



ONE YEAR OF WAR IN SUDAN

APRIL 2024

SITUATION OVERVIEW

One year of war in Sudan has triggered the world's largest displacement crisis. 8.5 million people have been forced to flee their homes, with over **6.5 million people displaced within Sudan**, including 1.56 million women and girls of reproductive age. Among them, nearly 155,500 are pregnant women, and an estimated 52,000 childbirths are anticipated in the next three months.

The conflict is also driving a dangerous hunger crisis. **Nearly 5 million people are on the brink of famine** and almost 18 million people face acute food insecurity due to conflict, economic instability, and soaring food prices. Disturbing reports indicate that in regions like Darfur, Khartoum and Kordofan – areas that have witnessed some of the heaviest fighting – more than 7,000 new mothers and 220,000 severely malnourished children are likely to die in the coming weeks and months unless they can access maternal health services and nutritional support. The situation is similarly bleak for around **1.2 million pregnant and breastfeeding women** who will suffer from malnutrition this year and face severe health complications during and after delivery.

Access to essential sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services is dwindling, placing pregnant and lactating women at heightened risk of complications due to malnutrition and lack of healthcare. The scarcity of resources and services exacerbates challenges for women and girls in need of reproductive health care. Hospitals are overwhelmed and straining under heavy demand. There have been 62 verified attacks on health care facilities, and around 80 percent of hospitals in conflict-affected areas are no longer functioning because of destruction and shortage of supplies and staff. Pregnant women have nowhere to turn.

Sexual violence as a tactic of war has been a despicable, defining characteristic of the crisis since the fighting erupted - and taken a devastating toll on women and girls. There are reports of rape, enslavement and murder. Young girls are also being coerced into marriage for protection, while families unable to feed their children see no other option but to marry their young daughters. A lack of protection services is doubling women and girls' trauma and vulnerability to gender-based violence (GBV) and creating an environment of fear for those who have little recourse to services, support or justice.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Humanitarian access limitations exacerbate these challenges, impacting medical care, maternal health, and the supply of menstrual hygiene products. Violence prevents humanitarian workers from reaching the hardest-hit communities, particularly in Aj Jazirah state and the Darfur region. As a result, many families are left without access to health and protection services that are critical for their survival.)

The humanitarian crisis in Sudan demands immediate attention and robust response measures. Addressing GBV, SRH needs, and food insecurity is crucial to safeguarding the well-being of women, girls, and vulnerable populations. A multidisciplinary approach that combines healthcare, protection, and nutritional support is necessary to mitigate the impacts of famine and conflict on pregnant women and address the root causes of GBV. Urgent funding and concerted efforts are required to alleviate the suffering and protect the rights of those affected by the crisis in Sudan. required to alleviate the suffering and protect the rights of those affected by the crisis in Sudan.



UNFPA'S HEALTH AND PROTECTION RESPONSE, 12 MONTHS ON:

Despite the challenging circumstances, UNFPA and its partners, many of whom are local and women-led organizations, are working tirelessly to meet the SRH and GBV protection needs of conflict-affected, displaced, refugee and vulnerable women and girls across Sudan.

To date, UNFPA has ensured over **3,000** safe births, provided **100,000** people with SRH and medical services, reached over **168,000** people with emergency reproductive health supplies, referred 1,200 obstetric emergencies and deployed 33 mobile and temporary clinics to provide integrated SRH/GBV services. In addition, over 300 health care providers have been trained and 26 health facilities supported through renovation and solarization, deployment of staff and generator fuel supply.

In parallel, UNFPA has reached **50,000** women and girls with dignity kits, set up **64** safe spaces for women and girls to access key information and services and trained **1,400** partners and community members on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

UNFPA 2024 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING APPEAL FOR SUDAN

UNFPA is appealing for **\$82,930,000** in Sudan in 2024 to address GBV, SRH, and the needs of refugees. At present, the appeal is only 15.8% funded.

