

**Forum:** Security Council  
**Issue:** The Situation in Sudan  
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**Position:** President of Security Council

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## Introduction

The main conflict in Sudan began in 2018 after Sudan's former president, al-Bashir, made cuts to bread and fuel subsidies, which fueled anger and protests. This escalated into a coup that overthrew al-Bashir, and a Transitional Military Council (TMC) took power to control and keep the country secure. There are mainly two sides involved in the conflict: the military and the Sudanese Professionals Association (SPA) - composed of doctors, lawyers, and other citizens who have protested for control to be given to civilians. This transitional government was then again overthrown in a military coup in October 2021.

Sudan is currently being controlled by the military. Presently, protesters still remain on the streets in Khartoum, Sudan's capital, voicing their anger at the ruling military generals and demanding that they give power to a civilian government. Military authorities have been exceptionally violent in response, killing "113 people, including 18 children" in July 2022. Some western countries like the United States and the United Kingdom have openly called on generals to ensure protests are peaceful in order to protect human rights, yet they also face criticism from protesters for engaging with those leading generals at the same time. Months of protest have gone by, and protesters have long wished for a civilian government, urging the leading generals to leave their power.

Due to climate shocks, political tension, and rising food prices, more than 30% of Sudan's citizens are now facing a food crisis. Funding and humanitarian aid for Sudanese people are still lacking, and the World Food Programme warned that food security, without powerful support and agricultural inputs, "may dramatically increase to unprecedented levels and ultimately lead to more conflict and displacement". It's extremely crucial to consider the urgency and permanence of proposed solutions.

## Definition of Key Terms

### Coup

A violent and sudden overthrow of a country's existing government by another group.

### Austerity

Difficult economic conditions for the country's citizens, planned and created by the country's government for the purpose of reducing public expenditure. Common examples include subsidy cuts, price increases for common goods, increases in taxes, and more.

## Subsidies

Financial support provided by the government to a specific industry in order to reduce costs and keep prices low to ensure accessibility to citizens. Subsidies can be used for necessities, and in less economically developed countries, subsidies on bread are common to ensure civilian access to food.

## Background Information

### Sudan's past

#### *Colonialism and northern and southern Sudan*

Sudan was ruled by Britain during the colonialism era (1898 - 1956), the British divided Sudan into two parts: the north which was mostly Muslim and spoke Arabic, and the south which was more diverse in religion, ethnicity, and language. Throughout its rule, Britain used a divide and rule policy that separated southern Sudan from the rest of the country. Britain focused on developing and modernizing northern Sudan through upgrading education, health services, and social services, and often neglected other regions of Sudan, like Darfur.

#### *The divide*

Britain developed school systems in the north and put “northern Riverine peoples in positions of power [...] specifically the Shaigiyya, Jalliyyin — where al-Bashir is a part of — and Dongola groups”. These groups still have influence today. Throughout time, a social hierarchy was created by the groups, based on culture and wealth, which caused conflict and tension between the people of Sudan. The south was far more underdeveloped, while the Arab north was much more economically and politically developed. Differences between religion, social construct, region, and many other factors led to a deeply divided country.

#### *Independence*

In 1955, towards the very end of the colonialism era, Sudan unilaterally claimed independence. The British, after losing their control over many other areas of colonialism, had no power to stop them, and recognized Sudan as an independent nation. However, the division in the nation still remained: Sudan had been separated culturally, economically, and socially, but not politically nor

regionally. In short, over decades, the tension between the north and south escalated into a large-scale armed civil conflict. There were two civil wars between the current Sudan and South Sudan. The two civil wars were each from 1955 to 1972 and 1983 to 2005, and between them, oil had been discovered in the south, changing its economic prospects immensely. The second civil war ended after a peace agreement in 2005, and in 2011, the south finally gained independence and became South Sudan. The nation took their oil with them, finally leaving Sudan a divided country.

### *Violence in Darfur*

In 2003, the war in Darfur, a province on the western side of Sudan, began. Violence in Darfur is still continuing and should be an important point of focus when considering Sudan's humanitarian crisis. The war was not sudden though, as ever since 1960, tribes in Sudan have fought each other over natural resources. In 2003, Sudanese rebel groups accused the government of excluding their regions from wealth and development efforts. The problems arising from the differences between the wealth and development of different regions stem from the history of the ethnic division of Sudan during the colonialism era. "In February, Darfuri insurgents launched an attack on the government, which responded with a brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing of non-Arab Darfuris." From the years 2003 to 2008 alone, it's estimated that around 300,000 citizens "were killed by air raids, shelling, and attacks on villages". Even after a ceasefire in 2010, the violence still never ended.

### *Al-Bashir's rule*

Al-Bashir showed clear signs of dictatorship through banning political parties, closing free press, and banning the constitution. In March 1991, al-Bashir's government issued the Public Order Act of 1991, which set forth an Islamic Penal Code. He restored flogging and amputation, sometimes in public, and formalized the death penalty for offenses like the equivocal charge of "corruption" and apostasy of Islam. Women were forbidden to wear perfume and had to wear clothing that went down to their ankles. When women wore colorful thobes, they would be flogged in the streets. Ethnic cleansing of black populations that resulted in millions displaced and thousands killed was not uncommon. After the government implemented austerity measures to comply with subsidy cuts in International Monetary Fund measures to pay back Sudan's long-standing debt, the rise in price has resulted in citizens not being able to afford food. Combined with South Sudan taking the oil, which was "about 75% of the country's overall oil revenues", Sudan faced economic collapse, with hyperinflation causing the drop in value of the Sudanese pound as well as ATM cash withdrawal limits. As time passed, the divide between Sudan and South Sudan

continued to intensify. The civilian protests on the price of basic necessities in Sudan soon turned into protests for al-Bashir to cease his rule.

### *Transition in conflict*

After al-Bashir was overthrown, the military and civilians came to agreements on a transitional government, including agreements such as how the legislative body formed would have 5 out of 11 civilian members, and “a prime minister nominated by the pro-democracy movement” would lead the cabinet. However, the alliance with the military and civilians has been fraught with tension: Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, chief general of the sovereign council, has often undercut civilian leadership, and in the past, called for a dissolution of the civilian government due to abuse of power and for personal interest, which was often seen as an attempt to disrupt the process of the power transition to a civilian leader. Meanwhile, inexperienced civilian leaders and the trust deficit between the civilian and military leaders resulted in slow change. Civilian leaders have faced charges and complaints of not adequately representing the interest of all Sudanese citizens, and military members, not wanting to hand their long-held power to civilian groups, didn’t do much to stop protests. All this, combined with the International Monetary Fund’s 2.5 billion dollar loan and debt relief for Sudan’s debt, which included the cutting of oil subsidies, has once again led to less support for the transitional government.

### *Economic collapse*

Since the era of colonialism, Sudan has had an economy largely dependent on agricultural exports and other natural resources. Near the 2000s, Sudan gained a large amount of wealth from the discovery of more oil. However, instead of being invested into agricultural renewal that would’ve sustained the population and helped develop Sudan’s agricultural sector into a more long-term sustainable and advanced structure, that wealth was put to short-lasting activities like commercial activity expansion and construction of infrastructure. Sudan’s radical Islamism brought sanctions against its trade and capital, and the ruling by al-Bashir only added to the economic sanctions. With the value of the currency steadily declining and subsidy cuts on foods and petroleum, Sudanese citizens are forced to reckon with the political and social uncertainties with the current state of the country.

### *Humanitarian crisis*

A combination of COVID-19 effects, flooding, droughts, rising prices for necessity goods, violence, and disease “have left 13.4 million people - more than a quarter of all Sudanese - in need of life-saving aid”.

### *Refugees and spillover*

After the split of Sudan and South Sudan, different conflicts resulted in an increase from around 380,000 to around 650,000 in Sudan's refugee population from 2011 to 2013. The surge in the number of Sudanese refugees has led to spillover effects in neighboring countries like Ethiopia, Chad, and other countries, all of which are already facing humanitarian issues and shortage of resources.

### *Healthcare*

A lack of medical supplies, clean facilities, and the spread of other diseases has been pressuring the already suffering healthcare system of Sudan. In 2021, "the rate of stunting in Khartoum reached 36.3 per cent while stunting in some states had increased to 50 per cent". The health crisis in Sudan continues to worsen, especially since "many health services in the hospital have been suspended due to the nurses' strike over the non-disbursement of their COVID-19 benefits and lack of support". The lack of medicine and medical tools has even caused deaths in hospitals. According to Dabanga Sudan, in August 2021, a child died in a hospital due to the lack of medicines to "...provide him with intravenous solutions."

### *Environmental crisis*

#### *Water scarcity*

Desertification and water scarcity have caused the water supply of Sudan to remain low while the demand for such continues to grow. "Eighty percent of the country works in agriculture, which accounts for 97% of its water use. Most farms are rural and fed by rainwater." However, most agricultural land in Sudan is cultivated through means of mechanized farming, which damages the environment by decreasing arable soil supply and causing desertification to further spread. Waterborne diseases through contaminated water have also led to deaths from diarrhea and thousands of hepatitis E cases in the past few decades.

#### *Climate change*

The location and climate of Sudan have made it one of the most vulnerable places to climate change. Increased droughts and severe flooding have killed crops and put significant stress on the country's most important sector: agriculture. Climate change has shrunk productive land, and that, in combination with water resource shortages, has put Sudan in an environmental crisis. When developing solutions, it's important to address the environmental crisis and consider the effects of any solutions on Sudan's environment.

## Major Countries and Organizations Involved

### Forces for Freedom and Change (FFC)

The FFC is Sudan's leading pro-democracy political coalition of Sudanese groups including the No to Oppression against Women initiative, the Sudan Revolutionary Front, the Sudanese Resistance Committees, and more. The FFC drafted the "Declaration of Freedom and Change" that demanded al-Bashir to be removed from his position, and played a pivotal role in organizing and leading protests against al-Bashir's government and the recent military coup.

### Justice and Equality Movement (JEM)

JEM is one of the most powerful anti-government groups involved in the Darfur region in Sudan. JEM has tens of thousands of armed fighters and launched violent rebel attacks on the government. Members believe that "northern Sudanese Arabs are disproportionately represented within the Khartoum government, (...) leaving southern Africans and western Arabs" impoverished and neglected. Some, mostly military officials, have accused JEM of being all controlled by al-Turabi, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs for Sudan, and plotting a coup as JEM maintains close ties to al-Turabi, who backed al-Bashir's coup that overthrew the ruler before him, Sadeq al-Mahdi.

### United States (U.S.)

The U.S. is the largest donor country to Sudan, and "has provided more than \$5 billion in aid to the Sudan and Eastern Chad since 2005". After Sudan's independence, the U.S. established diplomatic relations with the country. After Omar al-Bashir rose to power and Sudan established relationships with terrorist groups, the U.S. designated "Sudan as a State Sponsor of Terrorism in 1993," and suspended the work of the U.S. Embassy in Sudan, which opened again in 2002. After 20 years of long-standing sanctions against Sudan and its government, the U.S. revoked those sanctions permanently.

### United Kingdom (U.K.)

United Kingdom representatives have regarded the violence and atrocities in Sudan as genocide and have been committed to aiding the mitigation of the humanitarian crisis in Sudan. Representatives have spoken out about being careful when communicating with the Sudanese government to ensure humanitarian aid to refugees isn't jeopardized. Much of the conflict in Sudan now is rooted in the United Kingdom's rule and political, economical, and social separation of Sudan during the Colonialism Era. The Government of Sudan views the U.K. as having a key role in mitigating the conflict, as it was Sudan's former colonial power.

## Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1993	Omar al-Bashir becomes the president of Sudan
July 2010	The International Criminal Court issues a second arrest for al-Bashir for genocide
January 2005	The Sudanese government and rebels in Southern Sudan sign peace treaty
March 2005	The Security Council imposes sanctions against violations of Darfur ceasefire agreement
June 2012	Protests against austerity measures rise to popularity
January 2018	Protests against bread price after removal of bread subsidies, protests spiral into mass protests at the end of 2018
September - April 2019	al-Bashir is toppled in a military coup and a new government takes over with a power-sharing agreement between civilian groups and military

## Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- Establishment of the United Nations Mission in Sudan, 24 March 2005 (**S/RES/1590**)
- Establishment of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan, 3 June 2020 (**S/RES/2524**)

## Sudan Support Objectives

Each year, the United Nations sets humanitarian aid and donation objectives for Sudan. Some UN countries have also provided humanitarian support packs and accepted Sudanese refugees. However, the donation objectives for Sudan are often far from reached, and Sudan still immensely lacks the support it needs. According to Relief Web, “Sudan has one of the five largest UN humanitarian appeals in the world, and yet is woefully under-funded.” In 2021, the protection response was “only 15 per cent funded”.

## Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

## The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS)

The establishment of UNMIS left an impression among local people that they would be protected from violence; however, the reality was different. In May 2008, fighting broke out between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement in the Abyei region in Sudan, where SAF members also killed citizens and carried out the looting and burning of towns. UNMIS' failure to prevent this violence and protect civilians resulted in distrust and criticism of the effectiveness of the mission by many, including Security Council members. In a 2006 resolution, the Security Council "strongly [condemned] [...] armed groups [...] to attack civilians[...]; and [urged] in this regard UNMIS to make full use of its current mandate". However, in the same year, the Secretary General said that "the 700 UNMIS soldiers [...] are essentially deployed to provide protection to United Nations installations and personnel".

Clauses are often vague in SC resolutions, and although that makes it easier to obtain a unanimous adoption, it makes the enforcement and operation of the solution very difficult. However, some UNMIS missions were more successful, like in 2009 after violence broke out in Jonglei, where UNMIS immediately made air assets and vehicles available to its members and established operating bases nearby with daily patrolling. When patrolling is done permanently, it serves as a deterrent against violence, and has shown to be more effective than not taking action until violence breaks out.

