



[Donors Pledge \\$1.5 Billion for Sudan Crisis Response](#)

The United Nations Humanitarian Chief Martin Griffiths has announced that international donors have pledged nearly \$1.5 billion for aid efforts in Sudan and neighboring areas. Over 24.7 million individuals, more than half of Sudan's population, are estimated to require relief due to the conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces since April of this year. Substantial pledged donors include Germany committing \$218 million (200 million euros) through 2024, the United States with \$171 million, the European Union with \$208 million (190 million euros), the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with \$100 million, and Qatar with \$50 million. Donations were collected at a United Nations-backed event during a 72-hour ceasefire period within Sudan, with more than 80 state governments and international humanitarian organizations present. These donations factor into a more extensive global plea from the United Nations to garner support for relief efforts within Sudan, with initial estimations made at \$2.57 billion. Before the event, only 17% of that goal had been fulfilled alongside a similar aid proposal, the Refugee Response Plan, which was only 15% financed. U.N. Refugee Agency Chief Filippo Grandi cited this lack of financing and international concern as being "deeply distressing" compared to the nature of the conflict. With the event's conclusion, it is rumored that more donors from Middle Eastern Gulf States would continue to donate privately.

With over 365,000 refugees recorded since the start of the conflict, those affected are displaced within Sudan and neighboring countries. The aid is intended to help with relocation initiatives, food supply, medical assistance, and other issues resulting from the conflict. Still, there has yet to be any indication by the United Nations as to when and how the \$1.5 billion will be dispersed. With contributing states such as Qatar donating 301 tons of food and medical assistance before the conference, it is hoped that the extent of aid will be amplified due to the increase in financing. Other donors, such as Saudi Arabia, have independently committed to continuing their relief efforts, such as implementing an air bridge equipped with 13 aircraft and a sea bridge carrying all types of assistance. Egypt, a neighboring state to Sudan, has taken in over 250,000 Sudanese refugees, around 60% of those affected by the conflict. It is still being determined to what extent the aid pledge will support nearby states that the crisis in Sudan has subsequently impacted. As the UNCHR reported that the lack of international interest and support had caused relief initiatives to remain underfunded, the impact of these newly pledged funds and endeavors holds great potential to provide the appropriate aid to Sudan and those affected.

With the recent conclusion of the 72-hour ceasefire and the instant resumption of fighting within Sudan, the need for aid and assistance remains more urgent than ever. Over 50 truckloads of resources were delivered to Khartoum within the first two days of the ceasefire, with the U.N. vocalizing its commitment to continue intervening despite the resurgence of violence. Yet, as any international aid is yet to reach Darfur and other surrounding areas, increases in looting, theft, and petty violence pose more roadblocks in effectively aiding all of Sudan. As the region of West Darfur hosts some of the greatest crimes against humanity due to the conflict, the hope is that future aid and support can be effectively delivered to the

area as soon as possible. While the \$1.5 billion pledge will hopefully help address the imminent concerns of medical assistance, food supplies, and shelter throughout Sudan, almost double that financial commitment is still needed to aid all of Sudan in addition to the nearby affected areas. Whether or not the current amount of aid allocated will effectively be disbursed is yet to be determined, as the United Nations must refine its methods of deliverance and allocation to ensure that it is equitably disseminated.

This large donation may be an indicator of what is to come. In the past years, due to many factors, donations to aid organizations have suffered a significant drop. This recent pledge of \$1.5 billion gives hope that this trend is beginning to reverse and that aid organizations will be able to receive the funding they need to offer the full set of services they aim to offer.