Over one million women, girls, and vulnerable populations are expected to benefit from specialized GBV response services, dignity kits, Women Centers, community-based protection networks, income-generating activities, and life-skills training. This includes GBV prevention and response training for community members, GBV service providers, and non-GBV humanitarian actors, as well as awareness-raising campaigns.

+100.000
Medical Services
Provided

33
Mobile Clinics
Deployed

Furthermore, **one million women and girls of reproductive age, including 120,000 pregnant women, will benefit from essential primary and secondary health care services.** This encompasses emergency obstetric and newborn care, the deployment of mobile clinics, strengthening community-based obstetric referral mechanisms, rehabilitating and equipping health facilities, and enhancing the capacity of healthcare providers and community health workers to deliver essential health services. Additionally, over 0.5 million refugees will benefit from integrated GBV/SRH services.

64
Safe Places For
Women

+3000
Safe Birth Ensured

FOOD INSECURITY, FAMINE AND THE IMPACT ON WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SUDAN:

The conflict has ushered Sudan into an unprecedented state of severe food insecurity, with a staggering 37 percent of the population grappling with severe nutritional deficiencies. Approximately 4.9 million individuals are experiencing emergency conditions, characterized by extreme food scarcity, acute malnutrition, and heightened disease susceptibility.

In a food-insecure environment, the risk of GBV increases due to the breakdown of social norms and protections, with women and girls often lacking the financial resources to access crucial reproductive health and GBV prevention and response services, prioritizing food over their health. Severe food insecurity has a profound impact on pregnant women, who face heightened risks due to malnutrition and the lack of access to adequate healthcare. This can lead to severe health complications for both the mother and the unborn child, including increased rates of miscarriage, premature birth, low birth weight and stunting for their children.

Addressing these issues requires a multidisciplinary approach that includes providing nutritional support, healthcare services, and protection measures to mitigate the risks of GBV. It is crucial to ensure that women and girls, including pregnant women, in famine-affected areas receive the care and support they need to safeguard their health and that of their children.

37%

**Of the population grappling with
severe nutritional deficiencies**

4.9 Million

**Individuals are experiencing e
mergency conditions**



MOBILE HEALTH TEAMS

In Sudan's challenging landscape, marked by continuous conflict and displacement, UNFPA's mobile clinics stand as a pivotal element of the healthcare infrastructure. These clinics address the pressing demand for medical services among isolated and vulnerable communities, bringing hope and essential healthcare to the hardest-to-reach areas.

UNFPA-SUPPORTED MOBILE HEALTH TEAMS

UNFPA has operationalized **33 mobile team clinics across 11 states in Sudan**. These mobile clinics make an important contribution to the provision of integrated sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV) services to meet the health needs of the population amidst the challenges posed by the conflict. In February 2024 alone, a remarkable 98,217 consultations were conducted, underlining the clinics' essential role in Sudan's healthcare landscape.

The clinic's staff consist of a doctor, pharmacist, laboratory technician, counseling psychologist, health officers and midwives. A comprehensive team effort involved in delivering these essential services. The collaboration between medical professionals and service providers ensures that the clinics are well-equipped to meet the diverse healthcare needs of the Sudanese population affected by conflict and displacement.

“I was wondering how I can guarantee the safety of my unborn child, my six children and my own safety. Who will give me a helping hand in these terrible circumstances? I did not know what to do.”

Lubna, a displaced woman from Khartoum.

+11

States Of Sudan Is Covered



SERVICES PROVIDED

UNFPA's mobile clinics provide a comprehensive range of medical services with a focus on SRH and GBV services, carefully tailored to the specific needs of the communities. Crucially, the mobile clinics are an integral part of the referral system, capable of identifying complicated SRH and GBV cases that require advanced care. These cases are then referred to hospitals or GBV case management services, ensuring continuity of care and access to necessary medical interventions.

The mobility of these teams is crucial in increasing accessibility to essential services in remote areas, where transportation challenges can impede access to healthcare, thereby playing a vital role in preventing maternal deaths due to unsafe childbirth and high-risk pregnancies. On average, each mobile team covers three different locations per week, spending one to two days in each location based on the community's size and needs. These clinics are equipped to address the multitude of challenges that hinder access to vital healthcare services in Sudan and the limited availability of healthcare providers in remote areas.

