

STATE PROFILE | EAST DARFUR



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KEY FACTS



39,652 children under-five are severely acutely malnourished



191,220 school-aged children are out-of-school



Only **35,000** children under-five are vaccinated against preventable diseases



Half of all girls age 6-11 years are at risk of undergoing FGM/C especially in rural areas.



532,730 people lack access to safe water

SITUATION IN EAST DARFUR

Demography¹

East Darfur State was carved out of the larger South Darfur in January 2012 as part of the Doha Peace Agreement. The state population is now estimated at 1.7 million, with more than half being children (aged 0 to 18). The state is administratively divided into nine localities, which are Abu Jabra, Abu Karinka, Adila, Assalaya, Baher Al Arab, Ed Daein, El Ferdous, Shia'ria and Yassin. Sixteen per cent of the state's population are nomads. The state also hosts a large contingent of South Sudanese refugees, most of which (80%) live in out-of-camp settlement locations together with the host community. The state is comprised of several tribes, the largest of which are the southern Rizeigat, or Baggara (cattle herders), Ma'aliyya, Birged, Daju and Beigo. The Rizeigat and Ma'aliyya are of Arab lineage, while the Birged and Beigo are of non-Arab, or African, lineage.

Refugees: 113,533

South Sudanese refugees flee to East Darfur mainly to access humanitarian services. Currently, the refugees live in two camps (Al Nimir and Kario refugee camps) and nine informal settlements in the state. Both refugees and host communities need access to basic social services, including health and nutrition, water and sanitation facilities, education, and child protection.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs): 99,695

Tribal conflict and natural disasters have displaced communities. IDPs live both in camps and within host communities across the state. These women, men, girls and boys lack access to basic services. Ed Daein, Adila and Assalaya localities have relatively higher percentages of IDPs per population, respectively, in the state.

Returnees: 101,679

Assalaya, Shia'ria and Yassin have higher percentages of returnees, consecutively, in the state. Returnees have significant need for different basic services in their communities, as the infrastructures have been destroyed in most cases when they get back to their original land.

Host communities: 1 million

There is peaceful co-existence between host communities and other population groups (IDPs, refugees and returnees) in most locations. Nevertheless, the available social services in host communities are very limited and the addition of refugees and other groups in the existing communities create service/resources competition that leads to conflict.

Geography

East Darfur state covers an area of 52,867 square kilometers, with an average population density of 25 persons per square kilometer. It shares international boundaries with South Sudan and state boundaries with South Darfur, North Darfur and West Kordofan states. The state's capital is Ed Daein, with an estimated population of 300,000.

Climate

The state is located in a tropic area, where the climate varies between the poor savannah in the north and the rich savannah in the south. The period from May to June is characterised by high temperatures sometimes exceeding 40 degrees Celsius and begins to decline at the beginning of the rainy season, which lasts from July until the end of October. The weather is moderately warm and then cold during the period from November to February, when temperatures drop to 15 degrees Celsius in some areas.

Rainfall varies from 300 millimeters per year in the semi-arid north of the state to 700 millimeters per year in the south. This distribution is reflected in the state's land cover and use, which is characterised by the mixed range and marginal rain-fed cropland in its northern and central localities (where the majority of the population reside), and wooded rangeland in the thinly populated south. Water in East Darfur is concentrated in the high yielding but deep Nubian sandstone aquifer, which underlies most of the state, except for the north, where the underlying basement complex holds only modest amounts of water.

Economy

The most dominant pattern of livelihood for the population in East Darfur is pastoralism, which represented 60 per cent of the total population, while 40 per cent practice agriculture. The remoteness and scatterings of this population is a widespread phenomenon. Groundnuts, millet, sorghum, gum Arabic, sesame and kerkadeh (hibiscus) are East Darfur's main agricultural products. Along with livestock, these have been its main exports and the base for much of Ed Daein's manufacturing industry, such as the processing of oil from groundnuts and sesame and the production of agricultural tools. The city is linked by rail to Khartoum to the east and Nyala to the west, and is a center of local trade in wheat, peanuts, barley and livestock.



HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

Continued Population Movement

East Darfur state is one of the states most affected by crisis, such as man-made conflicts (including localised tribal conflicts), natural disasters (flooding, climate change/desertification), displacement and outbreaks of diseases (cholera, malaria, measles). The state has one of the lowest rates of medical professionals per 1,000 people and the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have significant effect on the state, creating an additional burden to the already fragmented and weak basic health system. Across the state, there is an enormous need for humanitarian and developmental services, which demand a collective effort. Among the five Darfur states, East Darfur hosts the highest number of refugees from South Sudan. The refugees settled in localities in the vicinity of their country of origin (Abu Jabra, El Ferdous, Bahr Al Arab, and Assalaya), as well as in localities with livelihood alternatives (Adila, Abukarinka, and Yassin), but most refugees live in two camps (Kario and Al Nimir). At the end of 2018, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) left the state. As a result, the overall state-level humanitarian coordination has been challenging. Currently, the sector-level coordination is conducted by UNICEF and other sector lead partners.

East Darfur accommodates various community groups (IDP, refugees, returnees and vulnerable groups from host communities and nomads) with critical needs. The deadly conflict situation in South Sudan drives the vast movement of women and children toward Sudan, especially in 2016 and continuing until today (mostly between November and May, as roads are inaccessible during the rainy season). Furthermore, nomadic groups travel from place to place in a seasonal pattern to get water for their cattle. The ongoing population movement between localities and across the border makes it challenging to provide basic services to the most vulnerable children and their communities in an organised manner.



Access to Basic Services and Capacity of Government and Implementing Partners

UNICEF works with its partners (line ministries and international non-governmental organisations) to reinforce systems strengthening and sustain minimum quality basic service delivery to children and their communities, including in hard-to-reach areas. Due to the high number of refugee and IDP communities in the state, there is an immense burden on the existing basic services provision. To address the growing needs, particularly in settlement locations, UNICEF works through mobile and outreach service provision modalities. Linking humanitarian-developmental programmes continues to be a challenge in most locations. Obtaining a potential partner to execute basic services in East Darfur is also a real impediment at the field-level. This is because the state was quite recently established and the number of (international) non-governmental organisations in the state is limited, especially those working in IDP camps. In 2016, after the massive influx of South Sudanese refugees in East Darfur, the humanitarian needs expanded significantly. UNICEF signed a Letter of Understanding (LoU) with UNHCR to clarify the terms of division of responsibilities in refugee locations (UNHCR focuses on service delivery in camps, while UNICEF provides services to out-of-camp refugees).

Conflict, Peacebuilding and Climate Change

Many parts of Sudan continue to face disaster, including cyclical flooding, drought and desertification. East Darfur is no exception and is already grappling with the impacts of climate change, water scarcity and desertification, which are projected to increase in a non-linear and non-predictable manner and serve as drivers of conflict. According to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), more than 1,499 conflict events were recorded in the Darfur region from June 2017 to December 2021, with 33 of these incidents recorded in East Darfur. Because the same areas are used by both nomadic (mainly the Arab Northern and Southern Rizeigat and Misseriya) and sedentary communities (mainly the African Birgid and Zaghawa), tensions between the two communities increase during nomadic migration season and harvesting season (November and December), which normally makes the state susceptible to renewed clashes between herders and farmers. The Juba Peace Agreement provides an opportunity to address prevalent conflict drivers and strengthen ongoing peacebuilding efforts in Darfur, such as the Peacebuilding Fund. The joint Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) programme targets three main pillars (human security, durable solution and rule of law) to address the root causes of conflict between various groups in three conflict prone localities (Shia'ria, Yassin and Assalaya).

