

# Women and Girls in Sudan

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As of November 2023

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 50 incidents of sexual violence linked to the hostilities have been reported, impacting at least 105 victims, including 86 women and 18 children.
- At least 5,000 civilians have been killed since the escalation of conflict in April 2023.
- Approximately 1,300 people were killed, 2,000 injured, and 310 remain missing following an RSF attack on a displaced persons camp in West Darfur on November 2nd.



**69%**

of displaced persons in Sudan are women and girls, including 53,000 pregnant women.



**2.64 MILLION**

women and girls of reproductive age are in need of urgent health assistance. 262,880 of them are pregnant and over 90,000 will give birth in the next three months.

## SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS



Since the outbreak of conflict on [April 15th](#), escalating violence between armed factions in Sudan has left women and girls increasingly vulnerable to gender-based violence, with increased targeting and violence by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and their allied militia forces. The violence has been particularly dire and acute in Darfur, raising fears of conditions that replicate the 2003 genocide in the same region. [Continuing sieges](#) on cities and neighborhoods in Khartoum, Darfur, and Kordofan have resulted in major health and food crises, and women living in these areas face daily threats of sexual harassment or assault.

Perpetrators of rape and sexual assault have predominantly [targeted](#) known members of the ethnic African group Masalit, particularly those who work on documenting, aiding, or even supporting survivors of violence. There is a long history of conflict between ethnic Arab groups and the Masalit. [Service disruptions](#) due to ongoing conflict have prevented survivors from accessing adequate emergency post-rape care as well as emotional and psychological support. Additionally, many displaced women lack access to [food and water](#), and humanitarian aid remains insufficient.

As civilians evacuate conflict zones, [women-led organizations](#) have been working to identify and connect with women to provide critical services, such as psychosocial support. According to Vital Voices' [local partners](#), a lack of medication and other support services are among the greatest challenges currently faced by women groups. Furthermore, [kidnapping and arrests](#) by RSF along evacuation routes further threaten the safety of women, forcing activists and leaders to avoid checkpoints and delay their arrival to safe locations.

Vital Voices' partner, Sudanese Women Rights Action (SUWRA), released an [issue brief](#) outlining recommendations for the international community and Sudanese authorities to promote the protection of women and girls. These include a cease in all hostilities, the facilitation of humanitarian aid, and the establishment of protection mechanisms for civilians in Sudan.

## VITAL VOICES RESPONSE



1

### Safeguarding Women Leaders

Vital Voices is continuing to protect and safeguard women leaders inside and outside of Sudan. To date, Vital Voices has assisted in the evacuations of 23 women leaders from Sudan.

2

### Raising an Alert

Vital Voices is amplifying voices of local Sudanese women-led organizations and supporting Sudanese women leaders, such as Enass Muzamel, recipient of the 2023 Vital Voices Global Leadership Award for her activism and advocacy.

3

### Advocating for Action

Vital Voices supports the call of our Sudanese partners for the international community to take the following actions:

- Allocate resources to support women-led local organizations and youth activist leaders, enabling them to actively participate in policymaking at the national, regional, and international levels.
- Provide special funding for the institutional capacity building of national and local organizations, ensuring their sustainability in operations.
- Allocate and increase funding for the documentation of gender-based violence and other human rights violations against women.
- Implement training programs in personal protection, internet security, and communication security to empower those working on the ground to safeguard their data and personal communications.