



100 DAYS OF CONFLICT: ASSESSING THE IMPACTS AND CHALLENGES OF SUDAN'S WAR

“A YOUTH PERSPECTIVE ON THE CONSEQUENCES AND HOPE
FOR CHANGE”

July 2023

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Introduction

In this comprehensive report, the Youth Citizens Observers Network digs into complex and devastating realities of the Sudanese conflict, focusing particularly on the experiences and viewpoints of the nation's youth. Drawing on firsthand observation through a network of observers located in all 18 states of Sudan, extensive research, and expert analysis, our aim is to provide a unique and nuanced understanding of the ongoing crisis and its consequences.

As the title suggests, our report covers a period of 100 days, during which we closely examine the multifaceted impacts and challenges faced by Sudan's population, with a specific lens on the perspectives and voices of young individuals. By doing so, we shed light on the unique struggles, aspirations, and hopes of this vital demographic, often overlooked in conventional narratives surrounding conflicts.

Furthermore, "100 Days of Conflict" provides an in-depth analysis of the root causes and dynamics driving the conflict, offering insights into the political, social, and economic factors that have contributed to its protracted nature. By examining the conflict from a youth perspective, we aim to foster a more inclusive and holistic understanding of the war, highlighting the need for youth empowerment and meaningful participation in peacebuilding processes.

Ultimately, our report seeks to inform policymakers, the Sudanese public, civil society organizations, and the international community about the urgent need for targeted interventions and support to address the specific needs and aspirations of Sudan's youth. By amplifying their voices and perspectives, we hope to catalyze positive change and contribute to a more peaceful and inclusive future for the people of Sudan.

The Youth Citizens Observers Network (YCON)

The Youth Citizens Observers Network (YCON) is a dedicated platform that brings together various youth organizations, entities, and resistance committees in Sudan. Created with the purpose of monitoring the political, security, and humanitarian situation in Sudan, YCON actively seeks to address violations and advocate for peace and democratization. By uniting passionate young individuals who are concerned about the well-being of their country, YCON strives to make a positive impact and create a more inclusive and democratic society. Through its monitoring efforts and support for peace initiatives, YCON serves as a pivotal force in promoting transparency, human rights, and the overall welfare of the Sudanese population.

Who are we?

We are a group of Sudanese youth, many from civil society organizations and resistance committees across Sudan, who are interested in civilian monitoring and peacebuilding. We have formed a network, the Youth Citizens Observers Network (YCON), to support the democratic transition in Sudan by activating the role of youth monitoring locally.

Our vision is to build a transparent social democracy through civil oversight monitoring and to strengthen the principle of good governance in Sudan. Our message is to empower youth to be the foundation and guarantee of building a democracy that achieves freedom, peace, and justice in Sudan.

Goals

Our goals include:

- Activating the roles of local oversight through youth capacity building
- Providing a coordinated framework for youth organizations to enable youth to play an effective role in the transition process.
- Supporting the inclusion of youth in civic participation to contribute to building peace
- Enhancing the role of youth, including young women, in the decision-making process and setting public policy to ensure good governance.
- Raising and building youth peace leadership capabilities through targeted training courses

Roles:

The roles of YCON include:

- Amplifying the voice of youth through civil coordination and monitoring observation
- Publishing written documents that include the results of our monitoring efforts, presenting our observations and recommendations on the humanitarian, security, political conditions, and the movement of civil society during the transitional period
- Monitoring violations and identifying weaknesses and shortcomings in the practices and behaviors of institutions and decision-makers, highlighting their humanitarian and legal transgressions
- Combating rumors in Sudan
- Supporting peace and democratization in Sudan
- Writing and publishing initial and general reports on monitored events across Sudan.

Mechanisms

Our mechanisms involve coordinating with various youth components on how to work together to solve localization problems and transfer ownership to local peacebuilders, particularly in closing civic and observation spaces during Sudan's transition.

Our planned activities include:

- Monitoring state institutions to ensure they implement the tasks of the transitional period.
- Participating in monitoring dialogues and negotiating initiatives to reach a path of civil democratic transformation.
- Ensuring a smooth transition to democracy in Sudan through direct monitoring and making recommendations.
- Encouraging youth participation at all levels.

