



**International  
Development  
Committee**

Monday, 1 September 2025

**Rt Hon David Lammy**  
**Foreign Secretary**  
**Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office**  
*By email*

**The Humanitarian Situation in Sudan**

Dear Foreign Secretary,

I am writing to you to express my continued, and ever growing concern over the situation in Sudan. Just when it seems like the humanitarian crisis cannot get any worse, it does. 5 August marked a year since the World Food Programme was last able to deliver food to El-Fasher.<sup>1</sup> We have seen reports of forty people dying of cholera in one week, and cholera treatment centres built for 130 having to deal with 400.<sup>2</sup> As of May, UNHCR reported that 13 million people had been displaced by the conflict, many of them fleeing to countries already vulnerable such as Chad, Central African Republic, South Sudan and Libya. I have also heard horrific accounts of sexual violence in both in severity and frequency. Of the 659 survivors of sexual violence Medecins San Frontiers cared for in South Darfur between January 2024 and March 2025 94% were women and girls, 56% said they were assaulted by a non-civilian, 31% were younger than 18 years old.<sup>3</sup>

There are unacceptable barriers being imposed to the delivery of aid and access for international aid workers. When aid is allowed in, its safety is far from guaranteed as we saw with the deaths of five humanitarians working with UNICEF and WFP in June this year.<sup>4</sup> There are concerning reports of aid installations being used for illicit activities by the warring parties and their supporters.<sup>5</sup> And all of this in a situation where the IPC reports 18% of the country is living in phase 4 food insecurity and 83,463 people are facing level 5, famine, conditions.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c776njyl74po>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.msf.org/war-fuels-cholera-outbreak-across-sudan>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.msf.org/sexual-violence-sudan-%E2%80%9Cthey-beat-us-and-they-raped-us-right-there-road-public%E2%80%9D>

<sup>4</sup> <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/06/1163991>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/09/21/world/africa/uae-sudan-civil-war.html>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1159640/?iso3=SSD>

When you appeared before my Committee on 16 July, you outlined a number of the steps you have taken to try to raise the profile of Sudan internationally, and to convene stakeholders who may have some influence on the warring parties.<sup>7</sup> Whilst we are grateful for your personal commitment, we see the situation on the ground continue to deteriorate, and all this in the face of extreme uncertainty around the future levels of US support.

In November 2024 my Committee wrote to you to seek further clarification on a number of issues regarding Sudan. You gave reassurance in your letter that the UK was “continuing to seek alternative ways to reach those in need through diversification of our funding, including through local organisations”.<sup>8</sup> Yet I have repeatedly been informed that the UK Government is yet to directly fund mutual aid groups beyond Emergency Response Rooms. You sought to reassure my Committee that the Government regularly meets with Sudanese civil society and diaspora groups, but I have heard criticism around the lack breadth of involvement in the London conference, for example.<sup>9</sup>

I would be grateful for your response to the following questions:

- What is next in your plans to use the full weight of UK influence in alleviating the horrific suffering of the people of Sudan?
- What is the current focus of the Special Representative for Sudan and what progress has he made?
- What efforts are being made to increase the safe access for humanitarian supplies and those delivering them? How is the Government coordinating with other local actors to overcome the barriers?
- Whilst I understand the Government does not speculate on future sanctions designations, will you commit to considering specific sanctions against entities and individuals who prevent compliance with International Humanitarian Law through their targeting of humanitarian facilities and personnel, as you have done in other contexts such as the Central African Republic?
- What is the Government doing in response to allegations of aid facilities being used as cover for the supply of weapons to armed groups, and to deter such activity?
- Why is the Government not directly funding more mutual support organisations in Sudan?
- What progress have you made to encourage your US counterparts of the importance of continuity of aid to civilians in this conflict?
- How does the Government ensure that all relevant civil society groups are consulted as it adjusts its policy and strategies on Sudan?

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<sup>7</sup> <https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/16327/pdf/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/46136/documents/230786/default/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/london-conference-sudan-diplomatic-flop-rsf-declares-parallel-government>

- Finally, in the Committee's previous correspondence, we requested regular written updates on the Government's activities regarding its response to this humanitarian catastrophe – yet we have received none. Will you commit to providing the Committee with more regular updates?

I would be grateful for your response by 15 September. In line with our practice with Committee correspondence, we will publish this letter and your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S', on a light blue background.

**Sarah Champion MP**  
**Chair of the International Development Committee**