



Humanitarian Challenges Facing Civilians in North

Kordofan

Sudan Scope Media and Research

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Humanitarian Challenges Facing Civilians in North Kordofan

Introduction

Following the outbreak of war in 2023, the states of Greater Kordofan witnessed population displacement operations. As battles intensified in the following year, displacement rates among residents of the Kordofan states rose to record levels. In the third year of the war, fighting concentrated primarily in the Kordofan states, placing civilians themselves under bombardment and violations by warring parties that affect all civilians under their control.

In response, local civil society in relatively stable areas sought to engage with those affected by accommodating those fleeing battles in homes or public institutions. After a few months, the number of displaced people exceeded the capacity of local communities. Committees formed by residents of safe areas began searching for assistance outside the region. According to the El Obeid Emergency Room, there is a large gap between the real needs of the displaced and host communities and the available resources.

With the continuation of battles this year, the flow of displaced people fleeing certain death has increased. Unless sufficient pressure is exerted on all parties to the conflict and the external parties funding them, all available military equipment possessed by the warring parties will certainly be used in the Kordofan region, whose residents are now suffering from a record level of displacement.

In the initial planning of this report, we identified the most urgent issues, including "humanitarian conditions/health conditions/security situation / economic situation of citizens, the impact of war and displacement on infrastructure/education." This part of the report covers only health, security, and humanitarian conditions, along with monitoring the overall impact of these conditions on women and children. The remaining issues are deferred to the second phase of the report.

The report begins by monitoring the conditions of residents of North Kordofan State and will be completed by monitoring the same challenges in West and South Kordofan States.

International Mobilization and Its Impact on Greater Kordofan

The recent period has witnessed significant international mobilization aimed at pressuring the parties to the conflict to stop the fighting and allow humanitarian organizations and UN agencies to deliver aid to civilians trapped amid the warring forces. According to a statement by Masad Bolous, the US President's envoy in Munich in mid-February, it is expected that the war will stop soon.

- The World Food Programme warned during the past month of January of the depletion of food aid in Sudan within two months.
- The visit of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in January to specific areas under army control did not include North Kordofan State, which hosts hundreds of thousands of displaced people in El Obeid alone.
- The United States succeeded at the beginning of February in holding the Sudan Humanitarian Fund conference, with donor commitments amounting to about one billion and five hundred million dollars.
- Germany announced a conference to support Sudan in the coming April, expected to raise larger financial amounts for the humanitarian situation in Sudan.

The international data observed above requires intensifying efforts to highlight the impact of the war on the states of Greater Kordofan, as the most crowded region with displaced people, and to ensure that the international community realizes that the region needs urgent humanitarian intervention. To achieve this, local organizations, associations, and initiatives, along with local administrations and emergency rooms, must intensify their efforts to be present at international

conferences on Sudan and present convincing evidence that the humanitarian crisis the region has been living in for more than two years requires support covering all aspects of life that civilians in Greater Kordofan now lack due to the war.

Objectives of the Report

1. To shed light on the catastrophic conditions experienced by the community of the Kordofan region in its three states, where the war has concentrated fundamentally since 2025, amid a significant absence of media coverage of the tragic humanitarian situation.
2. To urge international and local organizations to exert more effort to assist displaced people and host communities that the war has turned into destitute communities.
3. To support local initiatives, organizations, and associations working to help displaced people and host communities, considering the near-total absence of the parties controlling the ground and the international community.

Methodology of Information Collection

We began work on monitoring the situation in North Kordofan State in mid-December of last year. We were able to communicate with dozens of actors on the ground, emergency rooms, journalists, local organizations, and citizens, in addition to verifying information with actors from the state outside Sudan and comparing local statistics with those provided by international organizations working in Sudan.

Language of the Report

Because the goal of this report is to draw attention to the forgotten humanitarian crisis in Kordofan, the report uses language closer to a journalistic style to encourage everyone to continue reading and familiarize themselves with the basic aspects of the issue.

