

Sudan Crisis Coordination Unit

Publication # 12

Overview of the Humanitarian Situation in Eastern Sudan

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Executive summary

Eastern Sudan comprises three states, namely Red Sea, Kassala and Gedaref. The humanitarian situation in the region has been dire since the war erupted in April 2023, as the large influx of displaced people overwhelmed the capacity of local services. Increased demand for power and internet has also resulted in frequent disruptions and outages. This has caused direct and indirect impacts on the local population, affecting currency, purchasing power and prices of essential goods. The delivery of banking services has also been affected. Moreover, the non-payment of salaries due to the conflict has further exacerbated this problem.

This publication was done through a field survey with The Emergency Rooms and Initiatives operating in the region since the war erupted in April 2023. There were variations in the surveys conducted due to the decision mechanisms of the different operational bodies.

Main references are:

- Kassala Emergency room communication office
- Al Gadaref Emergency room communication office
- Port Sudan Emergency room communication office
- Volunteers in (National students welfare fund) shelters in the 3 states and testimonies of those working in shelters.
- Testimonies from the Initiatives and actors in the 3 states.

At the time of the field surveys, there was no official data from international or national organisations or humanitarian aid commissions, but there are current interventions from some of their national and international partners to alleviate the disaster for the displaced.

The region cannot cope with the large numbers of residents and displaced people, which has also led to excessive increases in the price of accommodation in houses, apartments, and hotels, further reducing living affordability. The humanitarian response in Eastern Sudan is severely underfunded, as the revised 2023 Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan appeal is only 33.8 per cent funded as of 12 November 2023.

The conflict in Eastern Sudan has had a devastating impact on the education sector, affecting millions of children and youth. Many schools in the conflict zones have been shut down, while others in safer areas have been converted into shelters for the displaced. The authorities have suspended all educational activities at all levels, leaving students and teachers without support. This situation poses a serious threat to the future of the region, as the affected population may lose their academic skills, their mental health, and their hope for a better life.

The decision made by the local government to resume study in universities was followed by the evacuation of internally displaced people from universities' dorms. This was despite the dorms being the most suitable shelter centres due to the availability of water and sanitation facilities. This added caused more complications to the already dire situation.

There is an urgent need for a humanitarian intervention that can provide educational support to the children and youth in Eastern Sudan.

SCCU publications

SCCU publications are concise and informative documents that provide an overview of Sudan's complex and evolving humanitarian situation. The SCCU publications also offer practical and evidence-based recommendations for policymakers and humanitarian responders on addressing Sudan's most pressing issues and needs.

Acknowledgement

We are deeply thankful to the many individuals who shared their knowledge, experience, and perspectives for this publication. Their generous and courageous contributions made this work possible, especially in the context of Sudan's ongoing conflict. We appreciate their trust in and collaboration with us.

Disclaimer

This report is the result of the work of the Sudan Crisis Coordination Unit (SCCU). The opinions, findings and recommendations expressed herein are time-sensitive and reflect the views of a group of local responders.

Table of Contents

Executive summary	2
SCCU publications.....	3
Red Sea State.....	5
Overview of the humanitarian situation	5
Challenges	9
Recommendations from humanitarian responders from Red Sea State.....	9
Kassala state	10
Overview of the humanitarian situation in Kassala State.....	10
Humanitarian needs and responses	10
Challenges	12
Government response.....	12
Gedaref State	13
Overview of the Humanitarian Situation in Gedaref.....	14
Humanitarian Needs and Responses.....	14
Humanitarian responders in Al Gedaref State.....	16
Government responses	17

Red Sea State

Red Sea State is located northeast of Sudan and had a population of approximately 519,000 before the war. Red Sea State historically suffered from a lack of water and electricity, especially during summer. Since April 2023, the situation in Red Sea State has worsened, as the region now hosts more than 127,000 people displaced by the conflict ([IOM DTM](#)). According to IOM DTM, displaced people have sought shelter and assistance in 118 locations across the state, where they face multiple challenges, such as scarcity of food, water, health care, and protection.