Mobile Clinics.



"None of us has stable work or the resources to meet our basic needs, like medical treatment. We heavily rely on the invaluable free of charge services provided by mobile clinics that visit our gathering site."

A displaced woman from Northern State from Khartoum

OUTREACH AND IMPACT:

Reaching over 99,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and members of vulnerable host communities, the mobile clinics exemplify UNFPA's dedication to making healthcare accessible to everyone, particularly in areas with significant needs and limited access to health and protection services. The clinics do not merely provide medical care; they also imbue a sense of hope and dignity among those marginalized by ongoing conflicts. The impact of mobile clinics extends beyond healthcare to address the urgent needs of communities with limited access to medical facilities.

UNFPA's mobile clinics in Sudan provide vital health services in some of the most remote and conflict-affected regions. Through their unwavering work, UNFPA showcases its profound commitment to ensuring that women, girls, and all members of vulnerable communities have access to the necessary care. As the conflict in Sudan continues, the indispensable role of mobile clinics in safeguarding the health and well-being of those caught in the crossfire remains more vital than ever.

TUNAYDBAH FIELD HOSPITAL

Since the onset of the Ethiopian refugee emergency in Sudan in November 2020, UNFPA has been providing life-saving reproductive health services to affected populations in Gedaref. A collaboration with UNHCR and international non-governmental organization Alight, the UNFPA field hospital opened its doors in March 2022 in Tunaydbah Refugee Settlement to serve both refugees and the vulnerable host communities.

Following the conflict outbreak in April 2023, the hospital has been essential in providing health services to displaced people seeking refuge in Gedaref state, particularly after the conflict escalation in Aj Jazirah in December 2023.

MIDWIVES SAVE LIVES

With 80–70% of health facilities in conflict-affected areas either inaccessible or nonfunctional, access to healthcare is severely limited and the conditions for pregnant women are among the most precarious in the world. Community midwives and skilled birth attendants trained by UNFPA are supporting pregnant women to give birth in the safety of their homes.

Many women throughout Sudan rely on midwives during and after pregnancy, yet their role is often overlooked. The critical role of midwives goes beyond delivering babies; they also give prenatal and postnatal counseling, provide psychological support and instill essential health messages to help mothers and their families raise healthy children.

UNFPA is investing in midwives' education and training as recognition of the key role of midwives in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity in humanitarian settings.

Over the past two years, UNFPA has trained 460 midwives on standard obstetric and neonatal care. The training aimed to improve the skills of community midwives on antenatal care,

postnatal care, and family planning, using the new curriculum of midwifery in-service training. The trained midwives are reaching even remote communities, including in humanitarian crises, building trust and delivering high-quality maternal health services. Since the beginning of the crisis, UNFPA provided 600 midwifery kits to midwives across Sudan. These kits are vital in equipping midwives with the necessary tools to support safe childbirth, addressing the dire equipment shortage since the conflict's onset and critical in lowering the maternal mortality rate, especially as women face difficulties reaching health centers due to fuel shortages and the breakdown of communication networks.

Community midwives, serving their localities tirelessly, are now better equipped yet still face shortages of essential supplies like anesthesia, cord clips, and surgical threads.

In addition, 70 community midwives were deployed to the gathering sites in Aj Jazirah and Gedaref states to provide SRH services. They reached 14,253 people with SRH counseling and awareness raising sessions on SRH and disease outbreaks, with a focus on Cholera and hemorrhagic fever.

“A woman suffering from pregnancy complications had to be carried on a donkey cart for 10 kilometers.”

Zainab, Midwife in Khartoum

“I leave my home for three days at a time, attending birth after birth. I go back home on the fourth day just to rest. Then I start over.”

Fatima, Midwife in Khartoum

70-80%

Of Health Facilities Are Affected In Conflicts

“Our focus is on the care of mothers and newborns, we offer prenatal care and carry out field visits. Yesterday, three displaced women gave birth in our facility, where we provide comprehensive and free health care for mothers and newborns.”

