

Sudan Crisis Coordination Unit

Publication #7

Diaspora humanitarian responses to the crisis in Sudan

Following the armed conflict of 15 April 2023

October 2023



Executive summary

The crisis in Sudan has devastated the lives of millions of people, both inside and outside the country. Many Sudanese living abroad have relatives who were caught up in the violence, forced to flee their homes, or lost their sources of income. The Sudanese diaspora¹ feel the burden of helping their loved ones financially and emotionally while also coping with their trauma from witnessing the horrors of the conflict.

The Sudanese diaspora are actively involved in humanitarian responses to the ongoing crisis in Sudan, which erupted on 15 April 2023 when the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) clashed with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). This research report by the Sudan Crisis Coordination Unit (SCCU) explores how the diaspora has mobilised resources, networks, and expertise to support the affected populations in Sudan over five months, from April to September 2023.

The report uses mixed methods to analyse 255 initiatives led or supported by 192 diaspora organisations, informal groups, or individuals across different sectors and regions. The report reveals that the Sudanese diaspora have a strong humanitarian commitment to Sudan, regardless of the political and security situation, that extends beyond the first generation. Indeed, the 'shock' of recurrent emergencies in the country has forged or (re-)invigorated the diaspora's connections to Sudan, where the current crisis, the popular revolution of 2018 and the COVID-19 pandemic and flooding experienced in 2020 have each motivated new generations of the diaspora to engage with the country.

The report highlights the diversity and transnational nature of the Sudanese diaspora efforts to help their compatriots. The initiatives identified in this research are based in 21 countries of origin, transit /refuge, or destination. Among them, 22% operate across multiple countries, demonstrating their ability to collaborate and coordinate across borders. The report identifies the challenges and opportunities the diaspora faces in their humanitarian engagement and provides recommendations to institutional humanitarian partners for enhancing the diaspora's role and impact.

¹ Shabaka uses the term diaspora in this report to refer to Sudanese living outside Sudan or their descendants, whose identity and sense of belonging have been shaped by their ethnic, religious, linguistic or cultural background. This includes both 'old' diaspora (who have resided in settlement countries for longer periods of time, as well as 'new' diaspora who have been displaced by the current emergency or recent crises in Sudan.

Recommendations

To address the Sudan crisis effectively, institutional humanitarian partners should partner with the diaspora communities with a vital role and interest in its resolution. Therefore, it is important to ensure that local and diaspora-led funds and programmes are responsive and relevant to the realities and aspirations of the people on the ground. Institutional humanitarian partners² should adopt a participatory and inclusive approach to diaspora engagement and ensure that the funds and programmes are led by Sudanese or those directly affected by the crisis.

To effectively address the needs and rights of those affected by the crisis, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, SCCU proposes the following recommendations:

- Support and work with informal local civil society and diaspora groups, networks, and individuals.
- Provide flexible and direct funding for local and diaspora responders.
- Localise the response by ensuring local actors (and their partners in the diaspora) are involved in designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating humanitarian interventions.
- Integrate long-term development objectives and resilience-building strategies into humanitarian programming.
- Develop durable solutions to prevent prolonged displacement and dependency and promote social cohesion and peacebuilding.
- Facilitate a holistic and coherent regional response to the conflict in Sudan addressing the needs and rights of IDPs and refugees.
- Support decentralised humanitarian response by empowering field offices and local partners to make decisions and allocate resources according to different regions and communities' specific needs and contexts.
- Engage Sudanese diaspora volunteers and staff who are keen and committed to supporting the humanitarian response in their country of origin.
- Provide information and communication in Arabic and English.

²The term 'institutional humanitarian partners' is used here to refer to donors, UN agencies, and INGOs.

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SCCU publications

SCCU publications are a series of concise and informative documents that provide insights into the various aspects of the humanitarian crisis in Sudan. They aim to inform and guide policymakers and humanitarian actors on the best ways to address the complex and evolving challenges that affect the lives and livelihoods of millions of Sudanese people. The SCCU publications cover displacement, food security, health, protection, education, and humanitarian access, further focusing on regions. They also offer practical and evidence-based recommendations on how to improve the humanitarian response in Sudan.

Acknowledgements

We express our deepest thanks 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 the ongoing conflict in Sudan. We appreciate their trust 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.

Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
ACS	American Community Survey
ASLLP - UK	Association of Sudanese Lawyers and Legal Professionals in the UK
AU	African Union
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
BSAPCH	British Sudanese Association of Paediatrics and Child Health
CAD	Canadian Dollar
CMRT	Community Medical Response Team
CNN	The Cable News Network
CRF Sudan	Crisis Rescue Foundation
DWAG	Darfur Women Action Group
ERRs	Emergency Response Rooms
EU	European Union
EU DiF	European Union Global Diaspora Facility
GBP	British Pound Sterling
GoS	Government of Sudan
GPO	Governance Programming Overseas
HAC	Humanitarian Aid Commission
HPG	Humanitarian Protection Group
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières
MTN	Mobile Telephone Networks Group
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
ONS	Office for National Statistics in the United Kingdom
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
PHR	Physicians for Human Rights
PIN	People in Need
RCs	Resistance Committees
RSF	Rapid Support Forces
SAF	Sudanese Armed Forces
SAMA	Sudanese American Medical Association

SAMPA	Sudanese Australasian Medical Professionals Association
SAP UK	Sudanese Association of Paediatrics
SAPA	Sudanese American Physicians Association
SBE	Simulator-based education
SCIC	Sudan Community and Information Centre London
SCP	Sudan Crisis Program
SCCU	Sudan Crisis Coordination Unit
SDHR	Sudanese Doctors for Human Rights
SDN	Sudanese Diaspora Network
SDJA-UK	Sudan Junior Doctors' Association UK
SDU- Ireland	Sudan Doctors Union- Ireland
SDU- UK	Sudanese Doctors' Union- UK
SIHA	The Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa
SIHRO	Sudan International Human Rights Organisation
SPHEIR	Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education Innovation and Reform
SUDAQ	Sudanese Doctors Association in Qatar
SUDRO	Sustainable Development Response Organisation - Sudan
SudAVaS	Sudanese Association of Vascular Surgeons
SUHRC	Sudan Urgent Humanitarian Relief Consortium
SUWRA	Sudan Women's Rights Action
SWU- UK	Sudanese Women's Union in the UK
UCU UK	University and College Union
UN	United Nations
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
UNGA	UN General Assembly
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
USAID	The US Agency for International Development
USD	US Dollars
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation

Introduction

The Sudanese diaspora's involvement and engagement in Sudan has a long history, predating the current Sudan crisis. They have been active for decades, despite the challenges they faced during the dictatorship of Omar Al-Bashir and regimes preceding it. The 2018 popular revolution in Sudan created a new momentum for support and engagement. The Sudanese diaspora was highly active during this period, remotely in crisis advocacy³, media engagement⁴, and skills exchange, and in-country, with numerous diaspora initiatives that developed a humanitarian focus (EU DiF 2020), AU 2021). These activities continued after the military coup in October 2021.

