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Crisis Diplomacy in Action: GCC's Efforts to Restore Stability in Sudan

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Crisis Diplomacy in Action: GCC's Efforts to Restore Stability in Sudan

On April 15, 2023, a conflict broke out in the Sudanese capital city Khartoum between the military and the Rapid Support forces (RSF). As a result of both air strikes and ground battles, the Sudanese casualties have been growing, with a growing number injuries and deaths, while thousands have been already displaced. The Sudanese conflict has raised concerns in the region and across the globe. The Middle East and Africa region has been suffering for decades from humanitarian crises, a refugee catastrophe, and conflicts over resources and resource distribution, all of which have been leaving serious political and economic implications for all the countries involved.

The ramifications of the Sudan crisis will not be contained within the Sudanese border. They will spread through the Horn of Africa and potentially across the African continent, affecting the neighboring regions, including the GCC. Sudan shares borders with six African countries, namely Libya, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Chad, and Central African Republic, each having stakes over the potential evolution of the conflict, while harboring their own concerns. These concerns encompass elements of water and food security, political stability, and most importantly, regional security issues.

Consequently, numerous countries from within and outside the region have acted swiftly to contain and minimize the level of the catastrophe in Sudan. The states of the GCC were each quick to act and ensure the safety of their citizens in Sudan, as well as merging their efforts into sending medical supplies and humanitarian aid to the country. Considering that the GCC countries have been frequent providers of humanitarian assistance to Sudan, they have been mobilized quickly. For instance, recently emergency aid was sent following the torrential rains and floods which hit the country in August 2022. The funds provided by each Gulf state was allocated towards rebuilding damaged infrastructure, as well as aiding those affected and displaced by the floods.

The breakout of the Sudanese clashes will not only be a litmus test for Sudan's internal stability and security, but it will also be a major test for regional and Gulf powers' limitations and capabilities in containing the newly erupted conflict and putting the country back on track for a stable governance structure. This report will present the six countries' response to the conflict by reviewing their official political statements, mediation attempts and humanitarian aid provision. Given the urgency of the situation, humanitarian aid continues from GCC states to Sudan almost on daily basis and this report covers the responses until 21 May 2023.

Importance of Sudan to the GCC

Gulf states are concerned about the evolution of the internal crisis in Sudan, which can not only undermine their strategic and maritime interests, but also have ramifications domestically. The Arabian peninsula is directly exposed to the instability on the other side of the Red Sea, which particularly concerns Saudi Arabia. While they are positioned differently in the Sudanese domestic context and had been supporting opposing actors, they all feel that they need to work actively to mitigate the effects of the crisis by engaging in various de-escalation strategies. Particularly at a time regional normalization and de-escalation is the main item on the GCC countries' foreign agenda, containing and resolving the crisis has emerged as a shared objective among the Gulf rulers. A number of factors make the Sudan crisis a top priority issue to address from the GCC perspective.

Geopolitical interests of Gulf states

As part of their proactive regional posturing, the Gulf countries have been closely invested in the domestic and regional affairs of Sudan which occupies a key position at the intersection of different regional subsystems. The Gulf countries' strategic interest in preventing rival actors such as Iran or Turkey had been an important driver of their engagement with Sudan, particularly after the secession of the South in 2011. Considering its size and location, Sudan has been also central to the Gulf countries' engagement in other regional hotspots, particularly Yemen and Libya. They have expanded their business interests in the country, channeling investments in agriculture, mining, construction, production and other sectors. The remittances and investments from the Gulf are important sources of revenue for Sudan. They have also mobilized humanitarian aid and official development assistance.

The factors shaping investment decisions or trade ties were directly related to the Gulf countries' political considerations. Particularly, the tensions observed in the overall strategic orientation of the Gulf countries in the broader region due to the intra-Gulf tensions also resulted in their taking competing positions in Sudan's domestic affairs and actors with rival agendas. While Sudan remains a critical area of engagement, neither individual Gulf actors nor the GCC overall had an overarching strategy on Sudan.

Demographic dynamics

Considering the proximity and of the existing important number of Sudanese citizens in the Gulf region, demographic dynamics are a major concern shaping Gulf countries' reaction

to the crisis. For instance, a large scale exodus of Sudanese as a result of deteriorating domestic conditions may threaten regional stability, coming to affect the Gulf countries as well.

The Gulf region hosts a significant number of Sudanese nationals, which form a direct bridge between the two sides. Sudan’s total labor force abroad was 2,104,887 as of 2020.¹ As the figures below shows Arab Gulf countries is the major destination for Sudanese labor overall, with Saudi Arabia and the UAE being the largest host countries.

