

BLUE NILE, SUDAN: Crisis Monitor



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SERIES:

Crisis Monitor [April 2026]

FOCUS:

Emergency relief and disaster management efforts

LOCATION:

Blue Nile State, Sudan

SOURCES:

Eyewitness accounts and testimonies; on-the-ground monitoring and analysis



NATIONAL CONTEXT

- Sudan faces the **world's largest humanitarian crisis**.
- More than **30 million people** are in need of humanitarian assistance.
- Sudan has the largest internal displacement crisis, with nearly **9 million people** internally displaced.



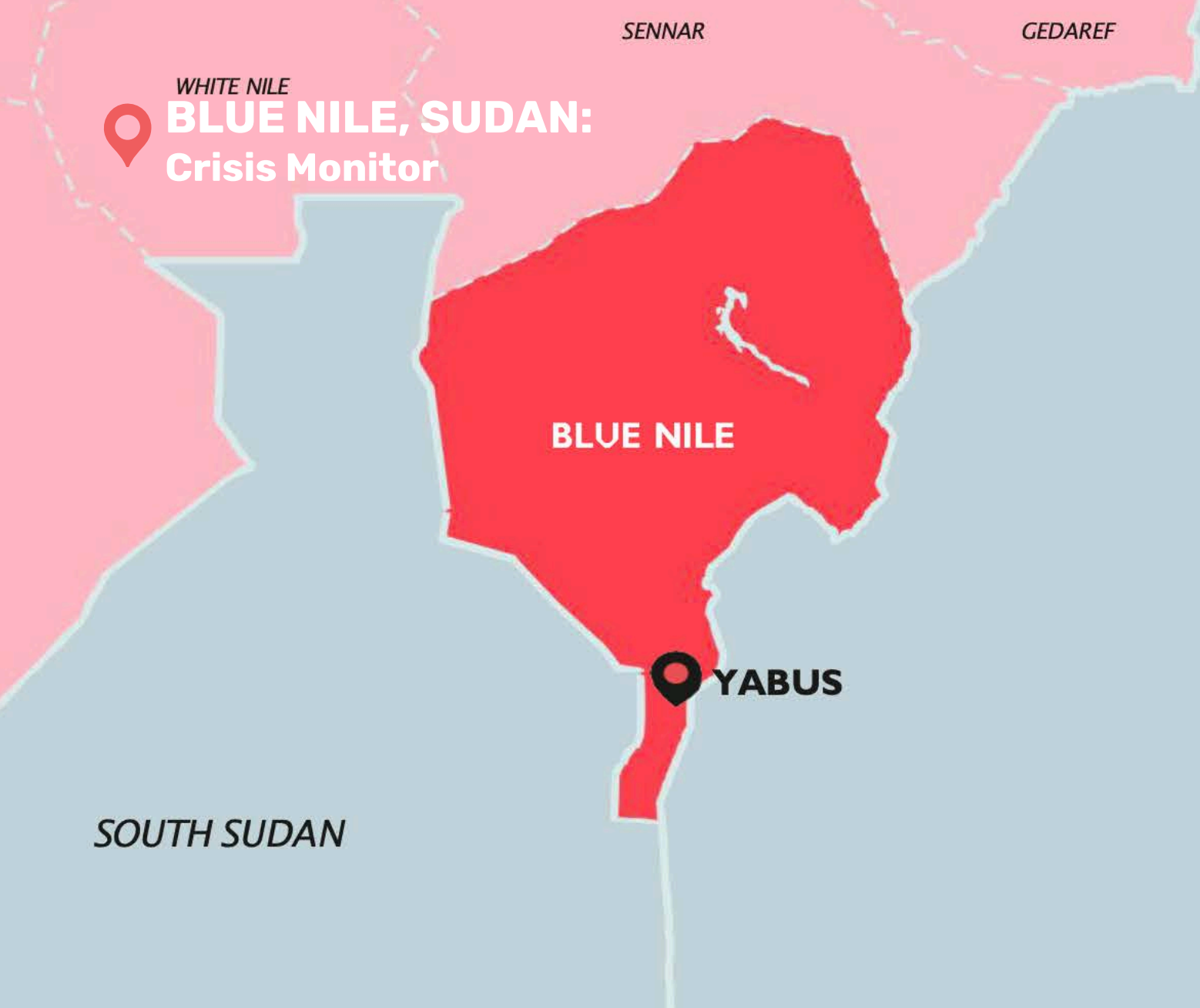
NATIONAL CONTEXT

- **67,000 people** are currently displaced in Blue Nile, a state bordering South Sudan and Ethiopia.
- **Civilians are caught in the crossfire** between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and their allied militias.
- We're monitoring a potential escalation over the **Blue Nile-Ethiopia corridor**, which would threaten more civilian lives.



