



SCALING UP BUT NOT MEETING NEED

ANALYSIS of 3 MONTHS OF SCALED-UP GBV RESPONSE IN SUDAN¹ 29 November 2023

In 2023, three already existing and protracted crises deteriorated to the point where the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) announced a [system-wide](#) scale-up ([Democratic Republic of the Congo](#), [Haiti](#), and Sudan). In each case, increasing Protection concerns were noted as key rationale for the new response posture. Across all three contexts, increasing reports of gender-based violence (GBV) were a trigger for scale-up, with actors across the humanitarian system raising alarms about GBV both [before](#) and [after](#) scale-ups have gone into place.

System-wide scale-up was [immediately welcomed](#) by the GBV Sub-Sector Sudan. With increased violence and displacement after 15 April, the number of people in need of GBV services increased by over 1 million (to 4.2 million people)¹ - and the number of individuals targeted for GBV services increased to 1.3 million.² This large increase was despite targeting figures being adjusted to the realities of access, which meant that in some states, where access was analysed to be nearly impossible, the GBV Sub-Sector Sudan actually significantly diminished targets.

[Current trends](#) are deeply worrying as tensions and violence have once again flared in November, particularly in Darfur states. As the total number of IDPs exceeds 7 million, the GBV people in need (PIN) figure is expected to increase for the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2024 to **6.9 million**³, with a target **1.8 million**, and a financial requirement of **62.8 million USD**.

Impact of Scaling Up

In the roughly three months since scale-up was announced in Sudan, there have been a number of significant changes to operations. The GBV Sub-Sector Sudan reports that when access improved, **geographical coverage increased, the number of active partners increased to 41, and the average monthly reach of beneficiaries increased by 40%**. Much of this increased reach is due to more organizations – particularly national NGOs and women-led organizations (WLOs) – delivering services in hard-to-reach areas.

Furthermore, since all humanitarian actors are scaling up response significantly, there has been **increased attention to the importance of Safeguarding and GBV risk mitigation**. The GBV Sub-Sector Sudan, in partnership with the Regional GBV Area of Responsibility, conducted a series of GBV risk mitigation trainings for Food Security and Livelihoods, Shelter, WASH, Health and other sectors, training 386 humanitarian actors and identifying necessary follow-up.

However, **funding constraints remain a key challenge** for further expansion of coverage, in particular for national NGOs and WROs to maintain and expand their programming. Furthermore, given the successful advocacy to increase geographical coverage and add new GBV actors to the response, **increased investment in capacity building for local and national actors is needed**. More flexibility is needed from donors to **build the infrastructure for a sustainable localization** where the formal and informal grassroots organizations/networks can play a critical role.

And while the announcement of a system-wide scale-up seems to have had an impact on Protection funding, funding has not kept up with need. For instance, from 29 September 2023 – 22 November 2023, Protection funding rose from 14% coverage to 29% coverage according to FTS. However, despite Sudan being

¹ Revised Sudan 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan: <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-revised-humanitarian-response-plan-2023-revision-issued-17-may-2023>

² Based on analysis by GBV Sub-Sector Sudan; further information available by contacting gbvsubsector.sudan@unfpa.org.

³ PIN based on GBV Sub-Sector Sudan analysis, included in the global HNO and upcoming Sudan HNO/HRP 2024

understood as a Protection crisis, Protection funding coverage lags behind 6 other clusters as of 22 November (Table 1).

For GBV specifically, during HRP2023 Revision, the GBV Sub-Sector Sudan increased funding requests to **USD 62.8million**. **FTS figures show less than 22% of GBV funding requests were met as of 22 November 2023⁴** and **GBV funding represents just 1.3%⁵ of the overall response**. While funding has seen a significant increase since the acceleration of the crisis in April (when funding levels were only around 10% for GBV), this still leaves a **current funding gap of over 49million USD** for GBV prevention and response during a protection crisis.

Table 1. Funding Progress by Cluster/Sector – Sudan (HRP2023); funding as of 22 November 2023 as reported to FTS

Cluster/Sector	Required (US\$)	Funded (US\$)	Coverage (%)
Coordination & Common Services	\$28,861,839	\$18,443,456	63.90%
Logistics	\$118,429,890	\$57,085,692	48.20%
Food Security and Livelihoods	\$581,176,930	\$277,367,470	47.70%
Health	\$178,600,000	\$79,887,203	44.70%
Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items	\$212,422,750	\$69,486,421	32.70%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	\$230,900,000	\$72,339,281	31.30%
Protection	\$235,212,976	\$70,446,059	29.90%
Education	\$131,025,660	\$27,017,399	20.60%
Nutrition	\$350,079,673	\$71,866,017	20.50%
Refugee Response	\$492,220,483	\$75,259,117	15.30%
Emergency Telecommunications	\$6,300,000	\$0	0.00%
Not specified		\$52,790,897	
Multiple clusters/sectors (shared)		\$19,549,024	

This disproportionate lack of funding is despite concerted and consistent advocacy efforts of GBV actors in Sudan, who have updated and shared needs and plans with humanitarian agencies across the globe, ensuring a [mailing list](#) that is available to all, giving bi-monthly briefings to interested actors, and ensuring up-to-date information is available through dedicated information management staff.

To contact the GBV Sub-Sector in Sudan, please email: gbvsubsector.sudan@unfpa.org.

To access briefings from the GBV Sub-Sector in Sudan, please visit the [GBV AoR's YouTube Page](#).

⁴ Please note that FTS funding figures are accurate as of the date accessed. However, funding figures likely lag actual funding available in Sudan for GBV and Protection services.

⁵ According to FTS: <https://fts.unocha.org/countries/212/summary/2023>