War in Sudan

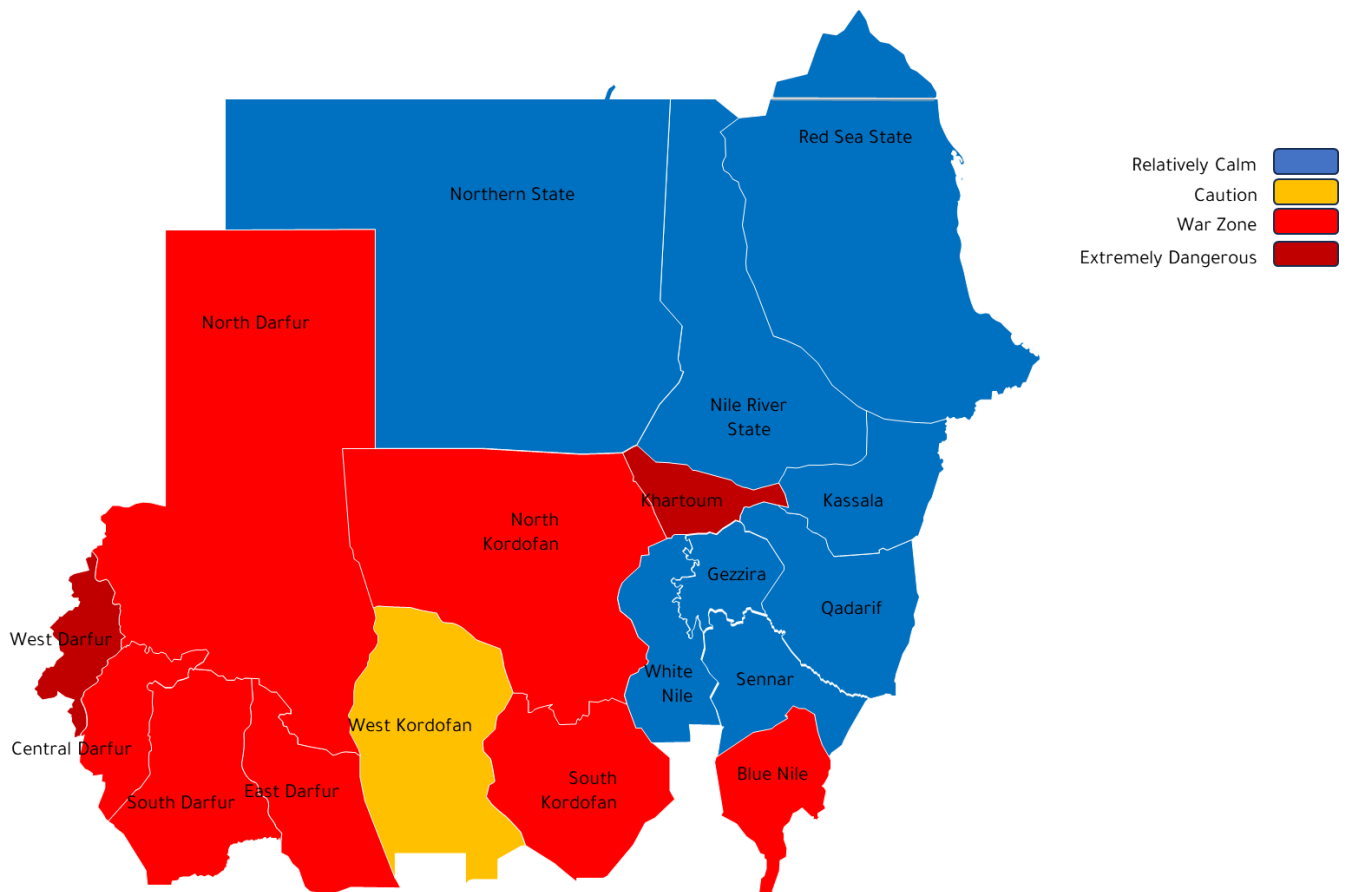
Sudan has experienced a tumultuous period in its political history marked by significant events. In December 2018, the northeastern region of Atbara witnessed widespread protests against poverty, corruption, and unemployment. These protests quickly spread to the capital, Khartoum, and the popular movement led to the resignation of President Omar al-Bashir. During the height of the revolutionary period, and since, security forces have responded with a harsh crackdown that resulted in the death of many protesters.

On April 11, 2019, the revolution in Sudan removed al-Bashir from power, leading to the suspension of the country's constitution and the closure of its borders and airspace. A three-month state of emergency was also imposed. Al-Bashir, who had been in power for nearly three decades, was replaced by a transitional military government. However, thousands of protesters remained encamped in front of the army headquarters, demanding civilian rule. Unfortunately, talks between the military generals and the protest leaders reached an impasse.

In August 2019, the African Union intervened, and an agreement was reached between civilian and military factions to share power during a three-year transition period, with elections scheduled for 2023. As part of this agreement, a council of ministers was formed under the leadership of Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok. On August 17, a "constitutional declaration" was signed, and three days later, a sovereign council was established, consisting of prominent military and civilian figures.