REGIONAL CONTEXT

- There are records of **atrocity crimes** against minority groups in Blue Nile by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).
- The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) has committed **systematic abuses in the region.**
- Both the RSF and SAF have carried out artillery, drone and air operations in Blue Nile, heightening **protection risks for civilians.**



REGIONAL CONTEXT

- The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (**SPLM-N**) is a political party and a militant organisation. It is based in **South Kordofan**.
- **SPLM-N** is allied with the **Rapid Support Forces (RSF)**. They recently clashed with the **Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF)** in Blue Nile on 25 January 2026.
- Following the clashes, the **Blue Nile region** is increasingly at the centre of the conflict in Sudan.



BLUE NILE - ETHIOPIA CORRIDOR

- Connecting Blue Nile to Ethiopia, the corridor is a **key transit route** for people, supplies, and armed groups.
- We're closely monitoring a **potential escalation** over the Blue Nile-Ethiopia corridor.
- An escalation would have a **devastating impact on civilians** who are already vulnerable to displacement, food insecurity, and healthcare risks.

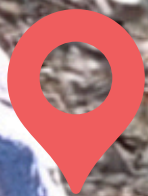


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RISKS FOR CIVILIANS

- Targeted attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure
- Food insecurity; increased risks of disease outbreaks
- Forced displacement; restricted access to humanitarian aid
- The marginalisation and persecution of minority groups

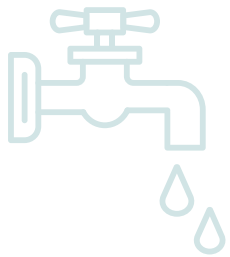


**BLUE NILE, SUDAN:
Emergency Response**



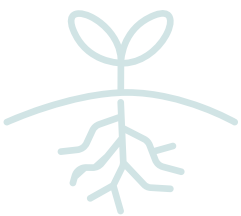
Healthcare

Medical facilities are limited. We've equipped Community Health Workers with resources to provide **urgent medical services** to displaced people.



Sanitation

Epidemics are a recurrent phenomena in Blue Nile. **Sanitation support** has reduced the likelihood of disease outbreaks and preventable deaths.



Food security

Food is scarce. We've provided farming tools and seeds to help **600 families** restore **food production and security** in Jabarona Camp and the wider Yabus region.



Education infrastructure

Schools have been damaged by protracted conflict or heavy rains, forcing **more than half the state's children** out of education. We're training teachers on the frontlines of the education crisis.



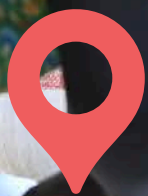
Community resilience

We've facilitated workshops to improve collaboration among **52 community leaders**. Delegates were supported to coordinate more effectively in emergencies, including during active conflict, flooding, drought, and disease outbreaks.