Challenges of the Report

First: The security situation and communication outages in some areas of North Kordofan State affected the report's shortcomings in reaching important parties where violations and war crimes occurred, such as Bara locality.

Second: The migration of residents from some localities turned them into ghost towns, such as Jabra al-Sheikh, whose people left after the departure of Rapid Support Forces from Khartoum State, turning the area into military barracks where civilian life has become impossible. Thus, there is nothing to monitor except military mobilization.

Third: There is a significant discrepancy in displacement estimates between local parties and specialized international organizations. In the latest IOM statistics at the end of last January, the number of displaced people in the entire Kordofan region was estimated at more than 1,222,000 people. In contrast, the Humanitarian Affairs Commission in North Kordofan State estimated the number of displaced people in Sheikan locality alone at more than one million people. The same discrepancy applies to figures in South Kordofan State.

Fourth: During this short period of work, we obtained information about major violations against women and children across the state by warring parties. However, these were not mentioned in this preliminary report due to the sensitivity of the information and the team's inability to verify it professionally and reliably. We have begun communicating with experienced organizations on these issues to verify professionally and then follow internationally approved protocols for announcing such crimes.

Fifth: We observed a clear variation in the "quantity of information" the team was able to extract from activists and volunteers in the state. Different circumstances in specific localities led to the retention of experienced activists in humanitarian work, especially in army-controlled localities.

Communication difficulties and the closure of government institutions in Rapid Support-controlled localities affected the accuracy and comprehensiveness of information. This is reflected in the report, where dense information was available on health, security, and humanitarian sectors in Sheikan, Al Rahad, and Um Rawaba localities, but similar information was not found for other localities.

Sixth: The team made commendable efforts to monitor local initiatives, associations, and organizations in North Kordofan State. However, some organizations operating on the ground apologized for inclusion in official monitoring because they work informally. In cooperation with the "Jinaki" initiative, which includes hundreds of actors and experts from the region and outside, we were able to accurately monitor dozens of local organizations and seek to complete the list in the final report.

Humanitarian, Health, and Security Conditions in North Kordofan

North Kordofan State consists of 8 localities, each including many administrative units. Some administrative formations were created after the re-division of Greater Kordofan in 2013. Sheikan locality and its capital, El Obeid, are the largest in terms of population density and the most equipped in terms of infrastructure. It has therefore borne the largest burden in receiving displaced people.

Three localities are under Sudanese Army control (Sheikan, Al Rahad, and Um Rawaba), which host the largest share of displaced people. Rapid Support Forces control the remaining localities ("Um Dam Haj Ahmed, Bara, West Bara, Sodari, Jabra al-Sheikh"). There are small numbers of displaced people in these localities due to the lack of services, but they suffer the worst conditions among all displaced people in North Kordofan State.

1. Sheikan Locality

El Obeid city, the capital of North Kordofan State, witnessed the largest displacement operation, receiving those fleeing battles in West and South Kordofan states, in addition to displaced people from the state's localities, as well as those coming from Khartoum State and Darfur states, according to testimonies from displaced people and some city residents to the report team.

The Humanitarian Aid Commission affiliated with the Ministry of Social Welfare estimated the number of displaced people in El Obeid alone at a figure exceeding one million people. The Humanitarian Aid Commissioner in North Kordofan, Dr. Mohamed Ismail Abdul Razzaq, stated in a press statement that the number of displaced people in El Obeid reached 1.2 million in September 2025. The number decreased in October, November, and December of the same year, then rose again at the beginning of January this year due to renewed battles. Although the same commissioner confirmed control over the situation in Sheikan, Al Rahad, and Um Rawaba localities, monitoring by the "Sudan Scope" team revealed the lack of the most basic requirements of life for the displaced in El Obeid. Many displaced people were forced to live with relatives and acquaintances due to the camps' lack of minimum living requirements and the overcrowding of camps not prepared to receive all these numbers.

