

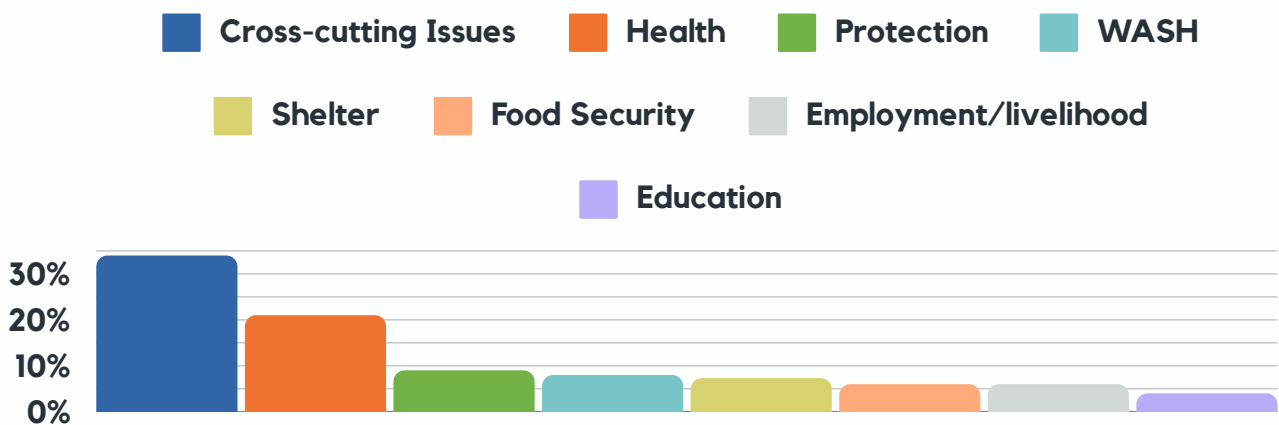
Sudan Humanitarian Flash Update #12

29 JANUARY 2025

INTRODUCTION

Between 14 October and 27 November 2024, Internews with its partner Y-Peer Sudan collected and listened to community feedback, perceptions, rumors, and concerns shared by people affected by conflict and displacement in Sudan. In total, 214 community data posts were collected via social media, and 680 through face-to-face listening groups held in AlGedaref, Central Darfur, North Kordofan, and Northern states. In this edition, we highlight the protection concerns of women and girls, and the challenges displaced children face in schools, such as exclusion and discrimination. We explore perceptions and complaints about the distribution processes of humanitarian assistance. This report also addresses the impact of scarce food on displaced people, with increasing reports about the selling of food aid. The Flash Update also looks at concerns and recommendations shared by displaced people about access to medicine, as well as WASH, shelter, and livelihood support.

ANALYZING COMMUNITY COMMENTS BY THEME



Community listening reveals the difficulties children and youth face in accessing education due to displacement, in addition to other challenges when enrolled in schools, such as isolation, verbal harassment, and being accused of affecting the school environment.

DISPLACED CHILDREN FACE EXCLUSION IN EDUCATION

The ongoing conflict has severely disrupted the continuation of education at school and university level with the uprooting of families, destruction of infrastructure in conflict areas and utilization of schools in safe areas to shelter displaced communities. UNICEF estimates the disruptions caused 19 million school children to be out of school, and created a situation where many children and young adults are either denied access to education or unable to benefit from the limited available resources. A displaced man captured the widespread despair, saying:

“[We are] suffering when it comes to education because children have become homeless, and generations are heading towards failure”

Man, 36-45, Tur Kelemi Camp, Zalingei - Central Darfur

According to experiences shared during in-person listening groups, displaced children often remain at home without schooling due to barriers such as financial inability, lack of documentation, and limited space in classrooms. The financial requirements are debilitating for many families and result in the exclusion of children. Some schools charge unofficial registration fees that displaced families cannot afford.

“We have school-age children, some of them go to school, and some of them don’t because the schools don’t accept displaced children. And for the ones [that] were able to register, they asked us for 12 thousand Sudanese pounds per student. We are displaced people staying in this [shelter] center, we have no power, no means, we don’t have money for food. Where will we get the money for school? When my son saw me walking every day to meet with the [school] director, he told me “Mom, don’t go anymore, I stopped going to school”. They said that my nephew’s father should come, and his father is disabled, and I swear to God he walked with his disability and begged the director to let the boy study. The director said that without us paying the money our children won’t go to school.”

Woman, 36-45, AlMatar Secondary School for Girls, AlGedaref - AlGedaref

“They said that registration in a school is free. When the children went to school, they learned that the registration fees were 7,000 [SDG]...”

Woman, 19-25, AlHamidiya Camp 1, Zalingei - Central Darfur

According to community feedback, several displaced children whose parents managed to enroll them in school complained of discrimination and harassment, which is affecting children’s wellbeing and educational prospects. Parents reported instances where children are forced to sit separately in classrooms, stigmatized for their appearance and for simply being a displaced person, and in some cases are denied essentials such as books and desks. In addition, there are reports of teachers insulting or bullying displaced children. Listening group participants spoke of instances where children are punished or excluded for being unable to afford school supplies such as notebooks.

Families also struggle with extra costs for exams and special classes, making it more challenging for children to stay in school. Community feedback also indicates instances where children from displaced families were separated from the rest of their class and made to sit outside of the classroom on the ground. During listening groups, parents reported that this kind of treatment impacts children’s confidence, makes them feel ostracized, and discourages them from continuing their education.

“The teacher hit my daughter, and I went to the principal and he told us we are displaced, and we make problems....he said you do not have money and if she does not bring her notebooks, [he] will hit her every day”

Woman, 36-45, AlJadeeda School, Northeastern Administrative Unit - AlGedaref - AlGedaref

“...If you speak, no one will listen. Your words tell that you are a displaced person, even when I went to the hospital... 😞 We also have relatives that failed school because of bullying”

Woman, 36-45, AlSaraya Center, Dongola - Northern

Displaced children also face challenges in accessing school supplies. Students report that schools do not provide textbooks, notebooks, or other materials. Children are advised to find private schools or tutors, a financially unrealistic option for most families. As one student preparing for the national certification exams stated:

"... we girls also have complaints. We have great anxiety about our education, fear of the future, we don't know if we will take exams or not. The war is always going to a new state, maybe tomorrow it will reach us here, this is in addition to our other problems, currently we are studying in a school, but we don't have books, the schools only provide us with teachers...In addition, the girls at school say bad things about us, and we hear them, right in front of us, saying that we came and made the school dirty and filled it up for them. They also said that we ruined their system because we wear abayas..."

Adolescent Female, 15-18, AlMoutamar School for Girls, AlGedaref - AlGedaref

Overcrowding worsens the situation. Many schools are full and unable to accommodate new students, turning away displaced children or placing them on waitlists. Under these conditions, education becomes inaccessible, further jeopardizing children's opportunity to learn and experience some normalcy in their lives.