INTERVENTIONS

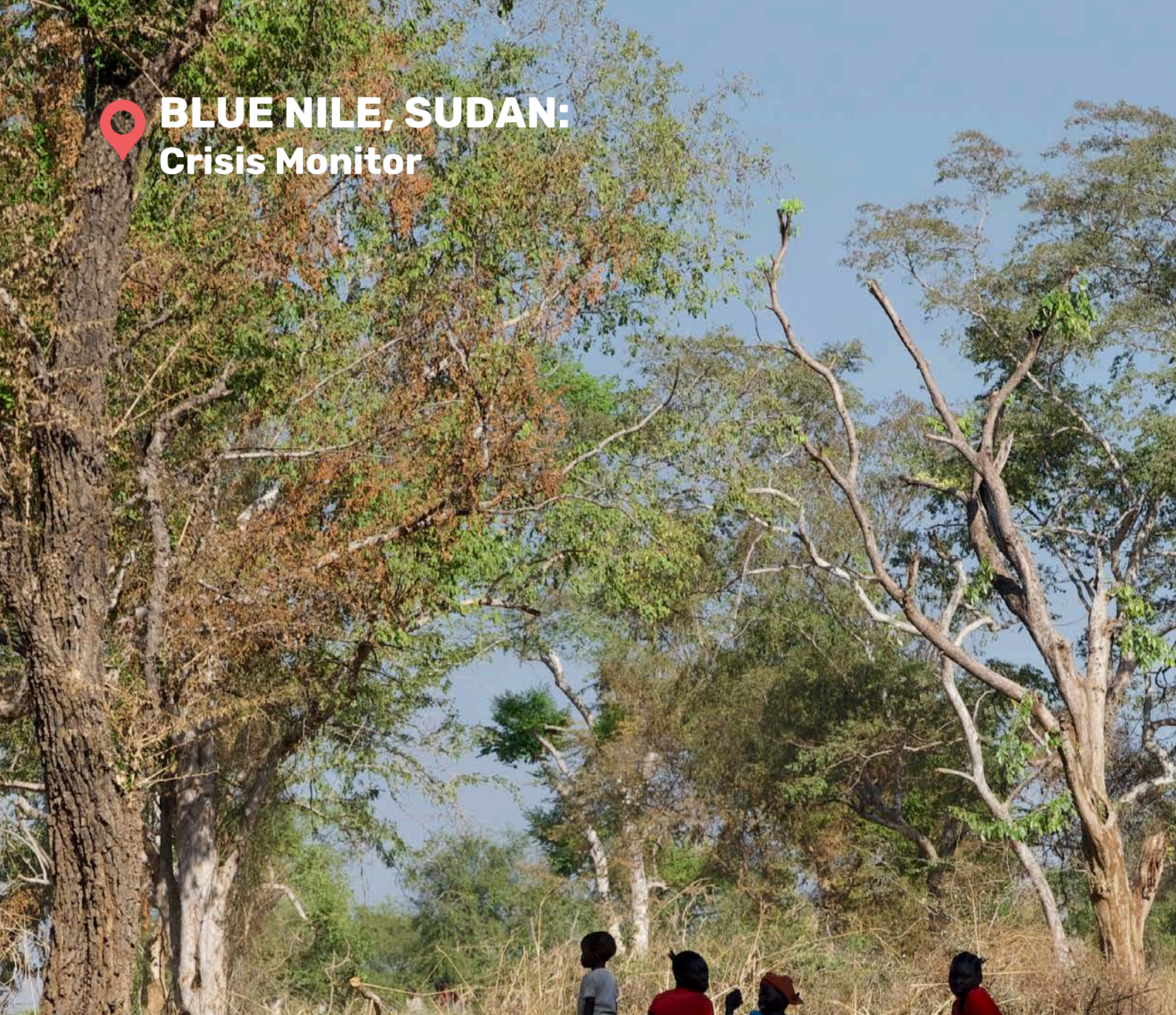
- HART issued a **Crisis Warning** for displaced populations in **Jabarona Camp** and the host community of **Yabus** in April 2025.
- HART has since launched interventions in **Yabus**, as well as in other critical regions.
- HART's **local partners** are strengthening food security and sanitation, as well as widening access to healthcare and education.



BLUE NILE, SUDAN: Food Security



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FOOD INSECURITY

- Displaced populations face **malnutrition** and **starvation**. For example, some families have resorted to eating roots, leaves and grass.
- Many international aid organisations have suspended operations, due to **security concerns**.
- SAF and RSF are accused of '**starvation tactics**' against **25 million civilians** in the country.



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

HART'S Crisis Warning for Sudan



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SCOPE FOR HOPE AND GROWTH

- The Blue Nile region is **highly fertile**.
- However, much of Blue Nile's agricultural potential remains untapped. **Scorched earth tactics** under the former regime have left the land devastated.
- We're prioritising **long-term food production** over short-term food distribution. **600 households** in Jabarona Camp have received staple crop seeds so far.

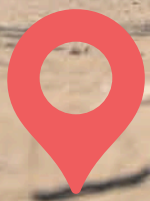


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“Our family [...] received a rake, panga, hoe and 6kg of sorghum seeds. These items helped us so much to cultivate a farm land.

We shall not be worried so much about what we are going to give our children today.”

