Sudan Media Forum Weekly Briefing
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A curated weekly update on the most significant news from Sudan.

Hello,

Welcome to your weekly briefing. This week, Battles are intensifying in Kordofan and Blue Nile, while drone strikes continue to claim civilian lives and heighten risks for children. As displacement spreads across Darfur and humanitarian access declines, warnings of hunger and the collapse of essential services are mounting. Politically, the Quintet Mechanism condemns the escalation of attacks and calls for an end to the war, while the economic crisis deepens as the Sudanese pound weakens and prices continue to rise. Meanwhile, efforts to clear explosive remnants of war continue, amid growing threats to education, citizens' rights and property.

Top Story of the Week

Sudan's War Intensifies: Army Advances as Drone Strikes Kill Civilians





Fierce fighting erupted this week across the battlefronts in the Kordofan region and Blue Nile State, leaving dozens of civilians dead and triggering widespread displacement. The Sudanese army and its allies made rapid advances in Kordofan, capturing the town of Al-Khuwai and several villages near Al-Nuhud, a major town in West Kordofan

State. Meanwhile, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) stepped up their use of advanced drones in Kordofan in an apparent bid to slow the army's advance towards Darfur and target its troop movements and military supply lines.

On Sunday, Sudanese army drones carried out a series of intensive airstrikes targeting RSF positions in several towns and areas across West Kordofan State, according to the army. The strikes coincided with a ground advance towards Al-Nuhud, the state's largest town.

The Kordofan Rights Observatory reported that 15 civilians, including four children, were killed and others injured in a drone strike on Sunday in the Abu Qalb area of Abu Zabad locality, West Kordofan. The observatory said the drone belonged to the Sudanese army. The observatory's spokesperson, Murtada Ahmed, told Radio Dabanga that the strike directly hit a football field, killing four children. Other projectiles struck residential homes, causing further casualties, injuries, damage to houses and the deaths of livestock. On Wednesday, the Sudanese army announced that it had shot down two drones in separate operations in West Kordofan and East Darfur states in western Sudan.

On Tuesday, nine civilians were killed and others wounded in a drone attack by the RSF on a village in the Blue Nile region. Meanwhile, the Sudanese army announced the deployment of five combat units, fully equipped with military hardware, to the headquarters of the Fourth Infantry Division in Blue Nile State.

Political & Security Update

International Quintet Condemns Escalating Attacks in Sudan and Calls for an End to the War





The Quintet Mechanism on Sudan, comprising the United Nations, African Union, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Arab League and European Union, has strongly condemned the escalating drone attacks and airstrikes across Sudan, warning of their devastating impact on civilians. In a statement, the group expressed deep concern over attacks targeting several Sudanese states, which have resulted in civilian casualties and widespread destruction. It called for an immediate cessation of hostilities, the protection of civilians, unhindered humanitarian access and a return to an inclusive political process.

Meanwhile, US Senior Adviser for Arab and African Affairs Massad Boulos said he had held a productive meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty to discuss the situation in Sudan. In a post on X on Sunday, Boulos said both sides agreed that there was no military solution to the conflict and stressed the need for a lasting end to the war through an inclusive civilian dialogue involving all parties.

Sudanese Church Faces Demolition Threat Despite Decades-Old Ownership Documents





Concerns are mounting among clergy and worshippers at the Sudanese Church of Christ (SCOC) in the Al-Marzouq area of Omdurman after church leaders received verbal warnings and notices from local land authorities that the church building would be demolished on the grounds that it stands on “public land”. Church officials say they have submitted documents proving their legal ownership of the property, dating back several decades. According to a human rights report cited by the Tam network, land authorities under the Sudanese authorities visited the church building in Block 59 without prior notice and informed officials that demolition plans were underway.

The church's pastor, Reverend Tia Koko, said the building was constructed in the late 1980s and serves a congregation of around 300 people. He said the authorities had disregarded the ownership documents and left church officials caught in a series of administrative complications, shuttling between local authorities and the relevant ministries without resolving the dispute. Meanwhile, they have been given short deadlines, leaving the building at risk of demolition at any moment. Church leaders said the current measures amount to targeting religious property and undermining freedom of worship.

