



Foreign, Commonwealth  
& Development Office

**The Rt Hon. David Lammy MP**  
Secretary of State for Foreign,  
Commonwealth and Development Affairs

King Charles Street  
London  
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Sarah Champion MP  
Chair of the International Development  
Committee

18 December 2024

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for your letter regarding the situation in Sudan following the IDC's non-inquiry session on 26 November. I share your deep concern over the appalling conditions across the country. This government remains focused above all on the need to protect civilians, advance political engagement and increase the passage of aid, including through our role as penholder on Sudan at the UN Security Council (UNSC).

### **Civil Society**

Ministers and officials, including the UK Special Representative for Sudan, regularly meet with civil society groups in the UK and abroad. In August, the Minister for Development, Anneliese Dodds, met Sudanese political and civil society representatives in Ethiopia to discuss how the UK can support regional and civilian efforts to end the conflict. The Minister for Africa, Lord Collins, engages frequently with various civil society and diaspora groups, including the anti-war, pro-democracy Taqaddum coalition.

### **Humanitarian Assistance**

On 17 November, I announced a £113 million increase to UK assistance in response to conflict in Sudan, which will support over a million people affected by violence in Sudan and those displaced to neighbouring South Sudan, Chad and Uganda. With this announcement, I doubled UK support to the conflict in Sudan this year to £226.5 million. The new funding will support UN and NGO partners, providing food, cash, shelter, medical assistance, water and sanitation. As part of the package, Education Cannot Wait will also receive £14 million to provide safe learning spaces and psychosocial support for 200,000 vulnerable children in refugee and host communities in Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, South Sudan, Central African Republic and Uganda.

Prior to this announcement, the UK had disbursed 72% of its bilateral ODA in Sudan, which stood at £97 million. The remaining allocation, together with the additional funding announced last month, will be disbursed by the end of this financial year.

We are continuing to seek alternative ways to reach those in need through diversification of our funding, including through local organisations. The UK is one of the largest donors of the UN-led Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF), which provides flexible, multi-sector support to NGOs, including grassroots organisations and the Emergency Response



Rooms (ERRs). We are exploring further ways to diversify funding including through supporting the INGO cash consortium which contributes to the targeting of vulnerable individuals in meeting basic needs through Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance.

I remain acutely aware that more aid is needed to provide lifesaving assistance to those in need, with just sixty percent of the UN Humanitarian Response Plan currently funded. In engagements with other donors, the UK continues to emphasise the need for more funding for Sudan in addition to faster disbursement by other donors of the €2.03 billion pledged in Paris in April, of which 88% has been released.

### **Humanitarian Access**

However, as the Committee heard, increasing aid alone will not prevent the millions at risk of starvation from dying in the coming months. Since the outbreak of violence, both sides have deliberately obstructed the movement of humanitarian aid and personnel into Sudan, and across lines of opposing control. The UK has been clear in its position that both the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) must comply with their obligations under International Humanitarian Law. Humanitarian Access must not be arbitrarily denied, and starvation must not be used as a method of warfare.

To this end, the UK welcomes the decision to extend permissions for humanitarian access through the Chad-Sudan Adre border crossing for 3 months, and authorisation for the UN to use three airports – Kadugli in South Kordofan State, El Obeid, in North Kordofan, and Damazin, in Blue Nile Region – as humanitarian hubs for storing humanitarian goods. While this is an important step in allowing the UN to oversee aid distribution outside of Port Sudan, both warring parties must allow them to move freely across the country and establish hubs in areas of both SAF and RSF control.

The UK continues to use all diplomatic levers to push for rapid, safe and unhindered delivery of aid in Sudan. In addition to the engagements set out above, the UK continues to engage key international partners with the aim of building greater pressure on the warring parties. Pushing for greater humanitarian access and protection of civilians was a key focus during the UK's UNSC presidency in November. Lord Collins chaired an open meeting on the protection of civilians, and I hosted a humanitarian roundtable to push for greater collective international action for more aid, access and protection in Sudan. I also raised these issues during a UK-chaired Sudan session at the G7 and Arab Quint Foreign Ministers meeting, where we proposed joint measures to increase aid, enhance access, and deliver greater protection. In early December, Harriet Matthews, FCDO Director General for Africa, the Americas, and Overseas Territories, also visited Egypt where she discussed opportunities for greater UK-Egyptian engagement on humanitarian access.

### **Sanctions**

Since the conflict began in 2023, the UK has frozen the assets of nine commercial entities linked to the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces. Humanitarian assistance is exempt from the UK's Sudan sanctions regulations, ensuring eligible organisations can deliver aid. While we do not comment on potential future sanctions, our policy remains under continuous review.

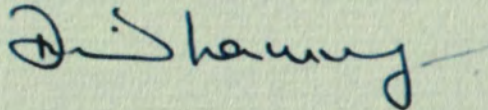
Sudan remains a key priority for the UK, and I will ensure the FCDO is adequately resourced to respond effectively to the crisis. This includes providing the necessary financial support, staffing, and expertise to address the urgent needs and support a sustainable path forward.



We will continue to prioritise efforts across three key areas: protecting civilians and preventing atrocities, advancing political engagement for peace, and improving humanitarian access, funding, and effectiveness. The UK remains committed to Sudan and will not forget its people.

I look forward to continuing engaging with the Committee and have requested my officials provide regular updates to you in writing in addition to remaining available for verbal briefings.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Lammy', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

**THE RT HON. DAVID LAMMY MP**  
**Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs**