Ahmed, father of six and an internally displaced person in Blue Nile



BLUE NILE, SUDAN: Access to Healthcare



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REGIONAL HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- The healthcare system has collapsed in Blue Nile. Few hospitals are operational, and only a handful of medical professionals remain.
- **Vulnerable families** are more susceptible to disease, as a result of displacement, food insecurity, and flooding.
- Through a network of 30 health workers, we're monitoring **regional disease trends**. This enables local partners to strengthen early warning systems and safeguard **vulnerable populations** from disease outbreaks.



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“Health services are stretched to breaking point. By training local health workers, we are helping to ease pressure on the handful of remaining medical professionals.”

Benjamin Barnaba, Compassion and Sustainable Development Africa (CSDA)



PREVENTIVE HEALTHCARE

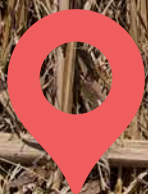
- Alongside the monitoring of disease trends, we're training **Community Health Workers** in diagnosis and preventive measures to help mitigate outbreaks and reduce endemic diseases.
- As first responders, our local partners are **a lifeline** for stranded patients.
- We're also equipping local clinics and health facilities with **medical supplies** to help reduce **preventable deaths**.



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**“We have no protection from the rains.
There are no medicines to treat sickness,
and hardly any roots left to eat.”**

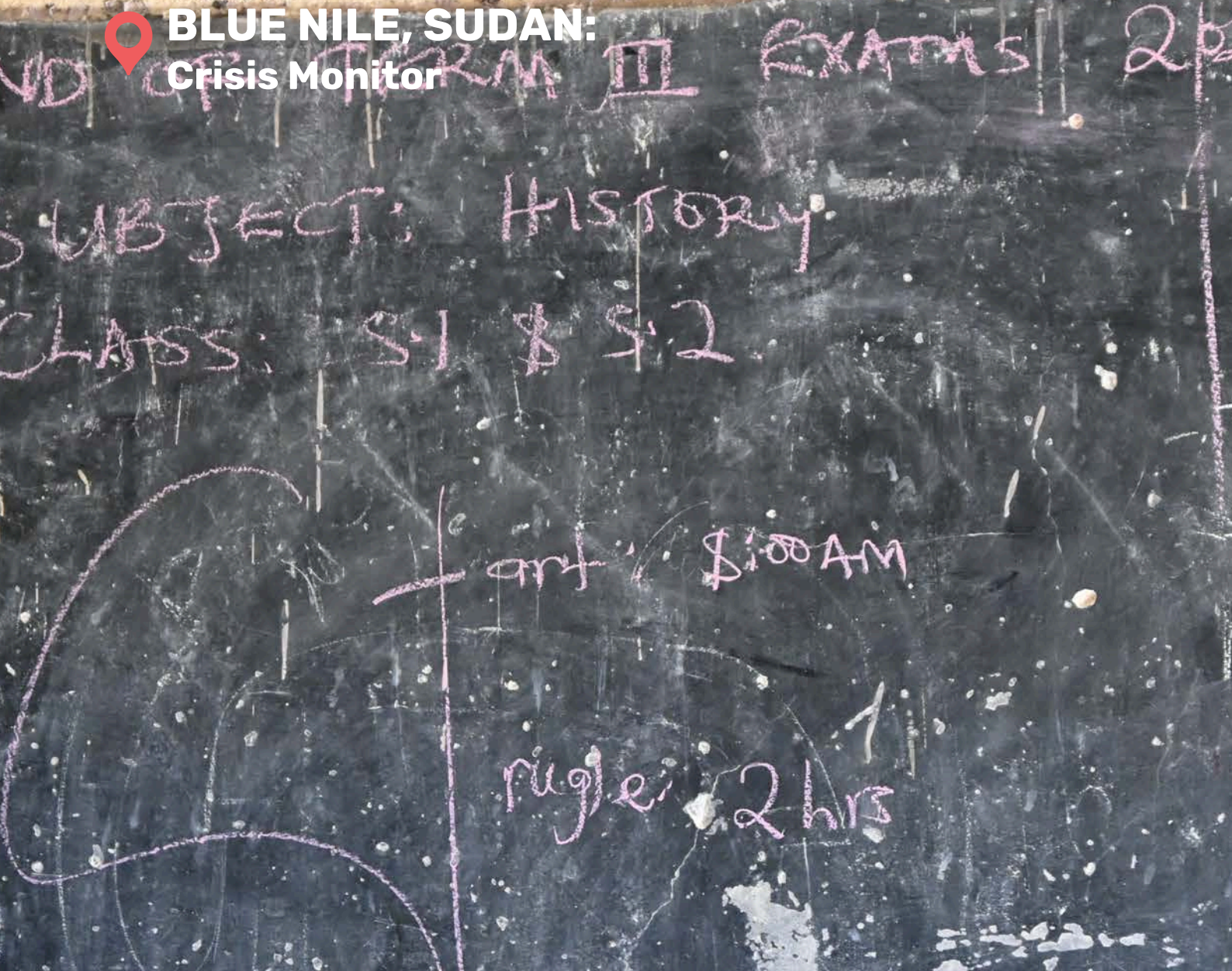
*Juma Alūsran, a new arrival in Jabarona Camp,
December 2024*