Within hours of the outbreak of conflict on 15 April 2023, the Sudanese diaspora stepped up their remote activities, sharing critical information on the situation on the ground and liaising closely with their local partners on humanitarian needs. The security situation in Khartoum and other regions of Sudan has created real challenges for humanitarian access, limiting the diaspora's ability to deliver humanitarian interventions in-country. One result of this was also that the focus of much diaspora activity in the early phases of the conflict was on supporting the evacuation of extended families and communities to safer parts of the country or neighbouring countries. Notably, local civil society groups and their partners in the diaspora also supported the evacuation of international staff by sharing vital information on safe routes.

³ Crisis advocacy is used in this report to refer to humanitarian or protection advocacy conducted before, during and after crises.

⁴ Media engagement refers to contributions to print or broadcast media in the form of interviews or articles to raise awareness of the crisis or offer analytical insights.

Research Framework

The current conflict in Sudan between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) which started in April this year, has triggered a wave of humanitarian action from the Sudanese diaspora. This research explores how these diaspora humanitarians have mobilised resources, networks, and skills to assist those affected by the conflict in Sudan and neighbouring countries.

The research sought to answer two main questions:

1. What kinds of humanitarian aid have the Sudanese diaspora provided to the crisis-affected populations in Sudan? How have they coordinated and delivered their assistance?
2. How can the main challenges hinder the effectiveness and efficiency of diaspora humanitarianism in Sudan, and how can they be overcome?

To address these questions, the research combined qualitative and quantitative data from various sources, such as desk review and internet searches, telephone interviews with key informants from the diaspora and humanitarian sectors, and social media monitoring from April to September 2023. The research focused on diaspora organisations and initiatives based in the Northern Hemisphere (US, Canada, and Europe), the Gulf Countries, Africa, and the countries bordering Sudan. The research also included data from private and informal networks in Sudan and in the diaspora shared via mobile messaging apps (such as WhatsApp, Facebook, or Telegram).

Researchers collected data on 255 initiatives from 192 diaspora organisations, informal networks, or individuals involved in responding to the crisis. The latter two categories -- informal networks and diaspora individuals -- made up 41% of initiatives identified (104). The diaspora organisations, networks, and individuals consulted in this research were based in 21 countries of settlement or refuge. However, 22% of these did not originate from a single country of settlement or refuge, showing the extent to which diaspora groups and networks operate across borders.

To understand the diverse and dynamic ways the Sudanese diaspora have supported their country during the crisis, this research adopted a thematic approach instead of trying to capture or list every diaspora group or network. This research identified and analysed various initiatives the Sudanese diaspora has launched or participated in since the conflict erupted and their focus areas.

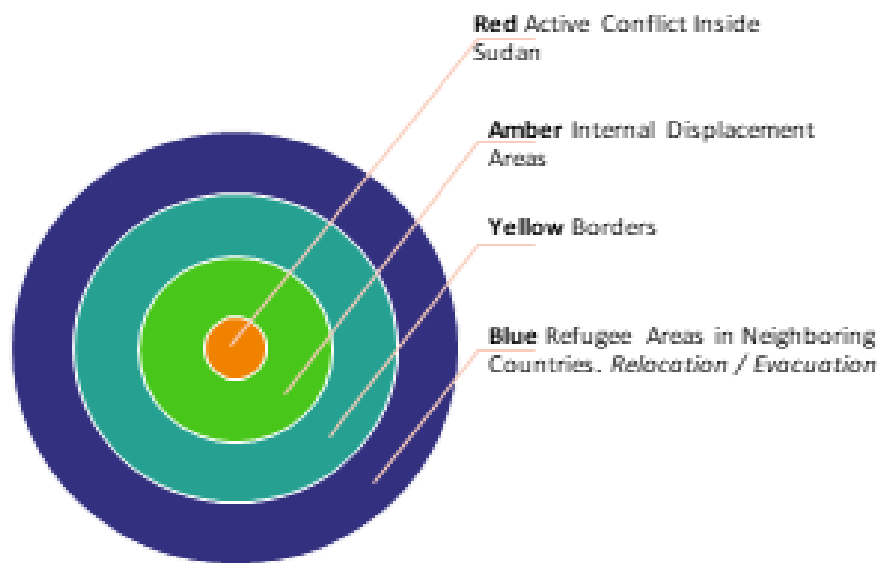


Figure #1 - Humanitarian zones

The research classified diaspora humanitarian responses into different clusters based on how urgent and close they were to the conflict. The recipients of diaspora humanitarian assistance were located in four zones that depended on two main factors:

- the existence of armed conflict; and
- displacement areas inside or outside Sudan (see Figure #1 above).

These zones are not fixed and have changed over time, reflecting the shifting nature of the conflict in Sudan. At the time of writing, the Darfur region and Khartoum State have been active conflict zones since the beginning of the conflict. This includes the Khartoum States' three major cities: Omdurman, North Khartoum (also known as Bahri) and Khartoum City.

The research collaborated with a wide range of partners in responding to the crisis and gathered data from stakeholders directly engaged in the response to provide the humanitarian community with a clear picture of the existing efforts. It also revealed the gaps in humanitarian response among local, national, and international partners.

Background to Sudanese diaspora engagement with Sudan

Sudan has been an important source of labour migration to other states, especially the Gulf region, since the early 1970s (UNESCWA 2014). The Sudanese diaspora have been an essential contributor to socio-economic development in Sudan, deploying different forms of diaspora 'capital' – financial, intellectual, social, cultural, political, and voluntarism – to do so (Shabaka 2021).

According to data from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the total number of Sudanese abroad was estimated at approximately 2m in 2020. However, this only includes Sudanese nationals and excludes Sudanese who have been naturalised as citizens of other countries or second and subsequent generations who have grown up in the diaspora (EU DIF 2020). The principal destination countries for Sudanese abroad in 2020 were South Sudan (576,668), Saudi Arabia (469,324), Chad (354,817), United Arab Emirates (131,254), and Uganda (67,395) (Ibid.).

Significant Sudanese diaspora communities also exist in the United States and the United Kingdom. In the United States, there were approximately 60,000 Sudanese diaspora, according to the 2020 American Community Survey (ACS 2020). The UK Office for National Statistics in reported in 2020 that about 20,000 Sudanese nationals were resident in the UK, and 35,000 people in the UK were born in Sudan (ONS 2022)⁵. However, there are no estimates of the number of second and subsequent-generation Sudanese diaspora living in the US or UK, so the total size of the Sudanese community in these countries is likely to be significantly higher. Sudanese diaspora communities are also found in other African states particularly Egypt, with over 4m Sudanese diaspora and refugees as of August 2023 (IOM 2023a), as well as European countries and Australia.