However, the transition towards a democratic civilian-led government faced challenges after the fall of al-Bashir. In October 2021, a coup derailed the progress towards civilian rule, putting the military back in control. This development was met with weekly protests, increased isolation, and worsening economic conditions.

Since April 15, 2023, Sudan has witnessed intense clashes between its military and the main paramilitary force, resulting in the loss of hundreds of lives and the displacement of millions of people seeking safety. These clashes have arisen due to a power struggle between two largest factions of the former military-led regime: the Sudanese armed forces loyal to Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the paramilitaries of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) led by Gen Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemedti).



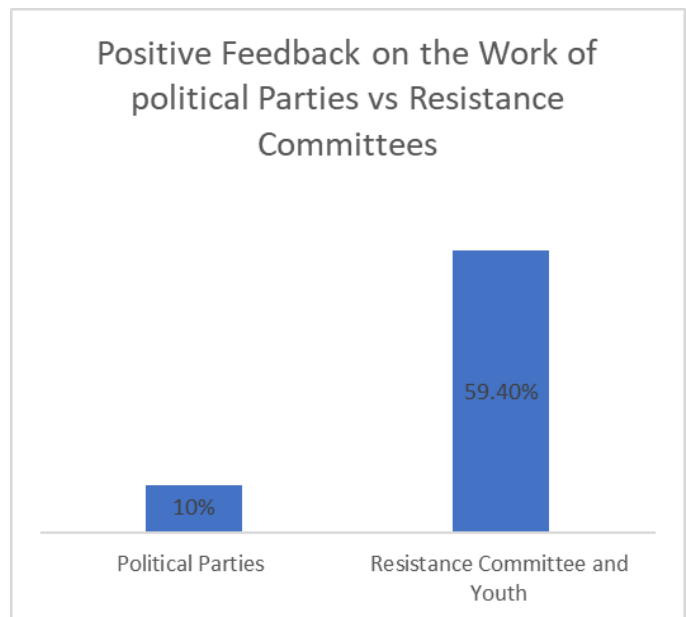
Political implication of the war

The conflict between the RSF and SAF was inevitable. The RSF was created by Al-Bashir to have leverage over competing pieces of the vast security and military apparatus, resulting in a power struggle from the beginning. However, the conflict escalated when a political agreement was about to be reached.

Before the conflict started, the signing of a new political agreement was postponed multiple times. The military component to negotiations, represented by the SAF and RSF, always posed a challenge. They had different pretexts for delaying the agreement, such as the time required to merge the SAF and RSF under one leadership or the conflict over the leadership of the technical committee responsible for setting a merge timeline. These actions conflicted the main demand of the Sudanese youth and rebels, which was the dissolution of the RSF, the return of the SAF to barracks, and an end to their interference in politics.

The civilian component, represented by FFC, and the international community supported a new political agreement. However, they failed to anticipate that the military component, consisting of the RSF and SAF, would not allow the transitional period leading to a civilian government to proceed.

The Youth Citizens Observers Network has sought to understand youth sentiments, aspirations, and viewpoints throughout the recent period. A survey of 500 youth activists conducted during the first week of the 2023 conflict revealed that 85% of respondents viewed the role of political parties as bad or worse. A second survey conducted in the first week of July 2023 showed a slight improvement in the performance of political parties, with 72% of respondents still considering their work as bad or worse. Overall, 90% of respondents deemed the work of political parties as irrelevant or bad. In contrast, 59.4 % of respondents assessed the work of the resistance and youth committee positively. In light of these findings, it is crucial to reassess the work of all political actors, including civilian political parties and resistance committees, moving forward.



International and regional implication

The war in Sudan has had significant implications for regional and international relations, leading to both cooperation and confrontation among various actors. Different regional and international players have been involved in Sudan, each with their own interests and priorities.

In terms of cooperation, some regional actors have sought to support peace efforts and contribute to stability in Sudan. Saudi Arabia, for example, has played a role in calling for

negotiations resulted in interrupted cease fires agreement, that were never honored by both parties.

Ethiopia, another neighboring country, has also been engaged in Sudan, particularly due to its involvement in the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) dispute. The conflict in Sudan has impacted the negotiations around the dam, as the stability and cooperation between the two countries are crucial for the successful resolution of this issue.

