

Case Study: Gender-Based Violence as a Tool of War in Sudan

What is happening?



Sudan is currently experiencing a serious crisis marked by violence, economic instability, and humanitarian crisis. The fight, which began in April 2023 between two opposing generals, has resulted in extensive violence, relocation, and deaths. The battle is centered in Khartoum, the capital, but other regions are also affected. The impacts are disastrous, resulting in destruction, infrastructure loss, high unemployment, rampant inflation, and the closure of schools and essential services.

Four things you should know about the Sudan crisis

1

Massive Displacement: By the end of 2022, Sudan had over 3.7 million internally displaced people, the vast majority of whom lived in camps across Darfur. An estimated 800,000 Sudanese sought refuge in neighboring countries like Chad, Egypt, and Ethiopia.

2

Humanitarian Needs: The continuous conflict worsens already dire humanitarian crisis. Fighting broke out in Sudan during the most severe humanitarian crisis in a decade, with 4.5 million people internally displaced prior to the conflict.

3

Urgent Aid Need: The combined effects of internal displacement, refugee surge, and continuous war highlight the urgent need for more international aid. Millions of people in need of basic needs such as food, housing, and medical care require urgent resources.

4

Fear of a Major Emigration: The UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, anticipates that over 1.8 million people may evacuate Sudan in search of safety in neighboring countries. To avoid a humanitarian disaster, this potential mass migration must be addressed immediately and with additional support.

How is this conflict impacting the prevalence of Gender Based Violence

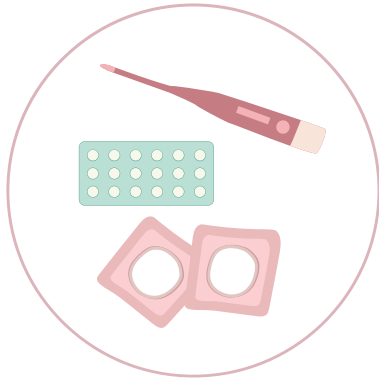
Since the beginning of this deadly conflict in Sudan rape and sexual assault against women and girls has increased significantly.

The UN has reported a rise in all forms of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), including mass rapes, gang rape, domestic abuse, sexual exploitation, and sexual slavery. Women and girls who are internally displaced are especially exposed to sexual abuse in temporary shelters, at border crossings, or while fleeing between states for safety.

Rampant sexual violence in Sudan has resulted in an increase in unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted illnesses. UN officials warn that Sudan has around 262,880 pregnant women and girls, including those affected by the violence. More than 45,000 children are expected to be born in the next three months.

Rape survivors are also reported to be unable to obtain contraception, abortion medicine, or post-exposure antiviral medication, and the number of people in Sudan in need of Gender Based Violence services has risen by more than 1 million to 4.2 million and this figure is projected to reach 6.9 million by 2024.

Challenges in Accessing Reproductive Health Care



- **Limited Access to Contraception:** Little access to contraception, with health facilities facing critical shortages of supplies for family planning and maternal health care.

- **High Risk of Maternal Health Complications:** The closure of nearly 70% of health facilities in conflict-affected areas has left people with limited access to maternal health care, increasing the risk of pregnancy and childbirth-related complications.



- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence:** The conflict has led to a surge in gender-based violence, including rape and sexual abuse, which not only jeopardizes safety, but also hinders their access to essential reproductive health services. Sexual violence is reproductive violence. When it is used as a tool for militarized state violence by any authoritative power - it is also reproductive oppression.

Challenges in Accessing Reproductive Health Care

- Heightened Rates of Suicidality: The increased violence and harm experienced by women, femmes, and girls in the region has resulted in a desperation to no longer live. Islamic legal counsel has been called upon by women and girls to relieve them of the perceived sin of dying by suicide.



- Disrupted Health Services: Attacks on health facilities and workers have further disrupted the provision of critical reproductive health services, leaving many women and girls without access to life-saving care.

- Lack of Humanitarian Support: The funding gaps in humanitarian response plans have hampered the delivery of reproductive and protection services, exacerbating the challenges faced in accessing essential reproductive health care.



How to Support?

Donate

- [Doctors without borders](#)
- [Human Appeal: Sudan Emergency Appeal](#)
- [Sudan Appeal | UNICEF](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Keep Eyes On Sudan](#)
- [Sudan Relief Fund](#)
- [Islamic Relief USA | Sudan](#)
- [Sudan Relief Fund | Sudanese American Physicians Association](#)

Social Media Accounts to Follow

- @ElbashirIdris
- @BSonblast
- @SAPA_ORG (Sudanese American Physicians Association)
- @YousraElbagir
- @KeepEyesOnSudan

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