"... three-quarters of the people are not allowed to go to school because first thing the schools do not accept them as they are full. Sudanese certificate people who are stranded have no way to go to school. You enter with your money first, or you register for other courses, and this has become difficult because there is no money ..."

Adolescent Female, 15-18, Shaheed Ahmed Qasim Center A, Dongola - Northern

PROTECTION RISKS

Between late October and early November 2024, social media posts indicate alarming protection risks in AlGezira state. Posts highlighted a siege on AlHilaliya as well as fatalities from poisoned water and food. While in AlSerayha, reports of targeting civilians have sown fear among individuals searching on social media for some news about their missing relatives.

“Guys I want to ask about people in the village of AlSerayha💔... are they alive or what is happening...The one who knows something please reassure us”

Facebook, AlSerayha - AlGezira

Several community listening groups in Zalingei, Central Darfur reveal that women and girls face protection risks, including the risk of exploitation due to lack of access to humanitarian aid. Participants also reported that when women and girls who go out to farm or collect firewood are at risk of sexual violence. During a listening group in AlHamidiya Camp 1, a displaced man aged 19 to 25, requested that humanitarians provide protection services for survivors of gender-based violence.

“Failure to provide the most basic needs has led to the spread of the problem of sexual exploitation among girls”

Woman, 26-35, AlHamidiya Camp 1, Zalingei - Central Darfur

In listening groups, displaced women and girls expressed fear of living in displacement camps. Rumors about airstrikes in AlZahraa Center in Dongola triggered fear of becoming displaced again. Moreover, a woman in AlObeid expressed concern that ongoing conflict will force them to be displaced yet again. A displaced woman in AlGedaref expressed the harmful effects of displacement on personal identity and self-worth:

"...they would call us -displaced people- as if we had no names ... we didn't just lose our homes and our country, we lost our identity".

Woman, 26-35, Dar ALSalam School, AlGedaref - AlGedaref

This sense of upheaval and trauma is compounded by disrupted communication channels, leaving some unable to stay informed or reach their loved ones. Internet shutdowns have affected people's ability to communicate with loved ones and access critical support. The conflict has also resulted in the shutdown of numerous media houses, further limiting people's access to news and information.

"There is a problem here, we do not have anything to know the news, what is happening outside we do not know. If you can find something for us to bring us news, or people that would come to bring us information about what is happening in this world..."

Woman, 19-25, AlJadeeda School, AlGedaref - AlGedaref

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ABOUT AID DISTRIBUTIONS

People affected by conflict and displacement in Sudan have concerns about how relief supplies are distributed. Both social media posts and community feedback collected during listening groups emphasize that aid is being sold in markets instead of distributed to those who need it most.

"Anyone who has English nutrition biscuits red and white in color please write the price per carton we need 100 cartons and will take from the lowest price"

Unknown, Facebook - Red Sea

"We see food displayed in the market, but it doesn't reach us"

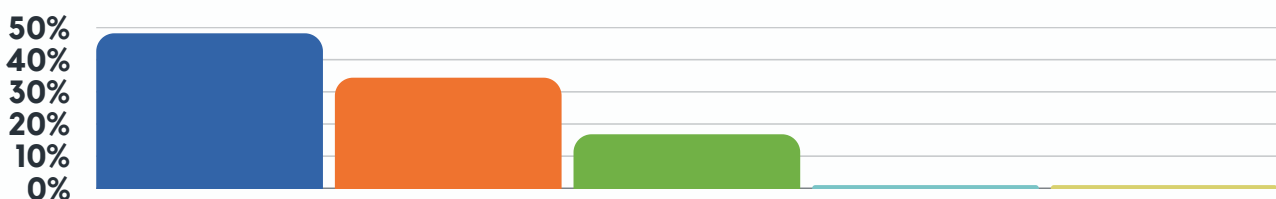
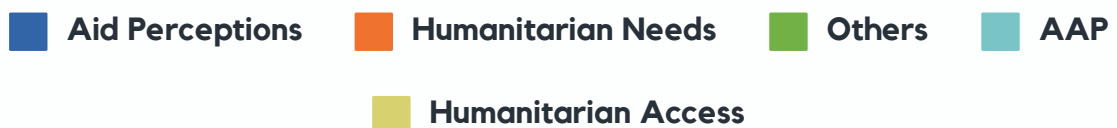
Woman, 60+, AlObeid South Camps, AlObeid - North Kordofan

Reports about the theft and vending of aid supplies in markets and shops are common. Moreover, individuals are turning to social media platforms in search of ready-to-use therapeutic food to purchase. These nutritional supplements are used to treat malnutrition among children and should be provided at no cost. The selling of food assistance and nutritional foods has become so common, that some are proposing accountability channels, like this man on Facebook:

“Peace be upon you, an advice for you people it is enough with being negative anyone who finds relief items must report it to the police we cannot watch these crocodiles while they eat the rights of the poor people. Yesterday on Wednesday I filed a complaint at the Consumer Prosecution Office against a merchant selling relief tents”

Community listening discussions carried out by Internews partner Y-Peer, reveal numerous instances of individuals registering to receive aid, and not receiving aid or finding out later that their name did not make it not on the list of registered households. There were also several complaints about different organizations taking displaced individuals’ information and not providing feedback. Community feedback from AlGedaref highlighted that a possible lack of coordination between humanitarians resulted in families receiving the same type of aid more than once. Displaced people in AlGedaref were apprehensive about their future residence, noting there was a plan to move them to a new IDP camp.

INSIGHTS INTO CROSS-CUTTING CONCERNS



Humanitarian needs highlight various multi-sectorial needs of displaced communities. Numerous displaced people shared with Y-Peer it was the first time someone had taken interest in their circumstances, signifying the importance of community listening. For instance, a displaced man in Ertadi Center in Dongola shares: “...I am happy you came, our spirits have changed it’s the first-time people come to ask about us, thank you”.

“When organizations used to intervene directly, we were able to receive aid but when they intervened through the municipality, we no longer received the aid”

Woman, 26-35, Dar AlSalam School, AlGedaref - AlGedaref

“Sometimes the organizations would bring the same thing, but if every organization brings something different that would be better- for example organizations bring cash and others bring food and water and clothes”

Woman, 46-60, AlJadeeda School, AlGedaref - AlGedaref

“They said they would relocate us to Um AlHourri or Abu Najaa or Um Shajara camp, but no one has come, and the support has stopped. We don't even have water”.

Woman, 36-45, AlMuatamar School for Girls, AlGedaref - AlGedaref

In Zalingei, Central Darfur, displaced people shared that although vulnerable people live in neighborhoods, they have not received humanitarian support. Many complained of an unfair distribution of humanitarian aid. For instance, those who were not at risk received support.

“There is exclusion in the provision of services meant for the vulnerable, as support often goes to those who do not deserve it.”

