

Sudan has spent much of its recent history in conflict. Armed conflicts persist in the Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan regions of Sudan where the population is mainly non-Arab. They face regular attacks from their own government with little aid reaching the communities in need.

Key individuals, Groups & Places

Omar al-Bashir: President
 National Congress Party: governing party
 SPLM-N: Opposition Party, officially banned but controls areas in South Kordofan and Blue Nile
 Nuba people: ethnic group from Nuba Mountains
 Khartoum: Capital city
 ICC: International Criminal Court

Key dates

1956: 'Anglo-Egyptian Sudan' became independent
 1983-2005: 2nd Sudanese Civil War
 1989: Bashir took power by coup and has been re-elected ever since
 1983: Sharia Islamic Law instituted
 1995: UN imposed sanctions
 2009: ICC issued arrest warrant for Bashir
 2011: Violence in South Kordofan and Blue Nile
 2011: Sudan split into North and South
 2017: US lifts sanctions despite ongoing humanitarian atrocities



Conflict in Darfur:

The war in Darfur began in 2003 and is ongoing today between The Government of Sudan (GoS) and rebel groups. The rebels attacked the GoS and accused the Government of oppressing the non-Arab population. The GoS responded by carrying out ethnic cleansing against non-Arabs. The deaths of hundreds of thousands of civilians led to al-Bashir's indictment by the ICC for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. A ceasefire was agreed in 2012 but this was violated by the army and rebel groups plan to boycott peace talks.

Conflict in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States:

In 2011 violence broke out in South Kordofan and Blue Nile following disputed state elections and ever since, the GoS has continued to attack opposition groups and civilians in these areas. In areas under the control of the opposition group Sudan People's Liberation - North (SPLM-N) the situation is critical and humanitarian organisations have not had access since 2011.

Attacks have destroyed public institutions including schools, markets, places of worship, water sources and health facilities.

The Nuba people are extensively persecuted. Culturally they do not identify with Sudan, and are aligned with the SPLM in South Sudan.

Humanitarian Situation:

The Human Rights record in Sudan is, according to Human Rights Watch, abysmal. 4.8 million people have been in need of humanitarian assistance in 2017 alone, 3.6 million people are in need of food and livelihoods assistance, and 2.2 million children below the age of 5 are acutely malnourished.

The civil war in South Sudan has also seen the influx of nearly 300,000 refugees arriving in Sudan since December 2013 (131,000 arrived in 2016) and Sudan has an overall total of 800,000 refugees in need of assistance.

The GoS has been blocking humanitarian and media access to Sudan in efforts to prevent reports of the atrocities being committed.

HART's Partners in Sudan

NRRDO, Nuba Mountains

The Nuba Relief, Rehabilitation and Development Organisation plays a key role in raising awareness of the plight of the Nuba people and carrying out emergency relief, education, food security, peace-building, gender equality and primary health. A NRRDO conference in 2014 determined that despite ongoing violence in the Nuba Mountains, education was the top priority of the local people.

NSCC, Blue Nile

HART supports the New Sudan Council of Churches in supplying medicines to community health centres where new health workers are trained. The NSCC also provides emergency food relief to vulnerable hunger-affected households. The NSCC are also seeking to expand their work with school in Blue Nile in order to give more children access to education. They have stated that HART is the only organisation to be giving aid in the Blue Nile State.

Some useful links for more information:

Sudan Consortium - www.sudanconsortium.org

Human Rights Watch - www.hrw.org/world-report/2017/country-chapters/sudan

Amnesty International - www.amnesty.org/en/countries/africa/sudan/report-sudan

'Bombing in Sudan's Blue Nile States' film - www.youtube.com/watch?v=1JnNMYjanfA

'Ending the Nuba Genocide' film - <https://topdocumentaryfilms.com/ending-nuba-genocide>

UN Humanitarian Affairs - www.unocha.org/sudan

If you have any queries, please visit www.hart-uk.org or contact office@hart-uk.org