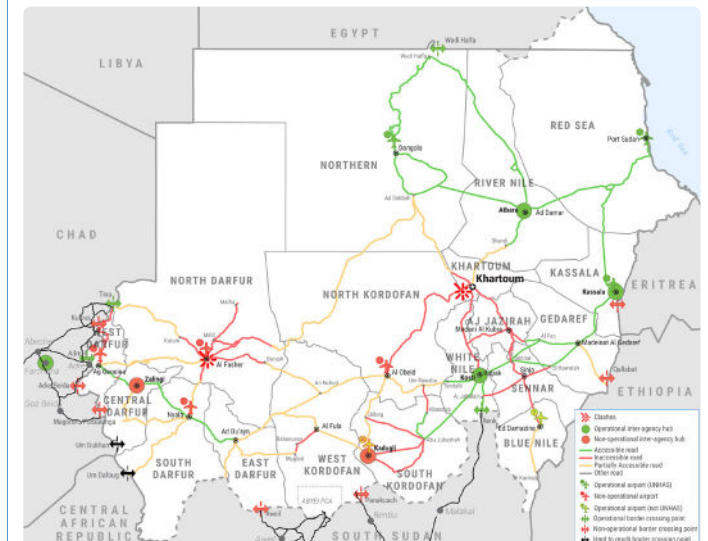
Violence against humanitarian staff and assets

Local frontline humanitarian volunteer teams, known as Emergency Response Rooms (ERR), have been targeted, with over 50 volunteers killed and 50 detained since April 2023. This has significantly limited their ability to provide essential supplies to vulnerable communities. Many other humanitarian organizations have also faced attacks and disruptions on a regular basis, resulting in casualties and damage to facilities. During November, a UN staff member was abducted in El Daein (East Darfur), another detained in Aj Jazirah and a UN humanitarian staff member was killed in Al Fasher.

Interference in humanitarian activities

Parties to the conflict in Darfur have obstructed and looted aid convoys, forcing them to re-route and delaying critical supplies. Some local communities have also blocked aid trucks in response to violence and human rights abuses by parties to the conflict and protesting lack of assistance. These challenges have affected the delivery of life-saving aid to vulnerable population.

Humanitarian Access Constraints Map (Nov 2024)



Accessible: Movement from location A to location B is fully within the control of one of the parties to the conflict.
Partially accessible: Part of the route is controlled by SAF, the other part is controlled by RSF or another party to the conflict. With partially accessible, these are high risk so always we need to notify both parties to the conflict.
Inaccessible: Cross line movements where there is active fighting and/or criminality. A second criteria for an inaccessibility classification is adverse climatic conditions, notably the rainy season.