Man, 26-35, AlHamidiya IDP Camp 1, Zalingei - Central Darfur

In Zalingei, a displaced child pointed out that the criteria for receiving humanitarian aid are sometimes based on what your home looks like and the types of materials used to build it. Some noted that the Sheikhs or community leaders had a bias and would prioritize their own families. Numerous individuals blamed the community leaders for not receiving aid despite their names being included in aid registration lists.

“There is injustice in distribution, and we ask that it's carried out from house to house,”

Adolescent Female, 15-18, UNITAR Center, Zalingei - Central Darfur

“The sheikhs (community leaders) register based on appearances if the house is built with cement or limewash paint they don’t register it.”

Adolescent Male, 15-18, UNITAR Center, Zalingei - Central Darfur

“Delivering food supplies (should be done) directly through the organization without an intermediary.”

Adolescent Male, 11-14, UNITAR Center, Zalingei - Central Darfur

Similarly in Northern state, displaced people said they registered but did not receive support. They blamed committees that were charged with the distribution of aid supplies. Some went so far as to blame the lack of aid on the discrimination they face based on being displaced. For example, they were told that the locals are “the people of the town” and therefore they should get aid. Moreover, recurring requests from organizations and shelter supervisors to participate in surveys and registration processes without receiving any support afterwards have been harmful to displaced people. In their own words, children share how this has affected their well-being:

“The problem is that every time an organization comes to us and collects data it asks us what we need and what we want, we tell them everything and our circumstances and then they never come again. That's the thing that made us feel ashamed because we talk every time and talk about what happened to us, but they don’t bring us anything. We need everything 😞”

Adolescent Female, 15-18, AlShaheed Ahmed Qasim B, Dongola - Northern

“1600 times they tell us they brought you this and that and nothing reaches us. Two or three people come meaning the parties who want to bring this thing come and talk to the supervisors as usual, meaning the supervisors come and register people on the basis that they brought you things. You automatically ask what they’re bringing and they say they’re bringing you this and that. Sometimes they even set a day, but unfortunately nothing comes”

Adolescent Female, 15-18, AlShaheed Ahmed Qasim B, Dongola - Northern

Others hinted that aid is being withheld from them. For example, in ALObeid, North Kordofan a displaced woman between the ages of 36 and 45 said that despite the arrival of flour they had not received it. Another woman said that her family did not receive support because they did not live in a shelter center. Displaced people living with host communities in Central Darfur and North Kordofan highlight that they were not prioritized in aid distributions or overlooked due to an assumption that they are not as vulnerable as those living in shelter centers or displacement camps.

“They say the service is provided to those living in schools, but we are also displaced.”

Woman, 26-35, ALObeid South Camps, ALObeid - North Kordofan

“Since we set foot in ALObeid we haven't received anything.”

Woman, 60+, ALObeid South Camps, ALObeid - North Kordofan

“There are displaced people in the neighborhood, and they are in need of services.”

Man, 46-60, AlHamidiya Neighborhood, Zalingei - Central Darfur

Displaced people shared various recommendations for more equitable aid distributions. Notably, that humanitarians should take charge and not rely on sheikhs or committees to carry out distributions. Another suggestion was that humanitarians can oblige community leaders to be fair, by training them. Community listening reveals that individuals distinguish between humanitarians and community leaders, perceiving the former as fairer.

“We hope to distribute food supplies and humanitarian aid directly through the organization from house to house to ensure it reaches everyone.”

Woman, 19-25, AlMuhafzeen Neighborhood, Zalingei - Central Darfur

“Train camp Sheikhs on how to survey families in the camp to ensure fair distribution.”

Man, 19-25, AlHamidiya IDP Camp 1, Zalingei - Central Darfur

"THE FOOD IS LITTLE"

The search for food and nutritional support continues to be a priority for people affected by conflict and displacement in Sudan. Women shared most of the comments about the need for food support both online and during face-to-face listening groups. This is likely because women as well as children are overrepresented amongst the displaced population. Moreover, the responsibility of preparing meals and fending for the nutritional needs of the family mostly falls on women's shoulders, consequently, the role they play in nourishing their families is reflected in their comments.

"I don't have books, or notebooks or anything for school. I'm going to school and staying in class without doing anything sometimes I don't even drink tea my father is missing, and I don't know where he is my young brothers are ill, and my grandma has been affected by the sound of clashes and she no longer hears well. My mother goes out every day to look for food for us and sometimes she brings food and sometimes she can't find any, then people around us share with us some food."

Adolescent Male, 11-14, AlMatar Secondary School for Boys, AlGedaref - AlGedaref

"By God, we need food. Most of the people in this camp are women without their men, and we have children, we cannot go out to work and do not have someone to leave our children with, sometimes we eat one meal a day, and sometimes those that have money and work even though they make little money but they buy food for us, the ones who do not work."

Woman, 19-25, AlJadeeda School, AlGedaref - AlGedaref

The need for food support was echoed across the four states where Internews' partner Y-Peer Sudan conducts face-to-face listening groups, including AlGedaref, Central Darfur, North Kordofan, and Northern. In AlGedaref and North Kordofan, displaced people articulate their need for food supplies and cooking materials like charcoal. In AlGedaref's AlJadeeda School, individuals complained that humanitarian organizations had not visited in a long time and that some of the IDPs were pooling their limited resources to help provide food for others. Children and women spoke about the harmful effects of lack of food on their loved ones, including a child who shared how little food was affecting her lactating mother.

"My mother has diabetes and there is no treatment or food while she is breastfeeding, she faints three times a week we don't know what to do and how to treat her, my father is not around."

Female Child, 11-14, AlJadeeda School, AlGedaref - AlGedaref

"These organizations have not failed to support us since we came here. They have brought us many things, but now they do not come, and they have not brought us anything for a long time. Our situation has become very difficult. These girls started an initiative and every once in a while they collect money to bring us food, but they are not able to provide food every day."

Woman, 26-35, AlJadeeda School, AlGedaref - AlGedaref

Listening groups in Central Darfur's AlHamdiya neighborhood, UNITAR Center, and Tur Kelemi IDP camp, highlighted a lack of nutrition services and food supplies. A child in Tur Kelemi complained that community leaders deliver aid to "undeserving people." In AlMuhafzeen neighborhood, also in Central Darfur, three children requested that food supplies be provided to its residents.

Harrowing testimonies about hunger were shared by displaced people living in AObaid South Camps in North Kordofan, with some individuals stating that at times they do not eat for days. Circumstances are so grim that parents are compelled to make impossible decisions, like prioritizing an ill child's nutritional needs over other children.

"There are some people who sometimes go for a whole day without lighting fire [for cooking] in their house"

Man, 26 to 35, AObaid South Camps, AObaid - North Kordofan

"We are in need; I have a child who has diabetes and he takes insulin. If the food is little, I will let him eat and leave my other children without eating. We need treatment, and food, and water, and clothes."

