



In the Shadow
of Violence:

The
Pressing
Needs
of Sudanese
Journalists

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m'CT

In the Shadow of Violence: The Pressing Needs of Sudanese Journalists

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Preface

The violence that commenced in Sudan on 15 April 2023 has had a devastating impact on the country, underscoring the urgent need for support. As we empathise with the untold numbers of civilians who have borne the brunt of the conflict, our respect for the country's journalists, who remain committed to their profession during these turbulent times, knows no bounds.

As a media support organisation, we understand reporters' responsibilities and challenges. In recognition of their vital role, we initiated this assessment to identify the needs of journalists in Sudan and enable more targeted and effective support.

We would like to express our profound gratitude to every journalist who took the time to respond to our questionnaire, often amidst dire circumstances. Their contributions to this assessment go far beyond mere data points: their invaluable insights illustrate urgent needs, and their input shines a light on personal stories, hopes, and requests we take to heart.

We also want to thank our partners who made this assessment possible. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) generous provision of financial resources and expert guidance was crucial for this assessment. We're also grateful to the Hannah Arendt Initiative (HAI), whose funding of the Fellowship for Critical Voices from the German Federal Foreign Office and the German Federal Commissioner for Culture and the Media, provided the framework of this research.

In addition, we want to acknowledge the Al Adwaa Media and Journalism Services Centre, the Sudanese Journalists Syndicate (SJS), the Sudanese Journalists Network (SJN), the International Press Association of East Africa (IPAEA), the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD), and others for their assistance in distributing the survey. Their collective efforts have been essential.

With the backing of UNESCO through the International Programme for the Development of Communication and the Crisis Response Mechanism of the Global Media Defence Fund, as well as the Hannah Arendt Initiative, MiCT and its partners have provided comprehensive emergency assistance to journalists in Sudan and those in exile since July 2023.

This report highlights the dedication of Sudanese journalists and our commitment to support them. As colleagues, we pledge our steadfast solidarity with the hope of helping to pave a path towards a brighter, safer future for journalism in Sudan and a thriving, informed civil society.

**With sincere appreciation and hope,
The Media in Cooperation and Transition (MiCT) Team**

List of Abbreviations:

API	Application Programming Interface
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
CET	Central European Time
CFI	Canal France International
COVID	Coronavirus Disease
GFMD	Global Forum for Media Development
GIS	General Intelligence Service
HAI	Hannah Arendt Initiative
ICC	International Criminal Court
IPAEA	International Press Association of East Africa
MiCT	Media in Cooperation and Transition
n	Sample Size (Respondents per Question)
NISS	National Intelligence and Security Service
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
r	Number of Responses (multiple-answer questions)
RSF	Rapid Support Forces
SAF	Sudan Armed Forces
SDG	Sudanese Pound
SJN	Sudanese Journalists Network
SJS	Sudanese Journalists Syndicate
SUNA	Sudan News Agency
TV	Television
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
USD	United States Dollar

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**“I try not
to cover
topics that
could lead
to my arrest
or attacks.”**

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Purpose of the Report

The violent conflict in Sudan, which began in April 2023, has once again hurled the nation into the global spotlight. Political upheaval, economic woes, and a humanitarian crisis have impacted millions of lives. Against this backdrop, the critical role of journalism cannot be overstated.

Working under challenging conditions and often at considerable personal risk, journalists have provided crucial accounts to inform the world about Sudan's complex situation. Their reports have had a substantial part in shaping national and international viewpoints.

The Sudan Journalist Needs Assessment, a project facilitated by MiCT with the support of UNESCO, looked at prevailing conditions for Sudanese media practitioners. The resulting report, "In the Shadow of Violence: The Pressing Needs of Sudanese Journalists", goes beyond numbers to convey human narratives, personal tribulations, and aspirations of reporters working under trying conditions.

The detailed findings aim to guide stakeholders and present actionable insights that will hopefully lead to tangible changes for journalists in Sudan.

1.2 Objective & Methods

The main objective of this assessment was to determine the pressing needs of Sudanese journalists to devise dynamic support structures, thus enabling them to continue their crucial work.

Utilising a WhatsApp chatbot for its efficacy and user accessibility, the survey aimed to collect comprehensive data. It was designed for ease of response, especially given the numerous difficulties facing Sudanese journalists. Ensuring respondent anonymity was a key concern.

The 38 questions, blending open and closed-ended formats, were tailored to capture overarching trends and specific insights. These questions were concise, and focused on journalists' current challenges, threats, and requirements.

The survey's design, which employed multiple-choice questions, led to varying respondent (n) and response (r) values. The option for respondents to skip questions or entire sections, combined with occasional Internet interruptions and other technical issues, also contributed to the variability in the respondent (n) values.

The survey addressed:

- **Demographics & Identity:** Essential personal details with a focus on anonymity.
- **Safety Concerns:** Physical, psychological, and digital threats encountered, along with necessary protective actions.
- **Publication Dynamics:** The media outlets used, content limitations, and primary publication channels.
- **Support & Training:** Training requirements, psychological support needs, and other essential resources.
- **Relocation & Mobility:** Evaluation of potential relocation, whether inside or outside Sudan.

These parameters were further informed by incident reports and insights from the ongoing MiCT Fellowship for Critical Voices programme for Sudanese journalists – with the financial support of UNESCO and the Hannah Arendt Initiative of the German Federal Foreign Office and the German Federal Commissioner for Culture and the Media.

Our partners, the Al Adwaa Media and Journalism Services Centre, the Sudanese Journalists Syndicate (SJS), the Sudanese Journalists Network (SJN), the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD), and the International Press Association of East Africa (IPAEA), stringently upheld ethical standards and safeguarded respondents' confidentiality while supporting our data collection.

1.3 Data Reliability & Demographics

Of all the journalists who engaged with the chatbot, 213 based in Sudan actively provided feedback. The survey results did not consider those outside of Sudan or who didn't answer any questions.

Estimates put the number of journalists in Sudan between 1,000¹ and 1,100². For a population of 1,100 journalists, a sample size of approximately 285 would be required to achieve a 95% confidence level with a 5% margin of error. The assessment's 213 respondents represent 19.4% of this estimated total, suggesting a slightly higher margin of error than 5% for the given confidence level.

The response rate indicates reliability, but determining complete representation is challenging due to a lack of extensive demographic data on Sudanese journalists. Nonetheless, the data presents a comprehensive view of the difficulties and pressing needs of journalists in Sudan.

Of the 213 Sudan-based respondents, 80% (170 journalists) participated in optional identity-related questions. Regarding gender, 38% were women, 60% were men, and 2% opted not to specify their gender or identify outside traditional binaries.

Regarding age distribution, 72% of the respondents are between 31 and 50 years of age. While participants originate from various geographical regions of Sudan, the largest number of respondents, 28%, is from Khartoum State, followed by Gezira State, represented by 18%.

¹ "County Report: Journalists in Sudan," LMU Munich, [19/12/2016], https://epub.ub.uni-muenchen.de/31697/1/Country_report_Sudan.pdf.

² "Sudanese Journalists Syndicate elects first chair in 33 years," Dabanga Sudan, [29/08/2022], <https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/sudanese-journalists-syndicate-elects-first-chair-in-33-years>.

1.4 Key Findings

Threats & Discrimination

1. **Two-thirds of the 213 respondents faced at least one type of threat:** physical, psychological, or digital.
2. **Psychological threats were the most frequently reported (90%),** followed by physical threats (53%) and cyber threats (51%).
3. **The nature of threats varied by gender:** 93% of women responding reported psychological threats compared to 89% of men, who reported a higher rate of physical and online threats.
4. **The primary online threat identified was harassment** and a threat of violence, reported by 53% and rising to 74% among women respondents, compared to 47% of men. Other threats include cyberattacks (15%) and surveillance (6%).
5. **Of the threatened respondents, 80% reported coping mechanisms** such as relocation, avoidance, seeking shelter, negotiating with those threatening them, and securing communication tools.
6. **Eighty percent (80%) of respondents facing threats wish to relocate,** with the figure rising to 90% among those facing physical threats.
7. **Fifty-seven percent (57%) of respondents reported experiences of discrimination** due to political/intellectual orientation (18%), gender (17%), and ethnicity (15%).

Economic & Work Problems

8. **The fallout from the war saw the closures of media outlets,** adding to financial pressures on journalists and their families.
9. **Forty-three percent (43%) of respondents now work in unpaid positions,** with over a quarter having ceased publication. Equipment shortages combined with safety concerns are primary setbacks.
10. **Only 23% of respondents still receive a salary,** with some earning below USD 100 monthly.

Media & Censorship Landscape

11. **Over three-quarters of respondents faced publication restrictions,** with 26% practising self-censorship and 20% experiencing direct censorship.
12. **Of the respondents, 35% are primarily print journalists and 30% work online,** while others distribute content via TV, radio, or mixed platforms.
13. **State security measures,** unreliable communication, and movement restrictions hinder information access.
14. **Media constraints compromise safety, resources, and journalistic freedom,** impacting news quality and quantity.

Support Requirements

15. **Ninety-four percent of respondents specified their requirements for immediate assistance.** Financial assistance was the primary need (33%), followed by safe living and working environments (28%), consistent across genders.
16. **Financial need is evident across age groups** and intensifies among older respondents, peaking at 75% for those over 60.
17. **Regionally, the demand for safe conditions is more evident in The Niles (34%) and Darfur (33%)** compared to central Sudan, including Khartoum (28%) and the east of the country (17%).
18. **Over 70% of respondents identified a demand for psychosocial services**, with a marked difference between women (77%) and men (63%).
19. **Younger respondents (age 20-40) are more receptive to addressing psychological issues**, with 84% indicating psychosocial support needs, compared to 38% of those over 50.
20. **More than 85% mentioned equipment needs** such as laptops (78%) and cameras (61%).
21. **Fifty-nine percent (59%) of respondents expressed the need for training in investigative journalism.** Training in trauma and stress reporting (56%) and countering mis/disinformation (53%) followed closely.³
22. **Young and mid-aged journalists express a greater need for editorial support/training/resources** than their older counterparts, with 15% of the 20-30 age group highlighting this compared to 3% of those over 51.
23. **Sixty-six percent (66%) of respondents indicated a need for more organisational backing.** This figure underscores the urgent requirement for enhanced support mechanisms for journalists in Sudan.

Relocation & Future Aspirations

24. **Seventy-eight percent (78%) are considering relocation**, but 23% lack the necessary documents (incl. passports). By gender, 64% of women and 52% of men expressed interest in relocating.
25. **An overwhelming majority of respondents, 86%, who provided information about their preferred relocation destinations**, said they would prefer moving abroad, while 14% are inclined towards internal migration.
26. **Among those aiming for international relocation, 53% lean towards Arabic-speaking countries**, while 46% favour moving to non-Arabic speaking destinations.
27. **Preferred destinations** include Saudi Arabia (33%), Kenya (21%), and Egypt (20%).
28. **Concerning relocation support**, financial aid (75%), logistical assistance (55%), and language assistance (41%) emerged as respondents' top needs.

³ Please note that the safety training was not considered in this particular question.

1.5 Key Recommendations

Safety & Protection

1. **Physical Safety:** Prioritise safety training and security equipment for journalists.
2. **Psychological well-being:** Offer targeted psychosocial services (in-person and online), focusing on women journalists.
3. **Digital safety:** Provide training on cybersecurity best practices and equip journalists with advanced software tools to protect against digital threats and breaches.

Support & Resources

4. **Financial assistance:** Provide immediate relief funds for those in dire need, ensuring equitable allocation based on transparent criteria and the severity of economic hardship.
5. **Safe spaces:** Establish secure environments for journalists to live and work, ensuring their safety and well-being.
6. **Relocation assistance:** Provide journalists with relocation support, documentation, and language training.
7. **Training:** Host workshops (currently not feasible in Sudan due to the war; low-bandwidth online courses are recommended) to impart safety and key journalism skills, and combat mis/disinformation.
8. **Equipment:** Supply essential tech tools (such as computers, cameras, and recorders) to enable journalists to sustain their reporting and create platforms where they can collaborate, share resources, and offer peer support.
9. **Protection & legal assistance:** Offer structural support to journalist support institutions to facilitate tracking impunity cases and enhance protection infrastructure. This includes legal assistance for those facing threats or legal challenges.
10. **Discrimination & biases:** Once the situation allows, local and international media, human rights bodies, and civil society organisations should launch anti-discrimination campaigns that focus on tackling prevalent biases.
11. **Gender disparities:** Prioritise gender equity, addressing problems primarily women in the sector face, e.g. the threat of sexual assault.
12. **Editorial independence:** Ensure interventions don't compromise reporters' journalistic integrity and editorial freedom while also promoting fact-checking and public media information literacy.

Engaging Stakeholders

13. **Collaborations:** Partner with local and global entities for resources.
14. **Advocacy:** Promote awareness campaigns on press freedom and the need for consistent transparency in reporting.
15. **Building trust:** Establish public confidence through factual accuracy, consistent reporting, and positive impact stories.

The myriad challenges Sudanese journalists face necessitate urgent attention. This assessment accentuates the pressing imperative for stakeholders to collaborate, ensuring that truthful and diverse narratives prevail amidst the turmoil.

“I practise self-censorship and opt for silence.”

“I tried as much
as I possibly
could to prevent
our country
from sliding into
a disaster.”