Overview of the humanitarian situation

The Red Sea region has suffered tribal conflicts since 2020 ([ACJPS, Aug 2020](#)). These conflicts lasted more than three years and led to the port's closure ([Reuters, 2020](#)), which aggravated the regional humanitarian crisis. The authorities imposed a state of emergency and restricted the movement of people in the region since 2021. The situation deteriorated further when war broke out on 15 April 2023.

Access to water has become a significant challenge for the people of Port Sudan since April. Water prices have increased significantly, and people have had to wait for long hours to get water from the few available sources.

The war has severely disrupted the electricity supply in the region. The usual vendors who sell electricity in the city have stopped their services, and people have to rely on the electricity distribution centre, which has frequent power cuts and long queues to purchase electricity. The city faces daily blackouts of up to 12 hours or more.

The shortage of fuel has affected the transportation sector as well. Fares for public transportation have increased sharply, and people have difficulty finding fuel for their vehicles. The power outages and poor communication networks have also hampered fuel distribution in the state.

The health sector is in a dire situation as well. Several hospitals, including Port Sudan Teaching Hospital, Children's Hospital, Oncology Hospital, and Kidney Dialysis Hospital, have ceased their operations for various reasons, but principally due to unpaid salaries of medical staff and workers. Other hospitals are also in critical condition and cannot admit patients. The shortage of medicines, medical equipment, and fuel has further exacerbated the health crisis in the state.

Below is a detailed overview of humanitarian responders in Eastern Sudan.

Shelter and housing sites

Sites for shelter and housing displaced people include the following:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Philip• Teachers' Union• The Park• Ali Muhammad Musa - Al-Mirghaniyah• Centre for Progress• Consumer Protection• Immigration Centre• Customs House• Naji Barawi - the Gulf neighbourhood• House of the sons of the north• Youth hostel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Female Students' Hall• Male Students' Hall• Aljemabi Students' Hall• Midwives Union• University of the Holy Quran• That Nitaqain School – Alimtidad• Sons of Beni Amer House• Red Sea Women Chamber• Red Sea Emergency Room• Food Initiative• Union of Writers and Artists• Community Development Centre in Dim Al Nour, Square 5
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Food security and nutrition

The local community has been the leading source of food and nutrition services. Only recently, when several initiatives failed, some organisations and other entities stepped in to help. These entities have special units or expertise in dealing with emergencies. Some offer legal assistance, health aid and other kinds of support.

Main responders (local and international)

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sudan Development Organisation• United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)• World Health Organisation (WHO)• World Food Programme (WFP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safer World• Child Protection Organisation• International Organisation for Migration (IOM)• Sudanese Red Crescent• Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)
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Health

Red Sea State is facing several challenges in the health sector, such as the poor quality of services and facilities in public hospitals, the lack of health insurance coverage for many citizens, the shortage of medicines and treatments for chronic and sustainable diseases formerly supported by the National Health Care Fund, the closure of Port Sudan Teaching Hospital and Children's Hospital, and the interruption of operations at the Oncology Centre due to lack of medicines.

Humanitarian Access

The Sudanese authorities have announced the imposition of an emergency law in Red Sea State following a series of protests and clashes between security forces and civilians. The emergency law grants the governor of the state the power to arrest anyone suspected of disturbing public order, inciting violence, or spreading false information. The law also restricts the freedoms and movement of the residents, banning gatherings of more than five people, imposing a curfew from 6 pm to 6 am, and closing all public and private institutions except for health facilities.

Energy

One of the main sources of electricity in the region is the national transmission line that connects the state to the national grid. However, this line is often subject to disruptions and outages due to technical problems, vandalism, or sabotage.

Another source of electricity is the Turkish barge, which provides power generation services to the state. The ship has a capacity of 180 megawatts and can supply about 70% of state demand. However, the ship's contract is renewable every three months and depends on the availability of fuel and the payment of fees by the state government. Therefore, the energy situation in the Red Sea State is uncertain and requires long-term planning and investment to ensure reliable and sustainable access to electricity for the population.