KEY RESULTS IN 2021

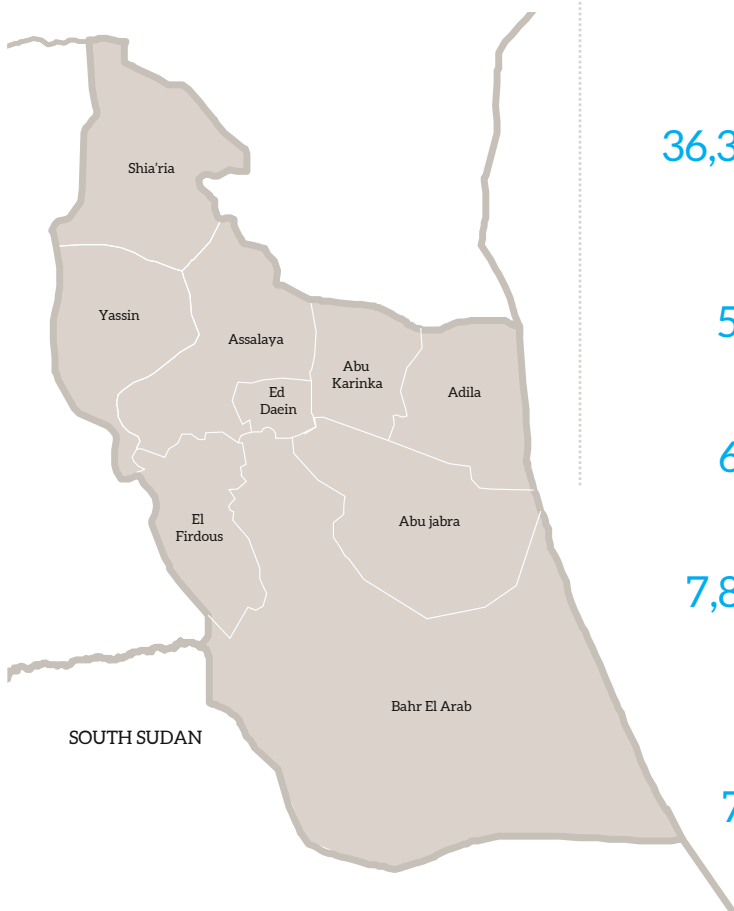
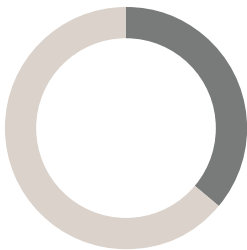
Unicef budget for East Darfur:

USD 7,552,305

as of 1 April 2022

Funds received ► **32%**

Funding gap ► **68%**



17,714 everely acutely malnourished children (SAM) (under-five) were treated.

33,983 children were reached with measles vaccinations.

90,241 people benefited from key messages on COVID-19 prevention.

442,000 people were provided with access to safe drinking water through provision of regular chlorination, operational maintenance and construction of new/rehabilitation of non-functional water facilities.

15,360 people were supported with access to basic sanitation facilities through the construction and rehabilitation of emergency communal latrines and household latrines.

257,716 people were reached with key hygiene promotion messages.

121,854 people reached with access to hygiene facilities through the installation of 100 handwashing facilities in communities, public spaces and health facilities.

5,500 students (2,805 girls and 2,695 boys) and 17,527 community members (8,952 women and 8,575 men) benefitted from improved water supplies in 11 schools and 5 health facilities.

36,304 children were supported to access education through subsidies, grants, scholarships, social assistance, enrolment campaigns and/or provision of learning materials.

500 primary school teachers directly benefited from training to enhance their knowledge to provide quality learning.

690 adolescents and youth (280 girls and 410 boys) accessed life skills training to equip them with knowledge and skills to protect them from violence.

7,808 children (3,714 girls and 4,094 boys) received psychosocial support. Within this group, children with special needs are referred to specialised services, such as medical care, legal support or alternative learning programmes.

795 unaccompanied or separated children (340 girls and 455 boys) were reunified with their families, the others were provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements.