



Key points

- Since July 2020, torrential rains and flooding combined with the historical overflow of the River Nile and its tributaries have affected 17 states out of 18 in the Sudan. Gedarif, Blue Nile, Sennar and Kassala States have been most affected in terms of damage to planted area. In addition to taking place in the middle of the main agricultural season, these floods are the worst seen in decades.
- The flooding is exacerbating the already fragile situation as the country faces the COVID-19 pandemic, desert locust threats, an economic crisis, as well as civil unrest and displacement.
- On 4 September 2020, the Transitional Government of the Sudan declared a three-month State of Emergency and established a supreme committee led by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development to respond to the flood emergency.
- FAO in the Sudan jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Ministries of Production and Economic Resources conducted a rapid assessment in mid-September to document the impact of the floods on farming and pastoral communities.
- Preliminary results of the assessment estimate that the floods have affected almost 600 000 farming and pastoral households (2 988 445 people), of whom 42 percent are female-headed, and resulted in the flooding of about 2.2 million ha of land and loss of 108 000 heads of livestock, belonging to 20 521 households. In addition to limiting movement and access to farms and agricultural inputs, the floods have also led to the loss of fishing gear and destruction of aquaculture farms; loss of agricultural inputs, tools and pumps; and destruction of agriculture and livestock service facilities.
- Affected farmers have already begun to adopt negative coping mechanisms including borrowing and selling productive assets to access food and ensure they have seeds for the upcoming agricultural seasons.
- So far, about 22 percent of affected localities have received assistance from the Government, humanitarian actors and non-governmental organizations. Further assistance is needed urgently and additional funds are required to maintain livelihood interventions and provide necessary emergency and recovery support.

Impact on food security

The agriculture sector plays a key role in the country's economy, accounting for about 30 percent of the GDP. At least 55 percent of the total population (of whom 42 percent are women) in the flood-affected states are engaged in and rely on agriculture and livestock rearing for their livelihoods. Job opportunities such as casual agricultural labour – considered among the most important income-generating activities for those in rural areas – have already diminished due to the floods and are expected to further deteriorate during the imminent harvest season. Food prices are expected to rise and availability and access to food continues to be limited due to both COVID-19 related containment measures and the floods. This will worsen the food security of Sudanese farmers, particularly smallholders and vulnerable households who cannot afford to purchase food for their families or agricultural inputs to resume farming. The effects of the flooding in combination with the various shocks and threats, including desert locusts, faced by the Sudanese population has left many exposed to increased vulnerabilities and food insecurity. Without urgent livelihood assistance, already vulnerable populations are at risk of falling into more severe phases of acute food insecurity.

FAO's response

FAO aims to employ a combination of interventions to respond to the needs of affected communities, with particular attention given to the most vulnerable and female-headed households. The following interventions are proposed.

Immediate priorities

- provide agricultural seeds, tools and equipment for the upcoming winter season;
- distribute bags for grain storage to limit post-harvest losses;
- rehabilitate shallow wells;
- restock with goats and poultry;
- provide animal feed, mineral licks, veterinary vaccines and drugs;
- provide fishing gear (boats, nets, ice boxes); and
- provide cash transfers to address immediate food and basic needs.

Medium and long-term priorities

- facilitate access to seeds, tools and equipment for the 2021 agricultural summer season;
- provide technical support for improved cropping practices;
- establish seed banks at village level;
- support crop diversification;
- provide and enhance veterinary services;
- continue support to feed production through cropping and agroforestry (in synergy with land stabilization);
- provide technical support for improved breeding practices;
- strengthen institutional capacity for early warning and early action;
- establish processing facilities for agriculture, livestock and fisheries; and improve value chain, marketing and added value of agricultural produce; and
- support access to markets and affordable rural financial services.

Funding



FAO requires
USD 70 million



to assist
2.9 million people

In numbers



9.6 million people
(almost **25%** of the population)
facing severe acute food insecurity
(June–September 2020), the highest
number ever recorded by the IPC in
the country



1.9 million internally
displaced persons and an estimated
1.1 million refugees



About **522 000 children**
under the age of five suffer from
acute malnutrition



More than **70%** of Sudanese
rely on agriculture and livestock
for their livelihoods



Some rights reserved. This work is available
under a CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO licence

Contact

FAO Representation in the Sudan
Khartoum, the Sudan
FAO-SD@fao.org

Office of Emergencies and Resilience
Rome, Italy
OER-Director@fao.org

Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations
www.fao.org/emergencies