Digital services

Digital services in Red Sea State, Sudan, have faced challenges since April 2023, when the government imposed new regulations on telecom providers. The main providers, MTN, Sudani, Zain and Canar, have struggled to maintain the region's network coverage, quality, and affordability. Some of the issues that affect digital services include:

- **Access:** The new regulations require operators to obtain a license for each base station they operate, increasing their operations' cost and complexity. Moreover, operators must comply with specific technical standards and security measures limiting flexibility and innovation. As a result, some areas in Red Sea State have poor or no network access, especially in rural and remote locations.
- **Reliability:** The network infrastructure in Red Sea State is vulnerable to natural disasters, such as floods and sandstorms, as well as human interference, such as vandalism and sabotage. Telecoms providers must invest in backup power sources, maintenance, and security to ensure the continuity of services. However, due to the high cost and risk involved, some providers have reduced their presence or withdrawn from specific areas, leaving the customers with unreliable or no service.
- **Prices:** The new regulations also tax providers based on their revenue and market share, which affects their profitability and competitiveness. Providers must pass on some of the cost to the customers by increasing their tariffs or reducing their offers and promotions. This makes digital services more expensive and less accessible for many people in Red Sea State, especially those with low income.

Financial and Banking Services

- Since 15 April 2023, financial and banking services in Red Sea State have faced many challenges and difficulties. One of the main problems is the suspension of electronic clearing at banks, which has affected the transactions and operations of customers and businesses. The reason for this suspension is the overcrowding of bank branches by the citizens and displaced people who fled to the state. Banks cannot cope with the high demand and provide adequate services to everyone.
- Another issue is the poor quality of internet networks in the state, which has disrupted the functioning of digital banking applications. These applications are supposed to offer convenience and accessibility to customers, but they often fail or become unavailable due to network problems. This limits the options and alternatives available to customers who want to use online banking services.
- The suspension of electronic clearing and the failure of digital banking applications have negatively impacted the local population and the state's economy. Exchange rates, purchasing power, and prices have all been affected by these problems. The prices of goods and consumer items have increased significantly, especially since many people have not received their salaries due to the wars and destruction of the state's system. Port Sudan, the state's capital, is a small area lacking infrastructure and government departments that can accommodate and support many residents and displaced people.
- The housing sector has also been affected by these problems. Rental prices of houses, apartments, and hotels have risen sharply. Many people have difficulty finding affordable and suitable accommodation in Port Sudan. The fuel crisis has also contributed to the rise in transportation fares, further burdening residents.

Environment

- The collapse of the health system and the suspension of work at the environmental emergency units signals a disaster. The state is approaching the rainy season and is threatened with severe rains that may lead to the flooding of some villages.
- The government agencies or ministries that are active in providing support are the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the local municipality and committees of services and change in the state. However, their tasks are limited to coordinating with international agencies and organisations rather than providing direct support or service to the target category.
- There is a need for more involvement and participation from these government agencies or ministries in addressing the humanitarian situation in the Red Sea State.

Challenges

- Travel costs have increased rapidly, especially since most initiatives depend on donations and self-help to provide support.
- Receipt of donations has been affected by a lack of internet networks, complex banking procedures, and lack of cash liquidity.
- Lack of volunteers compared to the volume of work.
- Insufficient and inconsistent funding.
- Lack of availability of food
- Increased pressure on shelters due to the large number of displaced people and the continuation of the war.