The 2019 popular revolution and the ousting of Al-Bashir in Sudan provided a new window of momentum and optimism for many in the Sudanese diaspora to re-engage – or strengthen their existing engagement – with Sudan. Although the diaspora had provided support and strategic advice – often not uncritically – to grassroots civil society networks in Sudan since at least 2013, the diaspora stepped up this support during the 2018 revolution (Shabaka 2023a). In addition to advising protestors and civil

⁵ This includes people born in Sudan who have become naturalised as British citizens.

society groups in Sudan, they carried out innovative and high-impact advocacy and media engagement activities to keep the street protestors in the public eye and maintain international focus on the situation in the country.

Diaspora contributions to Sudan are not restricted to development in times of relative peace and stability. They also included humanitarian responses to the recurrent humanitarian crises that the country has experienced since its independence. Indeed, the diaspora's experiences of crises in Sudan are generational, with each new crisis affecting new generations of Sudanese and Sudanese diaspora (EU DiF 2021, Shabaka 2021).

Forms and types of Sudanese diaspora humanitarian responses

The Sudanese diaspora adopts various organisational forms in settlement countries, ranging from formally registered civil society organisations with a specific focus (e.g., medical professionals' networks, legal advice, refugee support) to social enterprises, businesses, informal groupings and networks, and individual initiatives. These organisational forms are informed by relevant structures and legal requirements in different settlement countries, which can vary in reporting, oversight, and accountability, as well as the socio-economic and legal position of the diaspora in these countries (for example, migration status) and their migration histories.

Moreover, the constellation of diaspora organisations and networks is not static; these are constantly evolving and adapting. There is much interchange between different Sudanese diaspora organisations and networks in terms of sharing information, resources, personnel, and membership. This also reflects the highly adaptive nature of diaspora humanitarian responses, whether regarding resource mobilisation and financial crisis solidarity, exchange of skills and knowledge with local partners in Sudan and other diaspora groups, or crisis advocacy and media engagement.

The principal barrier to delivering humanitarian activities within Sudan remains the deteriorating security situation, which has severely limited humanitarian access and affected key infrastructure such as power internet connectivity and the collapse of the country's financial system. Insecurity and the lack of humanitarian access have also meant that most, but not all, diaspora activity is restricted to remotely supporting their local partners inside "red" conflict zones, or is delivered in safer "amber" zones, "yellow zones" on the borders, and in "blue zones" in neighbouring states where many Sudanese have been displaced. These limiting factors continue to shape the contours of diaspora humanitarian responses to the current crisis, which are highly adaptive.

The majority (51%) of initiatives identified in this research focussed on information-sharing and advocacy, a key area of activity for diaspora responders within hours of the outbreak of the conflict on 15 April. The diaspora's ability to tap into private networks of trust and use mobile messaging apps and other information sources has enabled them to share information and updates in near real-time.

Support for health care is a significant area of diaspora humanitarian activity. 24% of initiatives surveyed for this study support healthcare delivery and 15% target mental health in Sudan, neighbouring countries, or the diaspora. Fundraising is another vital

activity, accounting for 17% of initiatives surveyed. Funds were mobilised to support relief efforts by local civil society partners and diaspora humanitarians active in Sudan to purchase medical and relief supplies and support people displaced internally or across the borders.

Resource mobilisation

Resource mobilisation is an essential activity area for many in the Sudanese diaspora. Mobilisation of diaspora resources has taken different forms, including remittances, fundraising and philanthropy, non-cash resources (such as medical supplies or equipment), and other forms of in-kind support. For more detailed information on this topic, please see [SCCU 2023c](#).

Remittances

Moving money into Sudan was a challenge even before the outbreak of the current conflict, as Sudan was largely cut off from global financial systems due to international sanctions on the previous regime. These restrictions were in place until 2020 but lifting them did not automatically mean money could flow into the country. Since the war, more recent sanctions on the parties to the conflict have also impeded money inflows (SCCU 2023c).

This is also reflected in the relatively low levels of formal remittances to the country before the current crisis, with formal remittance flows only accounting for 1.4% of GDP in 2020 (World Bank 2020). although informal remittance flows are higher. While patterns of remittance-sending and barriers to cash transfers were not areas of investigation for this research, respondents confirmed the challenges identified in other recent studies on this topic (see, inter alia, SCCU 2023c, IOM Sudan/Shabaka forthcoming, EU DiF 2021, EU Dif 2020, HPG 2022).

Due to restrictions on sending foreign transfers to Sudan, the diaspora in many global North settlement countries cannot easily send money directly to Sudan. Instead, they prefer to send it via indirect routes, typically in Gulf states, or via informal money transfer systems such as hawala agents⁶. Moreover, as the financial system in Sudan has

⁶ Hawala is a traditional form of informal, trust-based international money transfer that has been used for centuries by traders in parts of Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

collapsed due to the conflict and telephone and internet access has become unreliable, mobile money transfer options are also limited.

Nevertheless, patterns of diaspora remittance-sending in times of crisis are highly adaptive, and remittance-senders increase the amounts and frequency of transfers and change recipients to adapt to humanitarian needs on the ground. Despite their challenges in sending money to Sudan, diaspora groups and individuals actively develop workarounds.

These include using financial channels through Chad or other countries bordering Sudan. They may also use new apps such as Ding or Zain, which send phone credit that people can use to pay for things or use as regular phone credit. Some use SyberPay, an app that allows digital money transfer without needing a Bank of Sudan 'Bankak' account. In some cases, diaspora organisations have been able to transfer funds using international organisations, civil society groups based in neighbouring countries, or import-export businesses still operating in the country.

Fundraising and philanthropy

The diaspora thus continues to send money as best they can to extended families and local communities in Sudan and those displaced to neighbouring or other countries. Their pressures to extend this support have increased as humanitarian needs and internal and cross-border displacement have grown.

Fundraising and philanthropy are another vital area of diaspora activity, accounting for 17% of all the Sudanese diaspora initiatives identified in this research. Diaspora groups, networks, and individuals launched fundraising initiatives to support relief activities within hours of the outbreak of the crisis on 15 April. These include online crowdfunding platforms and more traditional forms of community fundraising such as community events, charity sales, and charity music and comedy performances.

Funds were raised to support various relief activities in Sudan and neighbouring countries by local and diaspora partners, including emergency medical services and purchase of medical supplies and equipment, WASH initiatives, shelter and protection, food security and nutrition, and support with evacuations. Examples of diaspora philanthropy also included donations by wealthy Sudanese in the diaspora to support displaced people, such as paying for accommodation and other costs, in neighbouring states such as Egypt and South Sudan.

Most diaspora fundraising and philanthropy are private or conducted through informal community or faith networks; thus, tracking accurate amounts or impact is difficult. However, using openly available data on diaspora fundraisers on online crowdfunding platforms, the research identified that between 15 April and 15 September 2023, over \$1m USD had been raised by the diaspora to support relief activities in Sudan, although this will be a small fraction of the total diaspora financial resources mobilised to respond to the crisis.

