



Blue Nile Region Humanitarian Crisis

Date: 30 August 2026

1. Overview

Blue Nile region is experiencing a rapidly worsening humanitarian crisis following the escalation of conflict that began in April 2023 between Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and has recently expanded to southern Blue Nile along the Ethiopian border. Entire communities from Geissan and Kurmuk localities have been forcibly displaced, losing access to food, shelter, healthcare, and education. The displacement occurred during the rainy season, disrupting agricultural activities and creating severe food insecurity for the coming year. Weak institutional capacity, coupled with widespread corruption within state structures responsible for aid distribution, has further obstructed humanitarian delivery. Displaced populations are currently living in overcrowded, unsafe, and unsanitary conditions, particularly in Al-Karama camps in Damazin.

2. Affected Populations

Kurmuk Locality

- Kurmuk Town: Over 58,000 people relocated to Al-Karama camp in Damazin. Conditions include inadequate shelter, lack of food, clothing, and bedding. Communities rely heavily on informal *takaaya* kitchens and volunteer initiatives.
- Dandro, Sali, and Surrounding Villages: Approximately 63,000 people are living in open areas under makeshift rain shelters in *Surnik*. That include IDPs from Dandro, Sali, Kakli, Magaja, and Jabal Al-Teen.
- Dukan, Madal, Khor Al-Hassan, Al-Raqriq: Around 41,000 people displaced to *Biling* and *Abigu*, facing acute shortages of food, health services, and shelter.

Total estimated displaced population in Kurmuk: ~160,000 people.

Geissan Locality

- Rosaires Schools: Approximately 45,000 people are living in schools and temporary centers without basic services.
- Fazghali, Yara, Adasi, Ashambo, and Nearby Villages: Around 56,000 people, some crossing to *Wad Al-Mahi* under extremely harsh conditions. They lack food, shelter, healthcare, clothing, and essential household items.
- Bakori, Elias, Rahmatullah, Agro, and Surrounding Villages: Roughly 50,000 people displaced due to August hostilities, now residing in schools and temporary shelters.

Total estimated displaced population in Geissan: ~150,000 people.

3. Priority Needs

1. Emergency food assistance
2. Shelter materials and non-food items (NFIs)
3. Primary healthcare and public health support
4. Clothing and basic household items

4. Proposed Humanitarian Interventions

4.1 Community-Based Food Support

Establish structured *takaaya* and community kitchens managed by camp committees to ensure continuous meal provision. This approach bypasses compromised official channels and relies on trusted community networks.

4.2 Health Committees

Mobilize available health workers within camps to deliver:

- Basic medical care
- Public health awareness
- Disease prevention measures.

Coordination with local health authorities is recommended where feasible.

4.3 Oversight and Monitoring

Form supervisory committees to ensure transparent implementation of food, shelter, and health interventions.

5. Operational Risks and Constraints

1. Obstruction and corruption within official institutions: State bodies responsible for aid distribution frequently divert relief items to markets. Routing assistance through these channels risks loss, delays, and loss of humanitarian assistance.
2. Environmental hazards: Rainy-season conditions pose significant threats to shelter, sanitation, and health.
3. Disease outbreaks: Overcrowded camps and poor hygiene increase the risk of communicable diseases.
4. Severe shelter shortages: Many displaced families are living in open areas or makeshift structures.
5. Limited support for community kitchens: Current assistance relies on a small number of volunteers and philanthropists.

6. Recommendations

1. Prioritize community-based delivery mechanisms: Support *takaaya* and local kitchens as the most reliable channels for food assistance. There is currently no meaningful support for local emergency response from the international donor community. Funds should be transferred through trusted individuals, reputable local organizations, or diplomatic/international partners.
2. Avoid official state channels: Due to systemic diversion and obstruction, humanitarian assistance should not be routed through government institutions.
3. Strengthen local organizational partnerships: Engage local NGOs with established presence and community trust to coordinate aid distribution and monitoring.
4. Accelerate emergency assistance: Immediate action is required due to the combination of conflict, displacement, and rainy-season conditions.

7. Conclusion

This report is based on field monitoring and assessments conducted through Justice Africa Sudan (JAS) partners, including local organizations and activists working to address the crisis in Blue Nile. JAS and its partners can facilitate reliable communication channels, provide updated humanitarian information, and coordinate with international agencies, NGOs, and diplomatic actors to strengthen response efforts.

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