Recommendations from humanitarian responders from Red Sea State

Several proposals have emerged from the discussion with humanitarian responders in Red Sea State, including:

- Develop a comprehensive database covering humanitarian needs and services in Red Sea State. This database should be updated regularly and accessible to all stakeholders.
- Train volunteers to defend human rights and to deliver humanitarian aid to beneficiaries. These volunteers should be equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to identify and meet the urgent needs in the region.
- Deploy civilian monitors of the humanitarian situation in the area who are not affiliated with any party or authority. These observers should monitor and report on the conditions and challenges faced by the region's people and the actions taken by government agencies and international organisations.
- Develop economic sectors specific to the area, such as agriculture and mining, which are potential sources of income and employment for the region's people. Agriculture should be developed in the state's south, with fertile land and water resources. Improved monitoring mechanisms and methods should be created to ensure that agriculture is sustainable and environmentally friendly. Mining should be developed in the north and west of the state, where there are rich mineral deposits. However, mining should also be regulated and supervised to prevent environmental degradation and human rights violations.

Kassala state

Overview of the humanitarian situation in Kassala State

Kassala State is in Eastern Sudan, bordering Al Gedaref, Khartoum, River Nile and Red Sea states. Kassala State faces multiple humanitarian challenges, including conflict, displacement, disease outbreaks, food insecurity and environmental shocks. According to [IOM](#), the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Kassala is 112,627, primarily due to inter-communal violence and border tensions. Most of the IDPs did not stay in shelters; hence, information about the number of IDPs could not be confirmed. Kassala also hosts the third largest refugee population in the country, with over 116,000 refugees and asylum seekers from Eritrea and Ethiopia taking refuge in the state as of February 2023. The refugees live in five camps: Wad Sharifi, Al Shaqrab, Umm Qarqour, Shagarab 1, and Shagarab 2. Due to the ongoing conflict, some refugees from Ethiopia's Tigray region have also crossed from Gallabat to Ethiopia. The Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and its partners provide protection and life-saving assistance to the refugees, including food, water, sanitation, health, education, and shelter.

Humanitarian needs and responses

Shelters

Shelter locations in Kassala include the following:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Al Shaima• A Hasanat• Zienab Babakir Al-Sawaqi• Suhaib Al Sawaqi School• Hajar Al Sawaqi School• Salman Al Farsi Al Sawaqi• Martyr Taj Al Sir• Al Shabyia• Dar Al Mohandiseen• Rabaa• West	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ibn Khaldun• Al Firdaws, Al Arab neighborhood• The Academy• Owais Al Qarni Al Mirghaniyah St• Nusaybah bint Kaab• South Altera/ Canal• Al Mirghaniyah Primary• Al Mirghaniyah Secondary School• Dutch Merghani• Saray Al Gas
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Food security and nutrition

The Emergency Response Rooms (ERRs) operated effectively with local support from residents and some international and local organisations to respond to the issue of food insecurity in Kassala. Among these, the Zakat Office was the largest partner, providing financial and logistical assistance to the ERRs.

Health

Kassala is a city that faces many health challenges, especially during the rainy season when diseases and epidemics are more prevalent. The city's health system is inadequate and unable to cope with the demand for medical care. Moreover, there is a lack of coordination and accountability in the distribution of supplies, resulting in the loss of many essential medicines, including those for chronic diseases.

Humanitarian access

There have been protection concerns in Kassala State since 15 April 2023, when the federal government declared a state of emergency in the region. The state of emergency has resulted in restrictions on public freedoms, including freedom of expression, assembly and movement. It has also led to the arrests of several politicians and activists, including civil society members, journalists and human rights defenders. These measures have increased the risk of human rights violations, intimidation, and harassment, affecting the delivery of humanitarian assistance and access to basic services.¹

Energy

The energy situation in Kassala State has been severely affected by the ongoing conflict and the disruption of the Setit Dam, which was the main source of electricity for the region. Since 15 April 2023, the dam has been partially damaged, and its output has been reduced by more than 50%. This has caused frequent blackouts and power shortages, especially in rural areas and camps hosting displaced people.

To cope with the crisis, the humanitarian community has been working to provide alternative energy sources, such as solar panels, generators and batteries. However, these solutions are often insufficient, expensive, and unreliable. Moreover, they depend on the availability of fuel and spare parts, which are scarce and subject to price fluctuations.