Emergency Lawyers Accuse Sudanese Army of Starving Civilians and Blocking Aid in North Kordofan





The Emergency Lawyers group has accused the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) of deliberately starving civilians and blocking humanitarian aid from reaching areas in North Kordofan, triggering a wave of displacement towards Al-Dabba in northern Sudan. In a statement, the group said restrictions on the movement of goods and food supplies, imposed under emergency orders issued by army authorities, had led to a sharp deterioration in humanitarian conditions.

Since the outbreak of the war, only two World Food Programme (WFP) aid convoys have reached the affected areas, the group said. The most recent arrived in March 2026, comprising 21 trucks carrying supplies that were extremely limited compared with the scale of humanitarian needs. The group also reported that two WFP trucks reached the area on 29 September and 5 October 2026 under exceptional circumstances. Both vehicles had broken

down midway through their journeys from Port Sudan, via Northern State, towards areas in North Darfur, forcing the unloading of their cargo in the area.

The group further accused the authorities of discrimination and selectivity in determining aid destinations and distribution routes, arguing that the flow of humanitarian assistance was being governed by political and military considerations rather than the scale of humanitarian needs. This, it said, had turned aid into a tool for managing the conflict.

Emergency Lawyers called for the immediate repeal of emergency orders and restrictions obstructing the delivery of food and essential supplies to affected areas, and demanded guarantees for the unhindered and non-discriminatory passage of humanitarian assistance. The group also called for the immediate declaration of famine and the adoption of necessary measures to address it, alongside an independent and transparent investigation into policies governing the withholding and routing of humanitarian aid.

Nearly 9,000 Children Separated from Their Families Amid Sudan's War





The number of children separated from their parents during Sudan's war has risen to nearly 9,000, according to humanitarian organisations and specialists who spoke to *Ofuq Jadeed*. They warned that the scale of family separation far exceeds the capacity of available care facilities in areas recaptured by the authorities.

Rawa Ahmed, a protection programme officer at the International Organization for Migration (IOM), said the conflict had led to deaths that left children separated from their families, alongside widespread displacement.

The IOM has documented nearly 9,000 children separated from their families across Sudan, Ahmed said, according to UN News. She also warned of growing concerns over child labour, child trafficking and gender-based violence, particularly against girls. Funding shortages, she added, are making efforts to protect children increasingly difficult.

Sudan's Public Education System in Decline as Dozens of Schools Shut Down





The Sudanese Teachers' Committee on Friday warned of a rapid deterioration in public education, as dozens of schools have ceased operating and student and teacher numbers continue to decline, while private schools are

expanding. The trend, it said, poses a serious threat to the future of public education in the country. The committee noted that the ongoing conflict has widened educational disparities between different parts of Sudan.

The committee's spokesperson, Sami Al-Baqir, said several localities had resorted to merging public schools in an attempt to cope with the severe shortage of functioning educational institutions. Citing field reports, Al-Baqir revealed that the number of operational public secondary schools in Omdurman's Ombada locality, in Khartoum State, had fallen from 48 to fewer than 20, reflecting a sharp decline in the number of schools serving the area. He explained that schools which remain open are also experiencing a steep drop in student attendance, amid rising rates of absenteeism and dropout, as well as a decline in enrolment compared with their previous capacity.

In a related development, the committee's spokesperson accused the government of facilitating the expansion of private schools while public education continues to deteriorate. He pointed to a significant recent increase in the number of private schools in Khartoum Bahri locality. Meanwhile, public education authorities are struggling to provide even the minimum requirements for keeping schools operational, while teachers and education officials face worsening economic and living conditions.

Sudan Clears 32,000 Explosive Remnants as Unexploded Ordnance Threatens Civilians Nationwide





More than 32,000 explosive devices and items of unexploded ordnance have so far been removed, dismantled and safely disposed of across Sudan, according to sources at the National Mine Action Centre. The sources told *Sudan Tribune* that clearance operations have covered vital facilities and residential areas in several states, with the capital, Khartoum, being the hardest-hit.

Dozens of landmines and unexploded munitions have been cleared from drinking water facilities, schools, mosques, Khartoum International Airport, as well as residential neighbourhoods, markets and major roads, the sources said. They warned that more of these deadly weapons may still be present in residential areas and homes, particularly those that have remained unoccupied since the outbreak of the war. Clearance teams are continuing to survey Khartoum and other cities across the country.