Humanitarian aid

The Sudanese diaspora has also mobilised non-cash resources for the crisis response, including medical supplies, clothes, shelter, food, and educational materials. However, barriers to transporting non-cash resources to and within Sudan mean that sending these has become more challenging, and data shared via private diaspora networks (and corroborated by interview respondents) gave several examples of relief and medical supplies and items such as clothes or equipment, getting stuck at the borders.

While some supplies sent by diaspora groups and networks were able to reach Port Sudan, lack of safe humanitarian access prevented distribution to other parts of the country; some interviewees also reported using local partners in neighbouring countries or businesses involved in import and exports to and from Sudan, to transport non-cash resources. As a result of these barriers, many diaspora responders prefer to send cash to trusted local partners or recipients instead.

Volunteering

In addition to sending cash and non-cash resources, the Sudanese diaspora has provided significant in-kind support and volunteered their time to support the crisis response. Forms of in-kind support identified through the research included translating information and materials to and from Arabic, providing advice and updating people affected by the crisis via mobile messaging apps and social media.

The diaspora also volunteered their time for activities ranging from advocacy and media engagement, training and upskilling⁷ local partners to helping with “back-office”

⁷ 'Upskilling' is used throughout this report in preference to 'capacity-building', as the latter can have pejorative connotations and ignore the significant existing capacity of organisations and networks in Sudan.

functions such as drafting funding proposals or assisting local partners in meeting partner or donor reporting requirements and providing legal advice in countries of refuge or settlement to Sudanese displaced by the crisis.

As is common among diaspora groups and networks, these activities are conducted almost exclusively pro bono. This can enable a greater degree of flexibility, but it also imposes some limitations on diaspora humanitarian activities within Sudan and remotely. Institutional humanitarian partners should explore ways of supporting such diaspora groups and networks with volunteering costs and organisational development.

Information-sharing and advocacy

Information-sharing and advocacy are vital areas where the diaspora have been active since the very start of the crisis, and these accounted for just over half (53%) of all the initiatives identified in the research. Their knowledge of the local context, combined with access to private networks of trust in Sudan and across the diaspora, is enabled by common mobile messaging apps and social media platforms, meaning they can quickly share and interpret information on rapidly changing local needs and conditions.

However, diaspora information-sharing with family, communities, and local partners in Sudan relies heavily on internet connectivity. Even before the current conflict, the internet was not stable in Sudan, in part due to government restrictions aimed at disrupting popular protests from 2018 onwards. Live [NetBlocks](#) metrics from 15 May 2023 show connectivity across the country was at 1% of ordinary levels amid severe energy and fuel shortages and damage to the infrastructure resulting from the conflict. For example, Mobile Telephone Networks group (MTN), a leading telecom provider in Sudan, announced on their Facebook page on 30 April that their services were interrupted for all users due to damage to power lines and the inability to transport fuel for backup generators due to the clashes, with only the gradual return of services starting on 10 May ([MTN](#)).

The Sudanese diaspora has been actively advocating for humanitarian needs in Sudan since the start of the crisis. This has included online and social media campaigns to highlight humanitarian needs, as well as crisis advocacy and media engagement to raise and maintain awareness of the crisis among international partners and the public. Researchers found 47 examples of engagement with print or broadcast media between 15 April and 15 September 2023.

In addition, diaspora groups, networks, and individuals have conducted policy advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy on the need to increase the international crisis response and allocation of humanitarian resources for Sudan. For example, diaspora groups and networks held events on the margins of the UNGA sessions in September 2023 and at parliamentary hearings on the Sudan crisis in the UK, Belgium, Germany, and Australia.

Diaspora organisations and networks such as Sudan Human Rights Hub, Sudan Doctors for Human Rights (SDHR, in the UK and Australia), the Sudan International Human Rights Organisation (SIHRO), and the Association of Sudanese Lawyers and Legal Professionals in the UK (ASLLP-UK) have conducted advocacy on human rights abuses and monitored violations in the country in collaboration with local partners in Sudan. They have also provided remote training in digital human rights monitoring for local civil society groups and networks in the country.

The Sudanese diaspora also works through professional associations and networks in settlement countries. For example, many Sudanese doctors and lawyers are members of networks such as Physicians for Human Rights ([PHR](#)) and helped to produce a detailed report, "['Chaos and Fire': An Analysis of Sudan's June 3, 2019, Khartoum Massacre](#)," exposing deliberate assaults on medical professionals as well as sexual and gender-based violence against pro-democracy groups.

Coordination

The diaspora response also includes coordination and protection. Because of their access to private networks of trust within Sudan and across the diaspora, the diaspora have been active in sharing critical information on needs on the ground and connecting people to potential sources of assistance.

This was evident from the early stages of the crisis, when diaspora organisations, networks, and individuals worked closely with local civil society partners in Sudan to share critical information in near-real time on evacuation routes and shelter for people displaced by the fighting and give advice on cross-border evacuations, visas, and the situation at Sudan's borders. They also provided information on safe routes to staff at international organisations caught in the conflict before the organisation of evacuations by countries such as the US, France, Germany, and the UK.

Diaspora support for protection goes beyond sharing information. Most diaspora families have been affected by the impacts of the crisis, with growing demands from extended family and local community members in their networks for support, both

within Sudan and for those displaced to neighbouring and other countries. As a result, they are providing vital, if unrecognised, support for food, shelter, and protection for people within Sudan through local partners and outside Sudan. This includes sending money and other resources to Sudan and providing advice on accessing help and support for those displaced to neighbouring countries.

These increasing demands for support have also placed additional financial pressures on the diaspora during a cost-of-living crisis in many settlement countries, and some diaspora have had to take on additional jobs or debt to meet these. As the crisis in Sudan becomes more entrenched, this also raises questions about the sustainability of these increased diaspora efforts to send money in the longer term.

Diaspora health initiatives

Sudanese diaspora medical professionals are among the most active diaspora associations responding to the crisis due to their size, reach, skills and experience, and credibility with local and international partners.

برنامج التطبيب عن بعد في الطوارئ للسودان (خطوة)
وزارة الصحة الاتحادية السودانية (الإدارة العامة للطب العلاجي والإدارة العامة للطوارئ الصحية ومكافحة الأوبئة)

جميع الخدمات مجانية للسكان المتضررين في السودان واللاجئين السودانيين في البلدان المضيفة.

الإختصاصات:
1. الأمراض غير المعدية / الأمراض المزمنة (HTN ، أمراض القلب ، الربو ، أمراض الروماتيزم ، أمراض الكلى ، ...)
2. داء السكري (الكبار والأطفال)
3. النساء و التوليد
4. طب الأطفال
5. طب الأسرة / الطب العام / طب الأورام
6. الصحة النفسية

<https://step-sudan.vsee.me/>

المستشفيات : مستشفى عثمان دقنة وزارة الصحة ولاية البحر الأحمر
مستشفى الكاملين وزارة الصحة ولاية الجزيرة

Avicenna Health Institute | VSee | MINNESOTA MEDICAL CO. LTD.