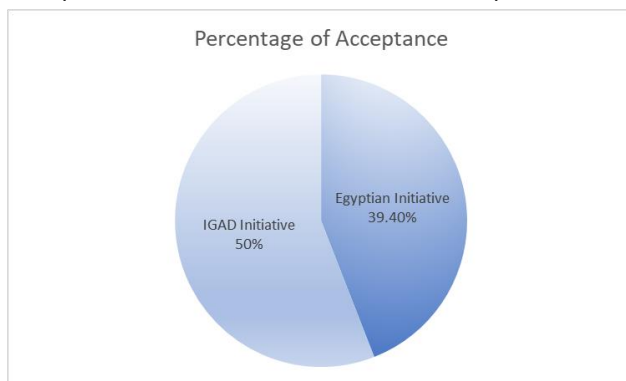
In terms of confrontation, different regional and international actors have had diverging interests that have contributed to tensions. The United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Egypt have been involved in supporting different factions within Sudan, often aligned with their own geopolitical interests. This has led to competition and power struggles between these actors, which has further complicated the situation in Sudan.

Qatar and Turkey, on the other hand, have supported different groups within Sudan, often with a focus on Islamist factions. This has created divisions and further polarization within the country.

International actors such as Russia and China have also been involved in Sudan, primarily due to their economic interests in the region. Both countries have invested in Sudan's natural resources and infrastructure development. Their involvement has been driven by economic considerations rather than direct involvement in the conflict itself.

The United States and the European Union (EU) have been engaged in Sudan, supporting peace efforts and providing humanitarian assistance. Their interests lie in promoting stability, democracy, and human rights in Sudan, as well as preventing the spread of extremism and terrorism in the region.

The youth in Sudan are well aware of the regional and international complexity of the political implications of the war and the importance of unifying international and regional efforts for



any initiative to be able to work. In the latest YCON survey 50,3% of the respondents perceived the IGAD initiative as positive compared to 39.4% positive feeling towards the Egyptian initiative. This shows that a unified, regional initiative to end the war is perceived by the youth of being more viable than a unilateral one.

Overall, the war in Sudan has impacted regional and international relations by creating both cooperation and confrontation among different actors. Their involvement has been shaped by their strategic interests, economic considerations, and concerns about regional stability. Resolving the conflict and achieving lasting peace in Sudan will require coordinated efforts and dialogue among these actors, with a focus on the best interests of the Sudanese people.

Social Implication of the war

Sudan's social landscape has historically faced many challenges, including discrimination and marginalization especially among minorities, women, youth and particular regions. This landscape began to witness some positive changes following the ousting of President Omar al-Bashir in 2019. Civil society organizations and grassroots movements played a crucial role in mobilizing for change, advocating for human rights, and challenging social norms and structures that perpetuated discrimination and marginalization. These efforts have contributed to a more open discourse on social issues and a push for social reforms.

However, the current war has had a devastating impact on the social situation in Sudan. The conflict has resulted in widespread displacement, loss of lives, and the destruction of homes and communities. It has further deepened social divisions and tensions, as different groups are drawn into the conflict.

The war has also disrupted access to education, healthcare, and basic services, particularly in conflict-affected areas. Women and children are particularly vulnerable, facing increased risks of violence, exploitation, and displacement.

Displacement and migration

The ongoing war in Sudan resulted in the displacement of millions of people so far, both within Sudan and across its borders.

Internally, the war has led to widespread displacement, forcing approximately 2.4 million¹ people to seek safety in different states within Sudan. This has resulted in the creation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps, where people live in precarious conditions, lacking access to basic services such as healthcare, education, and clean water.

Youth observers witnessed several attempts from local and international organizations to support IDPs and refugees, though these attempts have not been able to address the full scale of need. Active support of IDPs by international and local organizations was observed only in 32.5% of the regions surveyed, and the assessment of the impact of these initiative was

¹ [Sudan | Situation Reports \(unocha.org\)](https://www.unocha.org/sudan)

described as poor by 45%, fair by 39.4% and good by only 15.4% of the surveyed. Clearly, there is room for improvement, especially where local authorities are making minimal efforts to relieve the needs of both host communities and the IDPs. YCON observers found that local authorities have started initiatives in only 15.8% of the surveyed regions; local authorities in other regions are barely helping or not taking any initiative at all. In a report published by the Youth Citizens Observers Network in mid-July 2023 highlighted the mismanagement and corruption in the aid distribution. The YCON found that 80% of the aid received is being sold in the markets after being distributed to non-needy persons. Additionally, the amounts of aid received from international contributors such as UAE, Oman, Saudi Arabia, ICRC, Kuwait, Jordan, Egypt, Qatar, Japan and USA are unannounced and being held in warehouses controlled by the local and federal government in the Red Sea State.

The distribution mainly overseen by the local and federal state, is being crippled by the inability to have safe passage. YCON has repeatedly highlighted in their reports failure by the belligerent parties to ensure safe passage for people and aid, even in hosting states in conflict zones.