Woman, 36-45, AlMuatamar School for Boys, AlGedaref - AlGedaref

"We are suffering, sometimes we pick up the straw from the street to use it to light a fire and we are suffering to get food. Sometimes we don't have food for three or four days and sometimes organizations and people give us food, but even our beds are torn up."

Woman, 26-35, AObaid South Camps, AObaid - North Kordofan

In Ertadi Center, a shelter center in Dongola, Northern state, a displaced woman shared that organizations give cash, but they need food supplies. This is likely because food prices have been increasing making it less and less affordable over time for families to access foodstuff. Displaced people in Dongola complained they were not receiving food assistance like before, and that shortages in food or inability to purchase food was diminishing essential nutrients and vitamins in their bodies.

“As for food as usual our meal was fool (fava beans) and fool is not enough because more families came. There was an organization that brought the [fava beans]. Fool is a meal, and it meets the needs of many people but also eating a lot of protein is a problem [when] there are other nutritional elements are missing. And they serve it without bread, so should we eat it with a spoon?!”

Woman, 19-25, AlShaheed Ahmed Qasim Center A, Dongola - Northern

In Khartoum, more takaya (community kitchens) were forced to close or temporarily pause activities due to funding shortages. Since the beginning of the conflict, the takaya have been a lifeline for thousands of Sudanese across the country, particularly those remaining in conflict areas. This halt in daily meals not only means that thousands are left without a daily meal but also increases pressure on operational kitchens, like the one in Omdurman’s Maydan AlBaleela.

“Many families returned today Sunday with empty containers from Maydan AlBalila in Omdurman AlEskan 75...The reason is that large crowds came from the neighboring districts due to the closure of takaya there...#Sudan #Support_the_Kitchen”

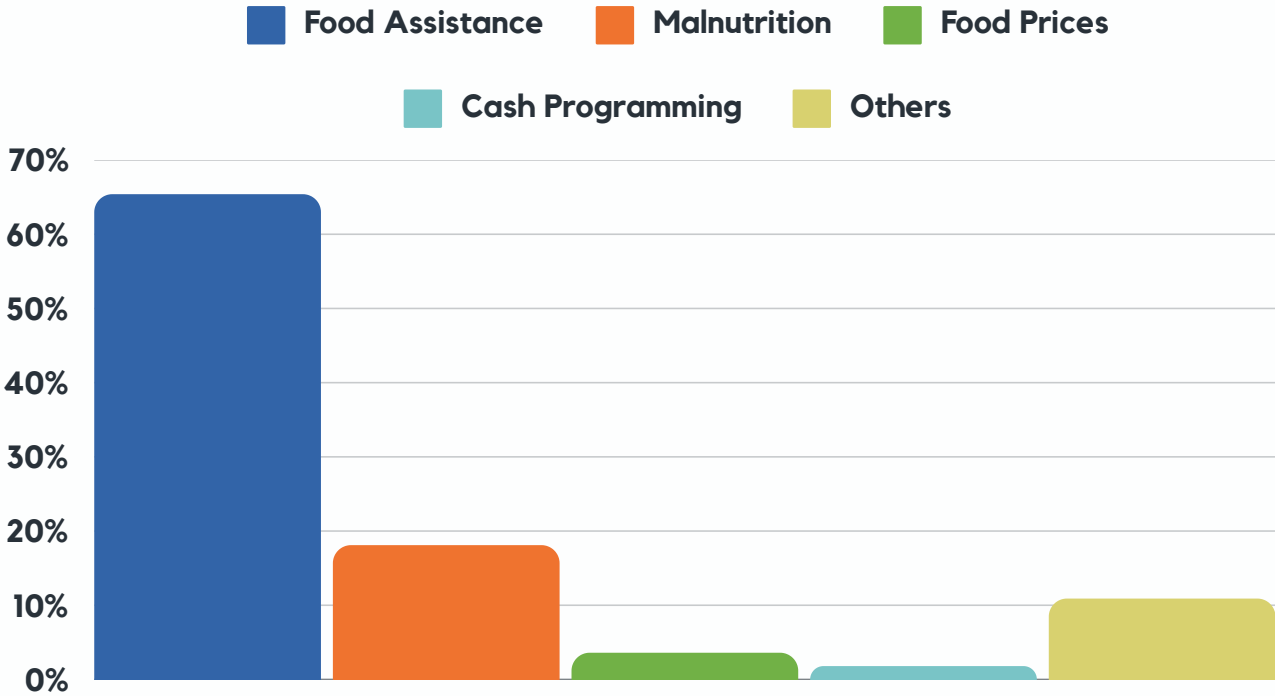
Man, X, Omdurman AlEskan - Khartoum

Individuals continue to leverage social media for food support, some ask about organizations that can help provide food supplies, while others appeal for donations to help buy food for their families. Concerns and questions about ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) remain a key information need. Internews' previous [**Humanitarian Flash Update 11**](#), delved into social media posts revealing confusion and questions about the quality, benefits, and RUTF dosage for treating malnutrition among children.

Food aid agencies should address these information needs, and tackle misconceptions about therapeutic food. With famine declared or projected in 10 areas of Sudan including in North Darfur and western Nuba Mountains coupled with increasing food insecurity, Internews analysts noted an increasing demand for RUTF. Reports of theft and vending of nutritional supplies have also been highlighted during community listening groups and on Sudanese social media spaces.

<p>“If a child is weighed they are given nutrition for the first time and they do not give them again”</p> <p>Man, 26-35, ALObeid South Camps, ALObeid - North Kordofan</p>	<p>“Peace be upon you...I am asking where children’s nutrition meals are sold I need someone to sell them to me please”</p> <p>Woman, Facebook, Khartoum</p>
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COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON FOOD SECURITY



Food security highlights the increasing need for food assistance, rising malnutrition, and the effects of fluctuating food prices on displaced people’s daily food intake. For many, displacement and loss of livelihood has reduced the quantity and quality of food consumed.

CROSS-SECTORIAL NEEDS

Community listening groups and social media posts show that displaced people living in shelter centers face dire circumstances, with a need for urgent holistic support to address needs across sectors. Individuals often expressed they lacked basic essentials to sustain their daily needs, like food, water, and medicine. Thousands of displaced individuals fled to safe areas, bringing only what they could carry.

“We need everything. We’ve been struggling for a year without water, food, clothes, beds and mattresses and we have sick older people and children, and winter is coming. We’re relying on God’s help”

**Adolescent Female, 15-18, AlMatar Secondary School for Girls,
AlGedaref - AlGedaref**

“Follow-ups: eastern AlGezira...The conditions in the displacement areas are very bad...The humanitarian response is weak and almost completely non-existent, the people have directed appeals via WhatsApp groups to all international organizations to save them”

Woman, 26-35, Facebook - AlGezira

Basic services such as water and sanitation are either unavailable or inadequate. Families report that prolonged periods without water have forced them to rely on contaminated sources, often bitter or foul-smelling, resulting in waterborne diseases among children and older people. Individuals have also called attention to the state of bathrooms and sanitation describing them as “alarming”. It has been reported that latrines and bathrooms are unhygienic, overcrowded, and under non-operational conditions, worsening the indignity of displacement.