هذه الخدمة يقدمها متطوعون من منظمات مهنية ومنظمات المهنيين في المهجر من 11 دولة.

لجنة الأطباء السودانيين بالخليج | كلية الطب جامعة الجزيرة | مشروع الاتحاد السوداني للسكري
نقابة أطباء السودان - المملكة المتحدة | جمعية المهنيين الطبيين السودانيين الأستراليين (SAMPA)
شبكة الممرضات السودانيات | معية النساء والتوليد السودانية (OGSS) | الجمعية السودانية لإعادة التأهيل العصبي
رابطة خريجي جامعة الجزيرة في أمريكا الشمالية (UGAIN) الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية
فريق الاستجابة الطبية المجتمعية (CMRT) ، سفراء STEP ، السودان | جمعية الأطباء السودانيين الأمريكيين (SAPA)

يتم تنسيق هذه الخدمة من قبل وزارة الصحة الاتحادية السودانية بالتعاون مع معهد أفسينا الصحي (AHI) ، الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية وشركة مينيسوتا الطبية (MMC) السودان و بدعم سخى من VSee بالولايات المتحدة الأمريكية

Since the start of the current crisis, they have delivered emergency medical care, WASH, and nutrition services in different regions of Sudan, working closely with their Sudanese counterparts across red, amber, and yellow zones, and deploying medical missions to blue zones in neighbouring countries such as Chad and South Sudan. However, gaining access to border regions in Egypt remains a challenge, as does providing medical care in Egypt itself due to regulatory requirements from the government.

Sudanese diaspora medical professionals' networks are based in several settlement countries, such as the Sudan Doctors' Union (SDU) in the UK and Eire, the British Sudanese

Association of Paediatrics and Child Health (BSAPCH) in the UK, the Sudanese American Physicians Association (SAPA), the Sudanese American Medical Association (SAMA), and the Sustainable Development Response Organisation (SUDRO)'s Community Response Medical Team (CMRT) in the United States, and the Sudanese Doctors' Association in Qatar (SUDAQ).

These groups have delivered medical services in some regions of Sudan in support of their Sudanese colleagues since before the current crisis, mobilising to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, as well as providing professional skills training, capacity-building, and telemedicine.

Diaspora medical professionals' networks coordinate closely and operate transnationally, especially concerning medical specialities, regional and country locations. For example, vascular surgeons formed the Sudanese Association of Vascular Surgeons (SudAVaS). While their HQ is in Sudan, members also include doctors in the diaspora.

Similarly, already established associations form alliances with other existing bodies. The Sudan-based [Preliminary Committee of Sudan Doctors](#), a recognised body of pro-democracy medics, formed the (One + Six) Committee.⁸ This has been instrumental in the humanitarian response during the conflict by coordinating the humanitarian assistance from its members and donations received in their respective countries. It is also the trusted source for need assessments and the focal point between the diaspora physicians' associations, the Sudanese Federal Ministry of Health, and the National Medical Supplies Fund. Sudanese diaspora medical associations from 11 countries across the globe are participating in "[Khotwa](#)" online medical services in coordination with the Federal Ministry of Health.

Diaspora health professionals have provided mental health support to people affected by the crisis, both in Sudan and remotely. Diaspora psychologists and psychiatrists have volunteered their time to offer psychosocial support to displaced Sudanese in neighbouring countries individually and in groups. The crisis has also caused great strain and trauma within diaspora communities. Diaspora mental health professionals have organised remote / telemedicine and in-person psychosocial support to affected community members in countries of settlement and transit.

⁸ The 'six' here denotes associate medics in 6 countries: the US, Canada, the UK, Ireland, Qatar, and Australia). The Sudanese Physicians' Association in Saudi is an honorary member due to their status and inability to register officially.

Digital initiatives

Sudanese diaspora with skills and experience in technology and tech development have also mobilised to respond to the crisis, focusing on supporting information-sharing and coordination on humanitarian needs, health, and on identifying means of transferring cash into Sudan. Others have developed mobile apps to provide information on employment or education opportunities for Sudanese displaced internally or to neighbouring countries. Ongoing challenges of power outages and internet connectivity constrain the use of mobile apps within Sudan. As a result, many of these apps have been developed for low-bandwidth settings. Examples of apps developed by the Sudanese diaspora in response to the crisis can be found in Annex 2.

Skills and knowledge exchange

Diaspora groups and networks have worked closely with their local civil society partners in Sudan to exchange skills and knowledge since the outbreak of the crisis, with a focus on practical upskilling for local partners. The research identified 36 diaspora initiatives focusing on upskilling or training. These included remote training for local partners, often via WhatsApp, Telegram, or Zoom due to challenges in connectivity within Sudan, on diverse topics such as digital security, human rights monitoring and use of mobile technology for documenting violations, humanitarian governance, donor reporting and compliance, resource mobilisation and crowdfunding.

Diaspora groups and networks with specialist skills, such as health professionals' networks, have also delivered more specialised or technical training to local partners on emergency medical care and psychological first aid. Trainees have included Sudanese medical professionals based in Sudan and students in Sudan and neighbouring countries.

For example, In August and September 2023, Shabaka, with the support of IOM Sudan, piloted simulator-based education (SBE)⁹ remote training of trainers (ToT) for 113 diaspora medics and Sudanese doctors and medical students in Sudan (in Atbara, Port Sudan, Omdurman, and Madani) and in Egypt and South Sudan. The project was delivered in partnership with the Sudan Medical Specialists' Board¹⁰, which formed the

⁹ SBE training includes use of role play, standardized patients, virtual simulation, and computerized mannequins. Simulation-based learning can be the way to develop health professionals' knowledge, skills, and attitudes, whilst protecting doctors and patients from unnecessary risks. (Lateef 2010).

¹⁰ The Sudan Medical Specialists' Board was based in Khartoum but since the current conflict most of its members have been displaced to other parts of the country, Egypt, and South Sudan.

Sudan SBE Faculty to oversee different medical disciplines and provide quality assurance, and [Oxford Medical Simulations](#)¹¹.

Diaspora groups and networks have also worked with international humanitarian organisations to improve the diaspora's knowledge of the humanitarian system. Again, this has entailed chiefly remote or hybrid training in settlement countries in topics such as the UN cluster system, humanitarian principles and [SPHERE standards](#), and support for gaining humanitarian certification (SPHERE 2023).

¹¹ Oxford Medical Simulations use virtual reality and screen-based simulation to train healthcare professionals in the UK National Health Service (NHS) and other countries.