Abdalla Hamdok
Former Sudanese Prime Minister
(1 January 2023)

2. Context & Background

2.1 Sudan's Descent into Violence

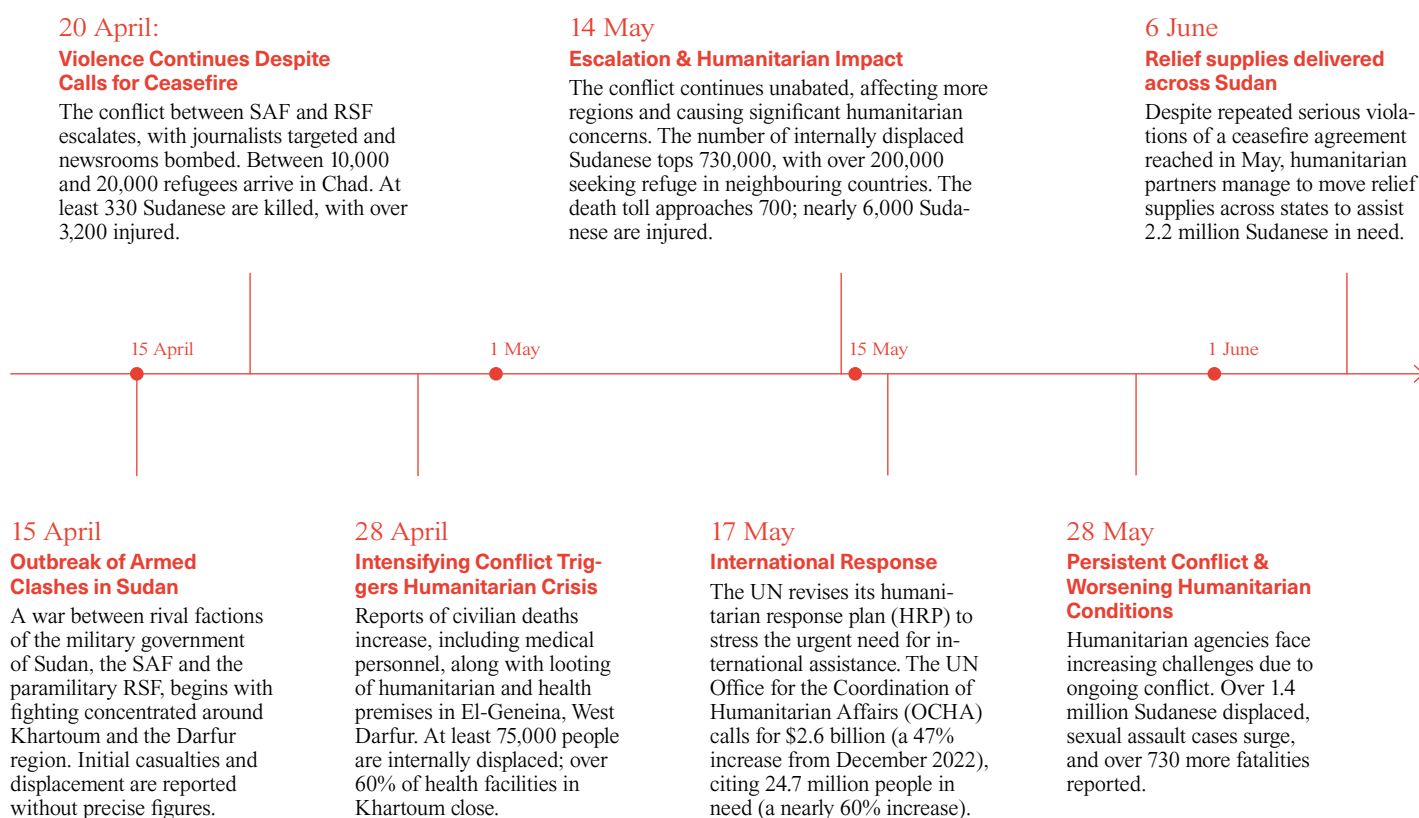
Sudan has had a multifaceted history since its independence in 1956. While the secession of South Sudan in 2011 was a turning point, Sudan's story is not solely defined by the tumult of conflicts, coups, and civil uprisings. The nation has also witnessed periods of unity, progress, and resilience. The people of Sudan have consistently demonstrated their strength and adaptability, even in the face of power struggles, regional disputes, and economic hardship.

By December 2018, public dissent against stifling governance, poverty, and corruption sparked widespread protests, beginning in Atbara and quickly spreading to the capital, Khartoum. As calls for President Omar al-Bashir's resignation grew louder, the security forces' severe crackdowns led to numerous fatalities.

»

Timeline of Key Sudan Developments

15 April – 22 September 2023 (Source: OCHA SUDAN Situation Reports⁴)



⁴ "SUDAN Situation Report(s)," OCHA, [16/04/2023 to 22/09/2023], <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/sudan>.

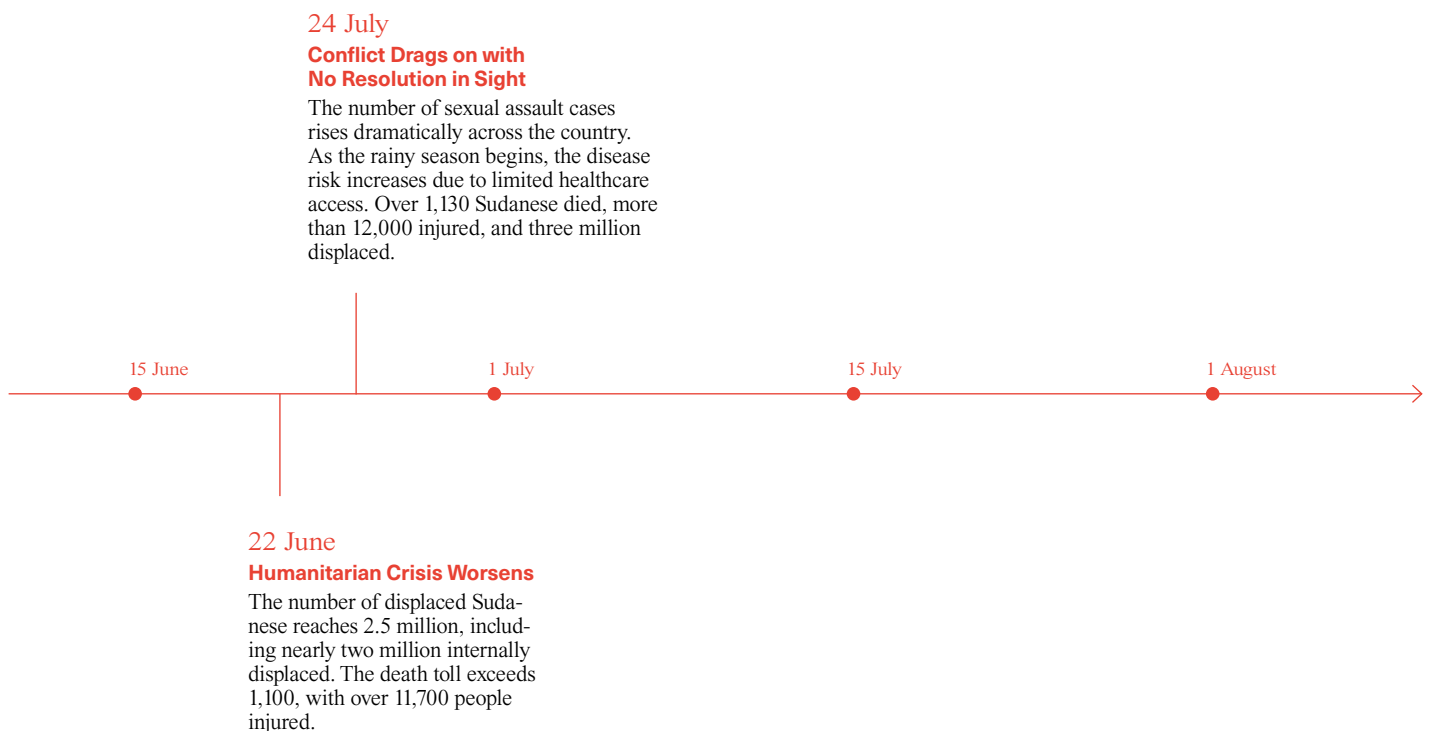
Sudan's political landscape shifted dramatically with the ousting of al-Bashir on 11 April 2019. After ruling for nearly three decades, his removal by the military was followed by the latter's suspension of the constitution, closure of borders and airspace, and the imposition of a state of emergency. While a transitional military government took the reins, the public's unyielding demand for civilian governance persisted.

Two months later, armed groups believed to be affiliated with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), who had figured largely in the 2003 Darfur conflict, attacked protestors outside military headquarters in Khartoum. The resulting death toll was significant. By August, the African Union mediated an agreement between civilian and military factions, aiming for a transition to elections by 2023. That December, al-Bashir, indicted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for atrocities in Darfur, was convicted of corruption.

The following year saw more upheaval: Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok narrowly escaped an assassination attempt in March 2020. Severe economic hardship peaked in April, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, by October, a peace agreement signed with several rebel groups offered a measure of hope.

But 2021 tested Sudan's political resilience. With protests disrupting trade, the military declared another state of emergency on 25 October, dissolving the civilian leadership and ousting Hamdok, a move that led to numerous fatalities. Public opinion became polarised. In November, after widespread resistance to the coup, Hamdok was reinstated, only to resign in January 2022 amid anti-military protests.

Timeline of Key Sudan Developments: 15 April – 22 September 2023



“I tried as much as I possibly could to prevent our country from sliding into a disaster,” Hamdok said in his resignation speech. “Now our nation is going through a dangerous turning point that could threaten its survival unless it is urgently rectified.”⁵

In April 2023, armed conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the RSF broke out in Omdurman, resulting in civilian deaths and displacement. Despite ceasefire efforts, violence persisted, and journalists became targets. The humanitarian situation was desperate by month’s end, with millions affected or displaced and scores dead or injured.

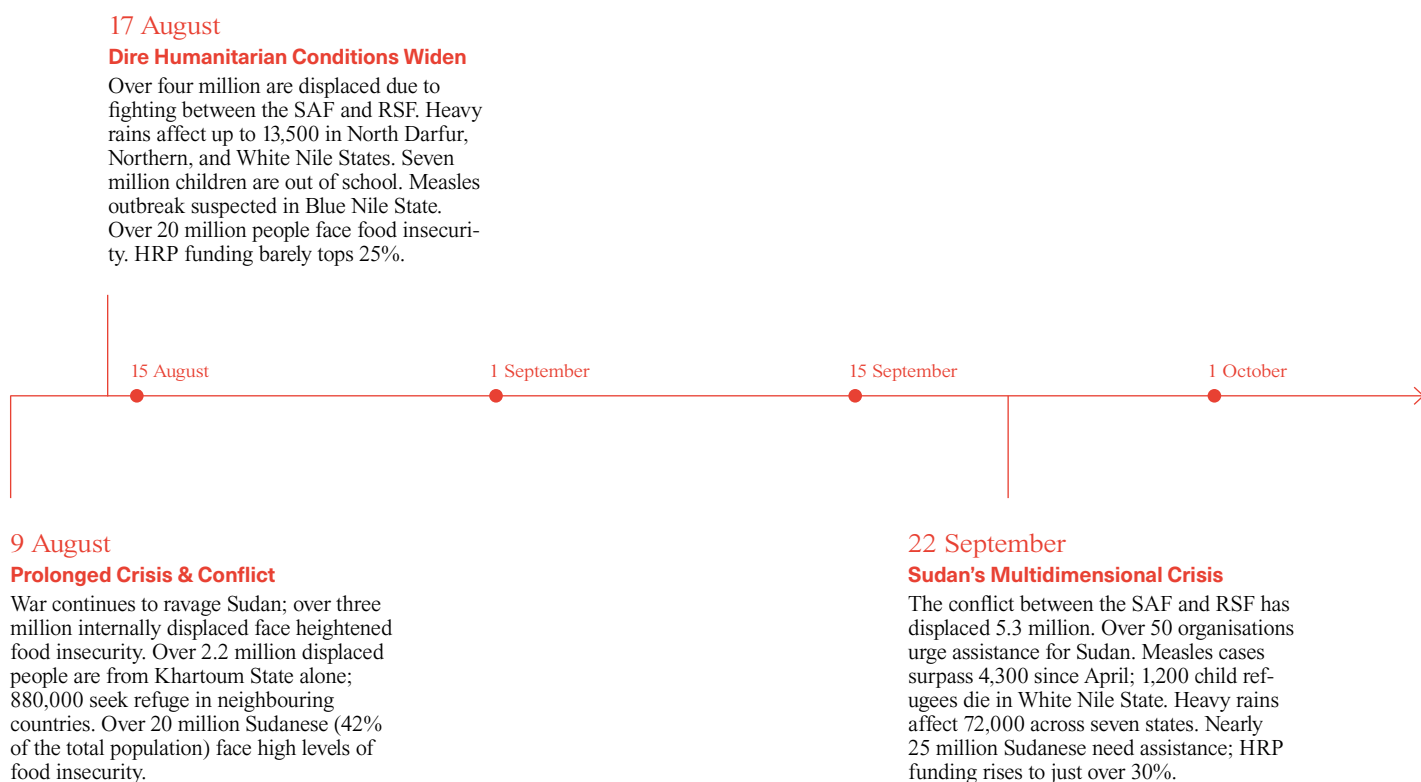
As the conflict intensified, countless Sudanese fled to neighbouring countries. The international community’s attempts to help were commendable, but insufficient funding limited their impact. Relief workers faced insurmountable challenges, and by August, reports indicated significant losses amongst their staff. This violence created an unprecedented humanitarian crisis that jeopardised the region’s stability.

General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan (SAF) and General Mohamed Hamdan Daglo (RSF) faced increasing pressure to address Sudan’s humanitarian needs. The African Union (AU) appealed for a Sudanese-led resolution without external interference. Yet the turmoil continues, months after the fighting began on April 15.

⁵ “Sudan’s Hamdok resigns as Prime Minister amid political deadlock.” Al Jazeera, [02/01/2022]. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/1/2/sudan-pm-abdalla-hamdok-resigns-after-deadly-protest>.



Timeline of Key Sudan Developments: 15 April – 22 September 2023



2.2 Journalism's Crucial Role Amid Conflict

Sudan's multifaceted media terrain is a tapestry of traditional and emerging news outlets. In recent years, social media platforms such as Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter), and WhatsApp have become primary information sources for many Sudanese. Their significance has been bolstered by the ease of access amid recurring power outages, as highlighted in "Healthy Scepticism Across the Board – A Study on Media Perception in Sudan".⁶

Traditional media, however, remain prominent. Despite the growing dependence on social media, television is still a revered information conduit, often perceived as more authoritative and less susceptible to mis/disinformation than social media. In the face of this evolving crisis, the Sudanese public wrestles with the spread of mis/disinformation, underscoring an amplified need for accurate and corroborated news.

The journalistic community has endeavoured to provide reliable information, even amidst political pressures. Their efforts to deliver timely and accurate news during challenging times have often been met with censorship and reprisals.

Their reports aim to give national and international audiences an in-depth understanding of Sudan's situation. Despite challenges, Sudan's investigative journalism has highlighted issues of power abuses, human rights violations, and corruption.

While Sudan's media ecosystem seeks to represent a range of views, it has faced instances of political interference. Journalists work to present diverse narratives, but this has occasionally led to challenges when presenting alternative or dissenting perspectives.

In the course of complex, rapidly unfolding developments, the media remains invaluable, chronicling events, amplifying voices, and championing truth and openness. However, reporters are often subject to immense personal peril in their pursuit of reliable information. Additionally, the closure of numerous media houses in Sudan has led to an increased reliance on individual journalists, further emphasising their crucial role in information dissemination amidst this challenging context.

2.3 Journalists Under Fire: Past & Present

Historically, Sudanese journalists have found themselves at the intersection of political tumult and civil discord, often paying a high price for their vital role in reporting the news.