BLUE NILE, SUDAN: Access to Education

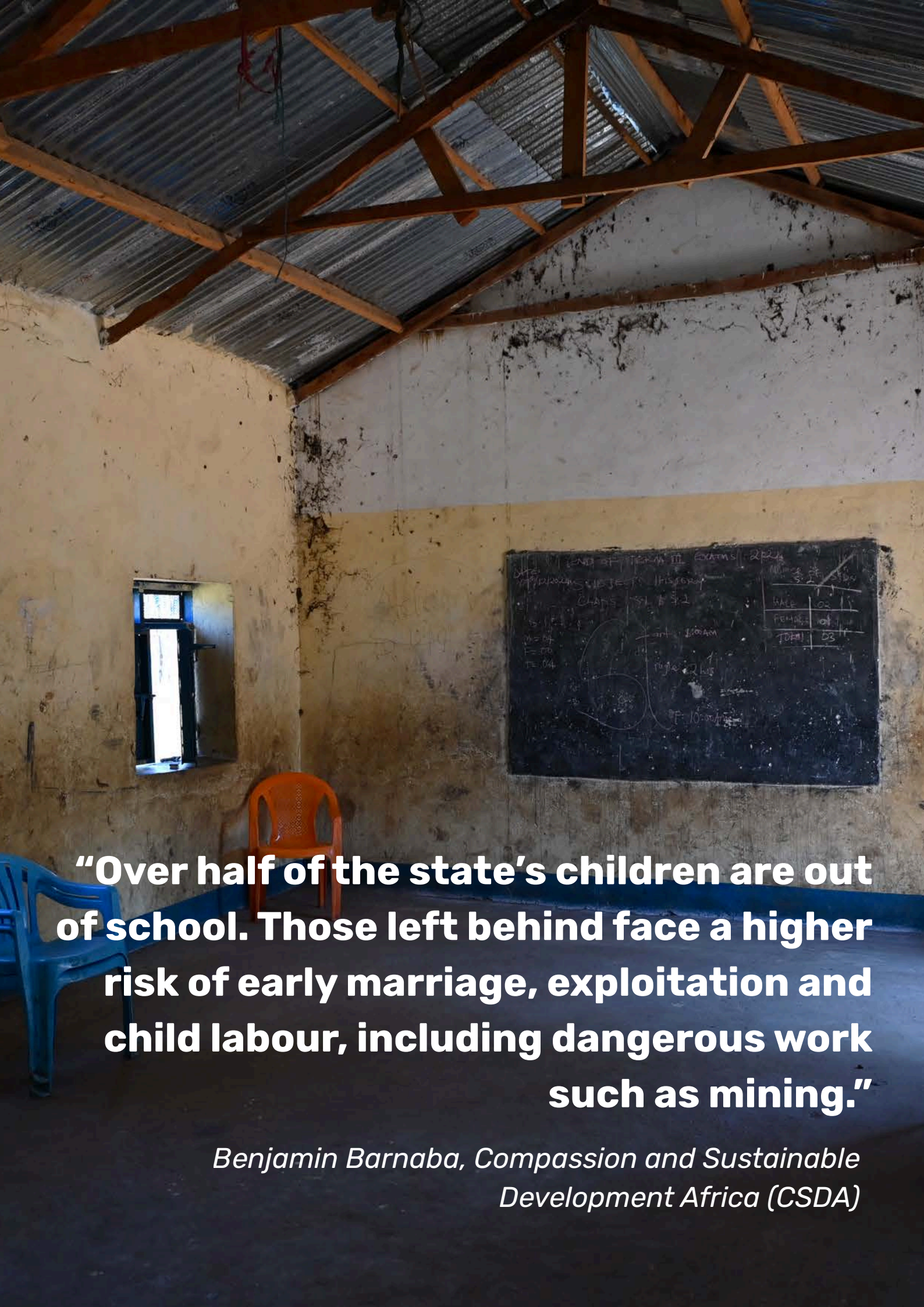


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DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT ON CHILDREN

- The conflict has cast a dark shadow over children's futures.
- Over half of the population in Blue Nile is **under the age of 24** years old (UNICEF).
- Nearly **58 percent** of children in Blue Nile are not receiving formal education (UNICEF). This is a result of damaged infrastructure, a severe shortage of trained educators, and limited resources.