“Focus on chronic diseases as there is no support from organizations and we are displaced and have no money to buy medicine. We need people to stand with us. Also our children are sick due to unclean drinking water, and sometimes the water is bitter and has a bad smell. We need help also our grandmother can’t sleep at night because of the war she keeps saying don’t kill my son there is no follow-up for these cases”

Man, 26-35, Ertadi Center, Dongola - Northern

“We need some things in the area, the place is not closed or protected. And we have an issue with the bathrooms they are very big and not contained. We need sheets to sleep on and water jugs and prayer mats and buckets for the bathrooms and simple stuff to help ourselves.”

Woman, 26-35, AIObeid South Camps, AIObeid - North Kordofan

Health services are similarly insufficient, with communities expressing their desperate need for medical care, including chronic conditions, maternal health, and psychological support. Women and children, specifically, face elevated risks due to the lack of appropriate healthcare and specialized services.

“We have a health problem a food problem and the problem of lack of work this is causing us stress. The person who sees the family in need and cannot provide for them sits crying. You coming here to us has made me feel comfortable because I was carrying a lot inside me and now, I’ve vented. We need help of all kinds; health, education support, and assistance, that’s it.”

Man, 26-35, Souq ALMawashi Center, Dongola - Northern

Women also require urgent attention, with many highlighting the lack of adequate support for their unique challenges. In addition to health and sanitation concerns, women expressed the need for sanitary pads and care for pregnant and lactating mothers. Community feedback also highlights the physical and emotional toll of displacement and conflict on women. Communities in Central Darfur have also stressed the need for protection networks, the formation of such networks will be critical to addressing violations, enhancing safety, and providing mechanisms to report abuse and exploitation.

“Here our problems are many, most importantly is the water and I wish there were things for girls, special things. They registered twice for this thing and nothing appeared”

Woman, 19-25, AIObeid South Camps, AIObeid - North Kordofan

“Special services should be provided for girls in ALMuhafzeen neighborhood”

Woman, 19-25, ALMuhafzeen, Zalingei - Central Darfur

ACCESS TO MEDICINE

Internews analysts have observed significant challenges in accessing medicine in shelter centers and displacement camps. Individuals in the Taiba and Tur Kelemi Camps in Zalingei expressed concerns regarding poor storage conditions for medications and ineffective management practices that could harm citizens. Individuals suffering from chronic illnesses are regarded as the most impacted. The absence of essential medicines can significantly worsen their health status. For instance, a woman in ALObeid South Camps shared that her sister's diabetes worsened due to lack of treatment, ultimately resulting in the amputation of her fingers.

"I am displaced from AlDalang I have diabetes and heart disease and high blood pressure and I cannot find any treatment services"

Woman, 46-60, ALObeid South Camps, ALObeid - North Kordofan

"Providing free medicine and treatment for people with chronic diseases"

Woman, 46-60, AlMuhafzeen Neighborhood, Zalingei - Central Darfur

Even when healthcare options are available, they are not affordable. Considering the significant treatment costs, displaced people in ALObeid and Dongola have called for the provision of insurance cards. While in Zalingei, displaced children between ages 11 and 18 complained from the lack of treatment and asked for the provision of medicines in health centers and the establishment of health facilities that cater to the health needs of older people and people with disabilities.

"Treatment remains a problem, if a person gets sick he does not know what to do. A few days ago I was sick and I walked into the center, the examination cost 4,400 pounds and I have 4,000 pounds they did not examine me... I left the examination and came back. We've started to share treatments, he who has gives the ones who doesn't have."

Woman, 19-25, AlMuatamar School for Boys, AlGedaref - AlGedaref

"If you could provide me with treatment cards or insurance cards so that we can get treatment and the disease does not take hold of us"

Woman, 26-35, ALObeid South Camps, ALObeid - North Kordofan

In light of the limited healthcare options and the scarcity of effective treatments, many individuals have turned to herbal and local remedies as alternatives as discussed in Humanitarian Flash Updates [10](#) & [11](#). Participants from listening groups in AlGedaref mentioned using herbs, hibiscus, and acacia to treat infections and fevers. On social media, women shared more than 84% of the treatment rumors, with most of the shared remedies coming from private women's groups. Individuals shared several alternative treatments for diseases such as typhoid, jaundice, and giardia, including high-risk treatments like cauterization in which hot steel is pressed against the skin.

"My children are ill; they have fever and malaria and inflammation and there is no treatment and no support we only use traditional treatments such as Hibiscus and Tamarind and Acacia and I can't find a job. May God help us."

Man, 46-60, Dar AlSalam School, AlGedaref - AlGedaref

Participants of community listening groups in Central Darfur and Northern states called for vector control and mosquito nets to help combat diseases such as malaria and dengue fever. It is crucial to prioritize efforts to prevent the spread of these diseases, which are particularly challenging to manage due to the lack of health services and the limited access to medicines. Furthermore, discussions on social media have raised questions concerning malaria treatments, specifically regarding their use and costs. In an effort to combat widespread diseases such as dengue fever and malaria, a woman donated her house in AlDoroshab, Bahri which was then converted into a clinic to offer free medical treatment.

"Is it true good people that malaria pills can be given to a one-year and three-month-old child with milk??...Or as I've heard they cause poisoning"

Woman, Facebook

"We thank you very much for your help but if there's anything we need now it's blankets and mosquito nets. A lot of mosquitoes are causing malaria..."

Man, 19-25, Souq AlMawashi Center, Dongola - Northern

Community feedback highlighted the need for cash support to help purchase treatments for chronic illnesses, medication for individuals with cancer, and surgical interventions. Additionally, there is a demand for healthcare professionals across various specialties, including dermatology, internal medicine, and neurology.

"Cash is very important so that we can buy medicine. Organizations should focus on cash most of the displaced people are unemployed because AlGedaref has seasonal work."

Woman, 26-35, Dar ALSalam School, AlGedaref - AlGedaref

"I was shot in the leg and need a prosthetic leg but I can't afford the treatment..."

Woman, 36-45, Ertadi Center, Dongola - Northern

"We need to contact a gynecologist for an urgent consultation for a girl who is stranded and unable to reach a doctor or hospital..."

Woman, Facebook

The search for psychotherapists and psychiatrists in different parts of the country, including River Nile, AlGedaref, and Northern states remains a significant need on social media. Displaced people have also pointed out the pressing need for mental health support to help individuals cope with trauma.

"We need a mental health support clinic and entertainment programs for children."

