

📍 YABUS, SUDAN | PRESS RELEASE

HART warns of 'stranded patients' as town's only doctor drowns in floods

Thousands of critically-ill patients in Yabus will become stranded by heavy rainfall with no access to any healthcare, according to a Crisis Warning by Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (HART).

An estimated 48,000 people are currently displaced in Jabarona Camp, located near the Yabus River in Blue Nile State. Many are severely malnourished and require urgent medical attention but could become isolated for up to four months due to flooding.

ABOVE: Time is short for displaced families in Jabarona Displacement Camp in Yabus. Months of heavy rainfall will cut-off the camp from outside help.

HART's Crisis Warning highlights five urgent concerns

1 No humanitarian access

Heavy rainfall, which could arrive as early as April-May, will hinder humanitarian access to Jabarona Camp. Main roads are only passable in the dry season. River transport is too dangerous. The local community are still reeling from the death of one of the region's last practising doctors, Dr Ahmed Zakaria Ismael, who drowned while crossing a river during last year's rainy season.



Dr Ahmed Zakaria Ismael was one of Blue Nile's last practising doctors. He drowned in floods when trying to return from a health training workshop in Ishkab Payam.

2 No food

Food is scarce. Displaced families resort to eating roots, grass and leaves for survival. Among them are pregnant women, groups of unaccompanied children, and new mothers whose infants sleep all day from hunger and exhaustion. In the wider Yabus region, flooding will damage crops and transport routes, driving-up food prices and stretching already-limited resources.

3 No shelter

Jabarona Camp is not a formal camp. It is an improvised space with no infrastructure. There are no tents set up by the UNHCR or any other agency. Displaced families seek shelter under trees. Some build temporary structures with materials from the bush that will not withstand the effects of flooding and heavy rains.

4 No hospital

Epidemics are a recurrent phenomena in Blue Nile State. Rainfall will damage key WASH infrastructure and increase the caseload of diseases such as cholera and malaria. There are no hospitals in Yabus or surrounding towns. Many medical clinics were abandoned after major aid organisations decided to withdraw from the region following the outbreak of war in 2023. The nearest hospital is across the border in South Sudan.

“Across the whole of Blue Nile State, an area roughly twice the size of Wales, we have no more than ten active medical professionals.”

Benjamin Barnaba, Compassion and Sustainable Development Africa

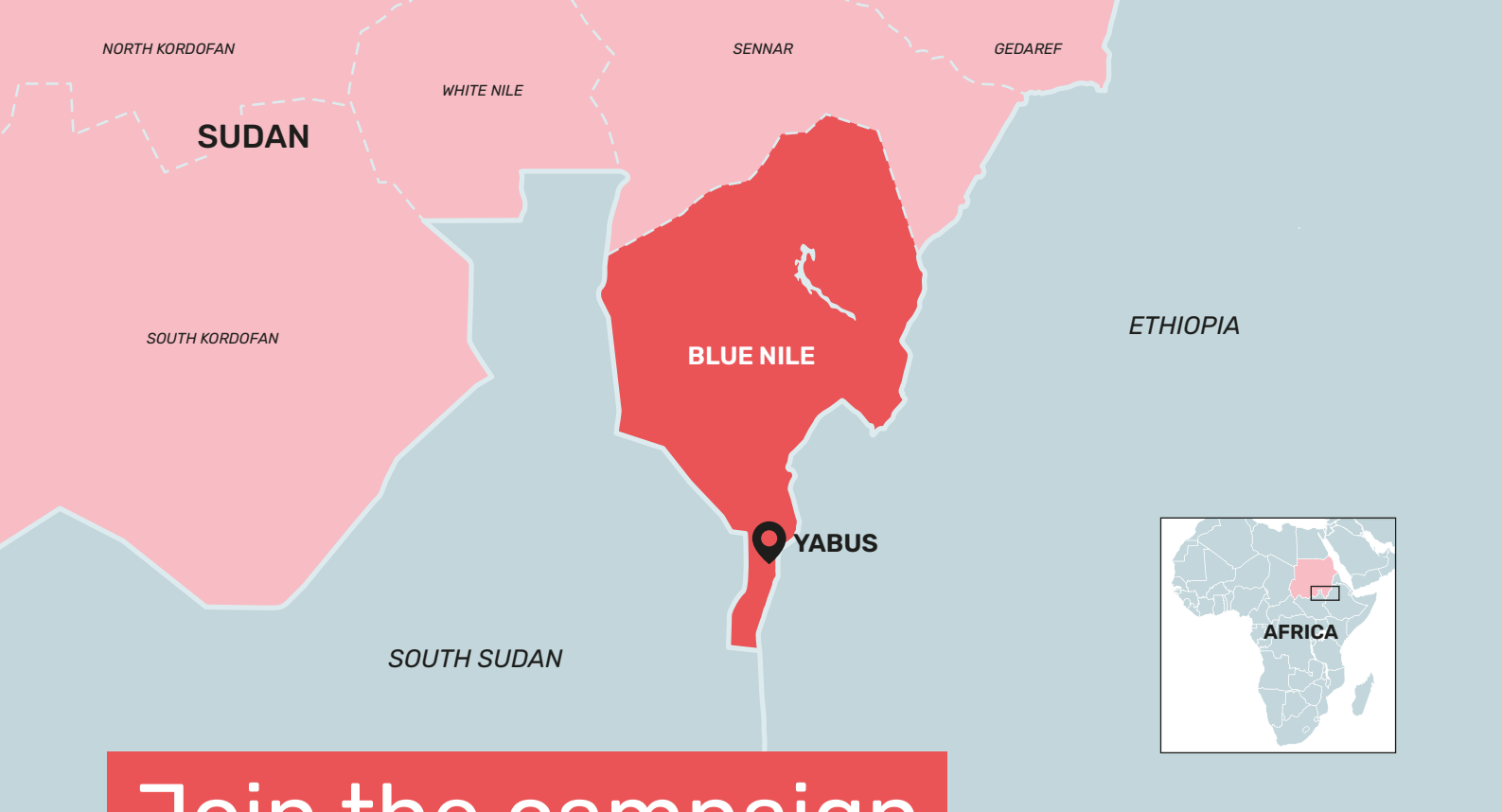
5 No outside help

Last year was the deadliest year on record for aid workers in Sudan. As recently as December 2024, the World Food Programme’s field office in Yabus was hit by aerial bombardment, killing three staff members. Other big agencies, such as Médecins Sans Frontières, have suspended many of their operations due to insecurity. The remaining humanitarian presence surrounding Jabarona Camp is extremely limited. Aid workers are fearful of future attacks, with very low capacity. Displaced families are left to fend for themselves.

“My baby died in my womb. I was not alone; I saw another woman die in labour, and a newborn die in its mother’s arms.”

Hiba (not her real name) contracted malaria during her third trimester and suffered a stillbirth. She was among thousands of civilians making a perilous journey to South Sudan during last year’s rainy season.





Join the campaign

#SpeakOutOnSudan #SilenceKills

The crisis in Blue Nile State is part of a much larger problem in Sudan. Armed groups are locked in a brutal struggle for power. Innocent civilians are caught in the crossfire. Over 14 million people are forcibly displaced, with deadly famine on its way. It is the largest humanitarian catastrophe ever recorded.

“Sudan is in freefall. Never has a crisis so big received so little international attention.”

Sam Mason, CEO of HART

HART partners with local and international aid agencies to provide emergency relief to people in need. We are confident our joint efforts will save lives. But we are realistic: the scale of the crisis requires a much larger humanitarian response.



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