Reports issued by international and UN organisations warn that the estimated scale of unexploded ordnance in Sudan could pose a threat lasting for decades. Conflict-monitoring organisations estimate that between 10 and 30 per cent of artillery shells and rockets fired during intense fighting fail to detonate. This high failure rate points to the possible presence of tens of thousands of deadly explosive remnants buried beneath rubble, scattered across the rooftops of damaged buildings and abandoned along major urban roads. Heavy artillery shells and mortar rounds are among the most widespread types of unexploded ordnance, continuing to pose a threat to civilians across former and

current conflict zones. Other hazardous remnants include cluster munitions, unexploded aerial ordnance left behind by airstrikes, and landmines.

Sudanese Journalist Faisal Saleh and Photographer Attacked in Armed Robbery in Kampala





Sudanese journalist Faisal Mohamed Saleh, a former information minister in the transitional government, and photographer Sari Omar were victims of an armed robbery in a neighbourhood of the Ugandan capital, Kampala, on Saturday evening.

Sources said Ugandan police had launched an investigation into the incident, amid suspicions in various circles that the attack may have been premeditated. These concerns stem from several circumstances, most notably that the incident took place in a neighbourhood considered one of the safer areas in central Kampala, as well as the attackers' methods. They reportedly began by beating and assaulting the two men before proceeding to rob and threaten them. Faisal and Sari were taken to a hospital in Kampala, where they received treatment for bruises and injuries sustained in the attack.

❤ Humanitarian Focus

Fresh Displacement Wave Hits Darfur as Hunger Deepens





The General Coordination for Displaced Persons and Refugees in Darfur said the area of Tawila in North Darfur State received a new wave of hundreds of displaced people between 6 and 11 November 2026, fleeing various parts of North and South Darfur amid worsening humanitarian and living conditions.

In a press statement on Thursday, the group's spokesperson, Adam Rijal, said field reports indicated that 223 families, comprising 1,117 people, had arrived in the area. The latest displacement was driven by worsening hunger, sharp increases in the prices of essential commodities and deteriorating living conditions, according to field reports.

These factors, coupled with scarce rainfall and a poor agricultural season, have further undermined livelihoods and forced more families to leave their homes in search of food and the basic necessities of survival.

The newly arrived groups include large numbers of women, children and older people, as well as other particularly vulnerable individuals, Rijal said. This has compounded their humanitarian needs and left them increasingly exposed to the risks of hunger, disease and lack of protection.

UNICEF: Drones Caused Two-Thirds of Child Casualties in Sudan This Year





UNICEF spokesperson James Elder said drones were responsible for two-thirds of child casualties – both deaths and injuries – in Sudan this year. Speaking at a press briefing at the Palais des Nations in Geneva following a visit to Sudan, Elder said drone attacks had brought the war to areas that were previously considered safe. “Let me explain why the combination of drones and drought poses a deadly threat to children,” he said. “Electricity means water. When a power station is bombed, water pumps stop working and water treatment operations come to a halt, forcing families to turn to costly and unsafe alternatives. Diseases spread.”

Elder also warned that attacks on power stations threaten refrigeration facilities needed to keep vaccines and medicines safe. They also deprive farmers of the ability to irrigate their crops, while a severe and crippling fuel shortage further undermines agricultural production, putting food increasingly out of reach for growing numbers of families.

Economic Snapshot

Sudan’s Currency surpasses 11,000 to the Dollar as Prices and Living Costs Soar





The Sudanese pound has continued its record slide against foreign currencies, approaching 11,000 to the US dollar on the parallel market, amid rising demand for foreign currency. The decline has triggered another wave of price

increases across local markets. For weeks, the Sudanese currency has been suffering an unprecedented depreciation against foreign currencies, with the impact increasingly felt across markets and household budgets.

Meanwhile, raw gold prices in Sudan have surged to record levels, exceeding 1,210 Sudanese pounds per gram, amid the continued weakening of the local currency. The rise points to a further deterioration in the already dire living conditions facing Sudanese people as the war continues.

Rising bread prices are adding to the financial burden on consumers, as soaring costs spread across markets and households struggle with unprecedented economic hardship amid the currency's record depreciation.

