YUNMUN
Yeshiva University National Model UN

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World Food Programme (WFP)

Topic 1: Hunger Crisis in Sudan

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Sudan is Africa's third-largest country, with a population of well over 50 million people.[1] Amid an ongoing civil war, the country is facing one of the world's most severe hunger crises, approaching the threshold for being labeled a famine. According to the World Food Programme, nearly half the population faces "crisis-level hunger".[2]

In April 2019, a military coup overthrew Sudan's president, Omar al-Bashir, following a brutal crackdown by the military on democratic protesters and horrific atrocities against villages in remote regions of Sudan.[3] The coup was led by two officers within the Sudanese armed forces: Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, leader of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), and Mohamed Hamdan Hemeti, commander of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). Following the coup, Burhan and Hemeti continued many of the tyrannical practices of the Bashir regime, using extreme force to suppress democratic protests. Following an unsuccessful attempt to establish a democracy, Burhan and Hemeti turned on each other over disagreements about who would lead the country. The rift plunged Sudan into a brutal civil war between the two factions of the military, the SAF and the RSF.[4] Both sides have faced accusations of war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity.

The war has devastated Sudan's food supply. Fighting, displacement, and the loss of farmland, seeds, and equipment have led to poor crop production, leaving families with little to harvest and few places to buy food. As a result, tens of millions of people now face severe hunger, and several regions are at risk of famine. The United Nations, including the WFP, has provided food assistance to families in need, but its work is becoming more challenging. Funding shortfalls have forced aid organizations to scale back their operations, and the WFP requires $579 million for operations up to October 2026.[5]

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[1] https://www.unfpa.org/data/world-population/SD
[2] https://www.wfp.org/emergencies/sudan
[3] https://www.britannica.com/biography/Omar-Hassan-Ahmad-:.al-Bashir
[4] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lDfhxMwoyWo
[5] https://www.wfp.org/emergencies/sudan

In addition, the dangerous conditions created by the ongoing civil war, including attacks on convoys, have made it increasingly difficult for aid workers and food to reach the people who need help most.[6] In June 2025, a drone strike hit an aid convoy, killing 5 WFP humanitarian workers.[7] At present, there is no foreseeable end to the conflict, with the SAF and RSF locked in a stalemate for control of Sudan.

Guiding questions for research:

1. How might the international community find alternative funding means to support the WFP mission in Sudan?
2. How can WFP safely deliver aid to Sudan amid the ongoing civil war?
3. How can WFP help with both emergency relief and long-term food security?
4. With no foreseeable end to the conflict, what can the WFP do?
5. What can the UN do to protect both WFP workers delivering aid and people in Sudan who need the aid?

As always, please remember to include proper citations, and remember that all position papers will be submitted through Turnitin; the use of Generative AI is prohibited. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at edehart@mail.yu.edu with any questions or concerns you may have. I'm looking forward to reading your position papers and meeting you all in February at the conference!

Sincerely,

Emmit DeHart

Chair, United Nations World Food Programme

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[6] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3xNRytf6_tA
[7] https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/06/1163991