The legacy of Sudanese media is intrinsically linked with the nation's socio-political milieu. As articulated in "The Sudanese Press after Separation – Contested Identities of Journalism", the media has been deeply influenced by the nation's political and social confrontations, encountering hurdles such as censorship and political manipulation.⁷ Apart from a short reprieve under Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok's government, successive regimes have, with alarming consistency, attempted to control media narratives, stifling oppositional voices in favour of state-sanctioned perspectives.

⁶ "Healthy Scepticism Across the Board – A Study on Media Perception in Sudan," MiCT, [2020], https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ecbde016a831b2551433606/t/60be251340b94d38ea55fd9a/1623074067750/mict_report_media_sudan_20210531.pdf.

⁷ "The Sudanese Press after Separation – Contested Identities of Journalism," MiCT [19/08/2012], <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudanese-press-after-separation-%E2%80%93-contested-identities-journalism>.

Journalists have regularly faced violent confrontations in conflict areas and during periods of political upheaval. For example, during Sudan’s December 2019 revolution, many journalists were arrested and assaulted, prompting protests from the Sudanese Journalists Network (Elsadiq Elbidari, “Sudanese Media: A Battle for Freedom”).⁸ Unjust detentions, attacks, and confinements became commonplace for those who dared to challenge prevailing narratives or offer alternative viewpoints.

Beyond the menace of physical harm, financial constraints have also hampered the Sudanese press. State apparatuses, particularly the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS), have been key players in this arena, suspending newspapers, confiscating publications, and levying fines on publishers, using economic pressure as a deterrent to unfavourable reporting.⁹

Reporting amidst conflict and civil disturbance is fraught with danger, and the ongoing violence in Sudan compounds the risks for journalists. Recent events, as highlighted by the Sudanese Journalists Syndicate, corroborate this disconcerting trend against the press:¹⁰

⁸ “Sudanese Media: A Battle for Freedom,” Utblick Magazine, [17/02/2022], <https://www.utblick.org/2022/02/17/sudanese-media-is-waging-a-battle-of-freedoms>.

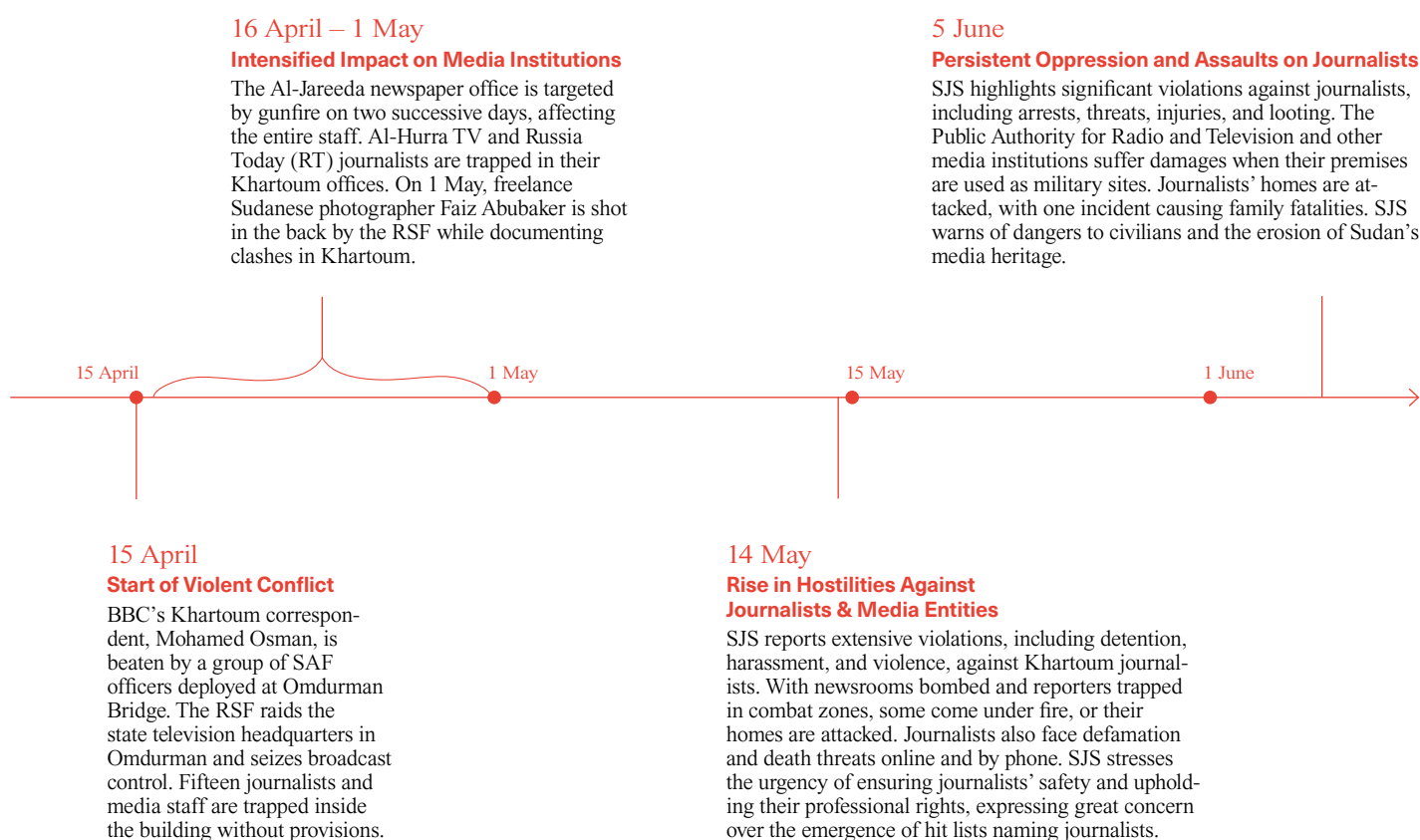
⁹ “Stepped-Up Assault on Media Freedom,” Human Rights Watch, [05/05/2013], <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/stepped-assault-media-freedom>.

¹⁰ “The Sudan war is also a crisis for the safety of journalists,” Sudanese Journalism Syndicate, [23/06/2023], <https://www.freepressunlimited.org/en/current/sudan-war-also-crisis-safety-journalists>.



Timeline of Serious Violations Against Journalists in Sudan

15 April – 24 September 2023 (Source: SJS & SJN Reports¹¹)



¹¹ “The Sudan war is also a crisis for the safety of journalists,” Sudanese Journalism Syndicate, [23/06/2023], <https://www.freepressunlimited.org/en/current/sudan-war-also-crisis-safety-journalists>.

In mid-April, as violent confrontations escalated, journalists found themselves besieged. Armed personnel assaulted a journalist, and a newspaper was targeted multiple times within a 48-hour period. Many reporters, including international correspondents, were endangered throughout the month, with some detained or physically harmed.

May saw a further escalation of hostilities. Journalists faced overnight detention; their residences were attacked, and some were even fatally wounded. An ominous emergence of anonymous lists targeting journalists further imperilled their safety. Media houses in regions such as Khartoum were subject to vandalism. Others in areas of West Darfur contended with physical and psychological threats.

June and July perpetuated this narrative, with media institutions and journalists enduring consistent violations. One journalist was killed when a shell hit her shelter. Several others were detained, threatened, or injured by RSF members in Khartoum. Eight Al-Jazeera journalists were trapped in their office due to heavy fighting and threats. Another journalist was shot in the thigh, and multiple homes were attacked or searched at gunpoint. In Port Sudan, a journalist was assaulted by police, while another was detained in El Obeid.

On 15 August, a joint statement, “Sudanese Media: Four Months of Violations”, collaboratively produced by several media organisations in the country summarised the situation:

Timeline of Key Sudan Developments: 15 April – 22 September 2023

23 June

Rising Threats & Calls for Investigation into El-Geneina Massacre

SJS reports increasing threats to journalists in Sudan, with Wijdan Abu Qurun injured and two Al-Jazeera journalists shot in an RSF-controlled zone. The SJS condemns these attacks, calling for international protection for journalists. It also denounces a major massacre in El-Geneina, West Darfur, condemning attacks on health workers and journalists and the killing of West Darfur’s governor. The SJS seeks a prompt investigation, justice, and a halt to the conflict.

15 June

1 July

15 July

1 August

5 July

Surge in Violent Attacks on Journalists

SJS warns of growing threats to journalists, with a Sudan TV cameraman injured by the RSF and another journalist facing detailed threats against his family on Facebook. The Syndicate emphasises the gravity of silencing journalists amidst the country’s unrest and notes the rise in violence since April’s conflict between the SAF and RSF. The group commits to documenting ongoing violations against its members.

“Throughout the four-month span, journalists in Sudan have encountered grave threats to their safety and freedom. Accusations of bias, loyalty, and allegiance to warring parties have subjected them to arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearance, and even death, driven by the whims of the conflict’s actors. Female journalists are particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence, exacerbating the gender disparities prevalent within Sudanese society.”¹²

Such troubling incidents accentuate the precarious conditions for journalists in Sudan, especially during socio-political crises. Among the many factors that underscore the complexities of promoting and maintaining media freedom, the commitment to truth-telling exposes reporters to significant risks.

Yet the spirit of independent journalism persists. As the Sudanese Journalists Network puts it: “The press is here to stay, and tyrants are fleeing.”¹³

As Sudan navigates its current crisis, a free press is indispensable. With historical events still resonating and present threats looming, the survival of Sudanese journalism is vital to the country’s future. Reporters on the ground deserve global solidarity and support.

¹² “Sudanese media decry ‘four months of violations,’” Dabanga Sudan, [15/08/2023], <https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/sudanese-media-decry-four-months-of-violations>.
¹³ “Sudanese Media: A Battle for Freedom,” Utblick Magazine, [17/02/2022], <https://www.utblick.org/2022/02/17/sudanese-media-is-waging-a-battle-of-freedoms>.



Timeline of Key Sudan Developments: 15 April – 22 September 2023

15 August

Sudanese Media: Four Months of Violations

Attacks by the RSF on journalists continue, including the killing of photographer Esam Marajan in Omdurman. An RSF unit storms the office of the El Madaniya newspaper in Khartoum. In El-Geneina, an RSF unit holds journalist Yousra Elbagir, Africa correspondent at Sky News, along with two channel crew members, for hours. Harassment of journalists by the SAF and the General Intelligence Service (GIS) in various states. Many women journalists are subject to gender-based violence.

4 September

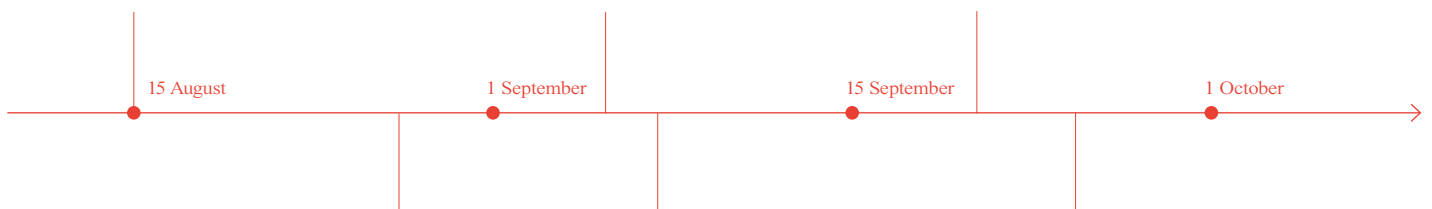
Journalist Faces Assault in Omdurman

Journalist Fatima Ali Saeed is assaulted and sexually harassed by the RSF in her Omdurman home, according to SJS.

21 September

Rising Violations Against Sudanese Journalists

Four journalists are killed, 17 are wounded in shooting incidents, over 20 receive threats, and over 20 media institutions are attacked—all within one month. Since the war’s onset, journalists have endured 249 violations, according to SJS.



27 August

Unlawful Dismissals & Exploitation in Sudanese Media

SJN condemns the abrupt firing of journalists from the Madhyamik newspaper, replaced by “volunteer” journalists. The network laments the decline of a newspaper that once championed Sudan’s December Revolution. Reporters face financial neglect by media owners who cite war conditions as an excuse. The rise of online platforms leaves journalists underpaid and exploited. SJN demands fair wages and proper working conditions.

7 September

Assault on Reuters Photojournalist

SJN condemns the attack on photojournalist Altayeb Sadiq by court police in Damor. Forced to delete photos taken outside the court, Sadiq faces humiliation and is later questioned by the General Intelligence Agency. SJN calls for legal action and protection for journalists against such violations.

24 September

RSF Detains Alghad Channel Journalist

After raiding his Khartoum residence, RSF soldiers apprehend Mohamed Ibrahim Alhag, a correspondent for Alghad channel. According to SJN, his whereabouts are still unknown.

“People on both sides of the conflict are directly targeting journalists.”

3. Methodology

3.1 The Survey Tool

Given WhatsApp's widespread use in Sudan, the bot-based survey was identified as the most suitable. Its interactive format rendered the survey-taking process intuitive.

An essential advantage of this tool was that participants who experienced disrupted internet connectivity could easily pick up where they left off once they came back online.

EngageSPARK was chosen as the chatbot provider due to its robust data protection and scalability.

3.2 The Survey Design

The survey was designed to secure detailed insights while ensuring a straightforward response process for journalists.

Questions were tailored for high relevance, addressing journalists' specific challenges, threats, and needs.

A total of 38 open and closed-ended, as well as multiple-choice questions were used in the survey, facilitating a mix of quantitative data for general trends and qualitative insights for specific issues.

The survey questions revolved around key categories: Demographics & Identity, Safety Concerns, Publication Dynamics, Support & Training, and Relocation & Mobility.

In consideration of journalists' time and the potential deterrent of a lengthy survey, the design was optimised for completion within five to 15 minutes.

To maintain the highest ethical standards, all responses were aggregated and anonymised. In addition, participants could opt out of the "Demographics & Identity" questions.

3.3 The Data Collection

Data collection was a joint effort led by MiCT, UNESCO, and national partners like the Sudanese Journalists Syndicate (SJS), Sudanese Journalists Network (SJN), and Al Adwaa Media and Journalism Services Centre.

International entities, including the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD) and the International Press Association of East Africa (IPAEA), supported the data collection process.

Before its official launch, the WhatsApp Bot was pretested with Sudanese partners to ensure functionality and gather feedback.

A tailored message in Arabic, accompanied by a direct WhatsApp link, was used to distribute the survey within trusted networks. This message outlined the survey's purpose, objectives, and confidentiality measures, emphasising its focus on journalists in Sudan.

The survey was available from Monday, 17 July 2023 to Thursday, 27 July 2023. To encourage completion, reminders were sent to those who started but did not finish the survey.

“We have difficulty obtaining food, let alone work.”

“If conditions
stay the
same,
journalism
in Sudan will
vanish.”