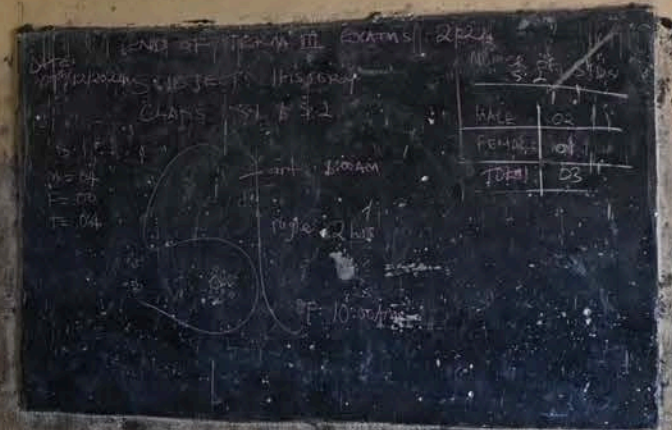
“Over half of the state’s children are out of school. Those left behind face a higher risk of early marriage, exploitation and child labour, including dangerous work such as mining.”

Benjamin Barnaba, Compassion and Sustainable Development Africa (CSDA)



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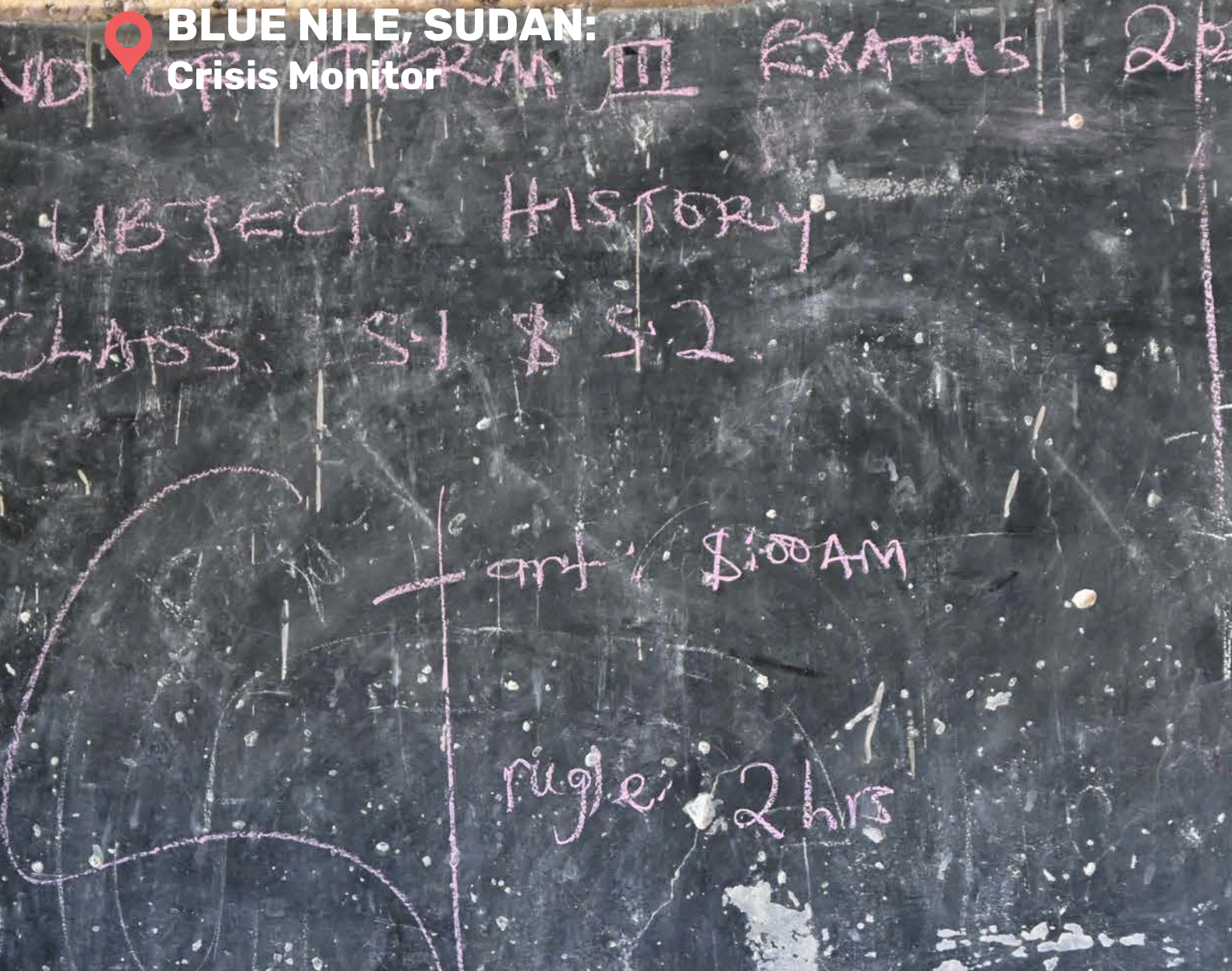
“I am so happy that I managed to sit my exam. [...] Thank you for enabling us to have the rare opportunity.”