*Radyia Babikir Mohamed,
the head of a midwifery school in Kosti, White Nile State*





2024

WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACES

In response to the ongoing conflict in Sudan, UNFPA has been pivotal in providing crucial support and protection for vulnerable women and girls through the establishment of Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS). These spaces are dedicated to offering key services in GBV prevention and response, along with SRH support, amidst the humanitarian crisis.

A safe space is a formal or informal place where women and girls feel physically and emotionally safe. The term 'safe,' in the present context, refers to the absence of trauma, excessive stress, violence (or fear of violence), or abuse. It is a space where women and girls feel comfortable and enjoy the freedom to express themselves without the fear of judgment or harm.

The key objectives of a safe space are to provide an area where women and girls can socialize and rebuild their social networks, receive social support, acquire contextually relevant skills, access safe and non-stigmatizing multi-sectorial GBV response services including psychosocial, legal, medical services.

UNFPA supports 64 WGSS across Sudan including gathering points for IDPs, delivering indispensable GBV prevention and response services. These include psychosocial support, both individual and group-based, referrals, and educational sessions on GBV. These efforts aim to cultivate safe and supportive environments for women and girls impacted by the conflict.

In addition to the 64 WGSS, UNFPA has conducted assessment missions to several locations suggested for the establishment of new WGSS, as well as an assessment of previously existing WGSS for rehabilitation. Seven locations in North Darfur were assessed and found to be suitable, two locations in White Nile, one in Aj Jazirah state and four locations in River Nile and Northern states.

“The feeling that there is someone who cares about you, especially as a displaced person, means so much.”

Samia Hassan Jowar Hajjina, from Kalakla in East Khartoum and currently residing in the Awouda camp

“It’s valuable for women to learn. It’s better than receiving money. Obtaining knowledge that can generate income for you in the future is empowering.”

Amani Azrak Essa Idriss, Manager of Al-Andalus WGSS in Port Sudan.

The economic empowerment of vulnerable women is a key focus of WGSS, offering income-generating activities such as sewing and baking workshops. These programs not only provide financial independence but also foster community support and resilience among women.

COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION NETWORKS

Within the framework of the WGSS, UNFPA has been instrumental in enhancing protection and support mechanisms through the establishment of community-based protection networks (CBPN) and referral systems. Since April 2023, with the support of UNFPA, 119 community-based referral mechanisms have been operationalized across regions such as Kassala, Gedaref, Red Sea, Blue Nile, and White Nile. Innovatively, this includes the initiation of 18 groups equipped with tuk-tuk ambulances, a strategic move designed to guarantee the expedited referral of obstetric emergencies to Emergency obstetric and newborn care (EmONC) facilities.

Moreover, UNFPA's dedication to reinforcing 29 CBPNs across target locations including Aj Jazirah, Khartoum, and Gedaref, River Nile and Northern State underscores the commitment to providing comprehensive protection assistance. These networks are pivotal in disseminating crucial information on GBV and ensuring access to services, thereby facilitating referrals to specialized care. Additionally, CBPNs receive continuous training in order to enhance their operational capacity, this includes topics such as training on protection monitoring, reporting of GBV and protection violations, GBV coordination and referral of GBV cases to service providers

Through these community-driven efforts, over 203,238 individuals have been reached with essential GBV response services, psychosocial support, and information on GBV, highlighting the efficacy of these initiatives in bolstering the health and safety of communities amid adversity. The integration of community-based strategies within the WGSS framework exemplifies UNFPA's unwavering commitment to safeguarding and empowering vulnerable communities, especially in contexts marred by conflict and displacement.

“We are the protection network for the Allnqaz East area. Today we have a new task, namely to support the displaced women from Khartoum. We have taken them in, housed and supported them. Now we are preparing packages to cover all their hygiene needs, including sanitary pads and personal items. The members of our protection network are preparing the kits. We are also providing psychosocial support to the new arrivals and will then distribute the Dignity Kits.”

Asmaa Abdulkader
a protection network coordinator, reports on the important work that is being done.