Man, 19-25, Dar ALSalam School, AlGedaref - AlGedaref

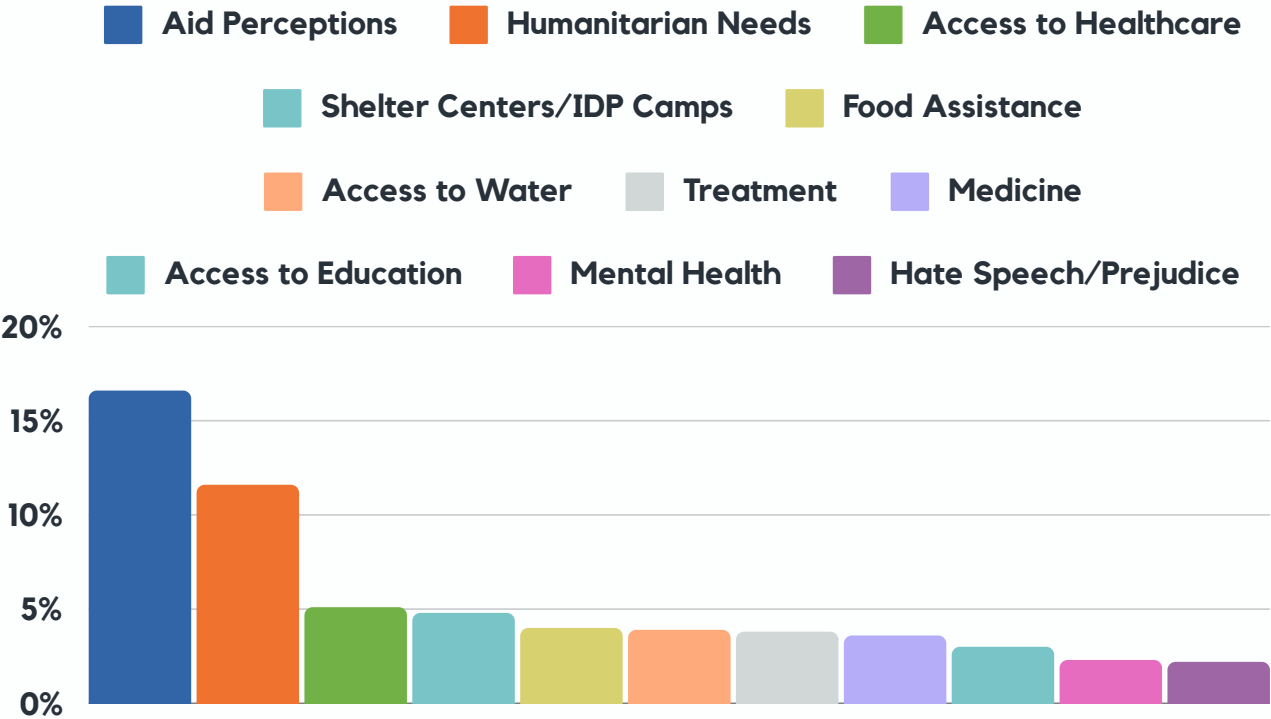
"I need a psychiatrist to help me for the sake of God, our circumstances are difficult I don't have money for sessions, and I am in severe distress 🥺."

Woman, Facebook

Displaced people in Central Darfur and Northern states also expressed a need for obstetrics and gynecology centers, nutrition centers, centers for children with disabilities, and reproductive health centers. A man between ages 46 and 60 called for increasing health centers in Tur Kelemi due to the large number of displaced people living in the camp.

“The pregnant one is suffering I swear and daily she wants to go to the doctor, but doesn't have money. For my nine months, I didn't go to the doctor. We need special care for pregnant women.”
Woman, 26-35, AIObeid West Camps, AIObeid - North Kordofan

KEY COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND NEEDS



Displaced individuals face unsafe living conditions in IDP camps and shelters, often lacking basic infrastructure. At Ertadi Center in Dongola, an absence of a fence exposes residents in this shelter center to dangers such as stray dogs. Also, inadequate sleeping arrangements force them to sleep on the ground, putting them at risk of scorpion stings.

CHALLENGES IN ACCESSING WATER

Across some states in Sudan, communities grapple with water, sanitation, and hygiene challenges. Access to safe drinking water is a major concern in AlObeid West Camps; people spend long hours in search of water, often carrying it on their heads. Drinking unsafe water in AlGedaref and Dongola as well as AlObeid has led to an increase in illnesses such as diarrhea and kidney complications. In addition to the need for clean drinking water, there is also a demand for cleaning supplies. In Zalingei participants of community listening groups asked for waste management tools.

“There is no drinking water, we carry the water on the top of our heads and we stay from the morning till evening and there is no horsecar even if we paid... There is water in the leather pouch but it's bad and not valid to drink. Its color is green and its smell is bad. The water in the pouch changes after a week, and it's not purified and there is not even Chlorine.”

Woman, 26-35, AlObeid West Camps, AlObeid - North Kordofan

Worries about unsafe water persist online as well. A post in a public Facebook group called “Ask the Sudanese Doctor” with 129k followers, sought information about the cause of worms in water. In response, some individuals recommend the use of chlorine and cardamon to purify water. However, some viewed the use of chlorine in water purification with caution, due to rumors that it could be poisonous. Public health authorities and medical organizations should raise awareness about water purification methods and address this type of misinformation.

“With cholera and dengue fever we are still afraid because we do not have enough treatment. There are volunteers in an organization who came to the school next to us and they gave people chlorine for the water. But they said it causes poisoning -better to get cholera than die from the poisoning.”

Woman, 26-35, AlObeid North Camps, AlObeid - North Kordofan

Moreover, the use of cloth for menstrual periods due to a lack of sanitary pads has led to infections among girls. Some demand the distribution of essential hygiene products like sanitary pads and feminine hygiene supplies in ALObeid, Dongola and AlGedaref. This will reduce health risks and preserve the dignity and humanity of women and girls.

“Our needs as girls - the thing we need the most is sanitary pads and underwear, and we need soap to wash, and toothbrushes and toothpaste. We need all these small things because they are very expensive, and we cannot buy them from the market.”

Adolescent Female, 15-18, ALObeid South Camps, ALObeid - North Kordofan

“We use pieces of cloth for menstruation because cotton is expensive and there is no money. If you had a thousand and a half you would buy food instead of cotton. The eye sees but the hand can't reach.”

Adolescent Female, 15-18, ALObeid South Camps, ALObeid - North Kordofan

“Because of the lack of sanitary pads, they [women and girls] got skin dissections and severe fungal infections and am looking for feminine wash and ointments, anti-fungal, etc”

Woman, X, Kordofan

SEEKING LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

The conflict severely disrupts livelihoods, worsening the economic hardship and increasing vulnerability among displaced individuals and families. Employment and livelihood issues reveal recurring themes of financial insecurity, lack of job opportunities, absence of vocational training, and limited access to resources necessary for self-sufficiency. A key concern voiced by displaced people is the lack of regular income and financial assistance, especially for more vulnerable groups, like older people, people with disabilities, and widows.

