

Sudan's drought and famine-risk alert: from warning to access, finance and delivery

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification warns that severe drought is compounding conflict, displacement and restricted access across Greater Darfur and Greater Kordofan. Crop failure, water deficits and rising prices are increasing famine risk as the November–December harvest approaches. The warning does not by itself establish that access, finance or delivery has expanded to match the need.

Record: SD-DROUGHT-2026-001

Revision: 1.0

Jurisdiction: Sudan

Opened: 24 October 2026

Last reviewed: 24 October 2026

State: Famine risk rising; access, finance and delivery must scale

This record follows the drought, food-security and nutrition decision chain in Greater Darfur and Greater Kordofan. It records national figures only where the source does not provide a state breakdown. Conflict remains the principal driver of the crisis; the record does not attribute every condition or outcome to drought.

Current assessment

Latest change: A new IPC alert and corroborating crop evidence establish a worsening decision window across Greater Darfur and Kordofan.

The IPC alert of 12 October, FAO crop monitoring and the current FEWS NET assessment connect poor rainfall with crop failure, water stress and worsening food access. Field reporting published on 23 October adds current observations. This record is admitted now because the signal, affected territories, responsible actors and immediate decisions can be followed through durable sources.

Decision now due: Secure sustained access and publish the funding, allocation and delivery plan before failed harvests deepen the emergency.

The next evidence should show where access is agreed, what funds are committed and released, what rations and health supplies are financed, which routes and facilities are operating, and whether delivery reaches the localities identified by the warning.

Timing: Immediate. Harvesting is expected from November 2026, while WFP's published financing requirement runs only to October and the IPC calls for immediate scale-up.

Responsibility: Responsibility is divided among parties controlling access, Sudanese service institutions and the humanitarian system.

The parties and authorities exercising territorial control must protect civilians and permit safe, sustained access. Sudanese health, agriculture and water institutions retain service responsibilities where they can operate. WFP, WHO and partners manage major food, nutrition, health and logistics operations. One unified public chain cannot be inferred in a fragmented conflict setting.

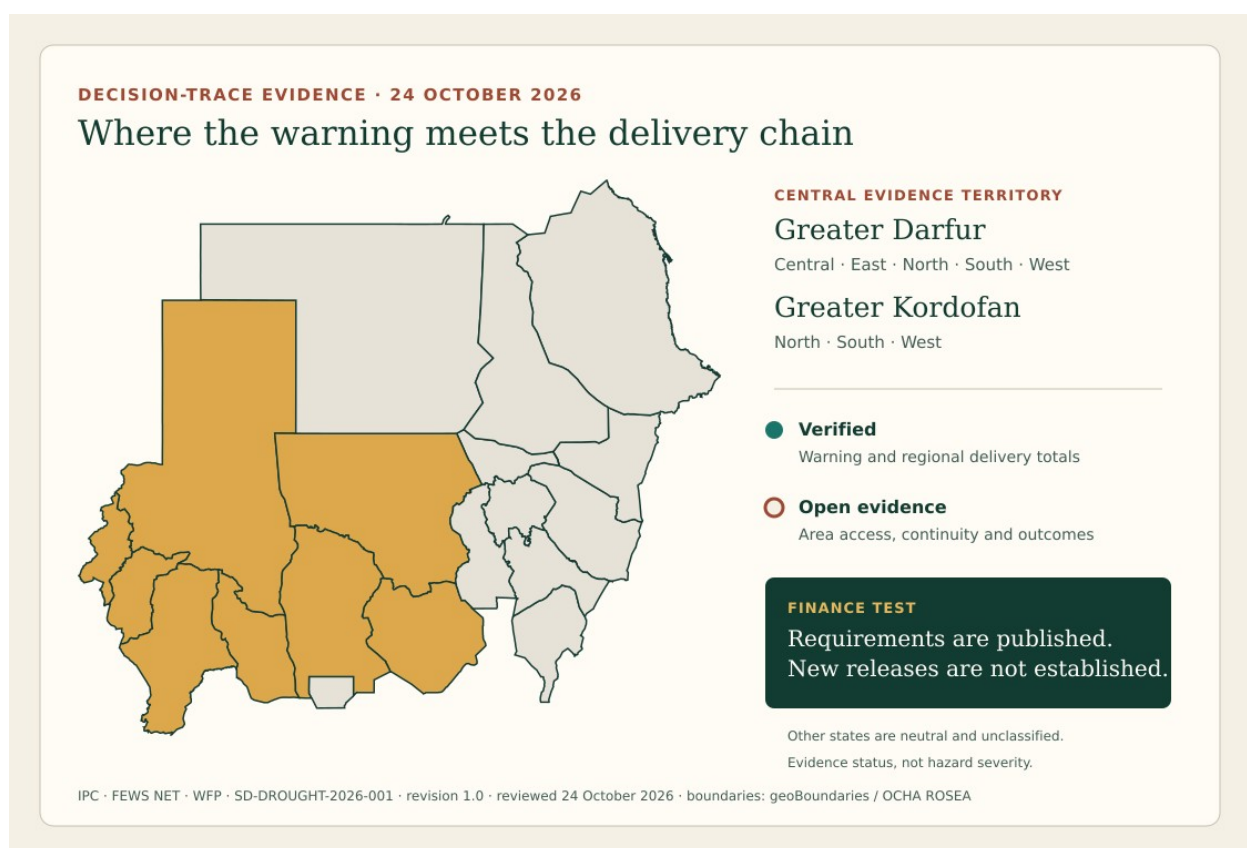
Verified action: Three actions are verified: the IPC alert, WHO support to nutrition stabilisation centres and WFP food assistance.