Within the framework of the WGSS, UNFPA has prioritized initiatives aimed at combating Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Child Marriage (CM), employing strategic capacity building and awareness-raising interventions. Notably, over 2,100 professionals, including social workers, healthcare providers, community-based protection network members, community leaders, and legal aid providers across Northern State, West, Central and North Darfur, Aj Jazirah, White Nile, Gedaref, Kassala, and Blue Nile, have been trained. This training emphasizes GBV core concepts with a focus on strategies for risk mitigation and the provision of responsive services pertinent to FGM and CM.


Additionally, since April 2023, UNFPA has reached out to 10,894 community members and IDPs through GBV awareness sessions in several states.

These sessions are designed to raise awareness on the impacts of GBV, including FGM and CM, while informing participants of the available services and referral pathways. A transformative moment is shared by Omnya Mohamed Hassan, who has been displaced from Khartoum to White Nile state: "I never thought I would accept that women should not be circumcised. I was convinced that it was essential for the family and the community. But after attending this workshop, I realized I was wrong. Now I understand why it is so important." Moreover, 750 women and girls in White Nile and Aj Jazirah benefited from group psychosocial support sessions utilizing a Peer-to-Peer approach, enhancing community support and resilience among the participants.

TACKLING TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION

In light of the escalating trafficking and exploitation of women and girls in Sudan, UNFPA's WGSS play a crucial role in offering refuge and essential support services. These spaces are sanctuaries where affected persons receive psychosocial support, GBV prevention, and response services, alongside sexual and reproductive health information, addressing the urgent needs of women and girls amidst the conflict.

UNFPA's efforts to establish and support WGSS are integral to its mission to protect and empower women and girls in Sudan and among Sudanese refugee populations. By providing vital services and support, alongside opportunities for economic empowerment, UNFPA addresses both immediate and long-term needs, affirming the necessity of continued and expanded support for these initiatives amidst the ongoing humanitarian crisis.



“I never thought I would accept that women should not be circumcised. I was convinced that it was essential for the family and the community. But after attending this workshop, I realized I was wrong. Now I understand why it is so important.”

Sexual Violence

Since 15 April, Gender Based Violence service providers reported a surging increase in the number of GBV cases, including sexual violence. GBV survivors are suffering from significant and long-lasting impacts of GBV on physical and mental health - including injury, unintended pregnancy and pregnancy complications, sexually transmitted infections including HIV, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and in some cases death. Reports indicate that some of the women are pregnant because of rape and are seeking GBV and Sexual Reproductive Health services. The majority kept silent to avoid stigma. Most of the cases are reported of displaced women and girls from conflict-affected states, such as Darfur region, Aj Jazeera and Khartoum states.

In response to this crisis, UNFPA has adopted a multi-faceted approach, concentrating on capacity building and the development of technical guidance to empower GBV service providers.

By training 8,494 frontline workers on comprehensive GBV concepts and interventions, including the nuances of sexual exploitation, slavery, and conflict-related sexual violence, UNFPA strives to improve the quality and accessibility of support services for survivors.

The creation of guiding documents, such as GBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and guidelines for GBV awareness sessions, remote psychological first aid, and case management, further supports this effort, facilitating effective service provision and ensuring the safety of survivors and service providers.

UNFPA is supporting clinical management of rape services, which include medical treatment and counseling services, and ensure that all medical and psychosocial services are available and accessible to survivors of violence across Sudan.



GBV COORDINATION

As the lead agency for coordinating GBV prevention and response in Sudan, UNFPA is leading the GBV Working Groups in 14 states to ensure a coordinated and coherent response to GBV at both state and national levels. GBV referral pathways are regularly updated for the 14 states with operational GBV Working Groups, in line with the updated mapping of GBV services and clinical management of rape services in these states. These pathways provide a safe means for GBV survivors to access specialized GBV services and other sectoral services.

At the national level, the GBV Sub Sector has enhanced the participation of national stakeholders. The 75 member organizations include 27 national NGOs and 16 women-led organizations. In some states, GBV Case Management Taskforce Groups have been reactivated under the GBV Working Groups to provide technical support and guidance to GBV case managers in implementing case management interventions during the current conflict, ensuring the application of GBV Guiding Principles and preventing harm.