## The United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS)

UNITAMS was a political mission to help support Sudan during its transition to democratic rule with the transitional government. Similar to UNMIS, the ambiguity of the mandates of UNITAMS has made the mission not as effective or helpful as expected. Without the trust and support of rebel parties and the government, UNITAMS doesn't have the power to enforce negotiations and collaboration between the two. Establishing contact with the population is a central part of aid allocation, and will also help mediate conflicts and promote negotiations. In response to such, UNITAMS can divert more attention to civil affairs and stimulate dialogue and communication with political parties and citizens. Lastly, UNITAMS should focus on mitigating the current situation after the overthrow of the transitional government, whether that be protecting citizens during protests, or facilitating negotiations with the military.

## Sanctions

When it comes to political crises and corruption in a government, many delegates think of sanctions as a possible response. However, it should be noted that while in some cases, sanctions may be effective, the economy of Sudan has been already destroyed after years of intense economic sanctions, resulting in a cut in subsidies and higher prices of necessity goods for citizens. The lack of



infrastructure in Sudan is also a driving issue that contributes as well to the health crisis, and further sanctions may worsen the issue. Solutions that can have a punishing effect on a government without significantly harming the citizen population are encouraged.

## Possible Solutions

The above suggestions in evaluating the past solutions can be implemented to the current situation. It's vital to continue negotiations with a focus on civilian power while also considering humanitarian needs of citizens. The ability and stance of developed and developing countries can affect possible solutions.

### Developed countries

Developed countries often have more money and power, and therefore a wider range of methods to try to mitigate the crisis in Sudan. Direct aid could be a feasible solution for developed countries. The aid delivery process must be transparent, and it would be most effective if all countries established a stable and vigorous aid program to ensure humanitarian aid is received by Sudanese citizens. Moreover, financial support can be provided to local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to spread awareness for women's rights and human rights. It is also important to establish communication channels with citizens, whether that is through UNITAMS or local organizations, to ensure citizens are able to communicate their needs and that negotiations are transparent and convenient. Accepting more refugees or even helping evacuate citizens and offering residence can be extremely helpful to the refugee crisis, and can also alleviate the pressure of over-spill effects on neighboring countries.

### Developing countries

Because developing countries are more invested in protecting their own interests and sustaining their own country, it is more difficult for them to provide aid and financial support compared to developed countries. Instead, developing countries can continue encouraging and advocating for human rights through consideration of Sudanese civilians during resolution-drafting and peace talks. Countries could also find ways to specifically target military government officials in sanctions or punishments, with minimum effect on citizens. Travel restrictions and trade restrictions can be implemented, but it's important to consider whether such restrictions would create more tension and weaker chances of peaceful negotiations. For many developing countries, there have been similar cases of political instability with coups and corruption that have been mitigated. Countries should reference these cases and evaluate whether they can apply in the context of Sudan's complicated history. It's possible to offer aid to reconstruct refugee camps as well as provide humanitarian aid and funding to those camps,

though this solution is not for the long-term. Lastly, developing countries and developed countries can offer troops and assets to UN missions in Sudan to ensure a stronger presence of UN missions.

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## Appendices

### More on the roots of Sudan’s civil wars

**I. Short Summary of History and Roots of Wars:**

[https://enoughproject.org/files/pdf/crisis\\_roots\\_sudan.pdf](https://enoughproject.org/files/pdf/crisis_roots_sudan.pdf)

**II. Roots of the Conflict and Peace Process** <https://www.ispionline.it/en/pubblicazione/sudan-roots-conflict-and-those-peace-process-26272>

**III. About Sudan and South Sudan's History of Divide:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7cuUQA637ig>

**IV. Documentary and Real Footage With Explanation of the Sudan Conflict:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKzpUCv5Olo>

**V. About the Ongoing and Often Neglected Violence in the Darfur**

**Region:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_NlgaXrMTc4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_NlgaXrMTc4)

**More on UN involvements**

**I. List of Security Council Resolutions and Links:** <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/sudan/>

**II. Footage of Sudanese Citizens Protest Against UN:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-QIQSINI2E>

**III. The Violent Crackdown and Motives Behind UN Protests:**

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/1/26/sudanese-protest-against-un-talks-to-resolve-post-coup-crisis>

**More on solutions**

**I. Solutions Taking in Specific Consideration of the History of Sudan:**

<http://pdfproc.lib.msu.edu/?file=/DMC/African%20Journals/pdfs/africa%20media%20review/vol11no3/jamr011003006.pdf>

**II. Sudan Crisis Response Plan 2022 - to help delegates avoid repetitive ideas that are already implemented, and use as inspiration:** <https://crisisresponse.iom.int/response/sudan-crisis-response-plan-2022>