"They need empowerment projects to have a source of income because they don't have the capital to start a project"

Woman, 26-35, Jarada, Dongola - Northern

"🔴 Need a job in Omdurman 📧 I need a job in Omdurman Librarian / hair salon / Boutique / Supermarket. Very urgent life is unbearable..."

#Need_a_job"

Man, X, Omdurman - Khartoum

The dependence on aid and external support has made the situation more frustrating as assistance is often delayed or insufficient. Widows and orphans also suffer due to limited financial resources. Several individuals expressed the dire need for empowerment projects to provide sustainable income.

"By God, the situation is very difficult, especially since we are orphans, and my mother had a shop at home in Khartoum that helped support us. Now she's gone to the farm to support us, but my mother has never been away from us since my father's passing, [recently] she stayed away from us for months."

Woman, 19-25, AlObeid South Camps, AlObeid - North Kordofan

Opportunities for stable employment are minimal. Even children are now forced to work to help support their families. Displaced people face significant challenges in finding work, often taking exhausting jobs for low pay.

"The situation is difficult I traveled to the Northern state and worked in restaurants and ice shops together even though I am young and this is my first time. I want to take care of my family and the money I'm getting is little compared to the work but alhmdulillallah"

Adolescent Female, 15-18, AlObeid South Camps, AlObeid - North Kordofan

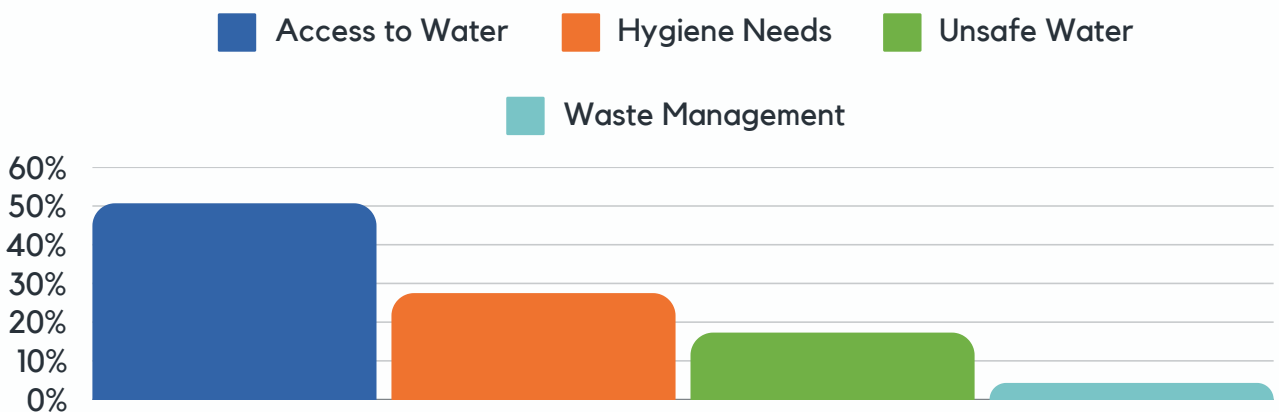
Several men shared their willingness to work but described the difficulty in finding opportunities. Some women in displacement camps highlighted their resourcefulness, expressing their ability to contribute to family income through sewing or small handicrafts but mentioning the need for training and financial support to get started.

“I need a job can you please help me and provide me with a water cart or Toktok or a small shop so that I can get money for my expenses.”
Man, 26-35, Dar AlSalam School, AlGedaref - AlGedaref

The demand for vocational training and empowerment projects shows the major need for livelihood support. Community feedback highlights that displacement camps lack tailored workshops for skills such as handicrafts, computer literacy, baking, and nursing. A couple of displaced individuals shared that they face discrimination, sometimes encountering hostility and harassment from locals, which disrupts their efforts to be self-sufficient.

<p>“We require workshops for young people in vocational training and craft work.” Man, 46-60, Tur Kelemi Camp, Zalingei - Central Darfur</p>	<p>“Distribute opportunities for handicraft training and other skills fairly.” Man, 26-35, AlHamidiya Camp 1, Zalingei - Central Darfur</p>
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KEY WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE ISSUES



Waste management covers issues such as waste accumulation, full and unusable bathrooms, and open defecation that contributes to fly infestations, disease outbreaks, and an overall unhealthy environment.

THE SEARCH FOR DIGNIFIED SHELTER

Sudan's ongoing conflict severely limits shelter availability. Many families are currently taking refuge in schools, using them as shelter centers. However, in AlGedaref, the authorities have informed families that they must relocate when exams start. Displaced people must leave the classrooms where they are currently living while students are in class, some have shared during listening groups that authorities plan to move them out of the schools into displacement camps. Some highlighted that these camps lack essential medical care and food supplies, making it a stressful transition for this vulnerable population. A woman in AlGedaref mentioned that authorities restrict aid in the shelter centers unless people move to camps, creating a gap in immediate support for those who cannot relocate.

"We heard that the governor issued a decision to the organizations not to provide any services in the shelter centers until they are transferred to the camps in the far-off desert, that's why neither the government nor the organizations enter the center, now the last thing we have received is a food basket in Ramadan."

Woman, 26-35, AlMuatamar School for Boys, AlGedaref - AlGedaref

"We haven't been getting water and they told us that the school would be an exam center, and they would move us out, but we don't want to go out to the camps, the situation there is very difficult."

Woman, 26-35, Dar AlSalam School, AlGedaref - AlGedaref

Community listening reveals overwhelming challenges that displaced individuals face upon arriving in schools and other gathering sites that were set up as temporary shelters. Community feedback highlights a need for non-food items such as beds, bedding, winter clothing, mosquito nets, and plastic sheeting. In some cases, individuals have asked for the rehabilitation of shelter centers.

"Our camp is open with no fence and dogs enter at night. We need a fence for the camp."

Woman, 19-25, Ertadi Center, Dongola - Northern

“We need beds because we sleep on the ground and the ground is full of scorpions.”

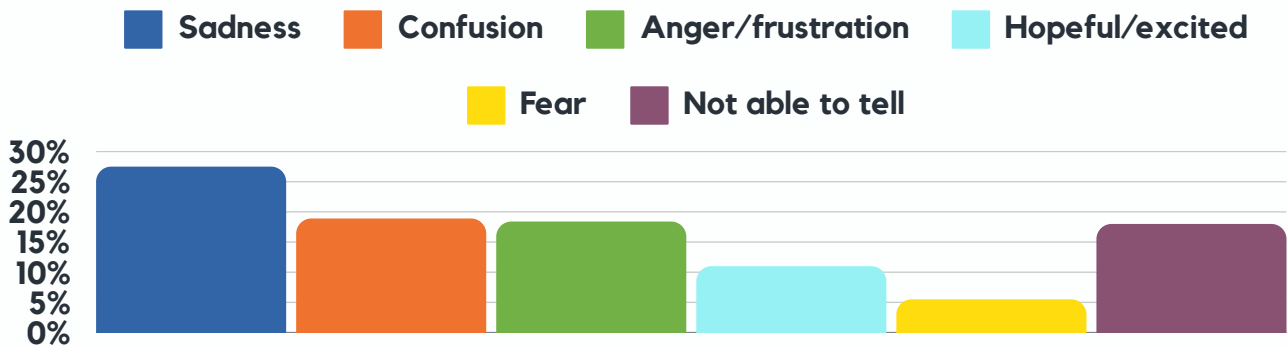
Woman, 26-35, Souq Almawashi Center, Dongola - Northern

“I came to this camp late honestly I didn’t find a room to stay in with my children, so I sat between the two buildings, and I stitched sacks together and I’m staying on them with the children. We suffered a lot during the rainy season...winter has come we need tarpaulins...we want blankets for my children due to the cold.”