WHO reports support to all 161 operational nutrition stabilisation centres and treatment of more than 26,000 children from January to August. WFP reports reaching more than four million people a month, including two million across Darfur and 825,000 in Kordofan. These are material operations, but they do not establish adequate coverage or continuity.

Open evidence: Area-by-area access, new funding, public allocations, delivery continuity and outcomes remain open.

The file does not establish a locality-by-locality access agreement, a Sudanese public appropriation or release tied to this alert, updated donor commitments against the October financing gap, complete ration levels, supply continuity, or outcomes after the failed rains. No evidence in this file is not proof that no action occurred.

Territorial evidence map



The map identifies the eight states supported by the central warning. It does not convert regional delivery totals into state totals, map hazard severity or classify other Sudanese states.

Record SD-DROUGHT-2026-001 · revision 1.0 · reviewed 24 October 2026. Sources: IPC, FEWS NET and WFP. Boundaries: geoBoundaries, source OCHA ROSEA.

Decision trace

T0 · Signal · Verified

What changed in the evidence?

The IPC warns of rapidly worsening food insecurity and malnutrition across Greater Darfur and Greater Kordofan. FAO and FEWS NET identify severe rainfall deficits, crop failure, pasture and water stress and below-average harvest prospects.

T1 · Trigger · Verified

What decision threshold is in view?

Famine risk and acute-malnutrition evidence require immediate scale-up. The public alert does not publish one automatic activation formula; access, funding and operational decisions remain separate thresholds.

T2 · Authority · Mapped

Who can authorise access and who delivers?

Territorial control is fragmented. Parties and authorities controlling routes and areas hold access obligations; Sudanese service institutions and humanitarian agencies hold distinct operational roles. Local orders and agreements remain incompletely public.

T3 · Commitment and finance · Open evidence

What resources are authorised and available?

WHO reports its US\$97.7 million 2026 Sudan appeal was 23 per cent funded at the time of the IPC alert. WFP publishes a US\$579 million requirement through October. These figures establish large financing gaps, not new releases tied to the alert.

T4 · Execution · Verified

What delivery is verified?

WHO reports support to 161 operational nutrition stabilisation centres and treatment of more than 26,000 children from January to August. WFP reports reaching more than four million people monthly, including two million in Darfur and 825,000 in Kordofan. Coverage, ration adequacy and continuity remain open.

T5 · Outcome · Not assessable at this stage

Has the scale-up reduced risk?

Not yet assessable. Current evidence shows worsening risk and continuing delivery, but does not establish that assistance, health services or water access are sufficient to reverse the deterioration.

Material changes

24 October 2026 · New Sudan record admitted

Context: Sudan · Greater Darfur and Greater Kordofan drought and famine-risk decision window

What changed: A new stable record is opened after the IPC alert, crop monitoring and current operational evidence establish a severe drought signal, named affected territories, an immediate decision window and a traceable access, finance and delivery chain.

Decision consequence: Secure sustained humanitarian access and publish the funding, allocation and delivery plan before failed harvests deepen the emergency.

Assessment effect: New record admitted. The warning and significant humanitarian delivery are verified. Adequate access, new finance, locality-level allocation, continuity and outcomes remain open.

Source: Integrated Food Security Phase Classification · Sudan food insecurity and malnutrition alert, 12 October 2026

Forecasts, guidance and evidence

Food insecurity and malnutrition alert: Verified

Source: Integrated Food Security Phase Classification · Sudan alertX

Published: 12 October 2026

Valid for: Immediate action across Greater Darfur and Greater Kordofan

The alert says severe drought, conflict, displacement and poor access are driving crop failure, water deficits and worsening food insecurity and malnutrition.

2026 cereal production: Verified

Source: FAO Global Information and Early Warning System · Sudan Country BriefX

Published: 24 September 2026

Valid for: June–September rains and crops harvested from November 2026

Below-average rainfall affected crop establishment; conflict, high input costs and limited credit further constrained production. The brief identifies severe drought in important eastern crop areas and access constraints in Darfur and Kordofan.

Current food-security outlook: Verified

Source: FEWS NET · SudanX

Published: Current assessment accessed 24 October 2026

Valid for: Through January 2027 and the next lean season

Emergency outcomes remain widespread; drought has produced severely below-average harvest prospects and local crop failure across Greater Darfur and Greater Kordofan.