GCC Country	Number of Sudanese Workers
Saudi Arabia	481,215
Qatar	23,415
Oman	19,879
Kuwait	49,399
Bahrain	13,982
UAE	133,226

Source: [International Migrant Stock | Population Division \(un.org\)](https://data.un.org/en/topic/migration/international-migrant-stock)

Figure 1: Labor Migration from Sudan to GCC countries. Notes: Data is author’s own compilation from the UN, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division Data, International Migrant Stock 2020.

These refugees send significant amount of remittances back home, which help sustain the lives of their families. According to a UNDP report from 2020, the surveys and interviews indicate most remittance flows to Sudan originate from GCC member countries². The report shows that total remittances sent home by Sudanese nationals working abroad is an important source of capital flows during the period 1993-2018, and the ratio of remittances to GDP was above 8 percent in 2018. Despite the fluctuations during the COVID-19 pandemic, this remains a major source of foreign currency.

As a result of the crisis, the Sudanese population in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states is on edge. The conflict broke out right ahead of the summer season, in which Sudanese expats living in the GCC countries have been planning to return to their homeland. Due to the internal conflict, their plans to travel back have been cancelled, while their immediate concerns are focused on securing their relatives’ livelihood and undertaking evacuation attempts. The GCC states have stakes in quick

¹ Due to the outdated and scarce data, the report will present figures of Sudanese laborers residing in the GCC, and not the exact figures of Sudanese residents in general. However, these figures suffice to demonstrate the importance of the Sudanese expatriate human capital to the GCC states.

² [0842e3a1e75277ab55feab7817d3145a452eecaecba808de2d1a85e32191c45.pdf \(undp.org\)](https://www.undp.org/publications/0842e3a1e75277ab55feab7817d3145a452eecaecba808de2d1a85e32191c45.pdf)

Gulf Investments and food security concerns

Gulf countries economic engagement in Sudan is yet another major motivation forcing them to adopt complementary positions favoring stability out of the current crisis. Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE have had a vital presence in Sudan. Seeking to navigate the period of turmoil in the post-2019 period following the ousting of Al-Bashir, they have been reengaging in Sudan through new multi-billion dollar projects, which were hampered by constant instability. While the UAE, Sudan's major trading partner, has been planning to invest in ports and communications, Saudi Arabia and Qatar was exploring construction, infrastructure, mining, etc. The realization of such projects are highly uncertain in the middle of the current crisis, and a preservation of the existing investments on the ground requires a return to normalcy.

For decades, Sudan has been named "the bread basket of the Middle East" with its fertile land and strategic location in the heart of the Nile Valley. For years, countries of the GCC have invested in several agricultural projects, as well as signing land-lease agreements with Sudan to bolster their food security. Countries such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates rely more heavily on agro-investments in Sudan than Qatar which has rather increased food trade with Turkiye and Iran. It is certain that the conflict in Sudan will undermine food security in the region, since the African country is a major exporter of food products such as fruits, vegetables, sugar, wheat, and more.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's Diplomatic Response to the Sudanese Crisis

When the conflict broke out in Sudan, KSA issued a statement expressing the Kingdom's deep concerns over the military clashes between the army and the Rapid Support Forces and called for peace talks.³ Following the escalation of incidents, Saudi Arabia started to engage in dense diplomatic contacts with the parties in Sudan as well as regional and global actors. On the same day, Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan received phone calls from the UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed al Nahyan and the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to discuss the situation in Sudan and called for return to the framework agreement.⁴

³ [Foreign Ministry SA Twitter'da: "#Statement | The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expresses the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's deep concern over the state of escalation and military clashes between the army and the Rapid Support Forces in the brotherly Republic of #Sudan. https://t.co/it7KGWo9rP" / Twitter](https://t.co/it7KGWo9rP)

⁴ [Foreign Ministry SA Twitter'da: "🇸🇦 | Foreign Minister HH Prince @FaisalbinFarhan receives a phone call from the UAE Foreign Minister and US Secretary of State. https://t.co/FbA4VMVPSb" / Twitter](https://t.co/FbA4VMVPSb)

On April 16, 2023, Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan released a statement urging Sudanese parties to stop military operations and return to the framework agreement.⁵ The Foreign minister also made two phone calls with the Chairman of the Transitional Sovereignty Council and the Vice-President of the Transitional Sovereignty Council in the Republic of Sudan.⁶ On April 18, Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukri called Saudi Foreign Minister to discuss the current situation in Sudan. The same day, Saudi Foreign Minister had a second phone conversation with Blinken on Sudan.⁷ On April 19, French Foreign Minister Cathrine Colonna called Saudi Foreign Minister regarding the recent escalation in Sudan.⁸ Next day, a phone exchange took place between Saudi Foreign Minister and United Kingdom's Foreign Secretary James Cleverly on the development of the situation in Sudan.⁹ In the due course, the KSA communicated with many European countries, the EU and regional states on the situation in Sudan. On April 28, Saudi Arabia, on behalf of Trilateral Mechanism and Quad, welcomed the announcement by the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces to extend the current ceasefire for an additional 72 hours and called for its full implementation.¹⁰ The trilateral mechanism consisted of the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the United Nations. As part of the Kingdom's diplomatic efforts, on April 30, Saudi Foreign Minister met with the Special Envoy of Sudan's Transitional Sovereignty Council's President, Ambassador Dafallah El Haj Ali.¹¹ On May 2, Saudi Arabia's Cultural Attaché building in Khartoum was stormed and the Kingdom expressed its condemnation for the attack, calling for the halt of expression of violence among warring parties in Sudan.¹² On

