

FAO calls for urgent action to address widening famine in Sudan

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Urgent action, in particular immediate and unimpeded humanitarian access, is required to address the widening famine in Sudan, where almost 25 million people face acute food insecurity, the Deputy Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Beth Bechdol, told a UN Security Council meeting in New York.

FAO was invited to brief the Security Council on the deeply concerning situation in Sudan, where a protracted armed conflict and forced displacements are driving an unprecedented food crisis in Africa's third-largest country.

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, half the population – or 24.6 million people – faces acute food insecurity. This is 3.5 million more people since June 2024.

The latest report by the IPC, a multi-partner initiative for improving food security and nutrition analysis and decision-making, is the worst in the country's history. Widespread starvation and acute malnutrition have already resulted in tens of thousands of deaths in a country where almost two-thirds of the population depends on agriculture.

Key crops such as sorghum, millet, and wheat were produced 46 per cent less during the first year of the conflict – the 2023/24 season – than the previous year. This production loss could have fed approximately 18 million people annually and represented an economic loss of between \$1.3 and \$1.7 billion.

Restricted humanitarian access is exacerbating the situation, while sustained violence and economic turmoil have disrupted markets, driving the price of staple goods to unaffordable levels.