Away from the inaccuracy of the numbers set by the governmental side in the state, it is certain that tens of thousands of women and children live in El Obeid city inside the camps monitored by the platform team in very harsh conditions that require urgent intervention by international organizations and UN agencies.

Health Conditions

Health is one of the most important challenges facing civilians in North Kordofan since the outbreak of the war. Pressure on health infrastructure created a major crisis for residents and

displaced people. The situation worsened with the siege imposed by Rapid Support Forces on El Obeid city, where medicine shortages reached unprecedented levels. According to city residents, paracetamol disappeared at a time when dengue fever was ravaging the population. After the siege on the city was lifted and the El Obeid-Al Rahad Road returned to operation, there was significant relief in the health situation in general. However, the health situation remains catastrophic due to the pressure of large numbers of displaced people and the forces gathered to defend the city and lift the siege on El Fasher at the time. Due to the battles and priority given to military personnel in receiving treatment, the situation has become extremely bad. If the battles continue, life may return to the same level of suffering as in the previous siege period.

The team conducted field visits to many government hospitals and health centers, as well as private sector hospitals and clinics. Initial observations confirm the near-total collapse of government health services and the inability of the host community and displaced people to afford treatment in the private sector due to weak resources.

Security Conditions

The increase in the intensity of battles has been reflected in the lives of residents in the last year of the war. Authorities in El Obeid city have fallen into the hands of military formations supporting the army, which have deployed checkpoints throughout the city. They stop citizens in the streets and brandish weapons, accusing them of cooperating with Rapid Support Forces. Several city residents complained to the platform team about daily violations by these forces, noting that the army and police cannot protect civilians from violations by forces allied with them, represented by the Joint Forces, Bara Brigades, and Sudan Shield. The city is crowded with tens of thousands of regular and irregular forces, as El Obeid is considered the main mobilization center for forces on the entire western Sudan axis.

Testimonies documented by the platform team confirm that violations practiced by forces allied with the army cause large-scale displacement of city residents and displaced people, whom these forces pursue in their places of displacement and throw into detention centers or official prisons.

2. Al Rahad Locality

Since the outbreak of war on April 15, Al Rahad locality has witnessed double displacement operations. The suffering of residents reached a level that made daily life extremely difficult. In documented testimonies to the platform from some area residents, they confirmed violations they were exposed to during Rapid Support control, which looted property and humiliated citizens. When the Sudanese Armed Forces entered in mid-2025, they treated the remaining citizens in an arbitrary manner and, in cooperation with allied groups, committed major crimes against civilians. The report was able to document some violations committed by the parties to the conflict in the locality, which caused a state of continuous displacement for civilians for nearly three years.

Starting from the last week of December 2025, Al Rahad received thousands of displaced people from villages in the area between Al Rahad and Dilling, following an attack by the army and allied forces on Rapid Support Forces to break the siege on Dilling city via Al Rahad.

Residents of the following villages were completely displaced (Al Ramta, Tayiba, Hellat Hamid, Hellat al-Daju, Al Tabldiya, Al Shak, Al Dar, Um Arid, Al Dabeiba, Al Jamila, Um Zqal, Um Jamala, Al Bashma al-Hassaniya, Al Bashma al-Husseiniyat, Al Bashma al-Ma'qila, Al Asaylat, Faqa Jadad), as well as some residents of Al Ihaymir and Al Hamra villages.

Upon their arrival in Al Rahad city, most of these displaced people were accommodated in Arabic Gum Agencies on the outskirts of the city, while large numbers were hosted in citizens' homes. According to Sudan Scope team monitoring, the number of displaced people to Al Rahad city due to Dilling battles until the last week of January reached 17,063 displaced people (within 4,733

families, most of them women and children). The statistical report in the platform's possession includes complete details on the numbers, health conditions, and social conditions of women and children.

Al Rahad had begun receiving displaced people coming from Sheikan locality several months earlier, which created great overcrowding among displaced people and increased pressure on basic services and the limited infrastructure. The area suffers from severe weakness in providing logistical services and humanitarian aid from humanitarian organizations. Many activists serving displaced people indicate that the area did not receive a fair share of aid provided to displaced families. They told the platform team that most material and technical aid is concentrated in El Obeid city, and what is provided does not meet citizens' needs and is not distributed fairly.

