

CRISIS WITHOUT BORDERS: VOICES FROM A FORGOTTEN CRISIS

A Children's Emergency Unfolding in Silence

Across the region, children are bearing the brunt of the crisis—facing hunger, displacement, distress and disrupted education. Sudan is facing a spiraling humanitarian catastrophe. Since conflict erupted in April 2023, more than **8.6 million people have been internally displaced** [1], while hunger, violence and the collapse of essential services have pushed families to the brink. Yet the crisis remains dangerously underfunded and overlooked.

World Vision's multi-country assessment—covering Sudan and five neighboring host countries—reveals the scale of the suffering and the resilience of affected communities. This brief shares key findings and calls to action for decision-makers, donors, and humanitarian partners. Sudan remains one of the most underfunded crises globally, despite nearly **25 million people, including 14 million children** [2], in need and close to **90% of surveyed households facing hunger**. Urgent attention and increased support are needed to prevent further deterioration.



Regional Snapshot & Sudan in Focus

Across the six assessed countries (CAR, Chad, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda):

- **Food insecurity is widespread:** Over 80% of households in every country experience moderate or severe hunger. Sudan faces the highest rate of severe hunger (38.7%).
- **Coping strategies are alarming:** In CAR and Uganda, more than 86% of families rely on high-level coping strategies (like skipping meals or reducing portion sizes).
- **Access to services is weak:** Access to clean water, sanitation, and healthcare remains low in all six countries, particularly in refugee and IDP communities.
- **Displacement and protection risks are growing:** Over 8.6 million Sudanese have been displaced across borders, straining host communities and exposing children to protection risks.

Sudan in Focus:

- **Food insecurity is most acute:**
 - Nearly 90% of households face moderate or severe hunger.
 - 38.7% experience severe hunger, the highest among countries surveyed.
- **Livelihoods have collapsed:**
 - 86% have lost income, with nearly half reporting total livelihood loss.
- **Children are in distress:**
 - 49% of households report signs of psychosocial distress in children.
- **Access to essential services is near zero:**
 - 89% of respondents have no access to healthcare.
 - 46% practice open defecation due to lack of sanitation.
- **Protection needs are rising:**
 - Girls and women, especially in female-headed households, face increased GBV risks.

This is a **children's crisis**. It is a **food crisis**. It is a **crisis of protection, dignity and hope**.

We must not look away.

What are communities asking for?

In every region surveyed, families voiced urgent hopes for peace, access to food and water, basic healthcare, education for their children, and the chance to rebuild. Their calls are clear:

- Immediate food and cash assistance
- Access to clean water and healthcare
- Safe spaces for children and support for mental health
- Livelihoods recovery and vocational training

CALL TO ACTION

As the crisis in Sudan intensifies, World Vision urges leaders and donors to act now and lead with compassion and commitment.

1. **Don't let Sudan become a forgotten crisis.**
Elevate it as a priority in humanitarian funding and diplomacy.
2. **Fund child-focused humanitarian response.**
Prioritize mental health, education, and protection.
3. **Support cross-border access and logistics.**
Enable aid to reach remote and besieged communities.
4. **Invest in durable solutions.** Scale integrated humanitarian, development and peacebuilding programmes.

About the World Vision Sudan Crisis and Migration Emergency Response Assessment

- Conducted Feb–Mar 2025 across Sudan, Chad, CAR, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Uganda.
- Over 3,383 household surveys, 57 focus group discussions, and 38 key informant interviews.

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[1] UNHCR USA. Crisis in Sudan. UN Refugee Agency, <https://www.unrefugees.org/emergencies/sudan/>. Accessed 15 May 2025.

[2] UNICEF Sudan. The Sudan Crisis – A Children's Crisis." UNICEF, 2024, <https://www.unicef.org/sudan/sudan-crisis-childrens-crisis-0>.