

One Year of War on Sudan's Children

FACTSHEET

Sudan is facing a humanitarian catastrophe of epic proportions. The conflict in Sudan is severely putting at risk the health and well-being of Sudan's 24 million children, thereby affecting the future of the country and heavily impacting the wider region.

The children of Sudan have now been robbed of one year of their childhood after enduring a full year of violence, trauma, displacement, and devastation which has left permanent scars. Millions of children were forced to flee their homes, making Sudan the biggest child displacement crisis in the world. Civilian infrastructure across Sudan has been decimated, leaving children and communities without essential services like clean water and basic health care.

The loss of family income and the socioeconomic fallout from the war are devastating to the well-being of children- depriving them of vital resources and opportunities for their future. The brutal war is creating the perfect storm for famine and a catastrophic loss of children's lives. Close to 4 million children suffer from acute malnutrition, and 730,000 of them suffer from the most severe form

that requires immediate medical attention. Almost half of the children suffering from severe acute malnutrition are located in areas that are hard to access, where there is ongoing fighting. Hunger and undernutrition make children, in particular, much more vulnerable to disease and death. Child vaccination coverage is dropping, and with disease outbreaks such as cholera, measles, malaria, and dengue, hundreds of thousands are at significant risk of dying. Water infrastructure has been destroyed – creating an even greater risk of water borne diseases. Schools have been closed in most states of Sudan since the start of the war, making the country one of the worst learning crises in the world. Schools, which were once centers of learning, have now become shelters for internally displaced children, highlighting the desperate need for safe havens amid the chaos of war.

In areas where children have fled to, including in neighbouring countries, Sudanese children encounter numerous obstacles in accessing essential services, including education and healthcare. The profound impact of the war on their mental health cannot be overstated, with potential

long-term consequences for future generations. These displaced and refugee children are in desperate need of safety, stability, and psychosocial support as they navigate the challenges of starting over in unfamiliar surroundings. Moreover, those who have been separated from their families are at heightened risk of exploitation, recruitment into armed groups, abuse, and trafficking as they flee violence.

After 365 days of conflict, the children of Sudan must not be abandoned to the war's horrific impact. Without urgent action and additional resources, the country risks a generational catastrophe that will have grave implications for the country, the region and beyond.

Above all, Sudan's children need a ceasefire. NOW.

Impact on Children:

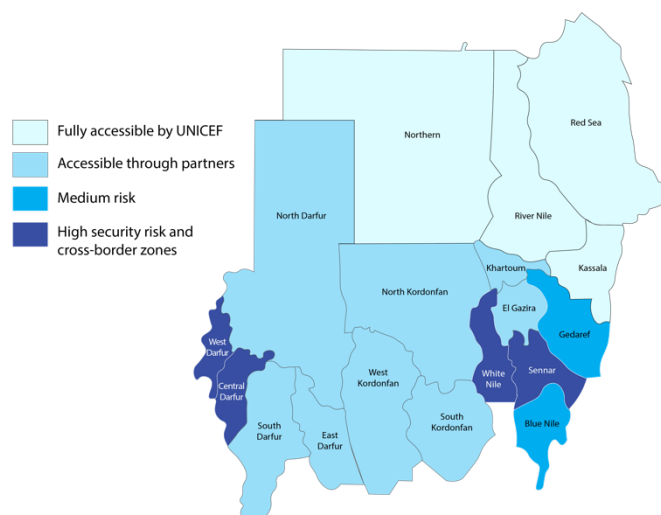
- **14 million children in Sudan**, half of the children in the country, are in dire need of humanitarian assistance.
- **Sudan is now the world's largest child displacement crisis**, with more than 4 million children who have fled their homes since the start of the conflict.
- **Close to 4 million children are projected to suffer from acute malnutrition** this year, including 730,000 who are expected to suffer from severe wasting – the deadliest form.
- Sudan now has one of the worst education crises in the world. **Over 90 percent of the country's 19 million school-age children** have no access to a formal education.
- **Frontline workers, including health workers and teachers, have yet to be paid their salaries** since the eruption of the conflict.
- **Hunger is reaching catastrophic levels; 17.7 million people - approximately over a third of the population – are acutely food insecure** (IPC Phase 3 and above), including about 4.9 million who are experiencing emergency levels of food insecurity.

UNICEF's Response:

Since the beginning of the war, UNICEF has been on the ground providing immediate and life-saving humanitarian aid to the children of Sudan. Despite the difficult humanitarian and security situation, UNICEF and its partners have been working tirelessly to deliver assistance to children and their families affected by the war.

