

Dear Friends of JRS Family - Western and Eastern Africa Regions!
Partners, Donors, and Collaborators

We are writing to you in response to the recent outbreak of conflict in Sudan since April 15, between the regular Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and a paramilitary force called the Rapid Support Forces (RSF); .

At the early stage of the conflict, we received report of a high numbers of forcibly displaced people crossing Sudan borders into neighbouring countries and if the conflict continues, it will lead to another catastrophic humanitarian crisis. Whilst JRS is currently not operating in Sudan, we have operations in Chad, Central African Republic, South Sudan and Ethiopia all of which border Sudan and are expected to be significantly impacted as the situation continues to escalate. A UNHCR level 1 emergency for Chad, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Sudan (Sudan situation) was declared on 26 April.

As of April 27, at least 18,000 people have already crossed Chad's frontiers out of a total of 20,000 projected; about 9,000 have crossed to South Sudan, and hundreds have crossed to Ethiopia using daily buses. We expect people crossing to Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Egypt and Libya. We not only expect the massive crossing of Sudanese nationals but also of other nationalities who are already refugees in the country as well as other residents. In South Sudan, for example, the majority of people crossing were South Sudanese refugees who have been forced to return back to their country.

Despite a ceasefire being announced, shootings have been heard around the capital, Karthoum, and other part of the country (West Darfur) **making the ceasefire look weak and unreliable**. Rapid and massive military evacuation of international workers and residents is being effectuated as a result of this. Shortage of money, fuel and other basic needs is making the situation a **concerning and rapidly escalating humanitarian crisis**.

As part of our response, JRS has established a **Sudan Conflict Crisis Group (SCCG)** from both East & West Africa Regional Offices, with specialist support from our international team to:

- Share all the information gathered by the different teams in a continuous and agile manner;
- Review our contingency plans and preparedness with different possible scenarios in all the areas of operations that are likely to be affected;
- Access the impact of the influx of movement of people on our operations;
- Provide emergency assistance to most vulnerable in line with our expertise;
- Accompanying the staff by offering staff support and raising preparedness for any potential impact through raising awareness and anticipating challenges so that we can respond effectively;
- Share regular and prompt updates of the situation and of our need with Friends of JRS Family.

In order to do so in an efficient, effective, timely and agile manner, JRS need to mobilize some unrestricted funds for possible urgent actions. No specific budget has yet been developed since we are still attentive to the real impact of the crisis in our countries. Nevertheless, any kind of support will always be of use for us and our teams at any point.

This response equips us to be prepared and contribute to cope with the human consequences of this outbreak of violence, as we continue to **serve, accompany, and advocate** for those who need us most during this difficult time.

In case new significant updates arise, we will notify you using the same means after our weekly meetings.

We continue to be at your disposal for any possible doubt or in need of addressing any topic related with the above. Thank you for your continued support.

- *JRS Eastern and Western Africa Sudan Conflict Crisis Group*

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