Another challenge that was observed in states hosting IDPs is overcrowded shelters and camps. Because schools are being used as primary shelters for IDPs, 89% of schools in hosting states have not resumed teaching. Reports also highlighted that the military powers both SAF and RSF are constraining the work of local relief organizations. Both belligerents have forcibly closed shelters or demanded the handover of relief packages.

Rather than staying in camps or schools, however, many IDPs are being hosted by families. These people are not on the radar of those responsible for providing aid. Coupled with the deteriorating economic situation and the price increase of all goods (97.8% of the regions surveyed witnessed price increase in the essential goods), both the IDPs and the host families are left in a bad situation; some IDPs have left their host families, seeking refuge instead in the IDPs camps (which are increasingly overcrowded).

The 100 days of conflict is worsening poor infrastructure and increasing pressure on what were already weak essential services, such as access to clean water, electricity, and proper hygiene. Coupled with the overcrowding in IDP camps and shelters, these conditions are increasing cases of malaria, diarrhea and measles; all have already been reported in different IDP camps.

Tension between host community and IDPs warrants further monitoring. As the war continues and the economic pressure on all citizens is increasing, some incidents of IDP-host conflict

have been reported. For example, trucks of aid supplies were attacked and goods seized in Sennar on its way to North Kordofan.

The effect of internal displacement has had severe consequences on the host states. The latest survey conducted by YCON was able to identify the main challenges that are faced by host communities due to the internal displacement. 33.9% of the survey's respondents indicated that their main concern is an increase in housing costs; another 25.1% indicated that their main concern was the price increase of goods and main essentials; pressure on the medical sector in the state (crowded hospitals, shortage of medical supplies and medicines) and increased pressure on the essential services (electricity, potable water, communication) were the following in importance, with 18% and 16% respectively. The remaining 6.7% of respondents indicated other issues as priority, such as shortages in fuel, overcrowded markets, and car traffic.

Observers reported that the majority of the IDPs originated from Khartoum state (more than 70%), followed by the Greater Darfur region - which coincided with the intensity of the clashes. The hosting states were more diverse, with large numbers of IDPs heading mainly to the surrounding states of the conflict affected zones, mainly River Nile, Northern State, Sennar, White Nile and the Eastern Region (Qadarif, Kassala and Red Sea).

The intensity of the displacement is estimated to increase with the spill over of the clashes to North and South Kordofan, and Blue Nile states (the renewed clashes between SPLA-North and SAF), along with the continued clashes in Greater Darfur Region.

Additionally, the war triggered cross borders migration, with over 650,000² person crossing the borders since April 15. Sudanese refugees have sought safety in countries like South Sudan, Ethiopia, Chad, and Egypt. These refugees face numerous life-threatening obstacles. Observers reports indicated that the refugees fleeing the conflict areas in Darfur to



Sudanese - Chadian Boarders - July 2023 - YCON Observers

Chad are being attacked by RSF and allies based on ethnic basis. SAF on the other hand is denying passage to young males trying to reach the Ethiopian borders from Qadarif, not to mention the lack of access to food, water, and healthcare that all refugees strained at all boarders are facing on daily basis. It is worth noting that no borders can be considered completely safe to crossing, each facing its own kind of challenges, the restriction on the Egyptian Borders, the attacks on the Chadian borders, the blocking of passage to youth on the Ethiopian borders, the renewed conflict in Kordofan and Blue Nile, limiting access to South Sudan.

Recommendations

Addressing the displacement and migration crisis requires a comprehensive approach that prioritizes the protection and assistance of displaced populations, such as:

- Set measures to ensure the respect of the ceasefire agreement, especially in terms of ensuring safe passage of the aid and relief materials to conflict and host states.
- Conduct Comprehensive needs assessment to identify the specific needs of IDPs, refugees and host communities, and tailor aid interventions accordingly.
- Enhance transparency and accountability in aid and relief handling and distribution by ensuring proper documentation and reporting on aid activities.

² [Sudan | Situation Reports \(unocha.org\)](https://www.unocha.org/sudan/situation-reports)

- Include local organizations in the aid management.
- Allow access to local and international observers to aid databases and governmental managed facilities.
- Regional collaborations to ease access of the refugees to neighboring countries.
- Take into consideration the host community in any future planning to support the IDPs and Refugees, to avoid potential internal conflict.
- Enhance the infrastructure in host states to ensure proper essential services are being delivered to both the IDPs and the host communities.
- Enhance cooperation between international organizations and local initiatives to ensure that needs are being addressed according to international best practices.
- Incorporate the issue of displacement and refugees in any potential peace talks, to tackle the issue of losses incurred and compensation, in addition to facilitating return.

Stopping war, promoting peace and stability are prerequisite to reduce the displacement, facilitating the return and reintegrate the displaced in their home states.