One of the main challenges faced by the humanitarian actors is the lack of a functional transmission line that connects the Setit Dam with the distribution network. The transmission line was also damaged during the conflict and has not been repaired. Without it, the electricity generated by the dam cannot reach the end users, even if it is fully operational. The transmission line is essential for restoring the energy supply and improving the living conditions of the affected population.

Digital services

Since 15 April 2023, the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis have severely disrupted digital access in Kassala State. The leading mobile network operators, Zain, Sudani and MTN, have experienced frequent outages and interruptions, affecting the quality and reliability of their services. The fixed-line operator, Canar, ceased operations before 15 April, leaving many customers without landline or internet access. The only alternative for some residents is to use satellite communication, such as MAXnet, but this option has also been suspended since 15 April due to security reasons. As a result, digital access in Kassala State is minimal and unstable, posing significant challenges for communications.

Financial and banking services

Due to the escalation of violence and insecurity, the authorities have imposed a state of emergency and a curfew, which have disrupted the normal functioning of the economy and public services. As a result, balance clearing has been suspended, subscriber services have stopped, and communications and banking services have been cut off. This has caused a lot of hardship and suffering for the people of Kassala State, who cannot access their money, pay their bills, or communicate with their relatives and friends. The situation also affects humanitarian aid delivery and the provision of essential goods and services. The international community and the national government are urged to intervene and restore financial and banking services in Kassala State as soon as possible.

Education

There are also some signs of hope and resilience in the education sector. The Ministry of Education in Kassala State has reported that it has achieved remarkable success in ensuring universal access to education for all children in the state. The ministry has registered all students who completed the fifth grade for the sixth grade, regardless of gender, location, or economic status. The ministry has also implemented several initiatives to improve the quality of education and support the student's academic achievement. For example, the ministry has provided free notebooks and books for all students. It has also established academic support centres in various schools, where students can receive extra tutoring and guidance from qualified teachers. The ministry hopes these efforts will help the students overcome their challenges and achieve their full potential.

Challenges

- The evacuation process was stopped due to the lack of financial support.
- Inadequate shelters with the largest number of displaced people.
- Lack of health treatment and medicine.
- Inadequate and inconsistent financial support for the emergency rooms
- No fixed headquarters for the emergency rooms
- Administrative problems of government state institutions
- Economic pressures on volunteers
- Lack of training and qualification of volunteers in war conditions
- The scale of the crisis is greater than the capacity of local grassroots responders

Government response

Kassala Zakat Chamber

The Chamber has established a remarkable partnership with the Kassala Emergency Room. The Chamber has promptly responded to the proposals submitted by the Kassala Emergency Room regarding all its needs, such as beds, home furniture, cooking tools, mattresses, and food supplies.

1. The Zakat Chamber has donated three batches of food items that were distributed to displaced people for about three months, including onions, flour, charcoal, oil, laundry soap and powder, powdered milk, tea and coffee, lentils, beans, paste, dates, sugar, rice vermicelli, pasta, salt.
2. The Zakat Chamber helped to pay rent arrears for some families of 300 thousand pounds.
3. The Zakat Chamber has also covered the cost of a surgical operation for a displaced person and continued to contribute regularly.
4. During Eid Al-Adha, the Zakat Chamber donated five calves, which were distributed to hosted families (230 families), divided into 3 kilograms per family through the Emergency Room, along with food supplies, onions, oil, charcoal, and paste sufficient for the Eid period.

Kassala Rural Health Affairs Department

The Kassala Rural Health Affairs Department was an active member of the Emergency Room and provided various forms of assistance, including allocating a vehicle to transport the displaced and to distribute food supplies. It also contributed by facilitating treatment for several health cases. Health affairs are considered an essential element in the Kassala Emergency Room.

However, other government agencies, especially the Government Secretariat, did not cooperate with the Kassala Emergency Room. The Government Secretariat cooperated only after allowing student halls and schools to be used as shelters. A joint committee of initiatives and government agencies was formed to manage the centres.

