



Working for Peace and Rights

PRESS RELEASE

Agricultural Season Failure and Looming Famine in Kordofan (South & North Kordofan, Sudan)

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Justice Africa Sudan warns that South and North Kordofan are facing a rapidly escalating food security emergency, driven by the combined effects of severe drought, widespread crop failure, and intensifying conflict. A recent field assessment across Abu Kershola, Rashad, Al Abbasiya Tagali, and El Rahad localities confirms a near-total collapse of the 2026 agricultural season, with communities reporting no viable planting window, scorched fields, and extensive crop loss.

These findings are reinforced by the latest FEWS NET Key Message Update (September 2026–January 2027), which warns that drought and conflict are pushing large parts of Greater Kordofan into Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and localized Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5), with a credible risk of Famine emerging in the worst-affected areas.

Drought and Harvest Failure: A Regional Crisis

Rainfall failure linked to a strong El Niño has produced prolonged dry spells, severely below-average rainfall, and localized crop failure across Kordofan and Darfur. Pasture conditions have deteriorated sharply, triggering distress livestock sales, falling livestock prices, and early southward migration of pastoralists heightening the risk of herder farmer conflict.

FEWS NET reports that September rainfall was severely below average across western Sudan, cementing the failure of the June–September rains and eliminating any chance of crop recovery. Harvests are expected to be below to severely below average across most of Greater Kordofan.

Conflict and Market Disruption

The drought is unfolding amid intensifying conflict, further eroding livelihoods and market stability:

- Major SAF offensives in North Kordofan have displaced thousands.
- RSF drone strikes in El Obeid have killed civilians and destroyed critical infrastructure.
- Additional drone strikes in Um Rawaba have worsened fuel shortages and disrupted markets.

- Intercommunal clashes in Kauda–Heiban have resulted in village burnings, civilian deaths, and new displacement.

Staple food and fuel prices have surged dramatically:

- Sorghum, millet, and wheat grain prices increased 26–29% between July and August, and 36–41% between August and September.
- Fuel prices are 88–127% higher than February 2026 levels.
- The Sudanese pound has weakened 22–29% since August.

These shocks have collapsed household purchasing power, leaving families unable to access food even when it is available.

Humanitarian Conditions: Extreme and Worsening

Health and nutrition indicators are deteriorating rapidly:

- 65% of SMART surveys conducted between June and September recorded GAM at Critical levels (15–29.9%).
- With less than 50% Humanitarian Response Plan funded, health facilities are closing, leaving millions without care.

Humanitarian assistance reached only 3.7 million people in August less than 20% of the population in need.

Areas at Highest Risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5)

FEWS NET identifies several locations where Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) outcomes are already present or emerging:

- Dilling, Kadugli, and surrounding rural areas (South Kordofan)
- El Obeid and surrounding areas (North Kordofan)
- IDP populations across Greater Kordofan

If drought-related crop losses drive further displacement, and food from local production, markets, and humanitarian assistance falls short of minimum caloric needs, Famine (IPC Phase 5) would become the most likely outcome.

Call to Action

Justice Africa Sudan urges:

- Immediate cessation of hostilities and the opening of humanitarian corridors.
- Rapid scale-up of emergency food assistance to drought-affected households.
- Unimpeded humanitarian access across Kordofan ..
- Emergency water supply interventions in severely drought-affected villages.
- Nutrition services for children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.
- Protection monitoring in conflict-affected areas.

- Support to local markets through cash-based assistance where feasible.

The window to prevent mass starvation is closing. Drought and conflict are converging to create a perfect storm. Without urgent action, Kordofan will face a humanitarian disaster of historic proportions.”

Justice Africa Sudan **Email:** info@justiceafrica.net **Twitter/X:** @AfricaSudan Website: www.justiceafrica.net