Due to the lack of prepared camps for displaced people, some preferred to stay in villages near Al Rahad due to overcrowding in the city. Many of those present were forced to continue their way to El Obeid city at their own expense, as it is the main headquarters for displaced camps in the state. They all hope to receive the minimum requirements of life, especially since all displaced people from these villages walked tens of kilometers on foot only, without carrying any supplies to help them during displacement.

The additional ongoing displacement toward El Obeid city for several weeks contributed to reducing the numbers present in Al Rahad locality in general. However, displacement operations from South Kordofan areas toward Al Rahad continue. Efforts by the commission, organizations, associations, and local initiatives are still unable to meet the minimum needs of the displaced, because these initiatives rely on the local community, which has been completely exhausted since the beginning of the war, while the commission relies on limited support that is insufficient for all these numbers.

Health Conditions

Al Rahad suffers from a severe shortage of medical services. There is only one rural hospital (Al Rahad Hospital), which provides services for more than 800 surrounding villages and lacks qualified medical staff. This does not meet the area's increasing health needs. Some small government health centers provide limited services, in addition to health insurance services, but they do not cover the actual needs of the population. Residents of the Al Rahad area face great difficulty in coexisting with the widespread spread of diseases due to the proliferation of mosquitoes because the area's canal is not dried up throughout the year. This has contributed to the spread of cerebral malaria and Abyssinian malaria, in addition to Chikungunya fever, which has placed additional pressure on the already weak health sector.

Security Conditions

The locality continues to suffer from security fragility. Groups allied with the army control security in the locality. Citizens are exposed to arrests on charges determined by the military groups, which have exacerbated citizens' suffering. Residents are also exposed to drones with which Rapid Support Forces bomb the area from time to time.

3. Um Rawaba Locality

The war brought terror to the residents of Um Rawaba locality since the first year and caused the displacement of significant numbers of residents. Although some areas tried to stay away from polarization in favor of the warring parties, these efforts did not last long, and the people of the area paid the price due to each side accusing civilians of supporting the other side.

Many displaced people left Um Rawaba city in other directions due to security and economic conditions. However, many displaced people from nearby localities such as Um Dam Haj Ahmed and Bara remained in the locality hoping for the war to stop and their return to their areas. Security

authorities prevented several initiatives and organizations from working among the displaced, estimated at hundreds of families, according to a local group banned from direct work. According to consistent information from Um Rawaba residents, there are no displaced camps as before. The commission registers names and distributes some aid from time to time. According to a statement from a government employee working in a body related to displaced people (who asked not to be named), work is now underway to attract greater support because what the commission provides is insufficient for families that have lost everything they own. According to the same employee, most displaced people live in empty houses or with relatives and friends' families, as the commission does not have the capacity to establish camps and bear responsibility for hundreds of families without continuous guaranteed support.

Health Conditions

Follow-up by the platform team shows a large gap in the health sector in the locality. Diseases spread due to a lack of available treatment. Dengue fever is still spreading among the population. The city suffers from the absence of a nursery for newborns and the disruption of the kidney dialysis center due to operating supplies. All this disruption occurs despite the presence of several private centers and hospitals, which most residents of the locality cannot afford to seek treatment due to their limited resources caused by the ongoing war for nearly three years.

At the beginning of 2026, work began on rehabilitating Um Rawaba Teaching Hospital with funding from the King Salman Center for Relief and Humanitarian Works, which opens the door to a partial solution to the health crisis in the locality, whose health situation has been in continuous deterioration since the beginning of the war.

Security Conditions

Many residents of Um Rawaba city left toward El Obeid and White Nile State due to ongoing violations by Rapid Support groups. The continuous erosion in the business sector also forced others to migrate in search of a safer life in other areas inside or outside Sudan.