In addition, **UNFPA's commitment to capacity building has led to the training of 8,734 frontline GBV service providers and stakeholders in GBV principles and interventions, further expanding the support network for survivors.** UNFPA's leadership in updating referral pathways and developing standard operating procedures and guidelines demonstrates an unwavering commitment to improving the accessibility and quality of GBV services, to ensure survivors receive the care and support they need during these challenging times.

Guiding documents developed by the GBV Sub-Sector include GBV standard operating procedures (SOPs) (national/state level) and standard guidelines for key GBV interventions. The GBV Sub-Sector has so far trained 1,257 GBV actors on these guidelines to facilitate establishing and providing services, ensuring the safety of both service providers and survivors during the conflict.



SOLARIZATION OF HOSPITALS ACROSS SUDAN

Health clinics and hospitals across Sudan are heavily affected by frequent and lengthy power cuts. Temporary solutions such as back-up generators and batteries have proven to be neither efficient nor affordable, and costs end up on the patient's hospital bill.

Furthermore, the lack of electricity meant that the hospital was unable to maintain its own blood bank, having to put in requests with other hospitals instead which would take anywhere between a several hours to several days to arrive. Incubators for newborn babies were also affected, with parents unwilling to place their child in a machine that could switch-off at any moment. Moreover, life-saving medicines and supplies could not be stored in refrigerators for long periods of time.

UNFPA has launched an essential initiative to solarize hospitals across the country to address the challenges posed by widespread electricity shortages to ensure the uninterrupted operation of healthcare services for the safety of childbirth and to support the critical work of midwives under the most difficult conditions.

UNFPA has installed ## solar power systems in hospitals across Sudan. The solar systems enable all hospital facilities to begin operating with 7/24 renewably-powered electricity, including the maternity ward, operation rooms, blood bank refrigerators, incubators, medicine storage rooms and administration offices.

The solarization of health care facilities in Sudan is a key aspect of UNFPA's strategy to strengthen healthcare delivery amidst the challenges of conflict and power shortages. By ensuring that healthcare facilities are operational at all times and supporting the invaluable

The solarization initiative has significantly enhanced healthcare delivery across Sudan, ensuring that essential medical services can be provided without disruption due to power outages

The solarization of health care facilities in Sudan is a key aspect of UNFPA's strategy to strengthen healthcare delivery amidst the challenges of conflict and power shortages. By ensuring that healthcare facilities are operational at all times and supporting the invaluable work of midwives, UNFPA is advancing its mission to end preventable maternal and newborn deaths.

“The hospital used to experience frequent power cuts, but today we benefit greatly from the solar-powered electricity system that has been installed in the hospital. It supplies electricity to the delivery room, the maternity wards and the operating theater.”

Salwa Rizik Abdulla
Chief Midwife at the Wadi Halfa Maternity Hospital

“We came to this hospital to receive treatment. All the hospitals in this area were struggling with power cuts, but now, after the installation of the solar system, this problem has been solved and all services are available. When the power went out briefly during my last childbirth, the power was quickly restored thanks to the solar system. They even kept the air conditioners running. Now the power is stable and the services are excellent.”

Nada Obaid Allah
A patient at the Dongola Maternity Hospital in Northern State

SUPPLIES

The ongoing conflict in Sudan has significantly disrupted the supply chain, critically impacting the availability of essential health and protection services. UNFPA is actively responding to these challenges, prioritizing the provision of necessary supplies to ensure the continuation of SRH services and support for GBV survivors.

Since the outbreak of the war in April 2023, UNFPA has provided **51,000 Dignity Kits** critical to maintaining hygiene and dignity for displaced women and girls across Sudan. These kits contain menstrual pads, soap, underwear and other essential items. At the distribution sites of the Dignity Kits, which are seen as a good point of contact, awareness-raising sessions are held for women on topics such as menstrual hygiene, available GBV services and other ways to seek help.