Diaspora engagement with humanitarian partners

As noted above, diaspora engagement in humanitarian responses to the crisis in Sudan long predates the current situation in Sudan. Diaspora groups, networks, and individuals have worked with local civil society partners in Sudan before the 2019 popular revolution to respond to multiple overlapping crises ([Shabaka, 2023b](#)).¹²

Due to decades-long governance failures around recurrent crises—including cholera outbreaks, the COVID-19 pandemic, and record Nile floods, even before the current crisis erupted—hybrid community responses by local civil society groups and diaspora humanitarians have, in effect, substituted for state functions ([EUDiF 2021](#)). Local and diaspora responses to the COVID-19 pandemic can also be examples of localisation in Sudan (Shabaka 2023b.; see also [African Union, 2021](#)).

As they typically operate outside formal humanitarian structures, diaspora humanitarians have learned to work directly and closely with local communities and civil society partners in the origin countries. They also maintain long-lasting and sustained relationships with these communities and partners, which helps build trust ([EU DiF, 2022](#); [Ahmed, 2020](#)).

Since at least 2013, the diaspora have supported local civil society groups and networks, such as the neighbourhood Resistance Committees (RCs) in Sudan, providing resources and strategic advice (Shabaka 2023b). These local civil society initiatives have evolved in response to events in Sudan, including the 2019 popular revolution, the 2021 military coup, and the outbreak of the current crisis. Now many of the RCs and local groups have formed “Emergency Response Rooms” (ERRs) to reflect their focus on providing emergency assistance.

To date, there has been no large-scale international humanitarian response in view of the logistical and security obstacles facing humanitarian organisations. As a result, local civil society networks such as the ERRs and their partners in the diaspora have been providing the bulk of humanitarian assistance in the country. As such, the diaspora's engagement with local actors is an example of 'delivering' localisation, and there are useful lessons that institutional humanitarian partners can draw from the

¹² Diaspora humanitarians' engagement with humanitarian partners in Sudan is explored in greater detail in other SCCU publications (in particular, publications on national NGOs in Sudan and Emergency Response Rooms).

diaspora's experience in this regard.

Insecurity and the lack of humanitarian access have also meant that most, but not all, diaspora activity is restricted to remote support for their local partners or in 'yellow zones' on the borders and 'blue zones' in neighbouring states where Sudanese had been displaced. These limiting factors continue to shape the contours of diaspora humanitarian responses to the current crisis, which are highly adaptive. Despite these challenges, diaspora organisations and networks are supporting or delivering humanitarian initiatives across the different humanitarian zones, as shown in the table below:

	Red zone	Amber zone	Yellow zone	Blue zone
Number of initiatives	25	33	30	33
%	10%	13%	12%	13%

Table 1 – Diaspora support for initiatives in humanitarian zones

Diaspora groups and networks also work with national humanitarian organisations and structures, including the Ministry of Health and the Sudanese Red Crescent. However, these partnerships tend to operate in specific professional sectors, particularly the medical sector, as there is a perception that many national organisations in Sudan are compromised by their associations with previous regimes.

Diaspora groups and networks are cooperating with the few international organisations operating in Sudan, such as Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), People in Need (PIN), or the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), to support humanitarian activities delivered by them and local civil society networks. This cooperation has included relationship-building, information-sharing, and leveraging funds and resources from international organisations towards ERRs and other local civil society groups.¹³ Also, as noted in the section above, diaspora groups have also worked with international organisations to upskill local civil society partners in Sudan as well as diaspora organisations' capacities.

¹³ For example, since its launch in June SCCU has managed to leverage over \$500,000 USD for local civil society partners in Sudan providing humanitarian assistance during the crisis.

Challenges to diaspora humanitarian engagement

The principal barrier to diaspora groups and networks delivering humanitarian activities within Sudan remains the deteriorating security situation, which has severely limited humanitarian access and affected key infrastructure such as power internet connectivity and the collapse of the country's financial system. This is a shared challenge for local and national organisations in Sudan, international partners, and the diaspora.

Sending money to people inside Sudan remains a significant challenge. Many diaspora organisations and individuals use mobile applications such as Bankak, the Bank of Khartoum app, and Wise for transferring money to Sudan, as well as sending cash through relatives, friends, initiatives and organisations, and other unofficial methods such as hawala agents. Technical issues and sanctions also limit their ability to raise or withdraw funds from crowdfunding platforms like GoFundMe.

Maintaining current levels of financial support for family and local partners in Sudan in the medium to longer term is also likely to be a challenge for many in the diaspora. Cost of living crises in many settlement countries will impact their ability to maintain levels of financial support; they may face challenges finding other employment or managing debt. INGOs working on the Sudan response could help offset some financial pressures on diaspora organisations and networks by supporting diaspora volunteering and “back office” functions.

Power and internet connectivity are two other significant barriers to diaspora responses, as these enable remote support for local partners and information-sharing with extended family, local communities, and local partners in Sudan. INGOs and humanitarian partners may be able to provide temporary solutions to power shortages, such as solar power banks and generators.

Recognition and visibility of diaspora efforts, mainly by international partners, is another challenge. Although the visibility of diaspora humanitarian activities has increased due to their responses to the crisis, some institutional humanitarian partners remain suspicious of diaspora involvement in humanitarian response because of their lack of professional training, certification, and accreditation. INGOs and international humanitarian partners may be able to provide access to training and certification to diaspora groups.

Related to this, institutional and organisational mandates and sector-wide norms and standards, for example, concerning adherence to humanitarian principles, can restrict their ability to work with local and diaspora partners who may not be able or willing to adhere to these. Whilst most local partners and diaspora groups and networks are not aligned with the conflict parties, this situation may change if the conflict becomes a civil war, forcing increasing numbers of local partners (and their supporters in the diaspora) to become more politicised or to take sides.

Another challenge is coordination and avoiding duplication of efforts. Although initiatives such as the SCCU and the Sudan Crisis Program work to improve information-sharing between humanitarian partners, they do not provide humanitarian coordination on the ground. The UN cluster system in Sudan has included some local actors but does not typically involve diaspora groups or networks. Institutional humanitarian partners can potentially help to promote greater participation by more local civil society and diaspora partners and improved information-sharing between local, diaspora, and international humanitarian partners.

One final challenge to note is the crisis's impact on diaspora communities. The difficult situations faced by their extended family and local communities in Sudan and neighbouring countries, and their inability to respond to their humanitarian needs as much as they would like, cause trauma, helplessness, guilt, anxiety, and depression in diaspora communities. While diaspora groups and networks have identified this challenge and attempted to mitigate it by offering psychosocial support, international organisations can help by extending psychosocial support available to their staff to diaspora organisations and networks involved in the crisis response.

Findings and recommendations

The research identified the multiple ways the Sudanese diaspora have responded to humanitarian needs in Sudan since the crisis started on 15 April and the diverse diaspora groups, networks, and individuals involved in this response, both formal and informal. Despite the myriad barriers and challenges involved, the diaspora's breadth of activities is awe-inspiring, especially given the country's lack of humanitarian access and other logistical barriers to crisis response.

Diaspora humanitarians' ability to move fast, their knowledge of the Sudanese context, and access to private networks of trust within Sudan and the diaspora allow them to share critical information, often in near-real time, to respond to the crisis. This gives them considerable comparative advantages in sharing information and other resources, and has enabled them to conduct high-impact advocacy campaigns, media engagement, and effective crisis advocacy.