⁵ [Foreign Ministry SA Twitter'da: "Foreign Minister HH Prince @FaisalbinFarhan: We call on the brothers in Sudan to quickly stop military operations, exercise maximum restraint, and avoid escalation. https://t.co/eEjzbP3Hxo" / Twitter](https://t.co/eEjzbP3Hxo)

⁶ [Foreign Ministry SA Twitter'da: "🇸🇦 | Foreign Minister HH Prince @FaisalbinFarhan made two phone calls with the Chairman of the Transitional Sovereignty Council and the Vice-President of the Transitional Sovereignty Council in the Republic of #Sudan. https://t.co/GJHGk3kxoe" / Twitter](https://t.co/GJHGk3kxoe)

⁷ [Foreign Ministry SA Twitter'da: "SA 🇺🇸 | Foreign Minister HH Prince @FaisalbinFarhan receives a phone call from #US Secretary of State @SecBlinken. https://t.co/gnzxbq6Bf" / Twitter](https://t.co/gnzxbq6Bf)

⁸ [Foreign Ministry SA Twitter'da: "SA 🇫🇷 | Foreign Minister HH Prince @FaisalbinFarhan receives a phone call from #French Foreign Minister @MinColonna. https://t.co/rIn3tZYYWb" / Twitter](https://t.co/rIn3tZYYWb)

⁹ [Foreign Ministry SA Twitter'da: "SA 🇬🇧 | Foreign Minister HH Prince @FaisalbinFarhan receives a phone call from #UK Foreign Secretary @JamesCleverly. https://t.co/MOcmRvg8kD" / Twitter](https://t.co/MOcmRvg8kD)

¹⁰ [Foreign Ministry SA Twitter'da: "Members of the Trilateral Mechanism and the Quad welcome the announcement by the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces to extend the current ceasefire for an additional 72 hours and calls for its full implementation. https://t.co/genRtv0Qe" / Twitter](https://t.co/genRtv0Qe)

¹¹ [Foreign Ministry SA Twitter'da: "#Riyadh | Foreign Minister HH Prince @FaisalbinFarhan receives Special Envoy of #Sudan's Transitional Sovereignty Council's President, Ambassador Dafallah El Haj Ali. SASD https://t.co/W3Wn8BxdXY" / Twitter](https://t.co/W3Wn8BxdXY)

¹² [Foreign Ministry SA Twitter'da: "#Statement | The Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly expresses the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's condemnation of the storming of the Cultural attaché building in #Khartoum, calling for](#)

May 6, Sudanese representatives from the Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces met in Jeddah and started pre-negotiations talks.¹³ In a joint statement with the US, Saudi Arabia expressed their gratitude for the talks and urged continued, coordinated international support for an expanded negotiation process that should include engagements of all Sudanese parties.¹⁴

On May 7, Saudi Foreign Minister participated in the Ministerial Meeting on the situation in Sudan, at the headquarters of the Arab League in Cairo.¹⁵ On May 11, Sudanese parties signed Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect Civilians in Sudan. The commitment declaration acknowledges that both parties have responsibilities under international humanitarian and human rights laws to assist in providing urgent aid to civilians in need.¹⁶ This declaration will serve as a guide for the behavior of the two forces in order to ensure the safe distribution of humanitarian aid, the resumption of vital services, the evacuation of troops from medical facilities, and the respectful burial of the deceased. The Jeddah Talks will prioritize achieving a successful ceasefire of roughly ten days to support these endeavors after the signing. A ceasefire monitoring system backed by the United States, Saudi Arabia, and the international community will be implemented as part of security measures. As the clashes continued as of May 14, it is reported that the talks will resume in Saudi Arabia on how to implement the Jeddah Agreement.¹⁷ Also, Saudi Arabia has invited Sudanese army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan to attend the Arab League summit in Jeddah on May 19.¹⁸

On May 20, the warring parties signed an agreement for a seven-day ceasefire in Jeddah¹⁹. According to a joint statement by Saudi Arabia and the US, the ceasefire will go into effect on May 22.²⁰

[respect for the sanctity of the diplomatic missions and holding the attackers responsible.](https://t.co/l6lrTheZbl)
[https://t.co/l6lrTheZbl" / Twitter](https://t.co/l6lrTheZbl)