Abdelmoniem Abu Idrees
Head of SJS
(5 May 2023)

4. Detailed Findings

Although the precise count of journalists in Sudan is unclear, Faisal Mohamed Salih, who served as information minister in the civilian-led government between the 2018 uprising and the 2019 coup, estimates the number (cited by Dabanga), at around 1,100.¹⁴ A study from 2016 titled “Journalists in Sudan” puts the figure closer to 1,000.¹⁵

By May 2023, the Sudanese Journalist Syndicate found that 250 journalists had switched to other professions, while an equivalent number were made jobless due to the prevailing crisis.¹⁶

This section offers an analysis of the assessment participants, detailing the discrimination and threats they encounter, their current publishing status, the training and assistance they require, and their thoughts on relocation and mobility.

4.1 Survey Data Insights

The assessment yielded an extensive data set. Of the 225 journalists who engaged with the survey, not all ventured to complete the questionnaire. Some answered every question, while others chose to respond selectively. Despite their initial engagement, nine of these respondents refrained from providing any answers.

From the remaining pool of 216 participants, three currently reside outside Sudan. Given the assessment’s focus on journalists based in the country, they were excluded from the data set. This adjustment resulted in a final tally of 213 respondents who addressed at least one question while based in Sudan.

Engagement / Overall Valid Respondents

225	– 9	– 3	= 213
Total initial engagements	Initial engagement but no question answered	Initial engagement but not residing in Sudan	Total number of valid respondents

Specific survey questions were answered by a high proportion of the participants, hinting at the journalists’ pressing concerns or areas of significant interest.

The assessment’s engagement rate and depth of responses indicate comprehensiveness and reliability. However, due to the lack of available data on the distribution of journalists in Sudan by gender, affiliation, and other demographics, the survey results may not be entirely representative. Despite this, given the estimated number of journalists in Sudan, the dataset is both robust and diverse, serving as a valuable basis for understanding their current circumstances.

¹⁴ See footnote 2.

¹⁵ See footnote 1.

¹⁶ “How journalists are living through conflict in Sudan,” IJNet, [05/05/2023], <https://ijnet.org/en/story/how-journalists-are-living-through-conflict-sudan>.

4.2 Demographics & Identity

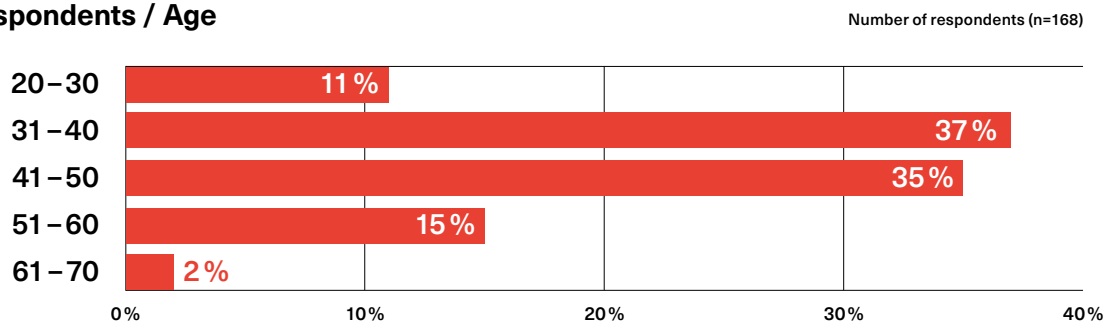
Of the 213 respondents, 170 (80%) provided information on their identity, touching on aspects such as language, gender, age, and their experience of discrimination. Consequently, the analysis connecting identity with other survey elements – such as threats faced or needs articulated – will rely on these 170 respondents, representing 80% of the total.

Respondents / Gender



Regarding gender, 38% were women, 60% were men, and 2% opted not to specify their gender or identify outside traditional binaries. All but 2% of respondents work primarily in Arabic. Of the 168 respondents who disclosed their age, 72% are 31-50 years old.

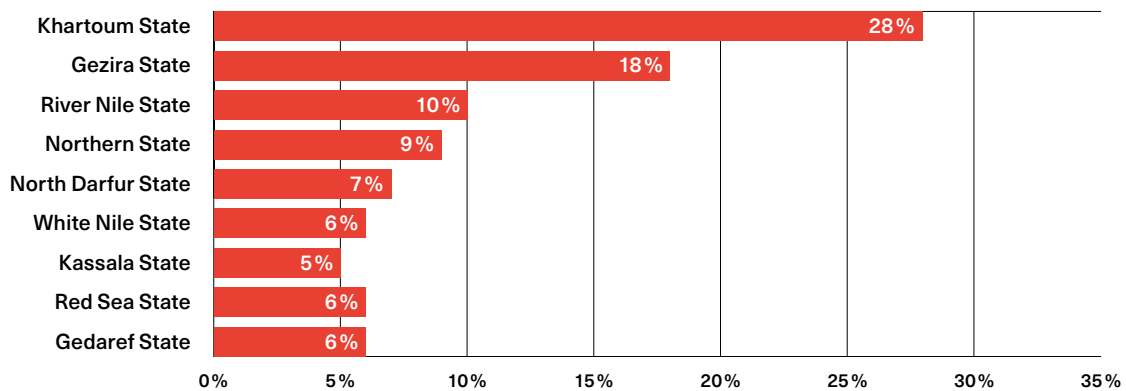
Respondents / Age



While respondents come from various Sudanese regions, most are from Khartoum State (28%) and Gezira State (18%), based on the 167 respondents who disclosed their location. River Nile, Northern, and North Darfur states also have significant representation, while Sennar and Blue Nile states are less represented (less than 2% each).

Majority of Respondents / State

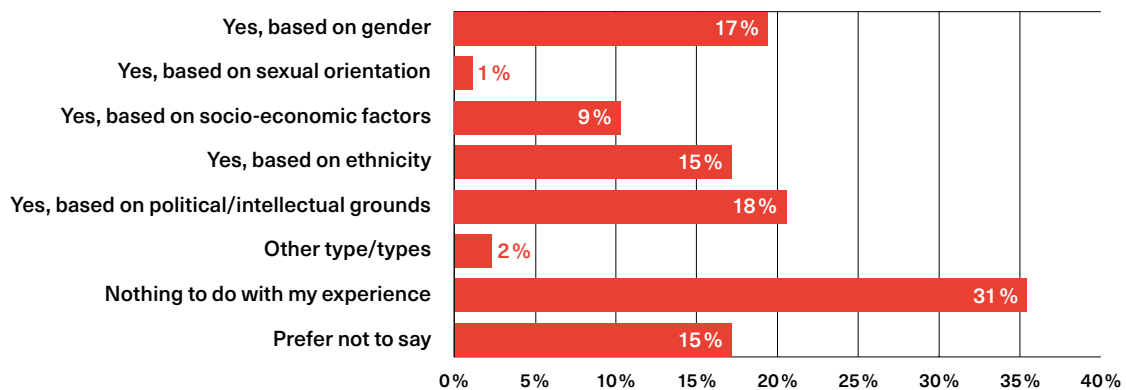
Respondents per state in percent (n=152)



Around 57% of 169 respondents reported having experienced discrimination. The predominant grounds for discrimination reported by participants were based on political or intellectual orientation (18%), gender (17%), and ethnicity (15%).

Respondents / Discrimination

Number of respondents (n=169, r=182)



One respondent mentioned discrimination due to a disability: “This makes me suffer a lot at work and prevents me from finding a job,” he wrote. “After a number of attempts, I succeeded in getting a job, but I was also subjected to discrimination.”

Geographic origin, ethnic, and tribal biases were also recurring themes. One respondent noted, “My roots are in the Nuba Mountains. I faced discrimination because of my skin colour and my political affiliation. My job, career and advancement opportunities were hindered as a result.”

Another journalist highlighted adversity because of ethnic affiliation with the Rapid Support Forces.

Gender disparities featured prominently in responses, with comments referencing a “preference for men in jobs” and the unique “social and cultural prohibitions that women encounter”. These experiences highlight the diverse hurdles Sudanese journalists confront daily.

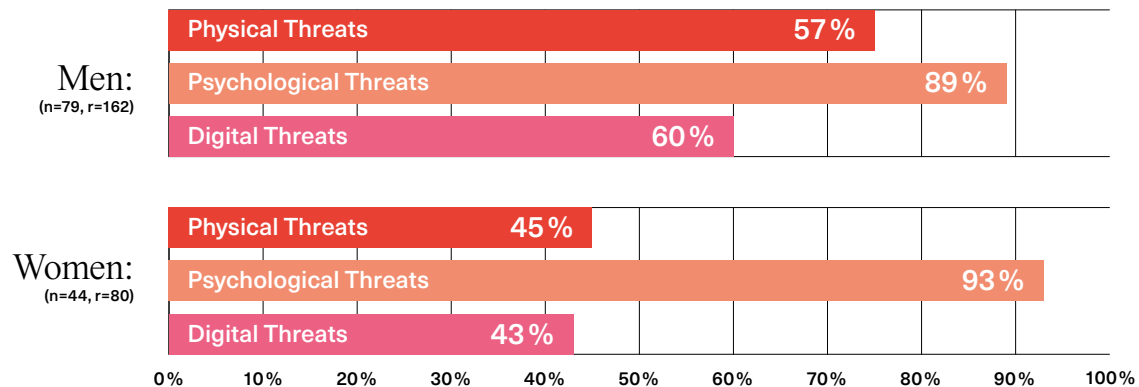
4.3 Physical, Psychological & Online Threats

The survey categorised threats to Sudanese journalists into three main types: physical, psychological, and online/cyber threats. Of the 213 participants, approximately 140 (66%) said they had encountered at least one of these types of threats, and 36 (17%) had been subjected to all three types.

Of these 140 respondents encountering at least one type of threat, 123 disclosed their gender: 64% male and 36% female. Of the women, 14% faced all threat types, compared to 34% of men. As reported by 89% of men and 93% of women, psychological threats were predominant. Men reported higher instances of physical threats at 57%, while 45% of women faced the same. Regarding digital threats, 60% of men encountered them, higher than the 43% of women who reported such threats.

Respondents / Gender & Threats

Number of responses in percent (n=123, r=242)



More than 120 (88%) of the threatened respondents disclosed their geographical location. Over 25% are based in Khartoum State (encompassing Khartoum, Bahri, and Omdurman), 17% in Gezira State (primarily in Wad Madani), and 11% in River Nile State (including Atbara, Ad-Damer, and Shendi).

Of the threatened respondents, 80% reported coping mechanisms such as relocation, avoidance, seeking shelter, negotiating with those threatening them, and securing communication tools.

Physical Threats:

Many respondents highlighted personal safety as a key concern. Journalists frequently face defamation by influential entities or individuals. This defamation damages their professional reputation and heightens their vulnerability to threats and potential acts of violence. Many have been arrested merely for carrying out their professional duties; some have been physically assaulted or even held at gunpoint. One journalist described the situation bluntly: “Publishing specific news could cost one’s life.” Several respondents echoed this view, citing looming threats of arrest or even death.

Journalists’ families and homes aren’t spared either. As one journalist from North Darfur wrote, “Our house, situated close to the front line, was bombarded multiple times. My

daughter was injured during these attacks.” Another recounted, “The Rapid Support Forces stormed our home while firing bullets and forced us to evacuate.” An alarming number of respondents reported that armed factions occupied or threatened their homes.

Among these, 64 provided further details on discrimination they faced: 20% mentioned gender-based discrimination, 20% cited political orientation, 22% pointed to ethnicity, and 12% identified socio-economic factors. No one cited discrimination based on religious or sexual orientation.

The emotional toll of these physical threats is evident, with over 70% of the affected respondents seeking psychological support.

The risk of sexual assault was underscored by a respondent who has taken precautions to avoid it. She stated, “I am currently staying in my house. I have not left home since the raid. I wear clothes that would make it difficult for someone to rape me.”

Three additional female respondents specifically mentioned their constant fear of rape.

Eighty percent (80%) of respondents facing threats wish to relocate, with the figure rising to 90% among those facing physical threats.

Psychological Threats

Of the 140 journalists providing information about the threats they have faced, 90% confirmed they had encountered psychological threats.

Of those over 70% expressed a need for “support or coping strategies”, stressing the importance of psychosocial support. About a third of those facing psychological threats requested financial help, and just over 30% sought a safe living/working environment.

Over 20% of the respondents facing psychological threats said they received help from international organisations or journalist protection programmes. Over three-quarters of them received no assistance. Only 1% mentioned self-reliance or individual moral support.

Online/Cyberthreats

The digital domain presents its own set of threats. Journalists often receive menacing messages on platforms such as WhatsApp and Messenger from unidentified sources who seek to alter the reporters’ published stories. Journalists’ online actions are scrutinised, sometimes culminating in forced deletions or modifications of posted content.

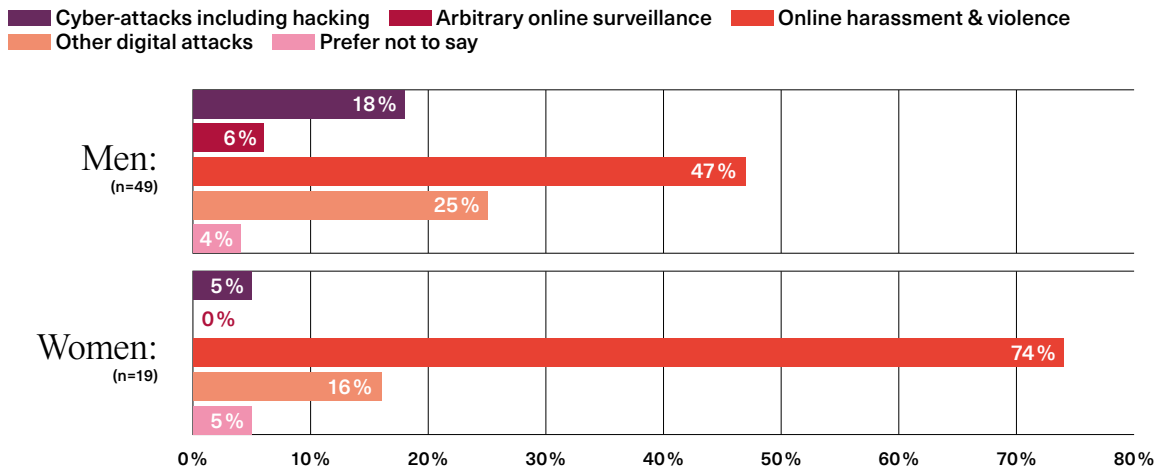
Cybersecurity is also a significant concern: some journalists face unauthorised intrusions into their social media or email accounts, with one respondent even describing an armed group using coercion to obtain a money transfer through his banking app. Fifty-one percent (51%) of 140 respondents confirmed they had encountered threats online since April 2023 (60% of male and 43% of female respondents).

