

Sudan Crisis Coordination Unit

Publication #10

The Sudan Crisis by Zone: A Map to Guide Effective and Timely Humanitarian Assistance

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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

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Disclaimer

This report is the result of the work of the Sudan Crisis Coordination Unit (SCCU). The opinions, findings and recommendations expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Shabaka or its partners.

Summary

One way to improve the humanitarian response in Sudan is to use geographical zoning. This strategy helps to organize and adapt the response better, prevent inefficiencies and gaps, encourage cooperation and communication, match interventions to specific needs and challenges, and monitor and respond to changing situations on the ground.

The text describes four zones of different levels of humanitarian crisis and displacement.

- Zone 1 is the worst, where people suffer from violence and have no options to flee.
- Zone 2 is relatively stable, but still has problems.
- Zone 3 is critical, where people try to escape but face many dangers.
- Zone 4 is where people have left their homes and seek safety and opportunities elsewhere.

Introduction

A key aspect of effective humanitarian aid is to provide support that is suitable, prompt, and impactful for people affected by crises. This requires a thorough knowledge of the situation, location, and requirements of the various regions where humanitarian intervention is necessary.

The geographical zones concept is a way of classifying the different situations of people affected by the conflict in Sudan and its neighbouring countries. It helps all humanitarian partners understand the most urgent needs and challenges for each group, which differ according to their location, i.e., people with disabilities may face different challenges depending on their location.

Applying geographical zoning to the humanitarian response in Sudan allows for better coordination and allocation of resources among different actors and sectors. Geographical zoning also helps to identify the most urgent needs and priorities of the affected populations, as well as the gaps and challenges in the response. By dividing the country into zones based on the severity and complexity of the humanitarian situation, geographical zoning facilitates a more effective and efficient response. In addition, a zoning approach:

- Provides a more coordinated and tailored response considering each zone's specific characteristics and priorities.
- Avoids duplication, gaps, and overlaps in the delivery of humanitarian aid, and foster collaboration and information sharing among the different actors involved, helping to identify and overcome barriers.
- Supports humanitarian actors to adapt their interventions to each zone's needs and challenges. It also avoids oversimplifying the situation and ignoring the diversity of contexts and actors in Sudan.
- Conflict maps are not static. Zoning allows tracking and responding to changing conditions on the ground and to analyse new entry points and obstacles to adjust the response accordingly.

Considerations

Some of the challenges that civilians face in humanitarian crises and key elements to consider when assigning zones:

- Exposure to violence, displacement, discrimination or exploitation that threaten their lives, rights and dignity.
- Lack of access to basic services and humanitarian assistance, such as health, education, water, sanitation or protection, especially for communities displaced internally or across borders.
- The geographic location and population density of the affected areas that take into account the needs of the host communities, such as urban, rural, remote or hard-to-reach, including seasonal and internal displacement.
- The humanitarian needs before the current crisis and how they have changed or worsened.
- The level of insecurity and violence they encounter and how it impacts their mobility, safety and access to resources.
- Their legal and social status, and how it influences their rights, protection and participation in decision-making, whether in Sudan or elsewhere.
- The availability and quality of basic services and humanitarian assistance they can access and how it matches their needs and preferences of where to settle, and location of displaced populations (durable solutions).
- Their coping strategies and resilience, and how they adjust to changing circumstances and challenges, such as critical infrastructure collapse, for example of the banking system.
- The data sources used to monitor the situation, including UN agencies (e.g., IOM, UNHCR, OCHA, WHO, UNICEF), national sources such as the Sudan Doctors' Trade Union (SDTU) and Federal Ministry of Health, as well as aggregated data from ReliefWeb and Beam reports, and media reporting from Medameek and international media.

Zones definitions

Zone	Criteria/Definition	Geographical location to be assigned on a monthly basis (October 2023)
<p>Zone 1 (red)</p> <p>These areas are experiencing severe humanitarian crises, where people's lives, rights and dignity are constantly violated, and they have no access to safe and legal pathways to seek protection in Sudan or other countries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Areas with high levels of violence ▪ Limited humanitarian access to the area ▪ Limited access to basic services ▪ High levels of vulnerability ▪ Acute humanitarian needs 	<p>Sudan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Khartoum ▪ Darfur ▪ Kordofan <p>Other locations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Libya ▪ Ethiopia
<p>Zone two (Amber)</p> <p>regions where people in Sudan and neighbouring countries are living in relative peace and stability, but still face significant challenges and risks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High levels of displacement/hosting displaced persons (IDPs and refugees) ▪ Limited or no access to basic services ▪ Acute humanitarian needs 	<p>Sudan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ White Nile State ▪ Al- Gezira state ▪ Northern State ▪ Darfur <p>Other locations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chad ▪ South Sudan ▪ Eritrea
<p>The situation in zone three (yellow) is critical. These areas are close to the borders of other countries, where many people are trying to escape the violence and insecurity. However, they face many challenges and risks along the way, such as lack of food, water, shelter, health care and protection. They need urgent humanitarian assistance and respect for their rights and dignity.</p> <p>Rationale: Many people are in transit and have crossed the borders or are preparing to do so but are trapped there with little support or resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited or no access to basic services ▪ Acute humanitarian needs ▪ Limited or no access to asylum procedures and legal status. ▪ Limited availability of information – e.g., on CAR or Libya where there are serious human rights violations 	<p>Sudan border countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Egypt ▪ Ethiopia ▪ Chad ▪ South Sudan ▪ Libya ▪ Eritrea ▪ CAR
<p>The people who live in zone four (blue) are forced to leave their homes and seek safety in other places. They often go to nearby countries, or where they have friends, family or other connections. They also look for places where they can find work, education or other opportunities to rebuild their lives, but face challenges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited or no access to basic services ▪ Acute humanitarian needs ▪ Limited or no access to asylum procedures and legal status. ▪ Lack of livelihood opportunities ▪ Discrimination 	<p>Key destination and settlement countries¹:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chad ▪ UAE ▪ Qatar ▪ South Sudan ▪ Saudi Arabia ▪ Kenya ▪ Egypt ▪ Ethiopia ▪ Uganda

¹ Chad and South Sudan are also listed as amber due to ongoing security issues.

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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>