Many returned in the second half of 2025 following the departure of Rapid Support Forces from the locality, hoping to restore their lives. However, groups loyal to the army had begun campaigns against citizens on charges of cooperating with Rapid Support. The security cell committed a package of documented war crimes according to reliable testimonies from citizens and eyewitnesses. At this moment, the security cell is confiscating citizens' property and homes for various pretexts and arrests anyone who objects, who then disappears directly and cannot be traced. Hundreds of residents of the area were forced to leave it again due to security restrictions and violations that no party can stop.

4. Jabra al-Sheikh Locality

Jabra al-Sheikh locality in North Kordofan is the closest to Khartoum State. Rapid Support Forces have controlled it since the beginning of the war, while the army continued to bomb it with conventional and drone aircraft.

Residents of Jabra al-Sheikh, like other Sudanese, expected the war to stop quickly, so they did not displace to any other place. Instead, the locality received thousands of displaced people, some of whom stayed there, while others passed through it to continue their way to the rest of the state's localities.

Life continued relatively stable in Jabra al-Sheikh, and residents coexisted with the reality created by the war, including scarcity and high prices of goods and deterioration of the health situation. This resulted from decisions taken by the armed forces depriving citizens of state services,

foremost among them medicine, with the disruption of the rest of the services due to the complete absence of state institutions. The native administration succeeded in formulating a stable relationship with Rapid Support Forces that enabled citizens to remain in a safe situation. This continued for more than two years until Rapid Support Forces left Khartoum State.

The city of Jabra al-Sheikh, the locality's capital, then turned into a military barracks for Rapid Support Forces, which came to the locality in huge numbers. This negatively affected the level of services and availability of goods, to the point that obtaining water became impossible. Citizens were forced to begin leaving Jabra al-Sheikh city due to overcrowding and the spread of diseases, especially cholera, which claimed the lives of many of the new arrivals and residents. With the deterioration of security conditions, all families left Jabra al-Sheikh for other directions where the minimum elements of life are available. Now, there are only a few dozen individuals left inside Jabra al-Sheikh from its original residents. Meanwhile, battles began between the army and Rapid Support Forces. Army forces succeeded in controlling most areas of the administrative unit of Ndraba. The battles caused the death and displacement of many residents of the area and new displaced people who had flocked to it from Jabra al-Sheikh city. The Hamra al-Waz administrative unit is considered the one with the least displacement.

Residents of Jabra al-Sheikh locality and the displaced living there suffer from a sharp rise in prices of necessary goods and near-total absence of medicines, which led to a severe deterioration in food and health conditions. The most important health challenges facing residents of the locality are the spread of epidemics, increased diseases of malnutrition, and complications for pregnant women.

The locality lacks local or international organizations that contribute to alleviating the suffering of citizens. According to testimonies from some actors in the locality, a UN organization contacted

them to obtain statistics, but activists were unable to provide accurate numbers due to the absence of any official and experienced body working on counting people and damages.

Challenges

- A.** Communication outages.
- B.** Absence of government services.
- C.** Absence of necessary goods due to the siege imposed by the state government on areas controlled by Rapid Support.
- D.** Absence of local and international organizations, leaving citizens without assistance from any party.

5. Bara Locality

Bara locality is one of the areas that suffered the most from the horrors of war since April 15, 2023. Residents were displaced several times inside and outside the locality. Hundreds of residents left the city on the first day of the battles and were exposed to violations while on their first displacement march on foot to El Obeid city. Some were returned, while the majority reached El Obeid city after a march that took more than two days for elderly and disabled displaced people. In subsequent periods, due to pressure exerted by Rapid Support Forces on residents, the exit of people from Bara city and neighboring villages to West Bara locality continued. Some continued their way to Omdurman.

The "Sudan Scope" team obtained testimonies from Bara residents fleeing violations by Rapid Support Forces in the first phase of the war. Most of these testimonies matched in the level of violence and deadly force with which Rapid Support Forces confronted citizens without any justification for using force. Hospitals in El Obeid city received dozens of injured by Rapid Support fire in the first week, who managed to escape.

In July 2025, battles intensified on the outskirts of El Obeid as army forces tried to exit and open the road to South and West Kordofan states. Battles took place in Um Sumaima, Abu Qa'ud, Al Hamadi, and Kazqail. At the same time, Rapid Support Forces attacked the village of Shaq al-Nom, a few kilometers from Bara city, followed by several villages. War crimes were committed against citizens by Rapid Support Forces, which ally with heavily undisciplined armed groups. Confirmed war crimes were committed against residents of villages near Bara city, and their residents were forcibly displaced to other areas. Some residents of the villages fled for survival, with violations reaching the level of killing.

During the last quarter of last year, control of Bara city was exchanged, exposing civilians to double violations by both warring parties. The matter ended with everyone leaving Bara, which became a ghost city. Some villages west of the export road fled toward areas east of the national road, hoping for a quick return to their homes and resuming their lives after displacement had exhausted them. Many took their way outside the state toward Omdurman and White Nile, and some continued to South Sudan and from there to Uganda.

Health Level

Most hospitals, health centers, and private clinics in Bara locality closed due to the continuation of battles. Residents migrated in search of safety and treatment for the elderly and those with chronic diseases whose lives became threatened due to the lack of life-saving medicines in the locality, which has become a military barracks with continuous battles that do not stop except to return stronger and more lethal to civilians.

Challenges

A. Communication outages.

- B. Continuation of battles and attempts to control the locality negatively affected civilians' lives, as the city and some villages turned into military barracks. Residents left their areas voluntarily and forcibly to other destinations.
- C. Absence of local or international organizations on the ground contributing to helping citizens.

6. West Bara Locality

The native administration in West Bara locality contributed to keeping the specter of war away from most areas of the locality. Um Kraidim city, the locality's capital, witnessed reasonable stability for residents. The late Nazir of the Majaneen tribe, Prince Suleiman Jaber Jum'a Sahl, succeeded in making the Mazroub area a business meeting point considering war conditions and the siege imposed by the Port Sudan government on areas controlled by Rapid Support Forces. Local agreements concluded by the native administration with Rapid Support Forces created a kind of stability not enjoyed by other localities in North Kordofan State. Removing military forces from residential areas was reflected in commercial movement chains, and necessary goods became available. This reduced the displacement phenomenon that characterized most areas.

Many citizens of the locality spoke to the platform about the conditions since the beginning of the war, indicating that the other side (the army) did not accept this formula, which provides Rapid Support with control over the area without deploying large forces. Stability also serves the political interest of the opponent, which has become in control of large areas in western Sudan. Sons of the locality indicate that army forces continued to launch drone attacks from time to time, especially in recent months. This forced some to be displaced, while many heads of families preferred to send their sons outside the state and stay in their homes following their work, hoping for a quick return of conditions to their previous state. These attacks, along with other complications, also forced

some to send their sons to distant villages that are not targets for drones to preserve their security. They also tried to provide education opportunities away from the specter of death associated with war, but this step did not succeed due to the lack of an environment that helps teachers work.

In mid-October last year, West Bara locality witnessed a tragic incident when drones targeted a meeting of the native administration with Rapid Support leaders to address a problem between citizens and Rapid Support forces. Dozens were killed and wounded. The list of victims included the Nazir of the Majaneen tribe, Prince Suleiman Sahl, and several tribal leaders, in addition to officers and soldiers from Rapid Support. According to documented testimonies from sons of the area, the Sudanese army bears direct responsibility for this major crime.

Health conditions in the locality were not good before the war, but not catastrophic as in a number of the state's localities due to relative stability. However, the locality faces difficulties in providing medicine and medical staff due to displacement resulting from difficult conditions.