The predominant form of cyber threats was online harassment, affecting over half of those who elaborated on the nature of their experiences. Cyberattacks, including hacking, were reported by 15%, while 6% faced issues related to online surveillance. Women reported a higher incidence of online harassment at 74%, compared to 47% for men.

Despite an increase in online psychological threats, digital protection measures were rarely prioritised.

Over 90% of the 71 respondents experiencing cyber threats expressed equipment needs, ranging from laptops and cameras to recording devices.

Respondents / Facing Digital Threats



Online Harassment & Threats: Sudan’s digital space has become hostile to dissenting voices. One respondent described receiving “insults and accusations of standing against the army” for merely voicing a wish for peace. Another shared the distressing experience of receiving threatening messages on WhatsApp. Some reported explicit threats to their lives, including accounts of a “physical liquidation threat for me and my small family,” as one respondent wrote, and threats after merely publishing news about the war.

Account Restrictions & Hacking: Beyond overt threats, many journalists grapple with orders to restrict their private Facebook accounts or cyberattacks, as one respondent reported: “My emails and my Facebook page have been hacked.” Such actions extend beyond privacy invasion; they appear to be active efforts to silence reporters and dominate narratives.

Surveillance & Privacy Breach: Individual privacy is consistently compromised. One respondent wrote: “My phone was searched, and I was forced to delete a statement.” Other reports mentioned invasive scrutiny by the Rapid Support Forces, leading to confiscation or forced searches of journalists’ phones.

Intimidation by Affiliated Groups: Threats sometimes emerge from familiar circles. One respondent narrated the anguish of “attacks by colleagues calling for a military resolution” or accusations of espionage for promoting peace.

Under Threat: Coping Strategies

A significant 80% of the 140 journalists facing threats shared their coping strategies, showcasing resilience and adaptability. These tactics ranged from concealing identities and relocating for safety to digital precautions and emotional coping mechanisms. While some expressed indifference towards threats, most responded “quietly and cautiously” when faced with potential danger.

Disguise & Identity Concealment: Many individuals conceal their identities as a safety precaution. One respondent said, “I even had to hide my identity while moving about so as not to be imprisoned.” These journalists usually do not disclose their

professional affiliations, illustrated by statements such as, “I hide my identity as a journalist and pass as an ordinary citizen.”

Relocation & Movement: Migration to more secure areas is a widespread response to threats. “I faced danger during the outbreak of war near my home,” one respondent said. “I fled with my children as the sound of bullets roared.”

Some take anticipatory steps. “In response to the soldiers’ request,” said one respondent, “I left my place of residence.”

Extreme measures include changing personal identification. As one journalist explained, “I moved due to direct threats. I also change my name when relocating, especially when danger escalates to direct shooting.”

Avoidance & Caution: Exercising caution and evading potential threats are vital strategies. One journalist wrote: “I avoided areas where clashes are occurring, and I do not stand in exposed spaces such as the roof of a house.” Another respondent remarked, “I avoid putting myself in dangerous situations and am cautious about not getting arrested again.”

Journalists also cover stories selectively. One remarked, “I try not to cover subjects that could lead to my arrest or an attack.” Another respondent chose to halt online activity: “I stopped posting for a while to protect myself.”

Digital & Communication Precautions: The digital era necessitates safeguarding online footprints and communication. One journalist changed phone numbers before travelling to Port Sudan. Opting for essential communication tools, another stated, “I use a basic phone because it’s harder to be tracked.”

Online or cyber threats also compel protective measures. “I blocked people who threatened me on WhatsApp,” said another respondent.

Engagement & Negotiation: Directly addressing threats through dialogue sometimes proves effective. One respondent said they reported threats to the police. Advocating for discussion over aggression, another commented, “I believe in responding to threats with dialogue, not direct confrontation. One should aim for de-escalation since the opposing side often has the upper hand in and numbers.”

Physical Protection & Shelter: Securing physical refuge is crucial in the face of imminent danger. “My children and I took shelter under our beds during clashes or shelling,” one respondent said. Another prepared for the possibility of additional threats by hiding in a narrow corridor before leaving a conflict zone and “stocking up on essentials like water and snacks.”

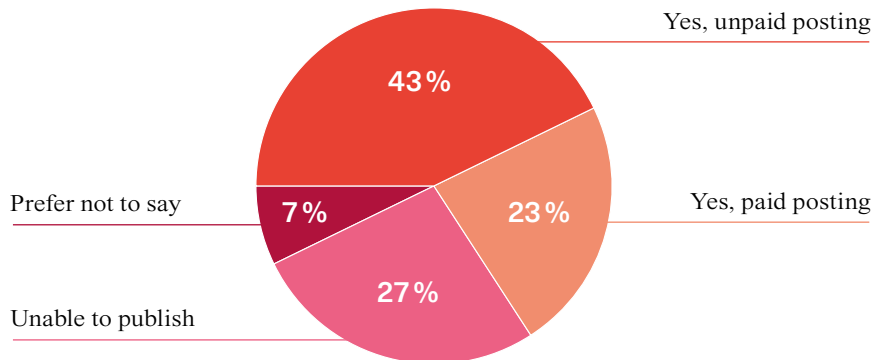
Emotional & Psychological Coping: Confronting threats can lead to significant emotional and psychological strain. Detailing coping strategies, one journalist remarked, “After a harrowing arrest and threats, I was, and still am, in shock. However, I engage in voluntary activities to move past this experience.”

4.4 Dynamics of Dissemination

Sudan's volatile environment has significantly disrupted media operations. A worrying 43% of 205 respondents have published journalistic content without getting paid. Over a quarter have halted publishing altogether, while only 23% continue to receive any compensation for their work.

Respondents / Publication Status

Number of respondents in percent (n=205)

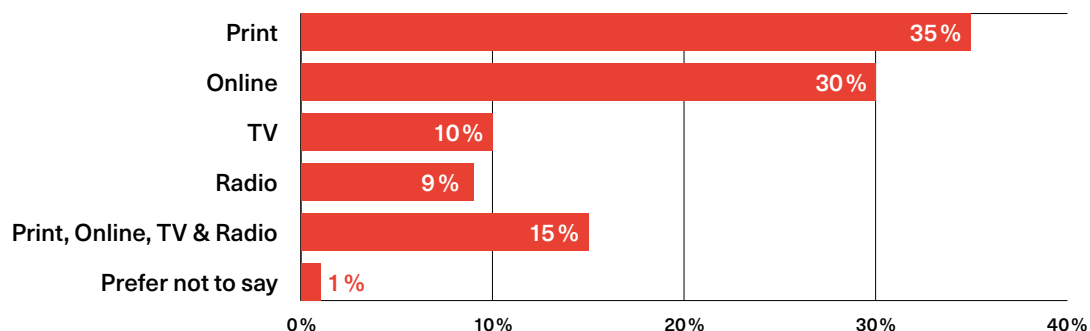


Several factors contribute to the suspension of publishing endeavours for over a quarter of respondents. A combination of equipment scarcity and personal safety concerns emerges as a primary deterrent. Most responses cite the acquisition of laptops and cameras as a priority.

Regarding reporters' primary media outlets, around 35% of 169 respondents work in print; 30% focus on online media, and the remainder distribute their content through TV, radio, or a combination of all platforms.

Respondents / Main Medium

Number of respondents in percent (n=169)



Forty-five percent (45%) of respondents said they mainly use local or regional Sudanese media outlets. Moreover, 10% of respondents rely on international media outlets. Close to 6% of respondents do not currently use any channel, suggesting a complete cessation of their journalistic work.

“My name is on
the intelligence
agency’s list,
and I could be
arrested
at any time.”

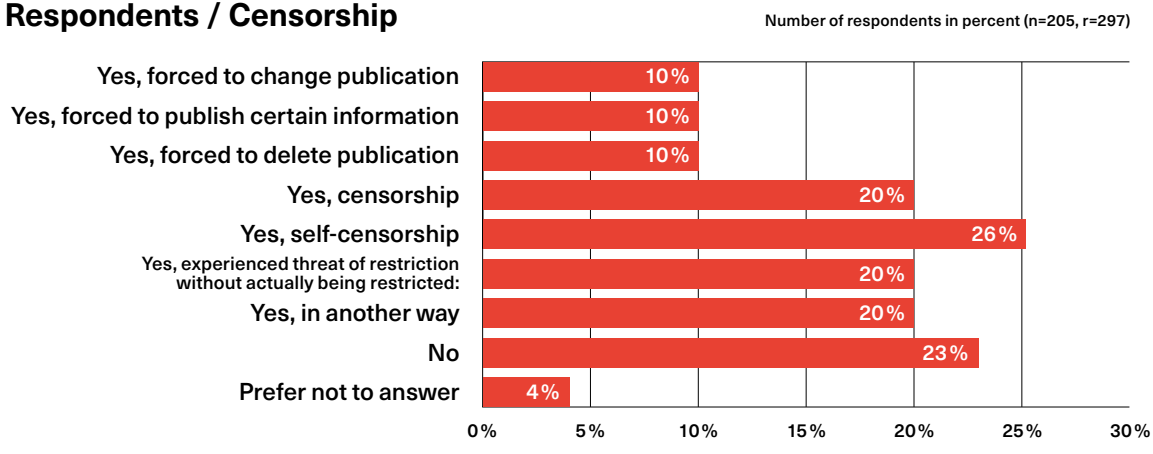
The rising emergence of digital platforms such as Facebook and other social media to share their stories is evident, with 18% using personal social media for content dissemination. This can be attributed to the closure of many traditional media houses in Sudan. Compounded by reporting restrictions, journalists are left with fewer traditional avenues to disseminate their content.

However, it's important to note that while social media offers an alternative, internet accessibility in Sudan is limited due to the ongoing conflict. Despite these challenges, social media has become a crucial outlet for journalists due to its relative accessibility and broad reach.

Barriers to the Truth

Concerns over press freedom and censorship are acute. A staggering 81% of 205 respondents have faced some form of reporting restrictions since the start of the current crisis.

Respondents / Censorship



Of the respondents, 20% reported experiencing direct censorship, while 30% were forced to modify, delete, or publish specific content. Another 20% sensed an impending threat of restrictions, even if they weren't immediately enforced, while a further 26% admitted to practising self-censorship.

A total of 109 respondents elaborated on the many restrictions they've encountered. One journalist from Darfur shared examples: “Fabricated charges, work and basic rights restrictions, especially freedom of expression, and diminishing democratic spaces, with an absence of fundamental freedoms in Darfur.”

Obtaining information – the bedrock of journalism – is an increasingly arduous task in Sudan, which signifies broader impediments for journalists. State security barriers hinder the collection and validation of news. The volatile security landscape and inconsistent communication and internet services further restrict reporters' capabilities.

Their movement is also curtailed, requiring specific authorisation to enter certain zones. As one respondent noted, “Reporting in army-controlled regions is confined to those with approval from the official armed forces spokesperson.”

A distinct dichotomy pervades Sudan's media landscape. Journalists often find themselves categorised according to perceived allegiances, leading to biases in treatment and even detentions. “The media is now bifurcated: those siding with the army against those with the Rapid Support Forces,” a respondent explained.

“Publishing certain news reports carries a death threat,” a journalist remarked. This was echoed by an additional respondent who said: “My name is on the intelligence agency’s list, and I could be arrested at any time.”

Drawing a parallel, another respondent remarked, “The current situation feels like living amidst the coronavirus outbreak again – limited mobility, pervasive misinformation, and dwindling job prospects.”

One respondent expressed a prevailing belief: “Press freedom is not currently available, and now there is no legitimate authority to safeguard it – or protect journalists.”

“Having a different opinion about the war in Sudan or expressing personal convictions can strain social relations and, in some cases, lead to conflict,” noted one journalist. “So I practise self-censorship and opt for silence.”

Considering the escalating risks, a growing number of journalists resort to concealing their actual profession. As one remarked, “Revealing oneself as a journalist is perilous. Personal identification should indicate an alternate profession.”

Another stated: “Due to fear of intimidation and threats, we do not have the right to publish information.” Some journalists keep their work secret until they feel they’re in a secure enough location to publish it later.

The influx of unconfirmed reports also drives self-censorship. “Due to conflicting information, I withhold publishing until verification,” one journalist noted.

Another respondent refers to the sensitivity of information in the current situation as grounds for practising restraint. “Since I am living in a tribal conflict area that has witnessed wars for a long time, I prefer to practise great sensitivity when I publish news reports,” the journalist said. “I take this reality into consideration in an aim to create stability.”

“In general, the situation is unstable because of the war,” one respondent wrote. “Anyone who publicises their opinion or writes professionally about citizens’ conditions will be arrested. Therefore, I am reluctant to publish any content. I am keeping all my material to myself until I feel safe.”

4.5 Support Requirements

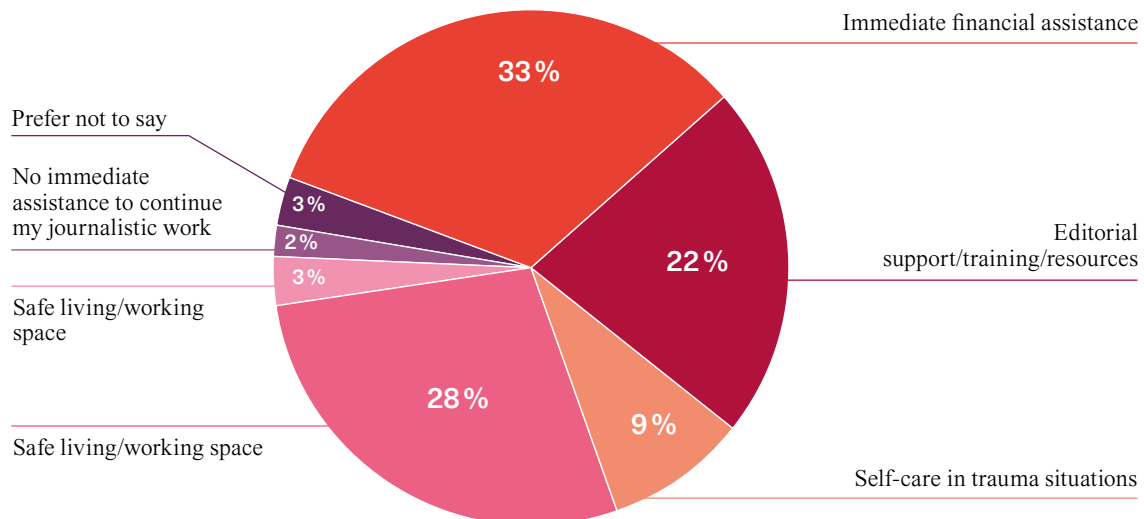
The ongoing conflict has had profound economic ramifications for the media sector. The fear of financial instability is a recurring theme in the journalists' comments. Several newspapers and media outlets have halted operations due to the war, precipitating job losses and further financial strains for journalists. With diminishing wages and rising cost of living unchecked, Sudanese journalists face economic hardship.