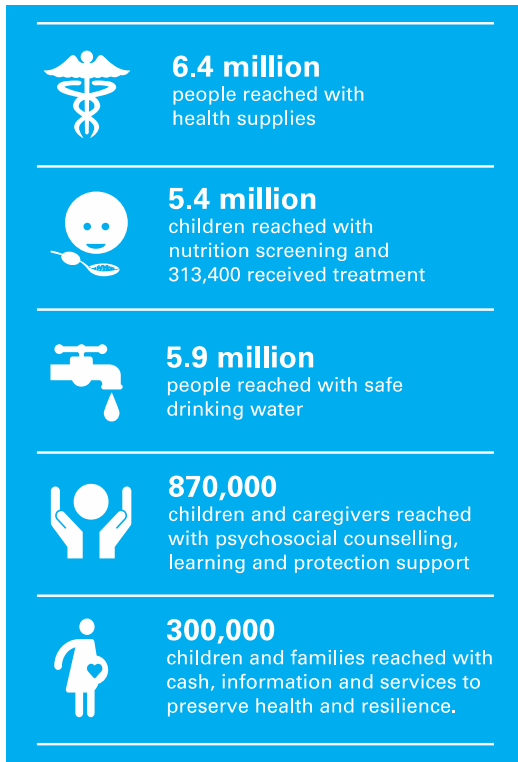
In Sudan, UNICEF works in Health, Nutrition, WASH, Child Protection, and Social Protection for the most vulnerable children and their families.

In 2023, despite the onset of the war in April, UNICEF continued to stay and deliver and achieved the following:

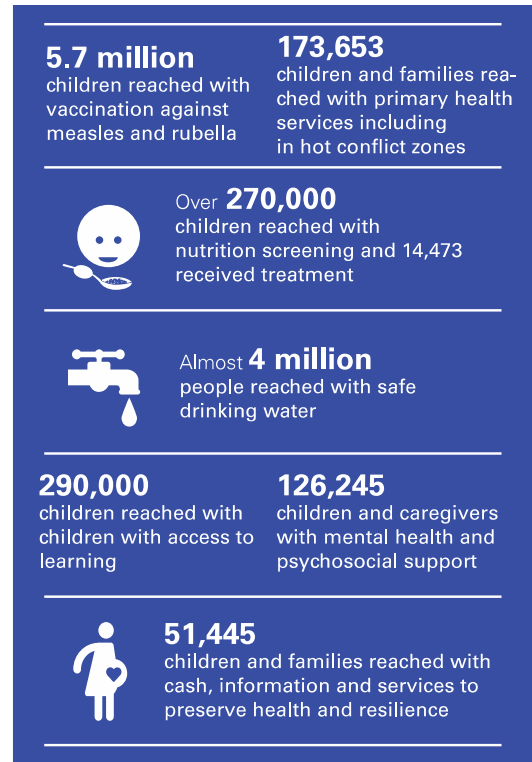


UNICEF Sudan is staying and delivering

2023 Annual Results



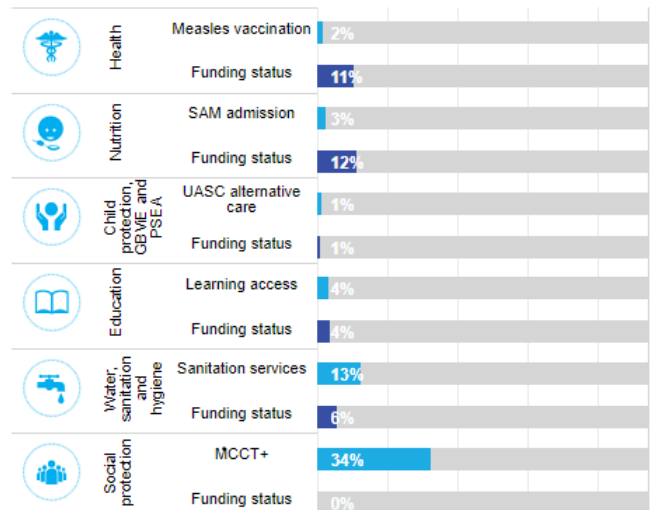
2024 Results as of April



Key Asks:

- **Protection:** Parties to the conflict have a moral imperative and legal responsibility to provide children with the special protection that is their right. In particular, parties must take concrete measures to prevent and end the killing and maiming of children; the recruitment and use of children in the conflict; and all forms of sexual violence.
- **Humanitarian access:** Parties to the conflict must enable rapid, sustained, and unimpeded humanitarian access – both across conflict lines within Sudan and across borders with Sudan’s neighboring countries.
- **Ceasefire and political solution:** Most importantly – 24 million children across Sudan need and deserve peace. They need a ceasefire. They need a lasting political solution.

UNICEF RESPONSE AND FUNDING STATUS*



* UNICEF response % is only for the indicator, the funding status is for the entire sector.

RESOURCES NEEDED TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING CHILDREN IN SUDAN:

UNICEF aims to provide essential services in child protection, gender-based violence, health, nutrition, WASH education, and cash support to the most vulnerable children and families. To achieve this goal and reach 10 million children and their families in 2024, UNICEF requires funding of \$840 million.



Malaz shares a light moment with her two-year-old Aida at their home in Kassala state, Sudan

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