Challenges

- A.** Absence of local or international organizations contributing to helping residents and displaced people.
- B.** Communication outages.
- C.** Tension in the security situation following the assassination of the Nazir of the Majaneen tribe, which weakened the relative stability that prevailed.
- D.** Lack of regular treatment for those with chronic diseases led to the displacement of families outside the locality and the state.

7. Um Dam Haj Ahmed Locality

Um Dam Haj Ahmed locality, located in the northeast of the state, is one of the newly established localities. Its population exceeded 300,000 people before the war. Its strategic location made it a military target that both sides are trying to control. In the last quarter of last year, the Sudanese Armed Forces entered Um Dam city, representing a model of control exchange. A few weeks passed, and Rapid Support Forces returned to control the city and spread in several areas belonging to the locality. The ongoing battles and non-stop violations from both warring parties caused the displacement of large numbers of the locality's residents to Um Rawaba locality, which witnesses stability in terms of battles. Many preferred to leave North Kordofan for Khartoum and White Nile. Large numbers of families from Bara and other areas of Greater Kordofan had previously been displaced to the locality. According to activists' testimonies in the locality, the conditions of displaced people are catastrophic by all measures. They receive no assistance from any local or international organization and are only helped by residents, whose ability to help is continuously decreasing due to the spread of battles and the general halt of work in the locality.

A number of the locality's youth spoke in documented testimonies to the report about the violations and crimes to which citizens are exposed, which led farmers to abandon their lands and thus lose their source of livelihood in a locality whose citizens suffer from the loss of income sources due to ongoing clashes, always followed by operations of looting and plunder.

On the health level, dengue fever, malaria, and digestive system diseases spread amid a severe scarcity of medicine. 3 rural hospitals in the locality are unable to provide the minimum health services to patients. Many health centers in the locality have stopped, and those operating cannot provide the service assigned to them.

Challenges

- A. Continuation of battles increases cases of violations and forces residents to be displaced. Security indiscipline continues when battles stop.
- B. Conditions of women and children have reached catastrophic levels, especially among displaced people. There are statistics on a large number of widows and orphans among displaced families.
- C. Absence of any local or international party helping displaced people or the host community, which suffers from the halt in production.
- D. Communication outages.

8. Sodari Locality

Stability remained the main feature of Sodari locality throughout the war years. This sprawling locality is one of the medium-density localities in terms of population, with its population exceeding 400,000 people before the war.

The locality remains stable from a military point of view due to Rapid Support control over it from the first day of the war and the army's lack of attempt to retake it through a direct military operation. However, the locality was subjected to continuous aerial bombing from the first days of the war. Civilians were directly harmed by these attacks, which turned in the last year into drone attacks. These continuous strikes on areas such as Sodari, Hamra al-Sheikh, and Um Badr caused the killing of dozens of citizens, the injury of many, and the spreading of panic in markets that witnessed many of these attacks, which the "Sudan Scope" platform has documented for months in the context of journalistic follow-up.

The locality has received large numbers of displaced people since the first months of the war due to the stability it enjoys. In the latest statistics obtained by the platform in mid-January, the number

of displaced people is close to 1,500 families distributed between the main cities at a rate of 800 families in Hamra al-Sheikh administrative unit (which hosts about 300 families), followed by Um Badr administrative unit, and finally Sodari administrative unit, which has about 180 families.

These families live in miserable conditions without food or medical support and reside in schools and huts built from straw and primitive local materials.

It is worth noting that, according to statistics conducted by volunteers for this report, these families include hundreds of widowed women with more than a thousand orphaned children suffering from malnutrition and the spread of measles.

Sodari locality is one of the areas where the activity of voluntary organizations, charitable associations, and local initiatives is rare, even before the outbreak of the current war. It remains rare in presence and activity except for individual initiatives by some youth in Hamrat al-Sheikh, informally, from the door of humanitarian cooperation in helping those in need. At the general level in the area, there is still no local or international organization helping displaced people, widows, and orphans in light of these exceptional circumstances.