Urgent Needs in Turbulent Times

Ninety-four percent (94%) of 213 respondents specified their requirements for immediate assistance, resulting in a cumulative 423 responses due to the option of multiple answers.

Responses / Immediate Needs

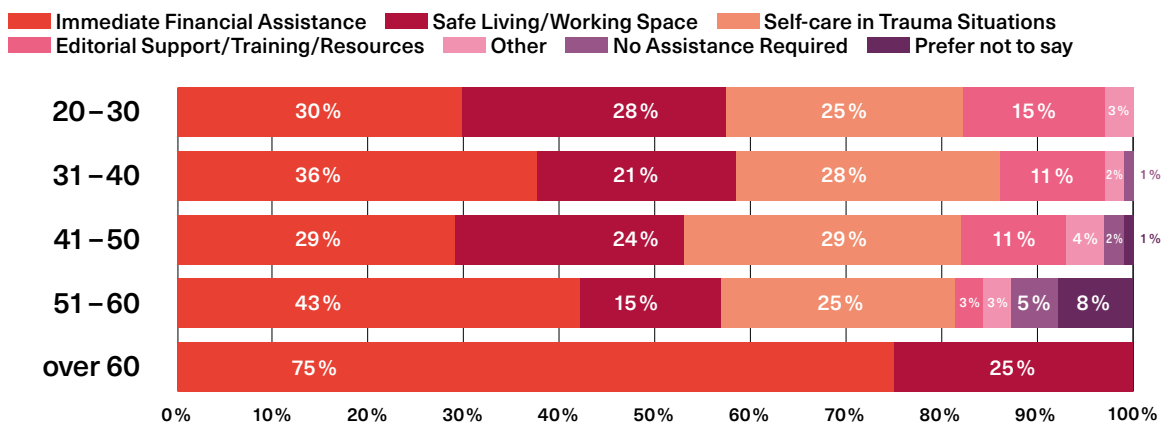
Number of responses in percent (n=201, r=423)



A prevailing need for financial assistance was evident in the survey, requested by 33% of responses. This shared sentiment accentuates the widespread economic challenges confronting journalists, regardless of gender. Financial need is consistent across age groups but intensifies among older respondents, peaking at 75% for those over 60.

Responses / Immediate Needs & Age Groups

Number of responses in percent (n=167, r=347)



The financial difficulties of Sudanese journalists are illustrated by a respondent who disclosed a monthly salary of 60,000 Sudanese pounds (SDG), which is less than USD 100. Another respondent reported that the Sudan News Agency had discontinued salary payments from April onwards.

The conflict has severely impacted journalists' financial well-being. Without a stable income, many are desperate for financial assistance. As one respondent mentioned, “Financial aid at the present time is very important,” referring to the “shock economy” resulting from the war.

The needs extend beyond livelihoods; the digital world demands regular internet access, which has become cost-prohibitive for many. “I need to activate the internet because my work is connected to it,” one journalist commented. “But I have been living without a salary since the outbreak of the war.”

Many respondents grapple with financial instability due to unemployment or ongoing conflict. The severity of the situation is clearly apparent in the respondents' remarks. “I urgently need a job so I can earn money,” one said. “We have difficulty obtaining food, let alone work.” Several journalists longed for a consistent organisation to partner with and drew attention to overdue salaries.

This concern is followed by calls for a safe living and working space (28%), underscoring the universal demand for security in the professional realm.

Safety concerns: The need for security is paramount. “After being forced out of work, I have no place to live,” one journalist wrote. Another laments the displacement crisis thus: “These days, I move from one friend's house to another.”

Many journalists fear not only for their own lives but those of their families. This manifests in urgent housing needs as warring forces encroach on civilian areas, necessitating relocation. The gravity of the respondents' plight is revealed in these comments: “Journalists are targeted by people on both sides of the conflict,” or “I am still facing death as a result of the clashes because I am still in Khartoum State.”

Of the respondents addressing their immediate needs, 169 provided their geographical location, categorised for clarity into regional groupings.¹⁷ Two respondents citing their location as “outside Khartoum” were excluded due to a lack of specificity. The demand for safe conditions is more evident in The Niles (34%) and Darfur (33%) compared to central Sudan, including Khartoum (28%) and the east of the country (17%).

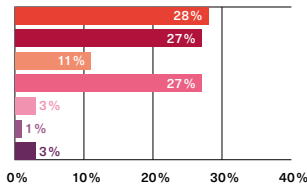
¹⁷ “North” combines responses from the Northern and River Nile states and includes mentions of “(the) North of Sudan”. The “East” category combines the Red Sea, Kassala, and Gedaref states. “Central” combines Khartoum, Gezira, and Sennar states. “The Niles” includes the White and Blue Nile states. “Kordofan” integrates North Kordofan and West Kordofan states, while “Darfur” merges North Darfur, South Darfur, Central Darfur, and West Darfur states, with an additional mention of the Chadian-Sudanese border.

Responses / Immediate Needs & Location

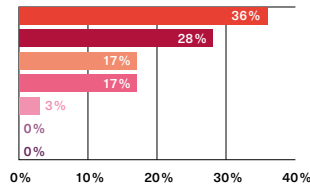
Number of responses in percent (n=167, r=346)

- Immediate Financial Assistance
- Editorial Support/Training/Resources
- Self-care in Trauma Situations
- Safe Living/ Working Space
- Other
- No Immediate Assistance Needed
- Prefer not to say

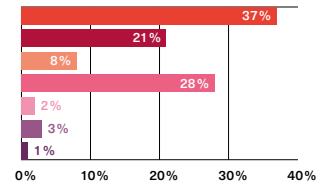
North (r=71)



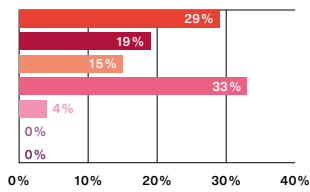
East (r=36)



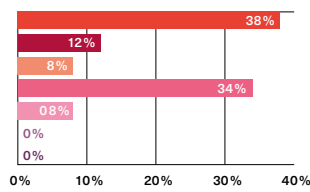
Central (r=156)



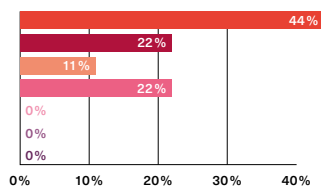
Darfur (r=48)



The Niles (r=26)

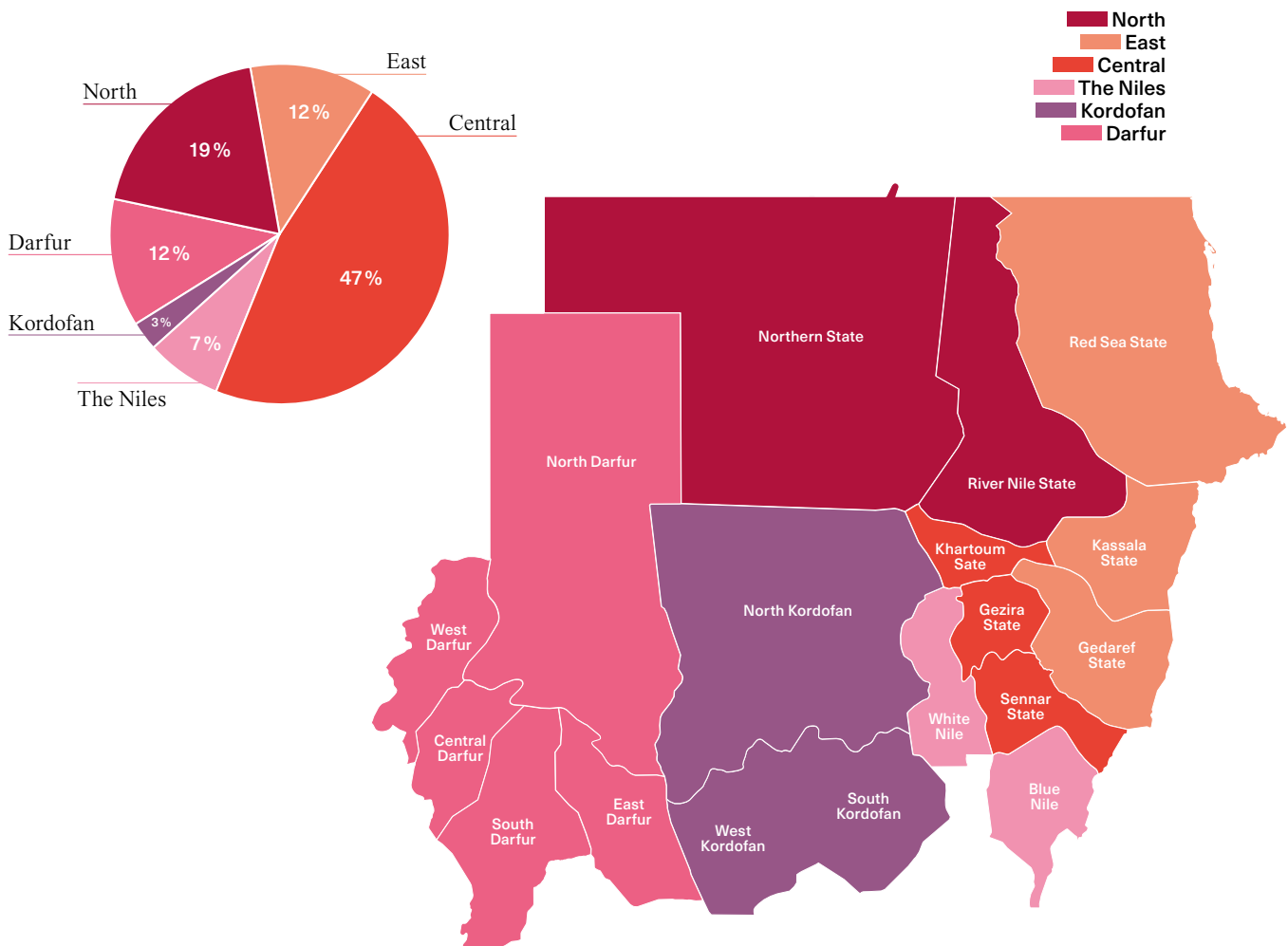


Kordofan (r=9)



Respondents / Immediate Needs & Location

(n=169)



Anxiety over personal and familial well-being abounds. Concerns range from disrupted children’s education to health issues, both personal and familial. Some journalists shared unaddressed health conditions, referencing chronic ailments, joint problems, and the need for urgent medical care, including highly pregnant women.

Document-related hurdles hinder movement and access to services. The exorbitant cost of transport, exacerbated by fuel scarcities, further impedes many journalists’ professional duties.

Psychosocial Support: A Remote Lifeline

The psychological impact of war is painfully evident, with reports of trauma common: “I am suffering psychologically. I cannot sleep – I fear the dark because I was robbed.”

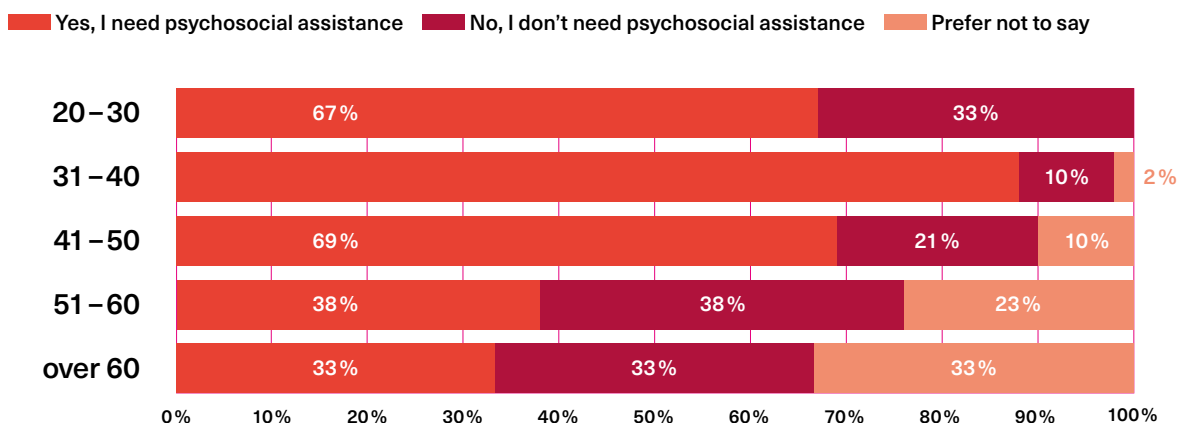
Out of 213 journalists surveyed, 192 responded about their need for psychosocial support. A significant 68% of this group felt the need for such services, while 23% did not see the necessity, and 9% chose not to specify.

When broken down by gender, 77% of female and 63% of male journalists recognised the need for psychosocial support.

Age also played a role in the perceived need for such support. Younger journalists, specifically those in their 20s and 30s, were more likely to acknowledge the need for psychosocial assistance. This could be attributed to a generation more open about mental health issues. By contrast, older journalists, especially those in their 50s, were less inclined to sense this need..

Respondents / Psychological Support & Age Groups

Number of respondents in percent (n=179)



Factors influencing the need for support include encounters with discrimination. Of those who discussed their psychosocial needs, 86% shared information about the discrimination they faced. Those who felt the need for support reported higher instances of gender and ethnic discrimination.

Half of those who didn’t see the need for psychosocial help felt that the question on discrimination wasn’t relevant to their experience, suggesting they might not view themselves as victims of prejudice.

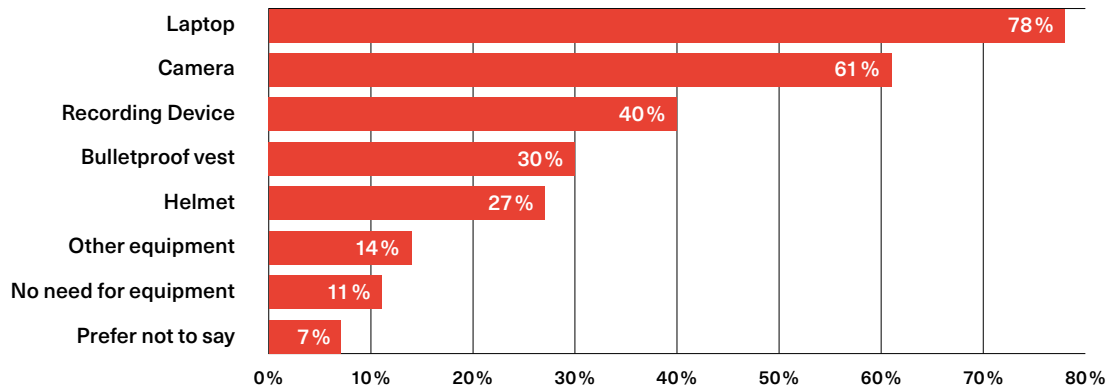
“Since the beginning of the war, we have had no support.”