A key finding of the research is the extent to which informal diaspora groups, networks, and individuals play a critical role in responses to the crisis, operating across the humanitarian-development spectrum. For understandable reasons, humanitarian practitioners and researchers tend to focus on formally registered organisations and networks.

Diaspora professionals' networks, in particular health professionals, but also those with specialist skills in sectors such as WASH, law, technology, and logistics, are highly active in responding to the current crisis, and their work has been highly respected by their local partners in Sudan and by international humanitarian partners alike.

Moreover, the Sudanese diaspora operates in a truly transnational way, mobilising skills and resources from within the community across multiple countries settlement and refuge. This suggests a more nuanced approach to engaging with Sudanese diaspora humanitarians is needed, rather than a restricted focus on diaspora in particular settlement countries.

At the same time, diaspora humanitarian initiatives in response to the Sudan crisis tend to be small-scale and operate at the local or micro-level. They often lack the organisational capacities required to scale up their interventions. In addition, the lack of coordination between them and other humanitarian actors involved in the Sudan crisis response risks duplications of efforts.

Although a worsening security situation limits the scope for delivery of diaspora humanitarian interventions within Sudan, the diaspora will continue to provide support remotely as long as power and internet connectivity permit. Their close working relationships and partnerships with local civil society groups and networks also offer valuable lessons for realising localisation in practice, and institutional humanitarian partners can strengthen the impact of their humanitarian activities by working with them to think 'out of the box', share risks, and develop innovative solutions in collaboration with local partners.

The Sudan crisis is a complex and protracted humanitarian emergency that requires a comprehensive and coordinated response from various actors, including international organisations, the United Nations, donors, civil society groups, and diaspora communities. To effectively address the needs and rights of those affected by the crisis, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, SCCU proposes the following recommendations:

- Support and work with informal local civil society groups and diaspora groups, networks, and individuals, especially for the protection of IDPs and those displaced to other countries. These actors have valuable knowledge, access, and trust within the affected communities and can complement the efforts of formal humanitarian actors.
- Provide flexible and direct funding for local responders, as this will reduce transaction costs, enhance accountability, and foster innovation and learning.
- Localise the response by ensuring local actors (and their diaspora partners) are involved in designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating humanitarian interventions. This can enhance the response's relevance, appropriateness, accountability, and sustainability and foster local ownership and empowerment.
- Ensure sustainable planning for the response by integrating long-term development objectives and resilience-building strategies into humanitarian programming. This can help address the root causes of displacement and vulnerability and prepare for future shocks and stresses.
- Explore durable solutions at the outset by considering the potential for voluntary return, local integration, or resettlement of IDPs and refugees, depending on their preferences and circumstances. This can help prevent prolonged displacement and dependency and promote social cohesion and peacebuilding.

- Respond to the Sudan crisis as a regional crisis by acknowledging the cross-border dimensions of displacement and the interconnections between the situations in Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Chad, and other neighbouring countries. This can facilitate a holistic and coherent response addressing the needs and rights of IDPs and refugees in host and origin countries.
- Ensure humanitarian responses on the ground are decentralised by empowering field offices and local partners to make decisions and allocate resources according to different regions and communities' specific needs and contexts. This can improve the timeliness, flexibility, and effectiveness of the response.
- Engage Sudanese diaspora volunteers and staff as they are keen and committed to supporting the humanitarian response in their country of origin. These actors can bring valuable skills, experiences, perspectives, and networks to the response and bridge cultural and linguistic gaps.
- Communication materials should at least be bilingual by providing information and communication in Arabic and English. This can enhance the accessibility, inclusivity, and transparency of the response and respect the diversity of the affected population.

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Annexes

Annexe 1 – Diaspora and Civic groups engaged in humanitarian response in Sudan

This list contains the names and locations of formally registered diaspora organisations and networks identified through the research and is not intended as a comprehensive listing of Sudanese diaspora organisations.

Organisation	Location
7arisaat	Egypt/Sudan
African & Caribbean Leadership Consortium (Northern Ireland)	UK
Ahfad Support Group in the UK	UK
Ahfad Trauma Centre	Transnational
Al- Sudaniya mentoring	UK
Association of Sudanese Lawyers and Legal Professionals in the UK (ASLLP- UK)	UK
Better Health for Africa	UK
British Sudanese Association of Paediatrics and Child Health (BSAPCH)	UK
Cairo Sudan Aid	Egypt
Centre for Sudanese Studies	Egypt/ Australia
Coalition of Sudanese CSOs in Berlin	Germany
Committee of the Doctors in the Gulf (CSDG)	Kuwait, UAE, Oman
Community Medical Response Team (CMRT)	Transnational
Croydon Refugee & New Communities Forum	UK
Darfur Advocacy Group	Transnational
Darfur Union in the UK	UK
DefendDefenders	Uganda/Transnational
Empower Me	Transnational
Eyes on Sudan	Transnational
Governance Programming Overseas (GPO)	Transnational




Green Pay – Status of Sudanese Banks Applications	Transnational
Hadhreen	Transnational
Home Tax Sudan	Australia
Jobs4Sudan	Transnational
Keep Eyes on Sudan	Transnational
Khartoum Alumni Association USA	USA
Lighthouse Arabia	UAE
Madaniya SDG	UK
Massachusetts Sudanese Community Association (MSCA)	USA
Medameek	Transnational
Media Justice for Sudan	USA
Medical Students International Network Sudan	Transnational
Mullingar Islamic Cultural Centre	Eire
Muslim Council of Britain	UK
Northern Ireland Sudanese community	UK
Nourish Young Minds	Transnational
Oxford University Sudan Students Society	UK
Perth Antiwar Alliance	Australia
PNDS / Pads for Peace	Transnational
Project taghyir	Transnational
Qadreen	Transnational
Refugees' Platform in Egypt	Egypt
Save Sudan Initiative	Poland
Shabaka	UK
Sogya Sudan	Transnational
Sons and Daughters of Geneina	Transnational
Space Black	UK
St Andrews Refugee Services (StARS)	Egypt
Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa	Uganda/Transnational
Sudanese American Physicians Association (SAPA)	USA
Sudan Animal Rescue	Transnational
Sudan Doctors for Human Rights (SDHR)	UK/ Australia)
Sudan Junior Doctors' Association – UK (SJDA – UK)	UK