Living conditions for residents and displaced people deteriorated after direct decisions issued by Khartoum, Northern, and North Kordofan states preventing the arrival of goods to areas under Rapid Support control in North Kordofan State. This led to the disappearance of necessary goods, several-fold price increases, a near-total halt in commercial movement, and a significant lack of basic medicines. These measures were immediately reflected in the lives of hundreds of thousands of citizens residing in this remote locality, which is basically one of the most marginalized areas in Sudan due to its desert nature and distance from the state center by hundreds of kilometers, where there are no paved roads linking it to any other area.

Residents of the locality basically rely on smuggling trade to supply basic goods, which have become out of reach for weak segments, who are the majority in the locality.

There is no notable security indiscipline in Sodari locality, thanks to the efforts of the native administration and its coordination with civilian protection forces affiliated with Rapid Support.

On the health level, there are no epidemic diseases, but people do not find health care if they are afflicted with ordinary diseases. There are no qualified medical staff in the three government hospitals, and there is no medicine in them. There is severe suffering for the segment of pregnant women and children who suffer from malnutrition.

Challenges

- A.** No local or international voluntary organizations in the locality.
- B.** Communication outages.
- C.** Collapse of the health sector.
- D.** The siege imposed on the locality by the governments of Khartoum, Northern, and North Kordofan states exposes citizens' lives to the danger of death by hunger and disease.

Conditions of Women and Children

Since the outbreak of war in 2023, the lives of women and children in conflict areas have turned into a real hell. In North Kordofan State, displaced women suffer from the absence of all elements of life. According to available statistics for female activists and us in humanitarian work derived from data from some camps and direct testimonies from displaced female citizens, the number of displaced women bearing family burdens has reached thousands. The numbers decrease in Rahad and Um Rawaba localities. Hundreds of women returned from Khartoum State and Darfur states to Sodari locality carrying their children after battles forced them to displace to safe areas. According to direct testimonies from women from Bara locality who reached El Obeid, the

violations included expulsion from homes and looting them, beating, harassment, firing bullets at male heads of families in front of the eyes of children, and attempts to seize children under the age of fifteen for recruitment. The report documented cases of rape in the state and is now in a discussion phase with victims to reach an agreed formula for dealing humanely, legally, and media-wise.

As for the conditions of children in the state, education has stopped in Jabra al-Sheikh and Sodari localities and some administrative units in several other localities. Vaccination operations against childhood diseases have stopped in many localities due to the inability of medical staff and specialized organizations to reach the areas due to battles or lack of cooperation from the parties controlling the ground.

Recommendations

From a purely professional point of view, it is not possible at this stage of the report to reach recommendations covering the humanitarian situation in Greater Kordofan. However, some conclusions can be identified that help achieve the main goal of helping civilians in this afflicted region:

1. Systematic survey operations aimed at reaching humanitarian needs accurately require larger numbers of actors on the ground, broad coordination with local organizations, and a longer time period. Therefore, a specialized international organization needs to conduct a comprehensive survey of humanitarian and living conditions.
2. The necessity of pressuring warring parties to cooperate with working teams, because many citizens fear communicating with media or humanitarian organizations for fear of consequences if the matter reaches the party controlling the ground.

3. Training local initiatives and organizations on technical aspects of humanitarian work through partnership with international organizations so that the required integration occurs between technical expertise and resources possessed by UN agencies and organizations, and the deep knowledge of society and its complexities that are among the most important advantages of associations and organizations working on the ground.
4. Designing diverse and continuous media campaigns aimed at reflecting the humanitarian crisis in the region and the role of war in destroying infrastructure.
5. Exposing the misleading discourse of warring parties aimed at its continuation through media work that focuses on stating bare facts and exposing the tragedies to which civilians are exposed due to the continuation of the conflict.
6. Combating hate speech that has begun to spread densely among social components in Greater Kordofan through a continuous media production process that includes (documentary films, plays, awareness videos, re-presenting Kordofani artistic heritage in modern forms, specialized virtual workshops presented by experts from inside and outside Sudan on the region addressing issues of development, transitional justice, and education).