The Sudanese Bakers' Owners Union announced a fresh increase in flour prices, which came into effect on Saturday, 14 November 2026, warning of additional pressure that could directly translate into higher bread prices for consumers. The union attributed the expected rise in bread prices to the continued increase in flour costs, revealing that the price of a sack of flour had jumped from 87,000 to 190,000 Sudanese pounds in just two months, alongside the depreciation of the Sudanese pound against foreign currencies and rising inflation.

In a related development, Sudanese authorities raised the indicative customs exchange rate for the US dollar to 6,539 Sudanese pounds, up from 5,631 pounds. The increase of 908 pounds, or approximately 16.14 per cent, marks the sixth adjustment of its kind since the beginning of this year. The move is expected to fuel further inflationary pressures and deepen the financial hardship facing ordinary Sudanese.

Culture & In-Depth

Sudan’s Old Dongola Reveals a Medieval Architectural Marvel: New Details Emerge of Nubia’s Great Church of Jesus





A joint archaeological mission involving the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology at the University of Warsaw and Sudan’s National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums has revealed new sections and architectural details of a monumental structure believed to be the Great Church of Jesus. Historical sources describe it as the largest and most prestigious church in medieval Nubia.

Old Dongola, historically known as Tungul, lies on the eastern bank of the Nile between the Third and Fourth Cataracts in Sudan. It is regarded as one of Africa’s most important historical and archaeological centres. Founded as a military fortress in the fifth century AD, the city later became the political and cultural capital of the Christian Kingdom of Makuria, from the sixth to the fifteenth century.

Dr Mohamed Nasr El-Din, a member of the archaeological team in Dongola and an academic researcher specialising in archaeobotanical remains, said decades of excavations at the site, ongoing since the 1960s, had revealed an exceptionally rich heritage of religious and civil architecture. He said the excavations had uncovered several churches and monasteries, including the Granite Column Church, the Cruciform Church, the Church of Archangel Raphael and the Monastery of the Holy Trinity. These structures are distinguished by their sophisticated Nubian architecture and rare wall paintings.

According to preliminary archaeological estimates, the church measures approximately 47 metres wide and 57 metres long, with an estimated height of 21 metres. Its total area is larger than that of the White House in Washington, according to the mission's head, Professor Artur Obłuski.

In a statement published on the mission's official website, Obłuski described the structure as a turning point in the history of architecture in the region. "Just as Hagia Sophia in Constantinople served as a model that shaped Byzantine architecture, the Great Church of Jesus is the natural candidate to play a similar role in Nubia and north-eastern Africa," he said.

The mission also discovered fragments of plaster bearing inscriptions in ancient Greek among the rubble of an adjoining church. Dr Agata Deptuła, the mission's specialist in reading ancient texts, said analysis had shown that the inscriptions were fragments of hymns and biblical chants associated with the Book of Psalms. Among the most notable was the Prayer of Hannah, the mother of the prophet Samuel.

Further Reading

A Childhood Put on Hold: Sudan's War Forces Children to Shoulder Adult Responsibilities





Majahid never imagined he would have to become a man before his childhood was over. Nor did Naamat ever think she would go from being a little girl waiting for someone to prepare her meals to becoming a young mother responsible for caring for her siblings. But circumstances forced them into a new reality. In some Sudanese homes, childhood is no longer a time for playing, learning and discovering the world. Instead, it has become a premature burden of responsibility, where children's dreams are overshadowed by the daily struggle to survive. Read the full story

She Lost Her Unborn Child in Uganda, but Is Fighting to Save Her Other Children



Madina Mustafa Hamid never imagined that her husband's trip to fetch water for the family would mark the beginning of a long ordeal of pain and loss. Nor did she expect that the moment she had been waiting for him to return would become a scene that would haunt her forever. Her husband, a farmer, had set out with the burden of securing water for their children. But while waiting in a water queue in one of the villages of Al-Daein, in East Darfur, he was attacked with a knife by a group of assailants. Read the full story

How Does Ethiopia's Grand Renaissance Dam Threaten the Lives of Millions of Sudanese Living Along the Nile?





In September 2025, coinciding with the official inauguration of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) and the completion of its filling, the Blue Nile experienced significant surges in water flows and discharge levels following operational releases from the Ethiopian dam. The sudden and rapid release of water triggered flooding and inundation across agricultural lands and residential areas north of the Roseires Dam reservoir. The impact extended to villages and towns along the main Nile, stretching northwards towards Khartoum. Read the full story

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