A student at a secondary school in Yabus, Blue Nile received funds to travel to South Sudan to sit their National Examinations.



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EDUCATION CRISIS RESPONSE

- To ensure any kind of future transition into a durable democracy, young people must have **access to formal, quality, and consistent education.**
- Our local partners are strengthening **education infrastructure** by supporting:
 - 103 teachers with training, resources, and stipends
 - 2,759 students with safe learning environments



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“Only 302 teachers are left in Blue Nile. We have supported one-third of the remaining workforce - and, through them, many more students.”

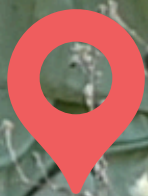
Benjamin Barnaba, Compassion and Sustainable Development Africa (CSDA)



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“Teachers in Blue Nile do not have incentives or salary from the local authorities. We are volunteers [...]. We are doing this for the sake of our marginalised people, children who denied education [...].”

A primary school teacher in Blue Nile, supported with a stipend by HART



BLUE NILE, SUDAN: Maternal Healthcare



BLUE NILE, SUDAN: Crisis Monitor



ENSURING SAFER BIRTHS

- Mothers are left with little choice but to give birth in **unsterile conditions**, exposing themselves and their newborns to **high risks of infection**.
- In order to reduce the number of **preventable deaths**, we've equipped Traditional Birth Attendants with **safe delivery kits**.
- We're also training attendants in **specialist maternal and neonatal training**, building on pre-existing skills.



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“1 in 10 newborns do not survive their first month of life – a rate nearly six times the global average. Your support is helping us change that.”

Dr Samuel Ibrahim, leading expert on health in Blue Nile

**“These supplies are more than medicine:
they show the people of Blue Nile they
have not been forgotten. This is the most
significant support we have received in
more than a decade.”**

Benjamin Barnaba, HART'S frontline partner in Blue Nile



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Hiba's Story

"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."