In addition, **206 Emergency Reproductive Health Kits** were distributed across the country to meet the needs of more than **27,000 SRH emergencies** and enhance the capacity of emergency reproductive health service capacity in crisis conditions.

The provision of **545,638 family planning commodities** supports the opportunity of voluntary family planning, as well as the procurement of contraceptives and the promotion of comprehensive education, which is of central importance for gender equality and the empowerment of women, even in crisis situations.

UNFPA has made a significant contribution to mitigating the healthcare crisis in Sudan through the procurement of more than **two million units of Oxytocin and 163,900 packs of Misoprostol**, which are crucial in combating obstetric hemorrhage and ensuring safe childbirth.

Furthermore, **UNFPA has equipped 120 health facilities with the necessary equipment for Basic and Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care (BEMONC and CEMONC)**. Through these and other initiatives, 1,316,650 pregnant women have been provided with life-saving medicines since the outbreak of the war in April 2023.

UNFPA has not only provided general medical support but also tailored its response to the specific needs of survivors of sexual violence, **distributing 2,880 supplies for the clinical management of rape**. Additionally, in its efforts to mitigate the spread of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) among affected populations, UNFPA provided 6,750 supplies for management of STIs to safeguard the reproductive health of women and girls in Sudan.

Moreover, reinforcing the critical role of midwives in ensuring safe childbirth, UNFPA has supplied 170 clean delivery kits to midwives across Sudan, enhancing their capacity to provide care under the most challenging conditions and in hard-to-reach-areas.

Despite logistical and access challenges, UNFPA has effectively navigated these obstacles through collaboration with inter-agency coordination focal points, ensuring the efficient movement and storage of supplies. This collaborative approach, coupled with online training for health managers and strategic partnerships, has been pivotal in enhancing the delivery of life-saving services and facilitating access to affected areas.



SRH COORDINATION

As a co-chair of the SRH Working Groups, UNFPA is supporting SRH coordination in Red Sea, Gedaref, Kassala, Blue Nile, White Nile, North Kordofan, West Darfur and North Darfur. UNFPA is working with the National Reproductive Health Program to activate the SRH Working Group in the remaining states.

HEALTHCARE CHALLENGES AND RESPONSE INITIATIVES

In response to the health crisis, targeted interventions like vaccination campaigns and the provision of medical supplies highlight the potential for impactful humanitarian action. However, challenges persist, such as the cholera outbreak declared in September 2023, which has reported nearly 10,000 suspected cases and significantly affects pregnant women and girls by increasing the risk of dehydration and complications. This situation, combined with vaccine shortages, underscores the urgent need for a comprehensive healthcare support system.

UNFPA is deeply concerned about the lack of healthcare services, clean water, and the increased risk of sexual violence, exacerbating the health challenges for pregnant women and children.

The health and nutrition crisis in Sudan, exacerbated by conflict, calls for immediate action to protect the most vulnerable, particularly pregnant women and girls. UNFPA is dedicated to leading efforts to address food insecurity, improve healthcare access, and bolster community resilience amidst these challenges. Through resource mobilization and partnerships, UNFPA aims to reduce the crisis's impact and ensure the health and dignity of all affected individuals.

OVERCOMING OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

Operational challenges such as security, logistics and access barriers have significantly impacted the delivery of essential services. UNFPA's collaboration with inter-agency coordination focal points plays a critical role in overcoming these challenges, ensuring humanitarian access and the efficient movement and storage of relief items.

To improve response capacity, UNFPA has conducted online training for health managers focused on providing life-saving services in emergencies. In addition, the organization is actively working with partners to explore delivery options that facilitate access to the most affected areas, including exploring possible cross-border operations from neighboring countries.

UNFPA's commitment to addressing the supply chain challenges in Sudan underscores the organization's dedication to ensuring that essential health and protection services remain accessible during the conflict.

By strategically responding to the shortage of supplies, UNFPA aims to safeguard the health and dignity of women and girls in Sudan, reinforcing the resilience of healthcare services against the backdrop of a humanitarian crisis.





2024

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