Gedaref State

Gedaref State is in the eastern part of Sudan. It borders Sennar, Al Gazira, Khartoum and Kassala states and shares an international border with Ethiopia. The state faces localised disputes, border tensions, flooding and refugee influxes as the main drivers of humanitarian needs. However, it is relatively far from the main centres of conflict.

The state has 12 municipalities, namely Gedaref, Al Qureshah, Al Faw, Al Butana, Al Mafaza, Al Rahad, Al Galabat, Al Fashqa, Basunda, Wad Al Mahi, Wad Al Hilew, and Showak. It has a population of about 2 million, increasing to 2.5 or 3 million during the farming season.

Overview of the Humanitarian Situation in Gedaref

The main challenges the state faced before the outbreak of the war were the poor quality of basic services, such as education, health, and infrastructure. The most pressing issue was the lack of clean drinking water, as the Radical Solution project for Al Gedaref water was not completed.

There are two main refugee camps in Gedaref (Um Rakuba and Um Gargour) and two refugee settlements (Tunaydbah and Babikri). These host about 70,000 Ethiopian refugees who fled from the conflict in Ethiopia. This placed additional strain on its resources and increased the demand for goods, leading to higher prices in the market. Moreover, Gedaref has suffered from environmental damage due to cutting down trees indiscriminately, affecting the forest ecosystem. There is also a health risk as sewage water from refugee camps is disposed of near wells and reservoirs.

Humanitarian Needs and Responses

The war displaced about 27,4601 people to the state, as reported by the Al Gedaref Emergency Room and some civil society organisations and IOM. Most of them sought refuge in shelter centres set up in four areas.

Shelters

Aside from refugee camps, there are many more who are living in precarious conditions in schools and university dormitories. The state governor has ordered the removal of hundreds of displaced people from the Al Rasheed and Omar bin Abdelaziz boarding houses, claiming that they were disrupting the studies of the students. The displaced people have protested against this decision, saying they have nowhere else to go and need humanitarian assistance.

The state capital had 43 shelter centres in secondary schools and student dormitories at Gedaref University. Many of them have been forced to leave or are living in fear of eviction ([Dabanga](#)).

Shelter sites include the following:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Al Shawak, the capital of Al Fashqa Municipality• Qala Al Nahel Municipality• Al Faw Municipality• Shelter and housing areas• Gedaref Youth Initiative• Knowledge Youth Association• New Generation Youth Association• We Are All Relatives initiative• Awareness first• Afaq (Horizon) Organisation for Development and Improvement• Takatuf Charitable Initiative• Family Planning Association• Sudanese Red Crescent• Sudan Daughters Organisation• Civic Education Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• White Hands Charitable Association• Ashan Baladna Charity Association• Jungo Development Organization• Wasel Organisation for Social Activities• Al Gedaref Accident Street Initiative• Lamt Khair Charitable Organisation• Al Qash Cultural House Forum• Shorouk Cultural Forum• Young Women Leaders Organisation• Sudan Tomorrow Initiative• Bright Hope Charitable Association
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Food security and nutrition

The war has disrupted agricultural activities and markets, increasing the population's vulnerability to hunger and malnutrition. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Gedaref state is among the areas facing emergency levels of acute food insecurity. Malnutrition was already highly prevalent in the state before the war.

Health

The state suffers from a severe shortage of medical facilities and equipment, especially for patients who require dialysis treatment. Moreover, there is a lack of adequate maternal health care services, putting the lives of pregnant women and their babies at risk. A high number of cases of dengue fever was reported in Gedaref, with 542 suspected cases and 300 confirmed cases as of the end of September. In addition, Gedaref recorded hundreds of cases of watery diarrhoea in central Gedaref and the adjacent El Galabat West district. A cholera outbreak was declared in Gedaref in September 2023, with vaccination campaigns expected to start at the end of November, according to the [ReliefWeb flash update](#). The hospitals in Gedaref city are short of blood bags and medicines, along with the money to buy medicines. Several cases of malaria and measles have also been reported in Gedaref and other states ([ReliefWeb, Sep 2023](#)).