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***Hiba (not her real name)
lost her baby in
September 2024.***

***She contracted malaria
during her third
trimester and suffered
a stillbirth.***

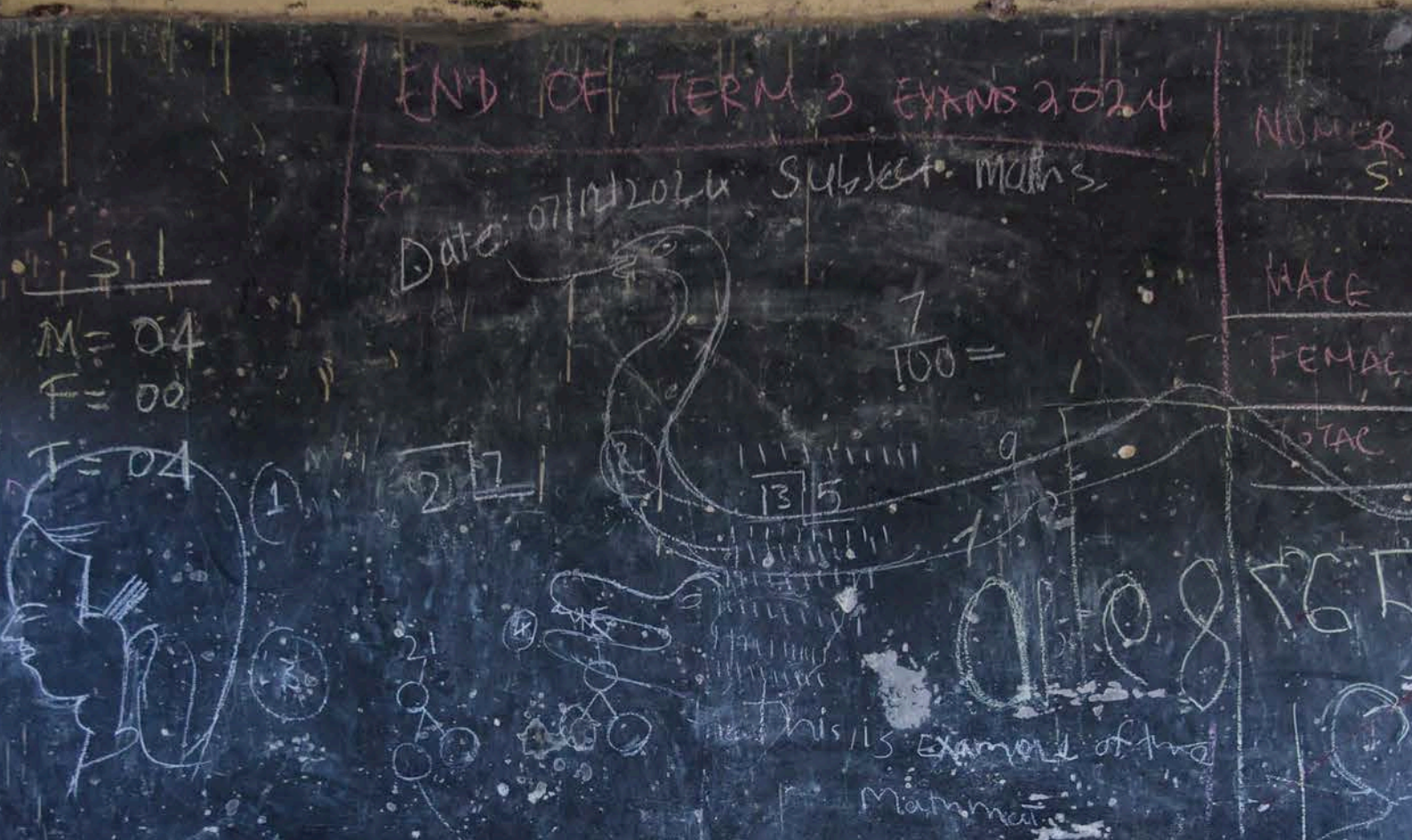
***She was among
thousands of civilians
making a perilous
journey to South Sudan
during last year's rainy
season to seek medical
treatment.***



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HART's ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS

- HART's statement on the international coalition to prevent further atrocities
- Sudan: HART's Crisis Warning for Blue Nile
- Spotlight on Sudan: HART's Call to President Trump
- Prioritising Protection: Calling for a Logical Response to the Sudan Crisis
- Joint Statement on the UN Fact-Finding Mission in Sudan

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NEXT STEPS

- This **Crisis Monitor** is the first edition on the deepening humanitarian crisis in Sudan. We will release further editions as we receive vital updates from local partners and as we continue to monitor the crisis on-the-ground.
- For **press enquiries**, contact anais.arroyo@hart-uk.org
- For **interim updates**, follow us on social media [@hart.uk](https://twitter.com/hart.uk)