Sudan Doctors' Union – Canada (SDU – Canada)	Canada
Sudan Doctors' Union – Ireland (SDU – Ireland)	Ireland
Sudan Doctors' Union – UK (SDU-UK)	UK
Sudan Healing and Support Circle	Transnational
Sudan Heritage Protection Initiative	Transnational
Sudan Human Rights Hub	Transnational
Sudan International Human Rights Organization (SIHRO)	UK
Sudan Medical Care Foundation	UK
Sudan Medical Specialists Board	Transnational
Sudan Memory and the Hussein Shariffe Project	UK
Sudan Next Gen	Transnational
Sudan Revolution Support Group Edinburgh	UK
Sudan Safe Passages	Transnational
Sudan Support Group Project	Qatar
Sudan Translators for Change	Australia
Sudan Volunteering Organisation	Sweden
Sudan War Monitor	Transnational
Sudanese Against the War Australia	Australia
Sudanese Against the War UK	UK
Sudanese American Medical Association (SAMA)	USA
Sudanese Australasian Medical Professionals Association	Australia, New Zealand, Oceania
Sudanese American Community Development Organization (SACDO)	USA
Sudanese American Physicians Association (SAPA)	USA
Sudanese Association for Northern California	USA
Sudanese Association of Paediatrics UK (SAP – UK)	UK
Sudanese Community Association in Massachusetts	USA
Sudan Crisis Program	USA/Transnational
Sudanese Community in Birmingham	UK
Sudanese Community in Cardiff and South Wales	UK
Sudanese Community in Poland	Poland
Sudanese Community in Portsmouth	UK
Sudan Community and Information Centre London	UK


Sudanese Diaspora Network	USA/ Transnational
Sudanese Diaspora in London	UK
Sudanese Diaspora in the UK	UK
Sudanese Diaspora Women against War	Germany
Sudanese Doctors' Association Qatar (SUDAQ)	Qatar
Sudanese Human Rights Activists in Norway	Norway
Sudanese ICT Professionals in Canada (SICTA)	Canada
Sudan International Human Rights Organisation (SIHRO)	UK
Sudanese in Britain	UK
Sudanese in the UK	UK
Sudanese Legal Network	UK
Sudanese Medical Diaspora	Saudi Arabia
Sudanese Medics in Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia
Sudanese Solidarity Organisation	UK
Sudanese Women's Action Group	UK
Sudanese Women in the Diaspora for Ending the War	Transnational
Sudanese Women's Rights Action	Transnational
Sudanese Women's Union in the UK	UK
Sustainable Development Response Organisation Sudan (SUDRO Sudan)	USA/Transnational
Swedish Sudanese Association	Sweden
The Sudanese People's Campaign Against the War from within Sudan and in the Diaspora	Transnational
University of Toronto Sudanese Students Union	Canada
Women against war	Transnational
Zaghawa Community Association UK	UK

Annex 2- Digital initiatives

Coordination	
	<p>Salamat Sudan</p> <p>Developed by an IT engineer based in Qatar, Salamat Sudan aims to provide information on basic needs, including food, shelter, and transportation. It has two unique features that allow women to report GBV safely and missing individuals. Users get notifications of new entries, and the app enables instantaneous interaction. The app is available for Android and iOS users.</p>
	<p>Tnseeg</p> <p>Tnseeg (Arabic for coordination) is an ambitious online platform that documents lost and stolen cars. Users can register their vehicles or report abandoned cars. The website has information on 1108 cars and 12 abandoned vehicles.</p>
	<p>Balagh</p> <p>Blagh [Arabic for report or SOS] is an Android app that collects encrypted geodata related to clashes and safe passages. It relies on crowdsourcing the information from users on the ground. It has been downloaded more than 50K times since it was launched.</p>
	<p>Zawadtak initiative</p> <p>Zawadtak [Arabic for sustenance] provide a platform for users to post their needs for food and electricity and allows others willing to help to extend their support.</p>
	<p>eSudani and Nidaa</p> <p>ESudani & Nidaas combines two different efforts by Feed Adel, a Sudanese coder based in Saudi Arabia. Where eSudani crowdsource geodata and Nidaa [Arabic for plea] for urgent necessities such as</p>

	<p>food, shelter, and relocation. The latter has over five thousand calls for help up-to-date and 671 announcements for available support. The website offers statistics of the type of needs and locations.</p>
	<p>Nidaa Beyoot</p> <p>Nidaa Beyoot (Arabic for houses) is dedicated to documenting damages impacting homes in the armed conflict zones. It allows users to enter the event's location and the type of damage [shelling, looting, etc.)</p>
	<p>Salam Sudan</p> <p>It is a comprehensive site that documents links to crowdsourced initiatives, websites and efforts to improve the lives of Sudanese society during disasters and wars.</p>

Media

	<p>Medameek</p> <p>Madameek is an online newspaper established in 2020 by diaspora members of the Sudanese Professional Association media committee during the revolution. As the revolution dust settled, the doctors and engineers decided to establish an online presence to safeguard the revolution's ethos and provide an outlet for pro-democracy voices. Since the start of the war, the newspaper has devoted its resources to humanitarian advocacy and raising awareness about the crisis. It hired local reporters in conflict areas in Khartoum and Nyala to document the human rights violations. The founders fund the platform.</p>
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Finance and Banking



Status of Sudanese Banks Applications

This [website](#) provides information on the online banking status in Sudan, which has seen disruption since the start of the conflict. Data is crowdsourced from trusted users and updated on the website. The website provides a Telegram channel and WhatsApp group for live feedback and updates from users on the ground. It gives detailed information on the status of the apps and the online services available for 9 Sudanese banks and three mobile payment services/apps.

Health



The Dialysis Data Observatory

The [website](#) provides information for dialysis patients by connecting them to pharmacies, dialysis centres, and drug companies. It allows users to enter their data and requires registration to view the database.



Saedny

Saedny (Arabic for 'support me' or 'help me') is an online platform that allows users to post their needs or services. The platform also offers free medical consultations by [five volunteer internal doctors](#) the site administration added after verifying their data. Medical consultations require registrations and creating an account.



Doctor App

[Doctor App](#) is an Android application that facilitates medical consultation by allowing users to request a consultation from registered doctors. The service is provided free of charge.

Education and Employment



Code_Sudan

[Code Sudan](#) is a private company that provides coding courses and created an [NGO](#) to offer coding classes for free for those impacted by the conflict. Donations are accepted through a [Patreon](#) website providing three donation tiers starting at \$5 for one week of programming course and \$20 to fund a complete course on programming fundamentals.



Nidaa Khadamat

[Nidaa Khadamat](#) [Arabic for plea for services] is an online platform that allows users to enter their information. It debuted by crowdsourcing for urgent needs and expanded its services to include [services and skilled labourers](#). The list of services include hairdressers, graphic designers, and solar systems engineer. The website is open to all users and has been visited 174,158 times.



Go- Sudan Initiative

[Go-Sudan](#) is an online platform providing students and job seekers with free courses and educational resources. Members organise online workshops and provide one-on-one coaching to job seekers. Courses cover various topics, including content creation, IA, nutrition, public speaking, and social entrepreneurship. It also advocates for the importance of mental health and hosts speakers to address the psychological impact of the current war. It recently launched a call for online courses for pharmacy students and invited interested faculties to submit their [applications](#). It also helps recently graduated students navigate university applications, especially in light of Sudan's recent disruption to education.

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>