¹³ [Saudi Arabia, US say Sudan warring sides to start talks in Jeddah | Al Arabiya English](#)

¹⁴ [Foreign Ministry SA Twitter'da: "Joint Statement between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America regarding the start of pre-negotiation talks between representatives of the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces in Jeddah on May 6, 2023. https://t.co/fmQj74kaUJ" / Twitter](#)

¹⁵ [Foreign Ministry SA Twitter'da: "#Cairo | Foreign Minister HH Prince @FaisalbinFarhan participates in the Ministerial Meeting on the situation in #Sudan, at the headquarters of the Arab League. https://t.co/VGAlCWRgQ2" / Twitter](#)

¹⁶ [Kingdom and United States of America Announce Signing of Representatives of Sudanese Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces a Declaration of Commitment to Protect Civilians of Sudan \(spa.gov.sa\)](#)

¹⁷ [Sudan talks to resume in Saudi Arabia as battles rage in Khartoum | Conflict News | Al Jazeera](#)

¹⁸ [Ibid.](#)

¹⁹ [Sudan's warring factions sign agreement for seven-day ceasefire | Sudan | The Guardian](#)

²⁰ [Foreign Ministry SA Twitter'da: "The Kingdom of #Saudi Arabia and the United States of #America announce the signing of an agreement on a short-term ceasefire and humanitarian arrangements between representatives of the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces in the city of Jeddah. https://t.co/zGpqWYNji4" / Twitter](#)

State-Level Relief Assistance and Humanitarian Aid

On 22 April, the KSA announced the start of the evacuation arrangements for Saudi citizens and citizens of several other countries.²¹ The next day, the first group of people was evacuated from Sudan by the operation of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces.²² In the first group, 91 Saudi nationals, 66 citizens from other nationalities including diplomats and international officers were evacuated. As part of the second batch, Saudi Arabia evacuated 199 individuals, including citizens of the US, the UK, Sweden, Italy, Qatar, Syria, the Netherlands, Iraq, Turkey, Tanzania, Lebanon and Libya.²³ As of May 14, Saudi Arabia has announced that the total number of evacuees from Sudan since the start of the evacuations is 8,498 people from 110 different nationalities.²⁴ On May 7, Saudi authorities ordered King Salman Humanitarian Aid & Relief Centre (KSRelief) to direct \$100 million worth humanitarian aid and organize a national campaign through "Sahem" for Sudan.²⁵ On May 9, the center sent its first plane of the Saudi Relief Air Bridge to Sudan.²⁶ The departure of the third relief plane of the Saudi Air Bridge took place on May 10, carrying 10 tons of food baskets and shelter and medical aid to the Sudanese people²⁷. In an online aid campaign through Sahem platform, Saudi people donated \$800,000 within first 24 hours.²⁸ Saudi Arabia continues to provide humanitarian aid to Sudan and as of May 18 local donations reached \$4.9 million.²⁹

²¹ [Foreign Ministry SA Twitter'da: "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs announces the start of the arrangement for the evacuation of Saudi citizens and several nationals of brotherly and friendly countries from the Republic of Sudan to the Kingdom. https://t.co/x7gnAruGVQ" / Twitter](https://t.co/x7gnAruGVQ)

²² [Foreign Ministry SA Twitter'da: "#Statement | In the implementation of the directives of the Kingdom's Leadership, we are pleased to announce the safe arrival of the evacuated citizens of the Kingdom from Sudan and several nationals of brotherly & friendly countries, including diplomats & international officials https://t.co/Eg0YemshYD" / Twitter](https://t.co/Eg0YemshYD)

²³ [Foreign Ministry SA Twitter'da: "In continuation of the evacuation efforts made by the Kingdom of #Saudi Arabia under the directives of the Kingdom's Leadership, several evacuees arrived from the Republic of #Sudan in the city of Jeddah today. The number of arriving individuals is approximately \(199\). https://t.co/avhKvA2O1Y" / Twitter](https://t.co/avhKvA2O1Y)

²⁴ [MOFA](#)

²⁵ [Foreign Ministry SA Twitter'da: "The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques @KingSalman and HRH Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman direct @KSRelief_EN to provide various humanitarian aid worth \\$100 million and to organize a national campaign through "Sahem" for the interest of the Sudanese people. https://t.co/f4ScHTsIWU" / Twitter](https://t.co/f4ScHTsIWU)

²⁶ [KSRelief Twitter'da: "#KSRelief sends the first plane of the Saudi Relief Air Bridge to #Sudan https://t.co/0si8CgU71T" / Twitter](https://t.co/0si8CgU71T)