Equipment Needs

Of 196 journalists who provided answers about their equipment needs, 86% indicated they have essential equipment needs for their work, resulting in 450 individual responses.

Respondents / Equipment Needs

Number of responses (n=196, r=450)



Statements referred to a lack of photography equipment or laptops. “I’m having trouble continuing my job because I’ve lost my work tools,” said one respondent.

The laptop stands out as the primary work tool, followed by cameras and recording devices indispensable for practising journalism in the digital age. Given the volatile conditions in Sudan, protective gear such as bulletproof vests and helmets were frequently mentioned in the survey, underscoring the dangers journalists face.

Beyond the primary tools, journalists highlighted the importance of mobile phones for reporting and maintaining personal contacts amidst the chaos.

Many respondents lamented poor internet connectivity and the exorbitant costs of communication equipment, citing a lack of funds, weak communication networks and internet outages, which hinder information gathering and tracking developments. Respondents from Darfur pointed to a necessity for satellite communication devices to counter the interruption and deterioration of communication and Internet access.

Other equipment needs ranged from tripods and lighting gear to quality microphones. However, poor internet connectivity and power outages, often due to conflict-related damage, were significant concerns for the respondents. Their mention of “secret cameras” and calls for secure communication channels point to the surveillance and intimidation journalists often face in Sudan.

Journalists also said they seek platforms to share their narratives and raise global awareness about ongoing injustices.

While equipment is vital, these journalists’ emotional and physical burdens are equally significant. All told, what emerges from the survey respondents is a portrait of a profession under constant threat in Sudan.

Training Needs

Despite adversity, dedication to journalism persists, with many reporters seeking professional guidance. As one respondent remarked, “I want editorial support and training so I can continue my work and excel in reporting on events immediately and accurately.”

Sudanese journalists have expressed a strong desire for continuous training in various areas of their profession. Out of 445 responses from 194 respondents, the most prominent training needs, in addition to safety which was covered separately, were:¹⁸

Investigative journalism: Mentioned by 115 respondents, this reflects the commitment of journalists to in-depth, fact-based reporting.

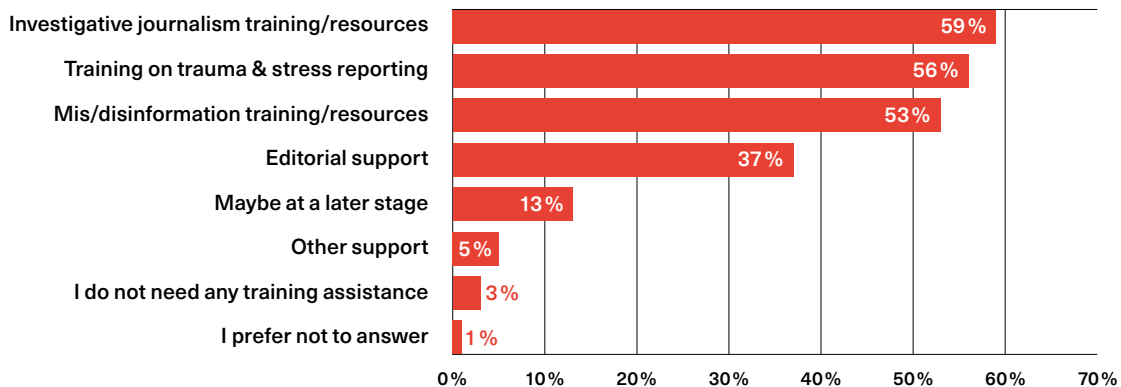
Trauma and stress reporting: Mentioned by 113 respondents, this need underscores the challenges of reporting in Sudan’s volatile environment.

Tackling mis- and disinformation: The urgency to counteract misleading narratives was evident, with 103 journalists emphasising the need to counter false narratives with accurate accounts.

Editorial support: More than 70 journalists expressed a keen interest in receiving editorial mentorship and guidance in their work.

Respondents / Training Needs

Number of respondents (n=194, r=445)



Other desired training areas include combating hate speech, content production during conflicts, and digital security. Logistical obstacles such as unreliable internet were also highlighted since this affects access to online training.

Other training interests include mobile journalism, podcasts, and mini-dramas for war survivors. This reflects a diversity of creative aspirations among Sudanese journalists.

A veteran correspondent with 24 years of experience signalled a willingness to mentor younger peers, an indication of the community’s collaborative spirit.

¹⁸ Please note that the safety training was not considered in this particular question.

Support Mechanisms & Actors

Of the 171 journalists who responded to the question regarding current support mechanisms for their work, 113 (approximately 66%) indicated a need for more organisational backing. This figure underscores the urgent requirement for enhanced support mechanisms for journalists in Sudan.

66 %

indicated a need for more organisational backing.

The overall findings depict a profession under significant strain.

The ongoing violent conflict in Sudan has exacerbated the already fragile state of the media, leading to financial struggles, halted operations, and a pervasive sense of abandonment. Many journalists feel isolated; their frequent reference to a lack of support from organisations underscores a widespread sentiment of neglect.

Adding to this dismal picture, the turmoil has forced numerous media institutions to suspend operations, diminishing potential support avenues for journalists.

The pressing need for robust national and international support is evident as the ongoing violent conflict in Sudan heightens these hardships.

Despite these hurdles, some journalists display resilience when they refer to self-reliance. Despite lacking institutional backing, they acknowledge the significance of moral support, especially from their families, and recognition from leading media figures such as the head of the Sudanese Journalists Syndicate.

In light of many media house closures, freelancing has emerged as a predominant work mode among some journalists. Although this offers autonomy, it often comes without the support structures that traditional employment affords. This situation is exacerbated by an apparent lack of awareness about potential support mechanisms, hinting at a possible information gap regarding available assistance.

Some journalists expressed their willingness to work with support from media or overseas organisations, while others conveyed openness to any genuine assistance, provided no conditions dictate their work.

During the survey in July, respondents identified several institutions that have been instrumental in providing them with support. These include the Sudanese Journalists Syndicate, known for its widespread recognition but with varying levels of tangible support.

Some journalists acknowledged backing from their affiliated newspapers or broadcasters, though it's noted that several media institutions have faced operational challenges. The Sudan News Agency (SUNA) was also referenced, with some journalists pointing to its inconsistent financial support.

Other key supporters identified were the Ayin News Network, which assists journalists navigating security-related publishing challenges; Al Hurra TV, which supports a number of reporters; the French Media Development Agency (CFI), which provides aid to media professionals; and the Rory Peck Trust, an NGO dedicated to assisting journalists and their families in times of crisis.

It's important to underline that the support structures highlighted are based on the survey's feedback and represent a snapshot of the broader ecosystem.

Numerous other organisations, including but not limited to JID, CPJ, Freepress Unlimited, MiCT, and UNESCO, have consistently provided vital support to the journalistic community in Sudan.

Their contributions, alongside those mentioned by respondents, underscore a collective effort to bolster media professionals in the region.

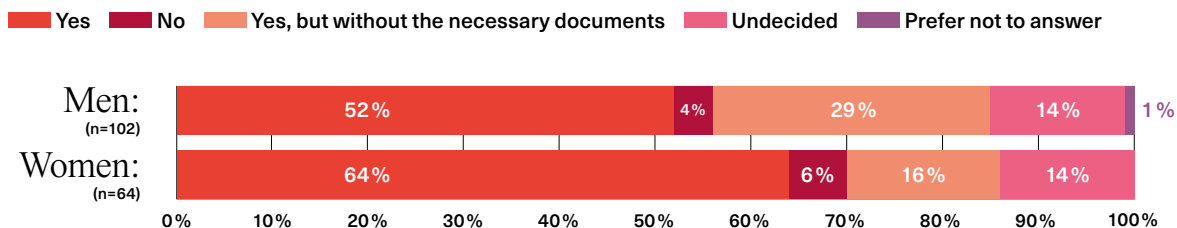
4.6 Relocation & Future Aspirations

Relocation Considerations

Of the 188 respondents who addressed the question about relocating, 78% are considering a move, but 23% lack the necessary documents, including passports. By gender, 64% of women and 52% of men expressed an interest in relocating.

Respondents / Relocation Considerations & Gender

Number of respondents in percent (n=166)



The data across age brackets solidifies a dominant inclination to relocate, underlining the severe difficulties Sudanese journalists endure. Younger reporters manifest the most pronounced intent to move at 88%, driven perhaps by a blend of ambition, prospects beyond Sudan, or the urgency to escape prevalent difficulties.

While psychological threats are pervasive, they are markedly more pronounced among those favouring relocation, with 70% of respondents affected. This data suggests that emotional and psychological distress can compel individuals to contemplate moving to safer environments, even without encountering physical harm or other dangers.

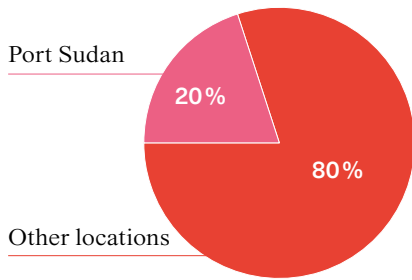
Over 40% of those keen on leaving Sudan have been physically threatened. This underscores the impact of direct exposure to physical harm or its looming threat on one's motivation to relocate. Additionally, over 40% of respondents wanting to move have been threatened online.

Relocation Destinations

Of 105 respondents, an overwhelming majority, 86%, said they would prefer moving abroad, while 14% are inclined towards internal migration.

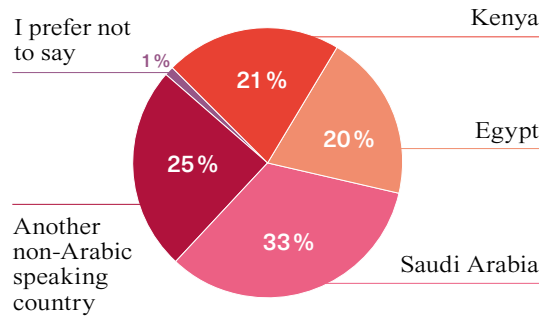
Among those 90 respondents aiming for international relocation, 53% lean towards Arabic-speaking countries, while 46% favour non-Arabic speaking destinations. Preferred destinations include Saudi Arabia (33%), Kenya (21%), and Egypt (20%).

Respondents / Relocation Destinations within Sudan



Number of respondents in percent (n=15)

Respondents / Relocation Destinations outside Sudan



Number of respondents in percent (n=90)

The relocation choices of Sudanese journalists underline their personal and occupational dilemmas as they strive to harmonise safety with a desire to stay close to their roots.

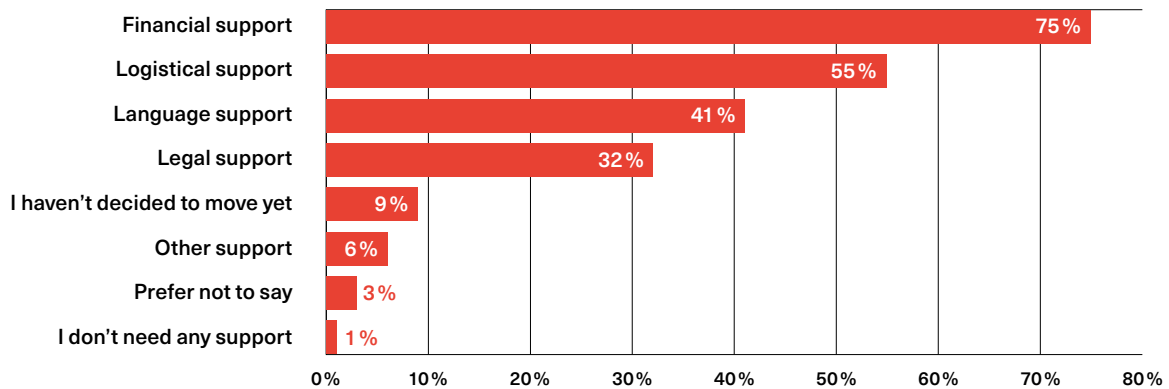
Relocation Assistance

Out of the 421 feedback submissions from the 190 participants who answered the question about relocation assistance, a pattern emerges revealing an overwhelming demand for numerous supportive measures.

Seventy-five percent (75%) of this group seek financial assistance, underlining monetary backing in their strategic relocation deliberations. Without financial means, many find moving away almost unthinkable. As one journalist put it simply, “I do not have the financial means to travel.” Regardless where they might land, financial support is a priority for most journalists.

Respondents / Relocation Assistance

Number of respondents (n=190, r=421)



Over 50% of this group spoke of a need for logistical guidance, though slightly more so when moving to other Arabic speaking countries. By contrast, respondents considering Port Sudan (17%) or staying elsewhere within Sudan (37%) had fewer logistical concerns, possibly due to their familiarity with these locations.

The practicalities of moving, especially in a state of urgency, underscore the significance of logistical support. One journalist voiced the need for “a place of residence where I can also work”. Issues around proper documentation were recurrent, with journalists listing problems such as expired passports or children needing travel documents.

Over 40% of respondents indicate a need for language assistance, mainly English, which is crucial for those considering relocation. For many, language skills are vital for communication, safety, and social integration.

“I need more financial and language support, especially in English,” one respondent remarked. Another noted the importance of language when moving to non-Arabic-speaking countries.

As with other factors, language needs vary according to where one relocates. About one-fourth of those focusing on Kenya and slightly fewer looking at other non-Arabic-speaking countries indicated they would need language support. Despite occasionally stark differences in dialect, those considering Arabic-speaking regions such as Egypt or Saudi Arabia expressed minimal demand for language support.

Legal advice is a must for 32% of the respondents considering relocation and a pressing concern for 20% of journalists eyeing Saudi Arabia, possibly related to that country’s immigration laws. The need for legal assistance is also noticeable for those considering Egypt and non-Arabic-speaking countries, at 15% and 16%, respectively. Fewer journalists were concerned about legal issues when considering a move elsewhere within Sudan.

Security was paramount among the 71 journalists who provided further details on their relocation needs. As a journalist from Khartoum wrote, “The situation in Khartoum is catastrophic. My children are in a terrible psychological state.”

This concern is reflected in many comments. The unsettling reality of these threats was highlighted by another respondent who said, “I am afraid of sexual abuse (rape). The military forces are one kilometre from my house, which is a real danger.”

Moreover, 17% of those looking at Port Sudan and 16% intending to remain elsewhere in the country are still unsure about their decision. This may reflect a more profound desire to stay close to home and return when conditions improve.

Family considerations greatly influence many decisions. The commitment to family members, such as caring for a physically disabled relative, is apparent. One journalist’s commitment to a disabled sister stood out: “She must be with me anywhere inside or outside Sudan.”