Health and nutrition response: Verified

Source: World Health Organization · IPC Sudan alertX

Published: 12 October 2026

Valid for: Immediate health, nutrition, water and access decisions

WHO reports support to 161 nutrition stabilisation centres, more than 26,000 children treated from January to August and a 2026 appeal only 23 per cent funded.

Food assistance and logistics: Verified

Source: World Food Programme · Sudan emergencyX

Published: Current operational page accessed 24 October 2026

Valid for: Current monthly delivery and financing requirement through October 2026

WFP reports reaching more than four million people monthly, including two million in Darfur and 825,000 in Kordofan, while urgently requiring US\$579 million through October.

Geographic reach and consequences

Central, East, North, South and West Darfur

Horizon: Immediate famine-risk and harvest decision window

Systems: Food, nutrition, health, water and access

Finding: Mapped as central evidence territory. The fill represents the evidence area, not hazard severity.

North, South and West Kordofan

Horizon: Immediate famine-risk and harvest decision window

Systems: Food, nutrition, health, water and access

Finding: Mapped as central evidence territory. The fill represents the evidence area, not hazard severity.

Other Sudanese states

Horizon: Not classified by this record map

Systems: No map inference

Finding: Left neutral. National figures in the record do not support a state-level classification outside the admitted evidence geography.

Responsibility across public institutions

Access and protection

Institutions: Parties and authorities exercising territorial control

Role: Permit safe, sustained and impartial movement of personnel and supplies, and protect civilians and essential services. Area-specific agreements and orders are open evidence.

Basis: IPC and WHO recommended actions

Public services

Institutions: Sudanese health, agriculture and water institutions operating nationally and in affected states

Role: Maintain health, nutrition, water and agricultural services and publish the operational and resource trail where conditions permit. This file does not infer uniform control or capacity.

Basis: WHO and FAO institutional evidence

Humanitarian operations

Institutions: World Food Programme, World Health Organization and operational partners

Role: Deliver food, nutrition, health, logistics and related services; report reach, resources, access constraints and continuity at the most useful territorial level.

Basis: WFP and WHO operational reporting

State and local execution

Institutions: Competent administrations and service teams in the five Darfur and three Kordofan states

Role: Support access, local service continuity and delivery. Locality-level tasking and public-finance evidence remain incomplete in the sources reviewed.

Basis: Affected geography established by IPC and FEWS NET

Response and implementation trace

Food insecurity and malnutrition alert published

Date: 12 October 2026

Actor: Integrated Food Security Phase Classification

Stage: Authoritative warning and decision trigger

Status: Verified

Support to all 161 operational nutrition stabilisation centres; more than 26,000 children treated

Date: January–August 2026, reported 12 October

Actor: World Health Organization and partners

Stage: Health and nutrition execution

Status: Verified

More than four million people reached monthly, including two million in Darfur and 825,000 in Kordofan

Date: Current page accessed 24 October 2026

Actor: World Food Programme and partners

Stage: Food-assistance execution

Status: Verified

Finance trace

WHO 2026 Sudan appeal

Amount: US\$97.7 million; 23% funded at 12 October

Status: Open evidence

Finding: The published funding level establishes a large health-response gap. It does not identify a new release following the alert.

WFP operations through October 2026

Amount: US\$579 million urgently required

Status: Open evidence

Finding: The requirement reaches the end of its stated period. An updated financing window, commitments, receipts and programme allocations are needed.

Sudanese public appropriation or emergency release

Amount: Not evidenced in this file

Status: Open evidence

Finding: No attributable appropriation, release, procurement award or payment tied to this alert was verified. This is not proof that none exists.

Jurisdiction evidence

Greater Darfur · Central, East, North, South and West Darfur · Warning and delivery verified; access and finance open

IPC and FEWS NET identify rapidly worsening conditions and severe harvest losses; WFP reports aggregate delivery across Darfur.

Source: IPC, FEWS NET and WFP · 12–24 October 2026 sources reviewed

Evidence basis: State-level risk geography and regional delivery totals

Open evidence: Locality access, allocations, ration levels, continuity and outcomes.

Finance: No state-specific appropriation, release or expenditure evidenced.

Greater Kordofan · North, South and West Kordofan · Warning and delivery verified; access and finance open

IPC and FEWS NET identify worsening conditions and crop failure; WFP reports aggregate delivery across Kordofan.

Source: IPC, FEWS NET and WFP · Current assessment accessed 24 October 2026

Evidence basis: State-level risk geography and regional delivery totals

Open evidence: Locality access, allocations, ration levels, continuity and outcomes.

Finance: No state-specific appropriation, release or expenditure evidenced.

Version history

Revision 1.0 · 24 October 2026

The record opened with the IPC alert, crop evidence and verified health and food-assistance operations.

Availability: Current public record; an immutable webpage and JSON snapshot will be preserved before any later numbered revision.

Licence and citation

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