²⁷ [KSRelief Twitter'da: "The departure of the 3rd relief plane of the Saudi Air Bridge carrying 10 tons of food baskets and shelter & medical aid to succor Sudanese people https://t.co/4d3JcFSmEN" / Twitter](https://t.co/4d3JcFSmEN)

²⁸ [Saudi charity raises more than \\$800,000 in a day for Sudan victims \(thenationalnews.com\)](#)

²⁹ [Saudi Arabia continues to provide aid in Sudan, as local donations reach \\$4.9 million \(thenationalnews.com\)](#)

The United Arab Emirates

The Sudanese crisis has put the UAE, which is an active investor in the Sudanese economy, in a central position. Reacting cautiously to the crisis, the UAE called for dialogue between the parties, engaged in diplomatic efforts, and provided tons of humanitarian aid to the violence-torn country. At the end of 2022, Sudan's military leaders and two UAE-based companies had created an agreement of a \$6bn preliminary agreement for the development of the Abu Amama port, situated on the Red Sea.³⁰ For the UAE, this helps towards the comprehensive strategy concerning its political and economic interests in the Red Sea, which expands into central and West Africa. The UAE was also the leading country to dispatch aid planes to Sudan when torrential rains and floods adversely affected the civilians in August 2022.³¹

UAE's Diplomatic Response to the Sudanese Crisis

On April 15, 2023, the UAE called on all parties in Sudan for a dialogue after clashes erupted between the army and the paramilitary forces and moved forward during the transitional phase to bring stability back to Sudan.³² According to the state news agency WAM, the UAE Embassy in Khartoum followed "with great concern the developments in Sudan and has reaffirmed the UAE's position on the importance of de-escalation, and working towards finding a peaceful solution to the crisis between the concerned parties."³³ The UAE also engaged in several diplomatic talks with Western, Arab and Asian leaders to discuss ways to work collectively to resolve the conflict in Sudan.³⁴ As a country closely engaged with the parties in the country, the UAE briefed the international counterparts regarding the situation on ground. As the clashes escalated, on April 20, the UAE issued a statement urging citizens to be careful and refrain from participating in gatherings or any activities that may lead to unrest in Sudan.³⁵ The UAE Embassy-Khartoum took to Twitter to alert citizens and wrote: "It is crucial to adhere to the safety guidelines issued by the Sudanese authorities." Additionally, the embassy urged its citizens to register for the 'my presence' service. The UAE also conducted mediation efforts

³⁰ <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2215641/business-economy>

³¹ <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2022/08/20/UAE-President-orders-6-8-million-in-aid-to-flood-ravaged-Sudan>

³² <https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/mediahub/news/2023/4/15/15-04-2023-sudan>

³³ <https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303148321#:~:text=The%20UAE%20Embassy%20in%20Khartoum,crisis%20between%20the%20concerned%20parties.>

³⁴ <https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303148380>

³⁵ <https://www.zawya.com/en/world/middle-east/uae-issues-advisory-urges-citizens-to-be-careful-refrain-from-joining-rallies-in-sudan-jfgkp6on>

to secure the Egyptian soldiers who were in Sudan. On April 20, 2023, the UAE announced that it had successfully mediated the release of 27 Egyptian soldiers who were held by Sudan's paramilitary RSF.³⁶ On May 3, 2023, the UAE issued a statement condemning the armed groups' storming of the Saudi cultural attaché building in Sudan's Khartoum.³⁷ On May 7, 2023, the UAE welcomed the Saudi-US initiative to start initial talks held between Sudanese warring parties' representatives in Jeddah. In a press statement, the Emirati Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFAIC) commended the role of Saudi Arabia and the US and their efforts to ensure the success of the dialogue, stressing the importance of reaching a consensus to end the crisis between parties, and avoid further suffering for the Sudanese people.³⁸ On May 12, the UAE welcomed the Jeddah Declaration signed between SAF and RSF.³⁹

State-Level Relief Assistance and Humanitarian Aid

The UAE evacuated its citizens and other foreigners from Sudan after the conflict emerged. As of May 12, 2023, the UAE evacuated by air 253 people who are nationals of seven countries.⁴⁰ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation stated that the evacuation operation was part of the country's humanitarian efforts and commitment to boosting global cooperation and solidarity. As of May 8, 2023, the UAE has sent three planes carrying more than 115 tons of vital medical and food supplies to support people affected by the crisis in Sudan.⁴¹ Two of the planes landed at Port Sudan Airport, carrying 100 tons of medical supplies for injury treatment emergency surgeries. The third plane arrived in Chad carrying 15 tons of food supplies to support Sudanese refugees affected by the unfolding crisis that has displaced thousands of families and triggered a dire shortage of basic food supplies. Over 240 tons of medical and food supplies have been sent to the country since the clashes began.⁴² The aid was dispatched in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the medical supplies were provided by the International Humanitarian City in Dubai. Humanitarian organizations also engaged with the efforts to support Sudanese nationals unable to return home. Dubai's Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department and the Mohammed bin