The war places obvious roadblocks on journalists’ dedication to their profession. One respondent from Port Sudan noted: “I am a very well-known journalist, and I love journalism very much [...]. I hope to find support and protection to continue my work because the media offers a humanitarian message.” However, prevalent security issues hinder many from publishing their work.

The urgent appeals of these journalists reflect their dire situation. “Please communicate with me,” one urged, while another looked forward to a swift response. Amid the uncertainty, the collective voice of Sudanese journalists resonates with urgency, resilience, and a deep-rooted hope: “I hope peace prevails and the war ends.”

**“I need
a safe
exit from
Sudan
to save
my life.”**

“We live in absurd conditions of war, and what’s lost now is the sense of humanity in Sudan.”

5. Recommendations

5.1 Summary & Key Takeaways

Demographics & Identity: A total of 213 Sudan-based journalists participated in the survey, 60% of respondents were male, 38% female, and 2% unspecified or non-binary. Most (98%) work in Arabic, with 72% aged between 31 and 50. Discrimination is prevalent, with 57% experiencing it based on gender, ethnicity, or political affiliations.

Safety Concerns: Two-thirds faced threats, with psychological threats most common (90%). Women primarily faced psychological threats, while men experienced more physical and online threats. Over half (53%) of the respondents faced physical threats during the conflict, with discrimination being a significant cause.

Publication Dynamics: The media landscape is severely impacted, with 45% of journalists working unpaid and 25% halting publications. 81% faced content restrictions, with many facing direct censorship.

Support & Training Needs: 95% detailed immediate assistance needs, with financial aid being the most sought after. Over three-quarters (70%) recognised the need for psychosocial services. There's a significant demand for equipment and training, especially in investigative reporting and trauma coverage.

Relocation & Mobility Needs: Many journalists wish to relocate, especially younger ones. Psychological threats are the primary reason. Only 14% want internal relocation, while 86% prefer moving abroad, mainly to Arabic-speaking countries.

5.2 Guidance for Action & Risk Analysis

The detailed needs assessment underscores the dire circumstances Sudanese journalists are navigating. The following guidance roadmap is based on the assessment findings and aims to address the most pressing concerns:

Safety & Protection

Physical safety: Journalists should be equipped with protective gear, especially in conflict-prone areas. Priorities include bulletproof vests and helmets, along with safety training.

Psychological wellbeing: With over two-thirds of respondents recognising the need for psychosocial services, mental health interventions are critical – particularly those tailored directly to women journalists, who appear to be more profoundly affected.

Digital safety: The rising incidence of digital threats, especially online harassment, points to an urgent need to provide cybersecurity training, protective software, and a secure platform for communication.

Support & Resources

Financial assistance: The urgency for financial aid resonates among a third of the survey respondents. The release of immediate relief funds should ensure equitable allocation based on the severity of economic hardship.

Safe spaces: Support the establishment of secure environments for journalists to live and work, ensuring their safety and well-being and that they can continue their work without fear or hindrance.

Relocation assistance: Journalists who want to leave Sudan should receive logistical, legal, and financial support at home and abroad. This includes assistance with travel documents, language training, and liaisons with international journalist networks.

Training: Workshops in investigative journalism, trauma reporting, countering mis/disinformation, and reporting in conflict zones are frequently cited needs of the Sudanese journalist community. They should be tailored to the linguistic and connectivity requirements of those affected and account for the immense income restrictions these journalists currently face.

Equipment: Given infrastructural damage and power outages, meeting the highlighted demands for laptops, cameras, and recording devices could be supplemented by power backup options.

Collaborative Platforms: These would provide journalists with virtual space to collaborate, pool resources, and offer peer support, which could help mitigate resource constraints and foster a sense of community.

Protection & Legal assistance: Provide structural support to institutions dedicated to assisting journalists, enabling them to effectively monitor cases of impunity and bolster protective frameworks. This encompasses offering legal guidance and assistance to journalists who are confronted with threats or entangled in legal disputes.

Discrimination & Biases: Launching anti-discrimination campaigns to address prevalent gender, ethnic, and political biases would foster inclusion and equal opportunity in media houses, challenging prevailing norms.

Gender: Addressing gender disparities as a top priority should focus on discrimination against women journalists, especially the looming threat of sexual assault.

Editorial Independence: Bolstering support through interventions should never compromise beneficiaries' journalistic integrity and editorial independence.

Engaging Stakeholders

Local & International Collaboration: The engagement of both national entities and international bodies will ensure an efficient allocation of resources and facilitate a more coordinated response.

Advocacy: Launching awareness campaigns about the challenges journalists face in Sudan should target local and international audiences.

Lobbying for Press Freedoms: Engagement with all conflicting parties in Sudan and international bodies will step up advocacy for greater press freedom and protection for journalists.

Building Trust: Two-thirds of survey respondents currently feel unsupported. Building trust through transparency, regular communication, and positive impact stories can help change this.

Risk Analysis

Rising Threats: The growing intimidation and hostility toward journalists, mainly based on political and ethnic animosity, portends a potential escalation. Urgent interventions can avert potential tragedies. / Mitigation: Ensure all interventions prioritise discretion. Use encrypted communication channels and anonymise data where possible.

Relocation: Assisting with relocation might present bureaucratic hurdles or resistance from host countries. / Mitigation: Collaborate with international media organisations and human rights bodies to foster networking and further support. Offer cultural orientation sessions and language training to ease adjustment to a new backdrop.

Economic Collapse of Media: If unchecked, the economic hardships faced by media houses and journalists can lead to a broader collapse of a free press in Sudan. / Mitigation: Allocate dedicated media grants, promote sustainable monetisation strategies, and establish partnerships between local and international media entities for resource sharing.

Potential Suppression: 95% of respondents say they already face content restrictions. Any further inaction risks pushing the country towards more extreme censorship and suppression of reporters' voices. / Mitigation: Promote encrypted communication tools to ensure secure information exchange. International press freedom bodies and human rights organisations can spotlight and condemn instances of censorship, bringing global attention to these issues. Launch awareness campaigns highlighting the dangers of content limitations and amplifying the narratives of Sudanese journalists on global platforms, ensuring their stories reach beyond national borders.

Mental Health Crisis: The profound emphasis on psychosocial support needs, especially among younger journalists, indicates a looming mental health crisis if left unaddressed. / Mitigation: Establish dedicated helplines, collaborate with NGOs for resilience training, and advocate for regular mental health check-ins within media organisations.

Insufficient Finances: The lack of adequate international funding could severely hinder efforts to address the urgent needs of Sudanese journalists. / Mitigation: Strengthen advocacy efforts that target international donors, highlighting on-ground realities.

By adopting these recommendations and strategies, stakeholders can play a pivotal role in safeguarding the rights and well-being of journalists in Sudan. However, it's essential to approach these interventions with a clear understanding of the associated risks and to be prepared with mitigative measures.

**“I hope
peace
prevails
and the
war ends.”**

6. Conclusion

In regions marred by conflict, the significance of journalists is amplified. With its ongoing turmoil, Sudan exemplifies this, presenting reporters with multi-faceted challenges.

This study delves into the realities these professionals face, from immediate threats to the intricacies of digital security. Their stories and insights play an important role in moulding local and global perceptions of Sudan's current state.

By bolstering their safety, fostering their well-being, and championing an environment conducive to free reporting, we support the journalists and the pillars of democracy, human rights, and an informed citizenry.

The urgency of the situation cannot be emphasised enough. With every passing day, untold stories linger, injustices persist, and another journalist grapples with potential dangers.

The challenges faced by Sudanese journalists are not isolated incidents but indicative of a larger global issue. Their experiences are a stark reminder of the threats to freedom of expression and the importance of safeguarding it.

The window for mere reflection has closed; it is imperative for stakeholders, both within Sudan and globally, to recognise this urgency and respond with determination.

In light of these findings, it is clear that immediate resource provision, resolute advocacy for press freedoms, and guaranteeing protective measures for journalists in Sudan are essential.

It is our collective duty to ensure they can do their vital work in a safe and supportive environment.

Appendix

Assessment Questionnaire

Start word:

Hi

Intro:

Dear colleague,
This is a survey conducted by UNESCO and MiCT, with the support of engageSPARK, to assess the most immediate needs of journalists working in Sudan and thus establish the most effective support mechanisms for you to continue your vital work. Thank you for taking the time. Your data will remain protected and anonymous. / Note: This questionnaire is intended only for journalists currently inside Sudan.

1. Are you happy to proceed?

- Yes
- No

Publication Status:

2. Are you currently able to publish your work through a medium or social media?

- Yes, paid posting
- Yes, unpaid posting
- No
- Prefer not to say

3. Content impact: Have your publications been restricted since the war? Please name all relevant numbers (1 2 3)

- Yes, forced to change publication
- Yes, forced to publish certain information
- Yes, forced to delete publication
- Yes, censorship
- Yes, self-censorship
- Yes, you experienced the threat of being restricted without actually being restricted
- Yes, in another way
- No
- Prefer not to answer
- If other

3.1 If you want to add anything else, please do so.

Threats:

4. Physical threats: Have you experienced physical threats or violence due to your work as a journalist during the conflict?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

5. Psychological threats: Have you experienced intimidation or other psychological threats /violence due to your work as a journalist during the conflict?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

6. Digital threats: Have you been subjected to digital threats due to your work as a journalist since April 2023?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

6.1. If yes: Which specific forms of online attacks have you experienced?

- Cyber-attacks including hacking
- Arbitrary online surveillance
- Online harassment or violence
- Other attacks
- Prefer not to say
- If other

6.2. Please specify the type of cyberattacks you encountered

Assistance Needs:

7. Safety & Financial Assistance: Do you need any of the following immediate assistance to continue your work as a journalist? Please choose the three numbers related to your highest priority (e.g. 1, 2, 4).

- Immediate financial assistance
- Editorial support/training/resources
- Self-care in trauma situations
- Safe living/ working space
- Other
- No need for any immediate assistance to continue my journalistic work
- Prefer not to say

7.1. If Other: If you want to add anything else, please do so.

8. Psychosocial Support: Do you need any services that provide support or coping strategies?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

9. Equipment: Which specific security or technical equipment do you most need to continue reporting? Choose the three numbers related to your highest priority (e.g., 1 2 4).

- Bulletproof vest
- Helmet
- Laptop
- Camera
- Recording device
- Other equipment
- No need for equipment
- Prefer not to say

9.1 If Other: Please do so if you want to add anything else.

10. Training Assistance: Do you require any of the following training offers in the near future? Choose the three numbers related to your highest priority (e.g., 1 2 4).

- Editorial support
- Mis/disinformation training/resources
- Investigative journalism training/resources
- Training on trauma and stress reporting
- Other support
- No need for training assistance
- Maybe at a later stage
- Prefer not to answer

10.1 If Other: If you want to add anything else, please do so.

11. Physical Relocation: Given the current situation, should you have the necessary travel documents, do you want to relocate within Sudan or abroad?

- Yes
- No
- Yes, but I don't have the necessary documents
- Undecided
- Prefer not to answer

11.1 If yes, which would be your primary location choice?

- Port Sudan
- Another location within Sudan
- Kenya
- Another non-Arabic-speaking country
- Egypt
- Saudi Arabia
- Prefer not to say

11.2. If 2 or 4: Please specify the most convenient location for you to relocate to.

12. Relocation assistance: If you want to relocate, what type of assistance - if any - do you require? Choose the three numbers related to your highest priority (e.g., 1 2 4).

- Language support
- Legal support
- Financial support
- Logistical support
- Other support
- I haven't decided to move yet
- No need for any support
- Prefer not to say

12.1 If other: If you want to add anything else, please do so.

13. Open-ended questions: The following are open-ended questions to allow us to understand your exact situation and needs better. Please answer everything in one message rather than in separate messages. Are you happy to proceed?

- Yes, I'll continue
- No, please skip these questions

14. Self-protection: If you faced any danger or threat, how have you responded to threats so far?

15. Support structures: Who are currently relevant actors or mechanisms facilitating the continuation of your work?

16. Other Needs: Are there any other challenges or needs not covered by the above questions you currently face? If so, please briefly describe them.

Personal Identity

17. Optional identity questions: The following questions relate to your identity to ensure we can adapt support offers to groups as precisely as possible. No personal information will be required, shared or stored. Are you happy to proceed?

- Yes, I'll continue
- No, please skip these questions

18. Languages: Which languages do you publish in?

- Arabic
- English
- Other
- If other

18.1 If Other: Please name the language in which you publish your journalistic work.

19. What type of medium do you primarily work in?

- Print
- Radio
- Online
- TV
- All of the above
- Other
- Prefer not to say

19.1 If other: Please specify the media type your work in mainly.

20. Publication method: Please select your primary current channel of publication

- Local/regional Sudanese media
- National Sudanese media
- International media
- Personal social media
- Personal Youtube channel
- Multiple channels
- Other
- None

20.1 If other: Please specify the current primary publishing channel.

21. Age: How old are you?

22. Gender:

- Male
- Female
- Other
- Prefer not to say

23. Geography: Which area of Sudan are you currently based (state)?

24. Identity: Do you define as belonging to a group in Sudan that faces systemic discrimination or marginalisation?

- Yes, based on gender
- Yes, based on sexual orientation
- Yes, based on religion
- Yes, based on socioeconomic factors
- Yes, based on ethnicity
- Yes, based on political and intellectual grounds
- Other type/types
- The question has nothing to do with my experience
- Prefer not to say

24.1 If multiple or other: If you identify yourself as belonging to a group in Sudan that faces discrimination not mentioned in the choices above and would like to add anything else, please do so.

25. Anything else you would like to share? Or any changes to your responses you would like to mention?

Conclusion:

Thank you so much for taking the time to share your experiences with us. We understand that some of these topics might have been difficult to discuss. Your input is invaluable and will guide us in providing meaningful assistance. We will develop support mechanisms to make them as far-reaching as possible. In urgent cases, please e-mail fellowship@mict-international.org. Please stay safe.

Resources

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“Revealing
oneself
as a
journalist is
perilous.”

MiCT is a non-profit organisation offering expert media services in complex and challenging environments. We collaborate with our partners with passion, precision, and agility to foster fair, inclusive and transparent dialogue in support of resilience in changing societies. In 15 countries across three continents, MiCT facilitates training journalists and media producers, programme and content development, radio and film production, and magazine and book publishing. MiCT also engages in media research and monitoring while supporting our partners' financial viability.

UNESCO is the UN agency with the mandate to protect Freedom of Expression and Access to Information and coordinates the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. UNESCO's action aim to create a free and safe environment for journalists and media workers, both in conflict and non-conflict situations, with a view to strengthening peace, democracy and development worldwide.