Protection of civilians

The war in Sudan has had a devastating impact on the protection of civilians, resulting in severe consequences for their physical security, safety, dignity, and overall well-being. Physical security has been greatly compromised, with civilians becoming targets of attacks, including aerial bombings, shelling, and armed assaults. This has resulted in the loss of lives, injuries, and destruction of homes and infrastructure. Civilians often find themselves in the midst of the fighting, caught in crossfire or deliberately targeted, leading to civilian casualties. According to the Federal Ministry of Health, more than 1100 deaths and 11,700 civilians injured since the start of the war till June 30, 2023.

YCON observers reports showed sever breaches to the international law. The current war in Sudan is considered as an urban warfare, where clashes, fighting and bombing is being done inside the cities, causing damages to the households, and heavily endangering the civilian population with no respect to distinction between military and civilian premises, proportionality and the use of heavy bombing and airstrike in urban setup, and protection of civilians by notification and ensuring safe passage out of the conflict areas.

Reports showed that RSF combatants took refuge under bridges, in hospitals and civilians household making them targets to attacks, hence endangering the civilians and civilian premises. On another hand SAF used heavy shelling and airstrikes on populated neighborhoods in Khartoum without any notification, hence breaching the concept of distinction required in IHL.

The use of untested and untrained on weaponries (mainly drones) put the civilians in real danger as the troops are not trained to the use of this military technology in urban warfare. Reports showed the death of 34 civilians, children were among the casualties in Um Durman by a drone attack on July 12, 2023. Neither SAF nor RSF claimed the incident, while both of them are using drones in their attacks on daily basis.

Observers also reported that households and private business are being broke into and looted by militia men and RSF combatants and affiliates, on daily basis in different states, but mainly in Khartoum, with total absence of any law enforcement forces.

Reposts showed a deterioration of the security situation in many areas not necessarily caused directly by the clashes but rather caused by the total absence of any kind of law enforcement authorities, as an example n Kordofan region, gangsters and bandits are setting up roadblocks and imposing ransom on the passing car, the issue was tackled by the local tribes who issued that any person committing such crimes will not be protected by his family or tribe.

These attacks, breaches of the basic human rights, and total absence of the rule of law cause in an influx in civilian weaponizing for protection, which will cause severe consequences on the long term. Reports showed that 49.5% of the civilians are armed under the pretext of protecting their lives and premises, Observers witnessed an increase in the Arms market in different states (28% of the surveyed witnessed arm dealing, 55.3% were not sure if this taking place, while only 17% were confident that no arms dealing is taking place) the majority of the positive responses of arms dealing came from Blue Nile, South Darfur, Khartoum, and South Kordofan states.

The survey conducted by YCON in July 2023, indicated that the main concern of the young Sudanese remains the continuation of the war with 32.9% of the responses followed closely by the concern on private properties and personal safety (29.9% of the respondents) the remaining varied between the attacks on the public properties and other safety hazards.

The respondents listed the fear of increasing insecurity and lawlessness as one of their major fears in the upcoming period, second in rank after the economic deterioration.

Recommendations

Protecting civilians in Sudan requires concerted efforts both domestically and internationally. It should involve:

- Establish and strengthen mechanism of protecting civilians in any cease-fire agreement.

- Requires the fighting parties to address the behavior of their combatants by creating a kind of military policing, banning their affiliates from endangering lives and properties of civilians.
- Requires the police forces and the local authorities to assume their roles in ensuring respect and enforce the local laws.
- Set up a mechanism for disarming the civilians on the short, medium, and long terms.
- Restructuring and introducing advanced trainings to the police, and military forces to be able to operate in a conflict area and prioritize the safety of the civilians.
- Review the rules of engagement of the military forces, giving the civilian political leadership a supervisory power, in specific engagement in urban warfare.

The main guarantee for the safety of the civilians remains as always, limiting the access to arms to official forces, whose terms of reference are clearly indicated in a law drafted and adopted by a democratically elected government and parliament. The existence of arms in the hands of militias, paramilitary and political parties proved to be a receipt for disaster and violent conflict is imminent.

Human rights situation

The ongoing conflict in Sudan has significantly affected the human rights situation in the country, particularly in relation to civil and political rights. This has resulted in the erosion of fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of expression, assembly, association, and political participation.

As the conflict in Sudan rages on, social media has emerged as a powerful tool for spreading misinformation. False narratives, fabricated stories, and manipulated images are being disseminated with alarming speed and reach. These misleading accounts not only distort the truth but also fuel tensions and perpetuate divisions among different factions. Consequently, the freedom of expression, which lies at the heart of any democratic society, is being compromised.