³⁶ <https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/mediahub/news/2023/4/20/20-04-2023-uae-sudan>

³⁷ <https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/mediahub/news/2023/5/3/03-05-2023-uae-khartoum>

³⁸ <https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/mediahub/news/2023/5/7/07-05-2023-uae-sudan>

³⁹ <https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/mediahub/news/2023/5/12/12-05-2023-uae-sudan>

⁴⁰ <https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/mediahub/news/2023/5/12/12-05-2023-uae-aid>

⁴¹ <https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/mediahub/news/2023/5/9/09-05-2023-uae-sudan>

⁴² <https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/mediahub/news/2023/5/9/09-05-2023-uae-sudan>

Rashid Al Maktoum Charity and Humanitarian Establishment announced that they would be supporting the Sudanese nationals in the UAE who were unable to complete their journey back to Sudan due to the ongoing conflict in their country.⁴³ As part of the first phase of assistance, the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Charity and Humanitarian Establishment has allocated AED3 million in humanitarian aid.

The State of Kuwait

The State of Kuwait acted swiftly to respond to the Sudanese crisis. Kuwait carried out its humanitarian aid through the state and active non-governmental organizations and foundations, such as the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRSC).

Kuwait's Diplomatic Response to the Sudanese Crisis

On April 15, 2023, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) voiced its extreme concern over the armed clashes between the SAF and the RSF. In a press statement, the ministry called on all warring parties to stop infighting immediately, exercise self-restraint and resort to reasoning and dialogue in order to overcome their disputes and maintain Sudan's security and stability.⁴⁴ The next day, the ministry advised Kuwaiti citizens in Sudan to be alert and avoid being in areas of tension.⁴⁵ Kuwait was among the first countries to evacuate its citizens from violence-hit Sudan.⁴⁶ In response to the critical security situation in Sudan, the MFA has carried out an emergency evacuation operation of Kuwaiti citizens, who returned home via Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, which closely collaborated with the Kuwaiti leadership.⁴⁷ Kuwait thanked Saudi Arabia for evacuating its citizens from Sudan, in a statement released by the foreign ministry.⁴⁸ On May 3, 2023, Kuwait strongly condemned the armed groups storming of the Saudi cultural attaché building in Sudan. In a statement, the MFA said, "This internationally criminal act is a flagrant violation of all international norms, the rules of international law, and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, which prohibits storming the premises of diplomatic missions and grants their buildings full protection and immunity."⁴⁹ The Kuwait

⁴³ <https://www.zawya.com/en/world/middle-east/uae-humanitarian-organisations-to-support-sudanese-nationals-unable-to-return-home-ppb70adg>

⁴⁴ <https://www.mofa.gov.kw/ar/media-center/news/2023/4/2023-04-15-3/>

⁴⁵ <https://www.mofa.gov.kw/ar/media-center/news/2023/4/2023-04-15-4/>

⁴⁶ <https://www.kuwaittimes.com/kuwait-evacuates-citizens-from-sudan-foreign-minister/>

⁴⁷ <https://www.mofa.gov.kw/ar/media-center/news/2023/4/2023-04-22/>

⁴⁸ <https://www.mofa.gov.kw/ar/media-center/news/2023/4/2023-04-22-1/>

⁴⁹ <https://www.mofa.gov.kw/ar/media-center/news/2023/5/2023-05-03/>

News Agency (KUNA) cited the country's foreign ministry as demanding, "Official authorities and concerned parties in Sudan quickly take all necessary measures to provide full protection for the headquarters of diplomatic missions." On May 7, 2023, Kuwait welcomed the Saudi-US initiative to start initial talks held between the Sudanese warring parties' representatives in Jeddah. In a press statement, the MFA praised Saudi-US efforts for urging Sudanese parties to seriously get engaged in talks and dialogue in a bid to de-escalate tensions and halt military operations.⁵⁰ The ministry reaffirmed Kuwait's stance based on calling for an immediate cessation of escalation and fighting in order to maintain Sudan's security and stability. On May 12, Kuwait welcomed the Jeddah Declaration signed between SAF and RSF.⁵¹

