

# WORLD FOOD DAY 2024: FIGHTING HUNGER IN SUDAN, A PATH TO FOOD SECURITY AND RESILIENCE

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As we observe World Food Day 2024, Sudan faces a pressing hunger crisis, with **25.6 million people—over half the population**—requiring urgent humanitarian assistance. Ongoing conflict, economic instability, and mass displacement have driven millions into food insecurity.

## CURRENT SITUATION

- Over **10 million people** have been displaced by the current crisis, with **7.9 million displaced within Sudan** and **2.1 million seeking refuge in neighboring countries** like Chad, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Egypt.
- Over **8.5 million people are in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency)**, meaning they face extreme food shortages and are at risk of further deterioration without immediate assistance.
- Alarming, **755,000 people are in IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophic)**, signaling famine-like conditions
- **14 areas across Sudan are at risk of famine** if the situation worsens, making it critical to provide sustained food aid and support.
- Disruptions along transportation routes have complicated aid delivery.
- Cash distributions have been affected by liquidity issues, limiting the ability of partners to provide cash transfers effectively.

## CALL FOR ACTION:

Despite 50 million children currently displaced worldwide, and more than 4 million children displaced by the Sudan crisis, **CHILDREN** must be at the forefront of our efforts:



- Every child should have the right to nutritious food, particularly those who have been displaced by conflict or natural disasters.
- Conflict is at the root of food insecurity. **Stopping hostilities is critical to ending hunger and malnutrition.**
- Logistic barriers, travel permit delays, and pervasive insecurity make humanitarian access a real challenge. **Unimpeded humanitarian access and protection of aid workers must be ensured** to guarantee the delivery of nutritious food.
- Governments, humanitarian agencies, and donors should **increase funding for emergency food programs**, and invest in programs that provide cash support, school meals, job training, and climate-smart agriculture techniques to **support local producers and ensure sustainable production of nutritious foods.**

# WORLD VISION RESPONSE TO HUNGER

In response, World Vision is actively engaged in providing immediate food relief while integrating implementation of long-term agricultural initiatives, all aligned with this year's World Food Day theme: **"Right to Food for a Better Life and a Better Future."**

World Vision is partnering with several donors including the World Food Programme (WFP) in delivering vital food assistance to vulnerable populations in Sudan. Up to August 2024, through its programs in South Darfur, South Kordofan, East Darfur and Blue Nile, the organisation has reached:



This life-saving intervention directly addresses the acute food needs of displaced populations and vulnerable households, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Under its WFP-funded Emergency Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program (eBSFP), World Vision is addressing nutritional needs and preventing malnutrition among **18,875 children under five and pregnant and lactating women** by distributing 37.74 metric tons of nutrient-dense foods to the internally displaced persons (IDPs).

## Integrating Agricultural Interventions for Long-Term Resilience

Complementing immediate food aid, World Vision is working to enhance agricultural practices that support long-term food security and resilience.

Through a project funded by the German government, 1,000 farming households in Blue Nile State received improved sorghum and ground nut seeds. Additionally, six seed propagators were trained at the Agricultural Research Corporation (ARC) in Damazine to propagate improved cereals seed with the aim of making improved seed available at the local markets. This is essential for enhancing crop yields and ensuring sustainable food production at villages level.

The same efforts are made in East Darfur. World Vision, with funding from the Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF), distributed cereals seeds kit of 12 kg of sorghum, 3 kg of millet, and 22 kg of unshelled ground nut seeds to 1,600 vulnerable farmers households in Yassin locality. In Adila locality, the program distributed packages of 3 kg of millet, 22 kg of unshelled ground nut seeds and harvesting sacks. The seeds support aims at increasing vulnerable households access to stable food while the harvest sacks enable vulnerable farmers to harvest and safely store the harvest for household consumption and later sell the surplus with better prices for additional income.

**These agricultural interventions not only promote food security but also empower communities to reclaim their rights to food, contributing to a better life and a sustainable future.**

**While emergency food assistance meets the immediate need of people, agricultural and livestock interventions including improved crops and vegetables seed provision, restocking and training are designed to create a self-sustaining cycle of food production. This dual approach ensures that communities not only survive today but thrive in the future.**

## HANAA'S STORY: HOPES ADMIST STRUGGLES

In the bustling settlement of El Abbassiya, South Kordofan, Sudan, Hanaa, 38, and her family have found a glimmer of hope amid adversity. Displaced from Khartoum due to the ongoing conflict that began in April 2023, Hanaa, her two children, and their neighbors sought refuge in this new community.

El Abbassiya, characterised by its semi-arid climate, experiences hot, dry conditions most of the year. The region's flat, arid plains, interspersed with sandy dunes, receive sparse rainfall between July and September, a brief reprieve for the rain-fed agriculture on which the community depends. Despite these harsh conditions, locals cultivate sorghum, millet, and groundnuts and raise livestock such as goats and cattle. However, the recent conflict has severely disrupted these activities, leaving many families, including Hanaa's, struggling to survive.

The ongoing crisis in Sudan, worsened by the conflict that erupted in April 2023, has left millions facing severe food insecurity. With significant crop and livestock losses and escalating food prices, many have been forced to migrate to urban areas, often seeking refuge in settlements for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Hanaa and her family are among those displaced by the conflict, hoping to find the support needed for survival.

One evening, after an attack, Hanaa and her children, along with neighbors, fled their village. Suffering from diabetes, Hanaa was placed on a donkey cart by her children, leaving with only what they could carry. "The urgency and danger left us no choice but to abandon everything and run," Hanaa shared. They sought refuge in El Abbassiya, where her aunt and other relatives were already residing. Hanaa lost her husband 12 years ago in an accident and, due to diabetes, she is physically disabled.

According to Hanaa, life in El Abbassiya has been difficult. Upon arrival, they struggled to survive. With the help of her children, she gathered green leaves, known locally as "Khodra," from the forest, dried them in the sun, and used them as vegetables, supplementing with cereals purchased from the market. Currently, she engages in handicraft work, selling her creations at the local market to generate income. However, the family's primary sustenance comes from the food assistance program run by World Vision with support from the World Food Programme (WFP).

As distribution efforts expanded in 2024 to include newly displaced individuals, 11,810 people received 282.3 metric tons of mixed commodities for August and September, bringing renewed hope and solidarity. Hanaa and her family, like many others, continue to rely on this vital support as they navigate the uncertainties of displacement.

Expressing her gratitude for the assistance, Hanaa shared, "The aid has been timely. Each day I woke up unsure of what we would eat. But now, with the food aid, I can rest assured that we won't go to bed hungry," she said, a look of relief on her face.



# WORLD VISION STRATEGIC POSITIONING

**World Vision Sudan has an operational presence in four states: Blue Nile, South Darfur, East Darfur, and South Kordofan.**

As part of its expansion plan, the organisation is currently opening a new office in River Nile to enhance its reach and effectiveness in addressing the needs of vulnerable communities.

Measures have also been implemented to secure distribution points and ensure swift delivery of aid to those in need. World Vision collaborates closely with communities and local partners to address challenges, particularly access issues caused by insecurity and logistical constraints.

This grassroots approach enhances the effectiveness of operations, ensuring that aid reaches those most in need while building resilience.



**Main Contact Person:** Jeff Wright, National Director of World Vision Sudan,  
at email: [jeff\\_wright@wvi.org](mailto:jeff_wright@wvi.org)

**For all media inquiries:** Sally Tirtadihardja, Communications & Public Engagement Specialist,  
World Vision Sudan, at email: [sally\\_tirtadihardja@wvi.org](mailto:sally_tirtadihardja@wvi.org)