

# NEWS FROM SUDAN

## WEEK 26



*Six months since the fighting began.*



## “Sudan’s children are wasting away.”

*- words from an open letter by humanitarian organisation leaders*

One in five children are malnourished, and 90% of families say they are going days without eating. Aid agencies say the widening conflict has left them trying to “plan for the apocalypse” as supply lines are disrupted and more people are displaced. Families flee danger only to find despair.

Khartoum, where millions remain trapped, has not had a single day of respite since the war began, with continual artillery fire and street battles. This week, electricity has been cut for five days, the water supply has been down for four days, and people are suffering from lack of food.

The paramilitaries are expanding their attacks, including on Jebel Aulia, 30 miles south of the city, previously spared the fighting between Sudan’s rival generals. Like other towns in Sudan, Christian residents live mainly in old townships outside the central areas. This puts them outside the main zone of conflict but they find stray bullets and shrapnel falling on their homes.

The Archdeacon of East Omdurman, Ibrahim Kambo, has died, hit in his home by a stray bullet. He was carried 100 miles north to get medical help, but to no avail.

A million displaced people are scattered along that northern route, all the way up to the border with Egypt. The UN said this week that no aid at all is going to that million, mainly due to lack of funding. Mothers do not know where to find the next meal for their children.

Save the Children said “It’s impossible to overemphasise the seriousness of the situation in Sudan. This is a desperate, dire crisis for children.” Aid organisations are not coping with the large numbers in the camps. 1,200 children have died there due to malaria and malnutrition. Interference from armed combatants in the aid effort is a hindrance.

Radio Dabanga reports that 132 children have died of malnutrition-related conditions in the eastern state of Gedaref.

Aisha Ibrahim sent three of her children for safety to Suakin on the east coast, whilst she, her husband and another child escaped to another part of Omdurman that is under army control. “I can’t afford to travel with my whole family to eastern Sudan,” she said. “We are divided now. For the first time in my life I got separated from my little children, but for their safety I would do anything.” Her family took only clothes from the house, leaving all their possessions behind. “You can’t carry anything or you will get looted in the streets by the fighters. They are all looters.”

In conflict areas, if you go to a market, you risk being robbed, shelled, murdered, or caught in crossfire. When you get there, you may find the shelves are empty.

The fighting has now displaced almost 5 million people within Sudan, over 3 million of those from Khartoum State alone – that’s 40% of the population. In recent weeks, the violence has moved further south, threatening the fragile safety of more than 366,000 people who have sought shelter in Al Jazira state, 125 miles south of the capital, where the town of Wad Medani is.

Archbishop Ezekiel has asked for £13,500 per month for the church to be able to provide basic food relief through its network of clergy across Sudan. The church is still meeting to pray and minister in almost every place it was established before this war, and offers unparalleled access into communities where people are trapped.

CASSS is appealing for funding to send. Information about how to give can be found on our website: [www.casss.org.uk/make-a-donation](http://www.casss.org.uk/make-a-donation)