State-Level Relief Assistance and Humanitarian Aid

On May 4, 2023, Kuwait took swift action to prove its rhetoric of humanitarian support to Sudan by establishing an air bridge of urgent relief and medical aid to the people of the violence-torn country.⁵² In this regard, the Kuwaiti Cabinet decided to dispatch air force aircrafts carrying urgent humanitarian aid to Sudan to help ease the situation in the country following the outbreak of clashes between the army and paramilitary forces. As per the directives of Kuwait's political leadership, as of May 10, six air force aircrafts with 10 tons of supplies were dispatched to the country.⁵³ A total of 60 tons of food and medical aid has been sent to Sudan since the clashes began.⁵⁴ A committee bringing together the ministries of foreign affairs, defense, finance, and health as well as the KRCS was formed for coordination, with a view to ensuring the immediate delivery of relief and medical aid to the Sudanese people. Kuwait's Ambassador in Khartoum Fahad Al-Dhufairi said on May 9, 2023, that an expansion of aid planes has been approved from a previous five Kuwaiti aid plane trips to 13 planes, which comes as response to the shortages of medical supplies to the conflict-torn Sudan.⁵⁵ Al-Dhufairi noted that such efforts are in complete coordination between Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRSC) and its Sudanese counterpart. Carried under the theme "Kuwait is by Your Side", which is a part of Kuwait's humanitarian initiative, the operation reflected Kuwait's humanitarian role in offering relief aid to Sudan.⁵⁶

⁵⁰ <https://www.mofa.gov.kw/ar/media-center/news/2023/5/2023-05-07/>

⁵¹ <https://www.mofa.gov.kw/ar/media-center/news/2023/5/2023-05-12-2/>

⁵² <https://www.mofa.gov.kw/ar/media-center/news/2023/5/2023-05-04/>

⁵³ <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2300531/middle-east>

⁵⁴ <https://www.kuwaittimes.com/kuwait-dispatches-its-sixth-aid-plane-to-sudan/>

⁵⁵ <https://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticlePrintPage.aspx?id=3092061&language=en>

⁵⁶ <https://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=3092113&language=en>

Sultanate of Oman

Oman's Diplomatic Response to the Sudanese Crisis

In recent weeks, Oman has been closely following the situation in Sudan and taking action to ensure the safety and security of its citizens in the country. On April 15, the Foreign Ministry of Oman released a statement urging all parties to prioritize dialogue.⁵⁷ Oman has long been a supporter of peaceful resolution to conflicts and has advocated for dialogue as a means of resolving tensions in the region. However, as the security situation in Sudan deteriorated, Oman took steps to protect its citizens in the country. On April 19, the Omani Embassy in Khartoum announced that it was working on a plan to evacuate Omani citizens to the Sultanate in coordination with the Foreign Ministry in Muscat and the Sudanese authorities.⁵⁸ The embassy also urged Omani citizens to stay at home due to the unstable security situation in the capital Khartoum and other cities. Despite the challenging circumstances, Oman's Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed on April 25 that Oman's embassy in Khartoum was safe and secure.⁵⁹ On May 7, Oman attended an extraordinary ministerial session of the Arab League Council on Sudan. This was an opportunity for Oman to engage with other Arab states and discuss the situation in Sudan.⁶⁰ The meeting likely covered a range of issues related to Sudan, including the ongoing political crisis and the security situation on the ground.

State-Level Relief Assistance and Humanitarian Aid

Oman continued its efforts to ensure the safety of its citizens in Sudan, and on May 1, the Sultanate's Foreign Ministry announced that the embassy had successfully evacuated a number of Omani citizens and their families, as well as a number of Sudanese families residing in Oman.⁶¹ Oman expressed gratitude to Saudi Arabia and Egypt for their assistance during the evacuations. The evacuation of citizens in Sudan was a significant achievement for Oman's foreign policy, which prioritizes the safety and security of its citizens abroad. It also demonstrated Oman's commitment to regional stability and peace, as the country took action to protect not only its own citizens but also Sudanese families residing in Oman. On May 8, the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation praised the humanitarian

⁵⁷ [Foreign Ministry urges Sudan to prioritise dialogue - FM.gov.om](#)

⁵⁸ [Statement from Oman's Embassy in Sudan - FM.gov.om](#)

⁵⁹ [Oman's embassy in Sudan safe: Foreign Ministry - Oman Observer](#)

⁶⁰ [Oman at extraordinary Arab League sessions - Oman Observer](#)

⁶¹ [Oman evacuates citizens from Sudan and thanks Saudi Arabia and Egypt - FM.gov.om](#)

assistance provided by Qatar, Kuwait and the Sultanate of Oman for the benefit of the Sudanese people.⁶² The breakdown of aid amounts by each country has not been mentioned, however.