Humanitarian access

The state of security in the country is generally stable, except for some recent incidents of arms trafficking from the Butana region to Khartoum. Another source of concern is the escalating Ethiopian conflict and its possible impacts on the region.

Some security challenges have emerged due to the presence of former regime leaders in the region. Their presence was accompanied by a call for ethnic-based recruitment to join the army, which is a divisive and dangerous move.

The civilian forces that oppose the war are also facing increased security risks due to a new emergency law. This law has two main aspects: one is to limit the citizens' movement after 11 pm, and the other is to curtail their right to express themselves, protest, and gather in public places such as cafes and clubs.

Energy

The state relies on two sources of energy: the national electricity grid and Ethiopia's extension line. However, the state faces challenges in providing quality digital services to its citizens. The primary providers of digital services are MTN, Sudani and Zain, but they operate on a weak and outdated communications network. This affects the speed, reliability and security of the digital services in the state.

Financial and Banking Services

Like other states, the Gedaref has been affected by the suspension of banking services, which limited cash liquidity, shipping, and general circulation of money supply in various currencies. It has improved somewhat after some banks resumed their activities. It is worth noting that some banks set a withdrawal limit that does not exceed LS 100,000 per day. This directly and indirectly impacts the local population, exchange levels, purchasing power and prices.

The economic impacts are experienced in two main ways: the public sector shutdown and the suspension of public sector salaries for more than five months. These affect disbursements and purchasing power. By comparison, the private sector has flourished, benefiting from the influx of displaced people with cash and the emergence of commercial activities that did not exist previously in the state.

The accommodation and hotel sectors are witnessing a boom; even ordinary house prices have risen unsustainably, contributing to a halving purchasing power. The hotel sector also benefited from Ethiopian border trade and became a crossing point for goods for the entire state. It is worth noting that there is stability in the prices of many basic commodities.

As for the agricultural sector, there are indicators of failure for the agricultural season due to the lack of agricultural funding. This affects the size of cultivated areas, which are shrinking.

Education

The education sector in Gedaref has also suffered from the conflict that started on 15 April. Schools have been closed as IDPs have occupied them. Teachers across the country have not received salaries since the outbreak of the conflict.

Humanitarian responders in Al Gedaref State

Gedaref State Emergency Room provides shelter for displaced people. They started their activities after April 2023. The ER includes more than 23 bodies, according to its founding statement on 21 April. This consists of a group of initiatives, associations, national organisations, and social actors. Their mission is to provide shelter, food, and treatment, relying on popular support. However, the Emergency Room stopped its functions due to harassment from the State Security Committee. The Emergency Room was evicted from the youth hostel headquarters, but the Security Committee continued to pursue it even after it settled in alternative headquarters.

One of the clear positives during this period is the emergence of many youth initiatives, including the Emergency Room, and their effective activity in the humanitarian field, which succeeded in providing for the needs of displaced people for three months after the outbreak of the war.

Government responses

The state's Zakat Chamber and Social Welfare Office offered some assistance to vulnerable families who hosted displaced people, but the assistance was limited and insufficient for local needs. Some drugs and medical supplies were also delivered. The state faced some negative consequences, such as increased property prices due to the influx of federal institutions, businesses, and private sector individuals.

Some international organisations working in the state had an emergency unit, which provided packages and cash to support youth initiatives involving displaced men and women. These were provided by the following:

- Zoa
- IOM
- Red Cross
- NHRC
- WFP
- UNICEF
- Doctors Without Borders

Sudan Crisis Coordination Unit

About the SCCU

The Sudan Crisis Coordination Unit (SCCU) aims to facilitate the coordination of resources and efforts among various groups and networks, including diaspora organisations, humanitarian aid agencies, local civil society organisations, and government agencies.

For further details, please visit: <https://sudancu.org>