

HIGHLIGHTS

- Heavy rains and flash floods have affected more than 17,000 people in parts of western and eastern Sudan since the onset of the rainy season.
- In Kassala, where about 10,700 people have been affected, localized flooding and stagnant water continue to impact families.
- In North Darfur, more than 5,600 people have been displaced by heavy rains and flooding.
- Humanitarian partners are working with authorities to scale up response and to address the immediate needs of the flood-affected people.
- Heavy rains are projected between 31 July and 7 August over some areas in central, eastern and western Sudan, which is likely to lead to floods.



Heavy rainfall and flooding have affected internally displaced people in eastern Sudan.
Photo: OCHA/Lokuju Peter

SITUATION OVERVIEW

More than 17,000 people have been affected by heavy rains and flooding in parts of western and eastern Sudan since the onset of the rainy season. This includes an estimated 10,700 flood-affected people in Kassala State, most of whom fled recent hostilities in Sennar State; about 5,600 people in North Darfur; an estimated 500 people in East Darfur and another 210 people in Kulbus, West Darfur. Five people died, including two minors while swimming in the Gash River, while five people were injured in Kassala State. The actual number of affected people is yet to be determined, as authorities and humanitarian partners continue to assess the impact of heavy rains and flooding among host communities, refugees, and IDPs who settled in Kassala after the war broke out in April 2023. Initial assessments indicate that 67 houses were destroyed in Kassala; 20 houses were destroyed and another 154 were damaged in Aroma; about 75 houses were destroyed and 72 damaged in Makaly village, and three houses were destroyed and 37 damaged in Gharb Kassala locality. In addition, flooding has affected 33 schools in Kassala State.

Heavy rains and flooding also affected an unspecified number of people and homes in Aroma, Shamal Al Delta, Reifi Kassala, and Gharb Kassala localities. In Aroma locality, 33 shops and two religious school buildings were affected. Flooding has also inundated farmland and displaced many people in villages in the North Delta along the River Gash. Lack of proper shelter is exposing some of the displaced people, mainly women, girls, and children, to bad weather conditions and possible forms of abuse. The rains have also washed away identity documents of IDPs critical for their access to basic services. The priority needs of the affected people include relocation to shelters and buildings in dryer areas, construction of a new site to host the IDPs, food and non-food items, access to safe water and sanitation, an ambulance, dignity kits, and psychosocial support. The Kassala State Ministry of Health and Social Development (SMoHSD) has so far reported 42 suspected cases of cholera. In addition, an assessment by Health Cluster partners revealed an increase in malaria, respiratory diseases, diarrhea, and skin infections cases amongst IDPs.

With heavy rains projected to fall in the Eritrean and Ethiopian highlands next week, the Gash River water levels may rise leading to further flooding in Kassala town and villages in the localities of Aroma, North Delta and Telkok. Meanwhile, very heavy rainfall expected between 31 July and 7 August over some parts of central, eastern and western Sudan will likely lead to flooding, the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) Disaster Operations Centre [reported](#). Communities in the areas at risk are advised to exercise caution during this period.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Humanitarian partners are working with the authorities to respond to the immediate needs of the flood-affected people. Humanitarian partners have provided tents, food, and non-food items, temporary water supply, and sanitation systems, and are ready to scale up the response once the local authorities identify a suitable site for the relocation of internally displaced people. The Civil Defense Police are draining water from inundated areas in IDP gathering sites, but additional equipment is required. The Kassala State Government allocated a new plot of land to accommodate 3,720 persons affected by floods.

Food Security partners provided about 16,300 people with food assistance, including hot meals and food kits. A local food partner is providing daily hot meals for 2,325 people (1,800 people in Omer Alhaj Musa school and 525 people in Alsinayia schools). Another partner provided food assistance to about 2,500 people – including 2,000 new IDPs from Sennar in Kassala and 500 in Reifi Aroma locality. High-energy food and biscuits were provided to 11,500 people in Kassala, and this includes those affected by flooding. This response will be followed by a second round of wet feeding assistance targeting 11,000 IDPs.

WASH Cluster partners have ramped up response and provided potable water, latrines and hygiene supplies to about 3,900 people in Reifi Gharb Kassala and Kassala town. WASH partners continue to install new latrines, but additional resources are needed to ensure adequate access to sanitation facilities. Solid waste management is also ongoing in IDP gathering points in Kassala by local authorities.

After assessing the new site, the **Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Cluster** partners have delivered emergency shelter supplies as they do site planning. Non-food items (NFIs) were distributed to about 200 families (about 1,000 people) at the Saudi referral hospital and 300 plastic sheets to IDPs at Al-Sanaiya reception center and surrounding areas. Some 191 NFI kits were provided to IDP families in Omer Alhaj Musa school.

In response to concerns raised by some of the flood-affected communities, **the Protection Cluster** established protection information desks at the Saudi Referral Hospital to receive, process, and refer reports of abuse, sexual exploitation, trafficking and other violations. By 1 August, 227 people with specific needs were identified through this service. Protection assessments were conducted at the new site. Child-friendly safe spaces have been established to provide psychosocial and recreation services for more than 3,500 displaced children in Kassala town and two localities.

With support from **Nutrition Cluster partners**, local health authorities have established three temporary nutrition sites in Kassala town and Alhafayer Hospital in West Kassala locality and this is integrated within primary health care (PHC) services.

Health Cluster partners together with authorities are conducting vector control campaigns in Kassala, New Halfa, and Khashm El Girba. Support was scaled up at seven healthcare clinics as well as at three referral hospitals through emergency re-stocking of medical supplies. Rapid Response teams (RRTs) were activated and equipped at state and locality levels for urgent response to health emergencies. Nine primary healthcare centers in Kassala, and five other clinics in New Halfa, Khashm El Girba and Wad Elhilaw are being supported. Local health authorities are providing family planning services to IDPs in Kassala locality. Reproductive health activities, including through a referral system and emergency support services at the Kassala Maternity Hospital, are being provided. A mental health and psychosocial needs assessment was conducted among IDPs in Kassala and Rural Kassala.

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<https://www.unocha.org/sudan>

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<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/sudan>