The State of Qatar

Qatar's diplomatic response to the Sudanese Crisis

The state of Qatar has been amongst the first countries to take the lead in crisis relief and conflict response. Qatari Ex-Prime Minister, Shaikh Hamad Bin Jassim bin Jaber Al Thani, was amongst the leading diplomats in Qatar to respond to the Sudanese clashes by calling them a result of corrupt governance.⁶³ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Qatar released a statement through the Advisor to the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Majed Al Ansari stating the vital need for an immediate ceasefire in the country. Al Ansari stressed on the need of a truce, followed by a dialogue that is supported by regional and international parties, especially the Arab League and African Union. He further announced Qatar's continuous communication with both conflicting parties in an attempt to encourage peace talks, and stated that the conflict can only truly be resolved through local efforts. As Qatar is known for its mediation efforts and crisis de-escalation actions that include political and financial aid efforts, its involvement could be better contextualized. Finally, Qatar acted as a strong supporter to the Saudi/US-led preliminary talks held in Jeddah to help end the armed clashes and political disputes in Sudan.⁶⁴

State-Level Relief Assistance and Humanitarian Aid

With around 60,00 Sudanese residents in Qatar, it was extremely vital for the Qatari state to be amongst the leading countries in humanitarian aid donations⁶⁵. Although Qatar limited their mediation and intervention attempts to subtle political statements and phone calls to the conflicting parties, they were quick to respond through emergency aid. In accordance with the directives of HH Shaikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, Qatar Charity sent an aircraft carrying 40 tons of humanitarian aid, including food and medical supplies provided by both

⁶² [OIC Secretary-General Commends the Urgent Humanitarian aid Provided by Kuwait, Qatar and the Sultanate of Oman for the Benefit of the Sudanese People \(oic-oci.org\)](https://www.oic-oci.org/en/news/2023-05-12/0011-gcc-welcomes-signing-of-preliminary-agreement-between-sudanese-armed-forces-rapid-support-forces)

⁶³ <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20230417-ex-qatar-pm-external-interferences-caused-sudan-war/>.

⁶⁴ <https://www.qna.org.qa/en/News-Area/News/2023-05-12/0011-gcc-welcomes-signing-of-preliminary-agreement-between-sudanese-armed-forces-rapid-support-forces>.

⁶⁵ <https://www.qatar-tribune.com/article/6592/TopNews/Sudanese-community-proud-to-support-Qatars-FIFA-World-Cup-preparations>

Qatar Charity, Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS).⁶⁶ Furthermore, the Sudanese Red Crescent, along with the Sudanese Ministry of Health received a second aircraft sent by Qatar carrying an additional 22 tons of medical aid that to be distributed amongst 17,000 families in need.⁶⁷ Finally, the state of Qatar sent two airlift aircrafts, one of which evacuated 229 individuals that are both Qatari citizens and Qatar residency holders. This was followed by a second aircraft, which evacuated 79 residency holders, raising the total of evacuations to 308 since the breakout of the clashes.⁶⁸

The Kingdom of Bahrain

Bahrain's diplomatic response to the Sudanese Crisis

The Bahrain Cabinet, along with HRH Prince Salman Bin Hamad, expressed their deep concerns over the political tensions, as well as the casualties of the conflict.⁶⁹ Furthermore, the Bahrain Social Development Minister, HE Osama Al Asfoor stated their full solidarity with the Sudanese people and called for the fast action by regional and international players to end the Sudanese armed clashes. Al Asfoor stated their full commitment to any political initiatives that could end the tensions between both the Sudanese Army and the RSF. Furthermore, Minister Al Asfoor joined and participated in the virtual meeting organized by the General Secretariat of the Arab League that was designed to discuss the humanitarian crisis taking place in Sudan, as well as the means to contain and stop the conflict from escalating.⁷⁰

The Kingdom of Bahrain, along with the other GCC countries, welcomed the Saudi Arabian- US mediated preliminary talks to end the Sudanese conflict which resulted in the Jeddah Declaration on May 12, 2023. Bahrain welcomed the signing of the declaration by both political factions in Sudan that will primarily obligate the protection and the safety of the Sudanese civilians, as well as allowing all medical and humanitarian aid to enter and to be distributed. Hoping to contain the conflict, Bahrain stressed on the need for the Sudanese political factions to prioritize their national interests over the political differences and gains.⁷¹

⁶⁶ <https://www.zawya.com/en/press-release/africa-press-releases/upon-his-highness-the-amirs-directives-assistance-air-bridge-from-qatar-to-sudan-ipwiy4gs>.

⁶⁷ <https://www.qatarmoments.com/qatar-allocates-1-million-in-relief-aid-for-sudan-583030.html>.

⁶⁸ <https://www.mofa.gov.qa/en/all-mofa-news/details/1444/10/17/third-qatari-airlift-aircraft-arrives-qatar-evacuates-new-group-from-sudan#:~:text=In%20addition%2C%20the%20Ministry%20of,those%20evacuated%20to%20308%20residents.>

⁶⁹ <https://www.news-of-bahrain.com/bahrain/89566.h>

⁷⁰ <https://www.news-of-bahrain.com/bahrain/89865.html>.

⁷¹ <https://www.bna.bh/en/>.

State-Level Relief Assistance and Humanitarian Aid

There has not been any announcement regarding humanitarian aid or evacuations undertaken by the Bahraini government in the context of the recent crisis in Sudan.