The freedom of expression has been severely restricted, with the government imposing restrictions on media outlets, and subjecting journalists to harassment. The De Facto Forces in different states have exerted control over the narrative surrounding the conflict, thereby limiting the dissemination of information, and suppressing dissenting voices. Consequently, a climate of fear and self-censorship has emerged, discouraging individuals and organizations from expressing their opinions or criticizing those in power.

YCON observers witnessed first-hand the human rights violations as some observers have been harassed and threatened and, in some areas, arrested more than once, due to their activities and efforts to document the violations of the conflicting parties, forcing them to be displaced to safer places and to be on the move most of the time to secure their ability to report. We will restrict the details to ensure the confidentiality of the observers and their safety.

On another hand several youth activists calling for the stop of the war have been arrested in Sennar, Northern State, White Nile, Blue Nile, Khartoum, the Greater Kordofan areas, and the 5 states of Darfur. The arrest lasted on some instances for weeks, under different unfounded pretexts. The arrest was done by both conflicting parties, each in the states that are currently under their control. SAF intelligence is harassing and arresting the activists engaged in the relief and medical support initiatives under the pretext that they are supporting and helping RSF, while the RSF combatants are harassing and threatening the activists under the pretexts of being supportive to the old regime, while these activists are the first to take the streets against the old regime.

52.6% of the youth surveyed confirmed the presence of active campaigns to arrest young activists who are publicly condemning the war and demanding an end to it. 46.3% reported active and intentional attacks on civilians.

Field observers reported several cases of gender-based violence, and ethnic-based targeting of civilians. These observations were mainly made in the states controlled by RSF and their allies.

Forced disappearance of young females was reported in the state of Khartoum; more than 30 young females were reported missing during the evacuations of their families. In addition, refugees arriving to Chad were mainly female and children as the men preferred to stay in their villages. This was based on fear of being attacked on their way from West Darfur to the Chadian borders by the RSF and affiliated tribes. Eyewitness accounts describe a convoy of refugees arriving to the Chadian borders and being attacked based on ethnic basis.

Observers also reported attempts to militarize children, mainly in the Greater Kordofan region.

Women, children, youth and IDPs were identified as the most vulnerable groups in the current war.

Mass graves were discovered in Darfur, containing 87 bodies, which triggered an investigation by the Higher Commissioner for Human rights, the dead bodies mainly belonged to the Masalit tribe, hence making it ethnic -based killing, which is a war crime, that has sadly enough been

done previously in Darfur during the previous war, caused by the same accused the RSF. Reports indicated that these killings followed the execution of the governor of West Darfur in mid-June 2023.

Recommendations

The issue of accountability, justice, and reconciliation for human rights violations is of utmost importance. The war in Sudan has been marked by serious human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, torture, sexual violence, and forced disappearances, hence the necessity to:

- Ensure accountability for the crimes committed during the war, in order to provide justice for the victims and ensure no future conflict would arise as a retaliation.
- Efforts should be made to establish independent and impartial mechanisms to investigate and prosecute those responsible for human rights violations.
- Support to local institutions in building their capacity to address human rights abuses.
- A clear and adequate transitional justice process is a must in any negotiations and peace talks.
- International actors have a duty to hold perpetrators accountable and not to compromise on the account of human rights violations.
- Supporting civil society, and human rights defenders in their quest to observe, document and report on any human rights violations during and after the war.

Economic implication of the war

The outbreak of the current war has significantly disrupted Sudan's economy. The conflict has led to the displacement of millions of people, the destruction of infrastructure, and disruptions in agricultural activities and trade. This has further deepened the economic crisis, intensifying inflation, scarcity of essential goods, and unemployment.

The displacement of people due to the conflict has strained resources and put pressure on local economies. The displaced persons did not only lose their sense of safety and security but they also lost the source of income. In addition, displaced individuals often seek refuge in already vulnerable areas, overwhelming the limited resources available. This places a burden on host communities and jeopardize their ability to sustain their livelihoods.

The destruction of infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and public services (electricity plants, water sources and communication), has stopped economic activities and access to essential services. It has disrupted supply chains, making it difficult for goods and services to reach markets and consumers. This has led to shortages, price hikes, and reduced economic productivity.

Agriculture, a key sector in Sudan's economy, has been severely impacted by the conflict. Displacement, insecurity, and damage to agricultural infrastructure, such as irrigation systems and storage facilities, have disrupted farming activities. Farmers have been unable to cultivate their lands, leading to reduced agricultural production and food insecurity. This has not only affected the livelihoods of farmers but also resulted in increased dependence on food aid.

