

# ICVA ACTION AREAS FOR THE SUDAN CRISIS RESPONSE

June 2023



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK  
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE  
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

## ICVA Action Areas for the Sudan Crisis Response

### Overview

On 15 April clashes erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Sudan. To date, over 860 people have been killed including five aid workers, and more than 6,000 people have been injured in the fighting. Tens of thousands of civilians have been displaced and fled to neighbouring countries. Humanitarian assets and offices have been looted, which has severely compromised humanitarian action in key locations.

The impact of the crisis on critical infrastructure has been devastating. In Khartoum alone, 61 per cent of health facilities have closed. Millions of people have been left without access to health care and running water. Furthermore, the lack of access to banking and cash, as well as fuel, severely impedes an effective humanitarian response.

The gravity of the humanitarian situation in Sudan cannot be overstated: even prior to the conflict, nearly 16 million people in Sudan, one third of the population, were in need of humanitarian assistance. The response was already severely impeded by major funding gaps and the presences of significant bureaucratic and administrative impediments. The ongoing violence and destruction of key infrastructure and services deepen the challenges for a principled and effective response.

Given the high levels of insecurity, many NGOs were forced to evacuate or relocate their staff to ensure duty of care and establish a safe base for mounting operations. Despite the challenges, many NGOs have remained and are now pivoting to operational planning and implementation. There is a strong commitment among partners to stay and deliver.

Given the pre-existing needs, displacement and violence, humanitarian needs are likely to escalate and require a protracted response in both Sudan and neighboring countries. The current crisis offers opportunities for resetting the humanitarian architecture to strengthen local capacities and resilience, improve coordination and ensure a more principled and effective response.

**The ICVA Secretariat is taking the following approach to support NGOs during the current crisis:**

### **1. Ongoing and Reinforced Support to Coordination Mechanisms**

ICVA promotes inclusive humanitarian coordination mechanisms from country to global levels and advances the centrality of national NGO engagement in these mechanisms for effective and principled humanitarian response. ICVA highlights the capacities and needs of local, national, and international NGOs in Sudan and its neighbouring countries, and calls on key humanitarian partners to uphold the principles of partnership and leverage and enhance existing response systems.

Sudan has two NGO fora, the Sudan INGO Forum consisting of 70 INGO members and the National Sudan Forum with a few hundred members.

### In response to the Sudan crisis, ICVA:

- Engages regularly with the Forum Coordinators of the National and International NGO fora in Sudan to exchange updates and information on the situation. ICVA elevates country-level issues to regional and global coordination platforms. At global level these include the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Emergency Directors Group (EDG), the Principals, the Saving Lives Together (SLT) Working Group, WHO's Emergency Medical Team and the Global Health Cluster. At regional level these include active engagement with the Regional Humanitarian Partnership Team (RHPT) and the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG).
- Supported the INGO Forum and its members throughout the relocation and evacuation process by linking and elevating issues of concern between the various levels, from country to regional and global and inversely with key counterparts.
- ICVA has held two Sudan focused Humanitarian Access Working Group meetings with its members to discuss the access challenges for people in need and NGOs in the context. Going forward, ICVA will continue supporting both NGO fora and focus on the continuation and expansion of operations, strengthening communications, increasing advocacy, and promoting humanitarian access and preserving the humanitarian space.
- Closely coordinates with the Global Interagency Security Forum, the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR) and Interaction at global level and the IAWG at the regional level to streamline engagement with the in-country NGO Fora and support a collective response narrative and advocacy.
- Links the NGO forum with neighbouring countries to advance operational planning and response.

### **2. Information-sharing and Connecting and Convening around the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)**

#### The crisis in Sudan has fully mobilised the IASC system at all levels in support of the response.

- ICVA represents the NGOs responding in Sudan through its seats at the IASC Principals and the EDG, promoting a localised response and inclusive coordination mechanisms.
- ICVA supports NGO collective advocacy and IASC system-wide advocacy, including contributions to high-level statements and other processes.
- ICVA is engaging with the WHO Emergency Medical Team (EMT) to connect NGO partners and supplies to facilitate the restoration of health services.
- ICVA in partnership with UNHCR has organized a UNHCR-NGOs Exchange on preparedness for the Sudan Refugee Response with the Assistant High Commissioner.
- ICVA has established a Sudan mailing list for its members and systematically shares the latest information, financial appeals and advocacy messages and challenges at global and regional level.
- ICVA is supporting access analysis on Sudan through its Humanitarian Access Working Group and has a partnership with the Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation (CCHN) to provide support on humanitarian negotiations with Country Directors.

## Engagement of States and Donors

- ICVA supports OCHA in the identification of NGO speakers at Member State briefings and arranged for the International and National NGO Forum representatives to present at the Sudan Member States Briefing in Geneva on 1st May.
- ICVA will continue to amplify the messages from members with States and donors, while also facilitating direct exchanges between States and NGOs.
- ICVA will continue to advocate for the importance of engagement and financing of NGOs, especially national and local NGOs working in the frontline of the response, to participate in and influence key global events.
- Through the ICVA Humanitarian Financing Working Group, ICVA is facilitating exchanges with members and other NGO partners on funding access and partnership conditions, keeping NGOs abreast of the situation, supporting them to identify gaps and advocate jointly to address them.



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## Regional Hubs

### **Africa**

Nairobi, Kenya  
Dakar, Senegal

### **Asia-Pacific**

Bangkok, Thailand  
Islamabad, Pakistan

### **MENA**

Amman, Jordan

### **Latin America**

Guadalajara, Mexico  
(Coordination)

## Geneva Office

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