



## BRIEFING NOTE

# MULTI-SECTORAL RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENT (MRNA) IN SUDAN – KHARTOUM STATE

### WHY THIS MATTERS

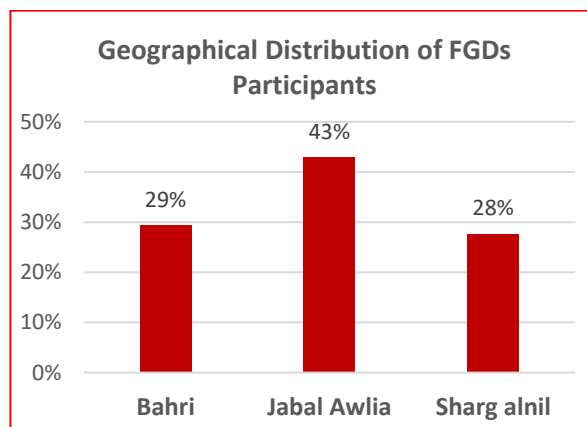
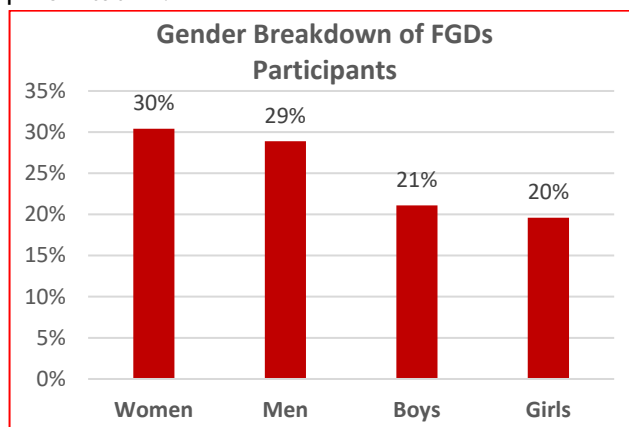
Since April 2023, Sudan's conflict has triggered one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, displacing 10.9 million people and leaving Khartoum devastated. As security conditions gradually improve, over 396,700 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have returned to a city grappling with famine (IPC Phase 5), disease outbreaks, and widespread infrastructure collapse, with 2.1 million more returns expected. With 24 million people facing acute hunger, urgent needs in health, nutrition, WASH, and protection remain critical. These findings aim to guide targeted aid and support a coordinated response to the growing return movement.

### GROUND-LEVEL REALITIES: VOICES FROM THE FIELD

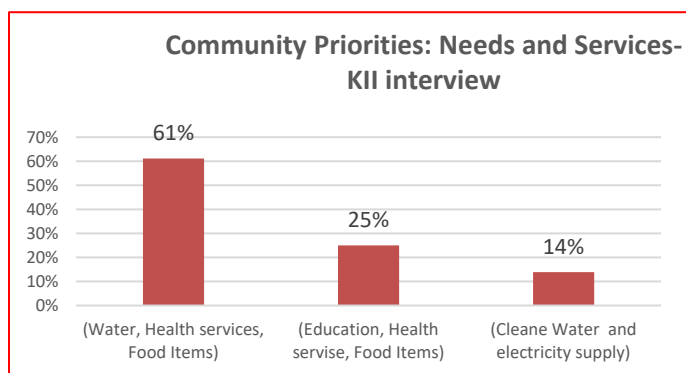
Save the Children and partners (COOPI, Almanar, CARE, and United Peace Organization [UPO]) conducted a rapid needs assessment from 12–15 May 2025 across Bahari, Sharg El-Nil, and Jabal Awlia to guide the emergency response. Using 69 FGDs, 69 KIIs, 7 direct observations, and consultations with 747 individuals (29% men, 30% women, 20% girls, 21% boys), the assessment identified urgent needs in health, nutrition,



WASH, and protection. Data sources included primary tools and secondary reports (UNICEF, IOM, MoH). Quality assurance involved automated and manual checks, with trained enumerators. Stakeholders engaged included IDPs, host communities, returnees, and service providers, ensuring inclusivity and demographic representation.



The assessment results across targeted areas highlight worsening humanitarian conditions, particularly in access to safe water, healthcare, and food. Communities consistently cited these as top priorities during KIIs, while most reported receiving minimal humanitarian aid in recent months. In Khartoum, shelter needs are escalating due to conflict, displacement, and natural disasters, with an estimated 379,000 people requiring shelter and NFIs in 2025. Returnees are facing damaged homes and a lack of basic WASH services, affecting over one million children.



All assessed health facilities remain non-functional, with widespread disease outbreaks reported, including over 7,700 cholera cases. Malnutrition has surged, with Jebel Awlia and Khartoum accounting for 33% of the state's 307,000 acutely malnourished children. Eight out of nine health facilities lack staff and essential supplies, raising urgent concerns.

Markets are generally operational, but food prices have increased by 66%, threatening household food security. Child labor is rising amid a total absence of active child protection services. While access, safety, and relations with host communities remain stable, documentation loss, widowed households, and extreme poverty leave many highly vulnerable.

**The findings call** for immediate, targeted multi-sectoral support and policy prioritization, especially in health, nutrition, water and food systems, to prevent further deterioration and address life-threatening needs.

**Urgent action** is needed to address critical needs in shelter, WASH, health, nutrition, and food security. Rehabilitate infrastructure, scale up nutrition services, and support community kitchens and livelihoods. Introduce targeted cash assistance and market monitoring to maintain access to essentials. Establish child protection structures and provide mobile civil documentation services. Community-led risk reduction initiatives should address safety hazards. These integrated, evidence-based interventions will strengthen resilience and ensure effective short- and mid-term humanitarian response.