It is worth noting that one of the main triggers of the conflict in South Kordofan and Blue Nile between SPLA-North and SAF was to ensure access to cultivating land, in addition to the obvious political reasons. That said, the conflict between SPLA-North and SAF might not be the last and might be extended to SPLA-N and RSF, as they will be a fight over resources.

Trade has also been significantly affected by the conflict. Insecurity and damaged infrastructure have impeded the movement of goods and services, both within the country and across borders. This has disrupted trade routes, decreased export opportunities, and limited access to essential imports, worsening economic challenges.

The economic crisis and inflation in Sudan have been further intensified by the conflict. Disruptions in economic activities, reduced productivity, and increased demand for humanitarian assistance have put additional strain on the economy. The scarcity of goods, including basic necessities, has driven up prices, making them unaffordable for many Sudanese citizens. This has led to a decline in the purchasing power of individuals and aggravated poverty levels.

The absence of a functioning authorities in have aggravated the economic situation and increased the suffering of all citizens, reports showed that the authorities are non-functioning in 84% of the places, and only 16% are minimally functional, the reasons being, the centralized operations in Khartoum, which is currently a war zone, the absence of electricity and communication infrastructure as they are heavily affected by the conflicts, even if they are willing to shift to manual operations, the challenge will be the absence of the necessary stationary and printing papers due to scarcity of the products and the insecure supply roads.

The civil servants, both on a national and local levels, have not being paid since the start of the war and this was observed in more than 95% of the localities across Sudan.

The access to basic services such as electricity is a challenge, as 70% of respondents indicated an unstable electricity supply, if any, as 67.3% indicated the extended periods of electricity cut, that could last for days. The absence of electricity is directly related to the absence of water as 68.5% of the respondents indicated a shortage in potable water in their respective states.

63.6% of the respondents to the YCON's July survey indicated that the economic situation in their respective states as being bad or worse, putting more than half of the population in a bad economic situation.

The non-functional government also indicates an absence of decisions that might help the economic situation. Uncalculated decisions being made by the ministry of finance worsening the economic situation, such as the decision to print bank notes to pay the civil servants made an increase in exchange rate USD/SDG by 16% over night and it is expected to increase in the case the decision is implemented. This decision was made during the time where all banks are nonfunctioning, the exchange bureau has been down since the beginning of the war, blocking all banking transactions. The headquarters of most of the banks are located in Khartoum, thus non-functional and the only half reliable method to transfer or use the bank accounts is through the application Bankak, given that the internet and communication operates.

Recommendations

Addressing the economic impact of the conflict requires a comprehensive approach, starting with:

- Restoring stability and security.
- Rebuilding and rehabilitating infrastructure, particularly in conflict-affected areas, is essential to facilitate the flow of goods and services.
- Supporting agriculture and providing farmers with the necessary tools, resources, and support can help revitalize the sector and ensure food security.
- Addressing inflation and economic challenges requires implementing sound economic policies.
- Restoring Access to essential services such as electricity, water, and communication

Conclusion

In conclusion, Sudan's 100 days of war have had devastating effects on various aspects of the country. The conflict has resulted in the displacement of thousands of people, the destruction

of infrastructure, disruptions in agricultural activities and trade, and the non-functioning of governmental institutions. These consequences have deepened the economic crisis, worsened inflation, and created significant challenges in governance, public services, and human rights protection.

Stopping the war and restoring stability and security is crucial to enable economic recovery and create an environment conducive to investment and growth. Rebuilding infrastructure, supporting agriculture, and providing essential services are essential to alleviate the suffering of the population and ensure their basic needs are met. Additionally, addressing human rights violations are vital to rebuilding trust and fostering accountability.

The unification of local initiatives and dropping of the hidden agendas of the political parties is crucial in gaining the trust of the people. Engaging the youth and civil society organization in all the efforts will increase the possibility of reaching a potential solution that would be sustainable and would avoid repeating the mistakes of the past period.

International support and cooperation are instrumental in assisting Sudan in overcoming the consequences of the war. The international community should provide financial aid, technical assistance, and capacity-building support to stop the war, help rebuild the country and create sustainable livelihood opportunities. It is also essential to engage local civil society organizations and empower them to play a role in advocating for good governance and accountability.

As Sudan moves forward, it is important to learn from the experiences and devastating incidents of the past 100 days and work towards a peaceful and prosperous future. It is through collective efforts, resilience, and a commitment to justice and equality that Sudan can overcome the challenges brought about by the war and build a brighter future for its people.

As Youth Citizens Observers Network, we renew our pledge to be the eyes, ears of the Sudanese population and the voice of its Youth. Our field teams will continue to be present in all of the 18 states, observing, documenting and recommending solutions, our enthusiasm will not decrease under pressure, on the contrary, our observers network will increase in number and our reports will be issued more often.