Woman, 26-35, ALObeid South Camps, ALObeid - North Kordofan

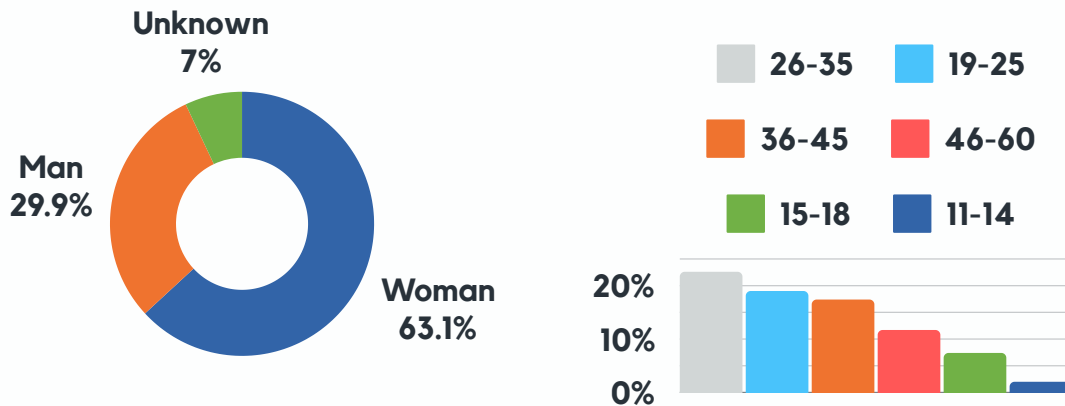
Heavy rains in Zalingei have destroyed homes, creating an urgent need for shelter. A recommendation from a man living in AlHamidiya Camp 1 is to “survey and rebuild homes damaged by the rains”. Meanwhile, in AlGedaref, the number of internally displaced people surged from over 350K on December 25, 2023, to surpassing 1.1M by December 24, 2024, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This alarming increase has prompted appeals on social media for tents to house the displaced population.

SENTIMENT ANALYSIS



Sentiment analysis helps us understand the emotions behind text, image, and feedback shared. The most prominent emotion expressed within the data was sadness followed by confusion, anger/frustration, hopeful/excited, fear, and feeling shocked/surprised. Sadness is expressed in comments highlighting severe challenges such as children lacking education due to not being able to afford school fees, and the loss of communication with loved ones. While confusion reflects the lack of clarity in the lives of displaced individuals as many are unclear about when they will receive aid or resources. Community feedback expressing anger/frustration highlight the deep dissatisfaction in the treatment of displaced individuals, with many attempting to register for assistance without receiving any.

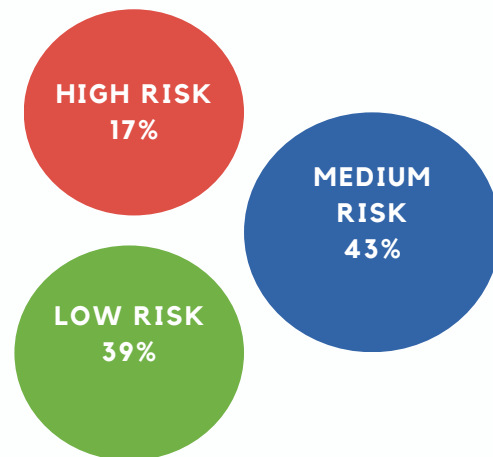
Age & Gender Breakdown



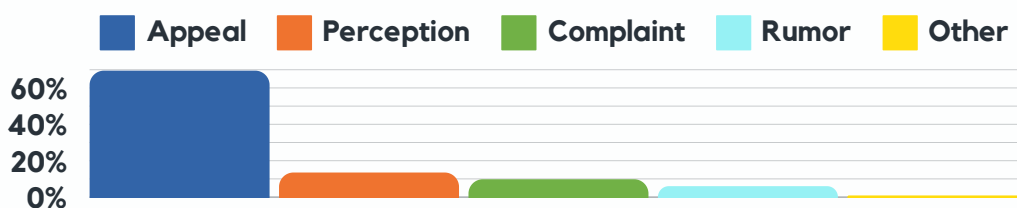
This is the age and gender breakdown of 894 posts and community comments collected between 14 October and 27 November 2024. Children in displaced communities are facing a range of struggles due to limited resources and opportunities. Education remains a significant challenge, with many expressing concern over their inability to continue their studies. Girls face hygiene-related challenges as many do not have access to sanitary pads, which forces them to resort to using improvised materials, putting them at risk of infections.

RISK LEVEL

High risk community comments or posts are those that pose a potential for harm. For instance, a post highlights women giving birth in unsafe conditions, with infants lacking access to vaccines due to limited immunization programs since the outbreak of conflict.



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK & POSTS BY DATA TYPE



This is the breakdown of 894 social media posts, and community feedback and comments by type of data. Appeals refer to community calls, such as immediate intervention to manage health centers or equitable and fair distribution of services. Community listening reveals that misinformation can trigger feelings of uncertainty and fear or become a cause for unease between camp residents.

How can Community Listening contribute to Accountability?

Internews' timely community listening activities can help humanitarian organizations plan and adapt their programs and activities, to ensure they are responding to communities' needs and priorities and identifying harmful misinformation or information gaps. Listening attentively to people's concerns through social media and face-to-face listening groups, and understanding their priorities allows people affected by conflict to influence and shape the humanitarian response to ensure it remains relevant and responsive to needs that are voiced. Online social listening and face-to-face listening groups are one way to ensure accountable humanitarian support is being provided.

Internews Methodology

Internews' analysts gather feedback, concerns, and rumors posted on social media and shared during listening groups by individuals affected by conflict and displacement in Sudan. The example posts and community feedback featured in this report are representative of the most common concerns seen across the community listening activities. Community comments and posts are collected in the original language and categorized by theme to support analysis that aligns with and supports humanitarian coordination mechanisms and response.

To access the anonymized data set that supports this analysis, please contact Asia Kambal, akambal@internews.org.