

Urgent Humanitarian Appeal for Sudan: The Biggest Displacement Crisis in the World

In only one year, the ongoing conflict in Sudan has forcibly displaced nearly 9 million people, making it the most severe displacement crisis globally. Among them, close to 7 million are internally displaced.

The levels of violence and cruelty seen in Khartoum (Sudan's capital) and other areas in the country are horrific, with the forcibly displaced populations suffering horrendous distressing episodes. As a result, those who could, have done everything in their power to flee these horrors and have crossed into bordering countries.

Despite the growing needs of the affected population, the crisis in Sudan has faded from the headlines. However, the horrendous humanitarian situation persists, with urgent requirements for protection, education, (mental) health support, and shelter.

South Sudan has witnessed the highest influx of displaced individuals, with over 600,000 people crossing its borders. Chad follows closely, with nearly 600,000 arrivals, while Egypt has seen 500,000 crossings. Ethiopia and the Central African Republic (CAR) have also received significant numbers of displaced individuals.

In South Sudan, women and girls represent 50% of the displaced population, with 51% being children under 18 years old (both boys and girls). In Chad, the figures are even more alarming, with 58% of displaced individuals being women and girls, and 64% being children under 18 years old.

In response to this crisis, the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) operates in both Chad and South Sudan, focusing on education in Chad and providing rehabilitation and mental health support in South Sudan. JRS also provides basic Non-Food items such as soap, mattresses, and mosquito nets for the most vulnerable among the displaced communities including people with special needs and survivors of gender-based violence.

However, JRS and other partners on the ground are facing significant challenges in securing the necessary resources to continue vital humanitarian work in these regions. The global community must rally support for displaced individuals from Sudan and serve as a beacon of hope in this crisis. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those affected by this forgotten war.

"I once again ask the warring parties to stop this war, which causes so much harm to the people and the future of the country," said Pope Francis on 18 February 2024. "Let us pray that paths to peace are soon found to build the future of dear Sudan."

You can find some support visual material in here: <u>Photos Renk (South Sudan)</u>, or in here.