

Darfur, April 2026. Displaced families gather at a temporary site outside the town.

FIELD NEWSLETTER • MONITORING PERIOD: 1–30 APRIL 2026

Civilian Harm in April's War

In This Issue

→ Kutum: 56 Killed at a Wedding

→ The Drone War on Civilians: Q1 & April Incidents

→ El Obeid Under Suicide Drones

→ Three Years of War · Berlin Conference

→ ERD Response and Appeal

Somewhere in Sudan right now, a family is sleeping on ash.

This is **April 2026**. Three years into a war that has displaced **14 million** people — a war in which drones account for the majority of child casualties recorded, according to UN OHCHR, and a war the world has mostly filed away under 'ongoing crisis' and moved on.

In April alone, **56 people** were killed at a wedding in **Kutum**. Residential neighborhoods in **El Obeid** were struck by suicide drones. Markets in **North Kordofan** and **South Kordofan** were targeted while vendors worked morning shifts. A donor conference in **Berlin** pledged less than a third of what is needed.

This newsletter summarizes these events, drawing on verified reporting by **UN agencies**, human rights monitors, and news organizations. **ERD Organization** operates across the affected areas in **West Kordofan**, **South Kordofan**, **Central Darfur**, and beyond, and uses this documentation to understand and respond to the needs of the populations it serves.

This newsletter summarizes documented incidents and their humanitarian context.

ERD Organization

INCIDENT • 9 APRIL 2026 • KUTUM, NORTH DARFUR

They were at a wedding. Fifty-six of them did not come home.

*A drone struck a wedding celebration in **Al-Salama** neighbourhood, **Kutum**, on the evening of **9 April 2026**. **Seventeen** of the dead were children. **Kutum Rural Hospital** received more than **40** bodies through the night.*



*Aftermath near **Kutum, North Darfur**, following the **9 April 2026** drone strike. Image via news reporting on the incident.*

Kutum is a town in **North Darfur**, near Sudan's border with **Chad**. It has been under **RSF (Rapid Support Forces)** control since early in the war. The strike was attributed by the **RSF** to the **Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF)**, which denied targeting civilians. An eyewitness described the drone hitting a house packed with guests, destroying the main structure and damaging **four** surrounding homes. Medical staff at **Kutum Rural Hospital** confirmed more than **40** bodies and dozens of injured arrivals through the night.

The strike is among the deadliest single drone incidents recorded in Sudan since the conflict began in **April 2023**. It follows a sharp escalation in aerial bombardment across **Darfur** and **Kordofan** throughout **Q1 2026**, in which the **UN** recorded nearly **700** civilian deaths from drone strikes in three months alone.

56	17	107	4
KILLED	CHILDREN	WOUNDED	HOMES DAMAGED

Q1 2026 • JANUARY THROUGH MARCH • DRONE WAR ON CIVILIANS

The Drone War on Civilians: Q1 (Jan-Mar 2026) Context & April Incidents

*These figures are drawn from verified reporting by **UN agencies**, human rights monitors, and news organizations. This is what the first three months of **2026** looked like.*

700+
CIVILIANS KILLED BY DRONES JAN–MAR 2026

245
CHILD CASUALTIES IN DRONE STRIKES

80%
OF CHILD KILLINGS CAUSED BY DRONES

198
DRONE STRIKES FIRST 2 MONTHS (ACLED)

Pattern of Targeting



Documented strikes across both sides have repeatedly hit markets, hospitals, schools, and residential neighborhoods during peak hours — a pattern UN OHCHR has described as consistent with systematic civilian harm.

UN OHCHR confirmed over **52** strikes caused civilian casualties in the first two months of **2026 (January–February)**. **West Kordofan** bore the heaviest toll: **152** killed, including **50** in a single strike on a market and hospital in **Al-Muglad** on **4 March**.

The Eid al-Fitr attack on **20 March** struck **El Daein Teaching Hospital**, killing **64** people including **13** children and one doctor. A hospital, on a public holiday. **ACLED (Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project)** recorded **198** drone strikes causing civilian casualties in Sudan in **January** and **February** alone — more than half of all such strikes on the African continent.

April 2026 — Documented Incidents

9 Apr **Kutum, North Darfur**

Wedding strike — **56** killed, **17** children, **107** wounded.

17 Apr **Um Dukhun, North Darfur**

Entire family of **6** killed; **10** others dead, dozens burned.

17 Apr **Hamra al-Sheikh, N. Kordofan**

Market strike — **4** civilians killed, including one woman.

24 Apr **Al-Farshaya, S. Kordofan**

Market strike — **2** women killed at a tea and coffee stall.

25 Apr **El Obeid, N. Kordofan**

RSF attributed; SAF denied targeting civilians. Residential drone strikes — **7** killed, **22** wounded.

***ERD Organization** works across the communities described in this newsletter. Published reporting informs ERD's understanding of the crisis and shapes where and how it responds.*

INCIDENT • 25 APRIL 2026 • EL OBEID, NORTH KORDOFAN

El Obeid: Residential Areas Hit by Suicide Drones

On **25 April 2026**, **drone strikes hit multiple locations in El Obeid**, killing at least **7** civilians and wounding **22** others. The **Sudan Doctors Network** and local reporters attributed the attack to RSF suicide drones.



***Kordofan Hall, El Obeid University**, destroyed in a drone strike attributed to the RSF. Photo: Sudan Tribune, 28 February 2026.*

El Obeid is the capital of **North Kordofan** and a key **Sudanese Armed Forces** hub. The **Sudan Doctors Network** stated that the strikes hit civilian areas and were not directed at military infrastructure. The university hall above was struck weeks before the **25 April** attack. It was a hall for examinations. Students sat there.

NORTH KORDOFAN • APRIL 2026 • ADDITIONAL INCIDENTS

17 April, Hamra al-Sheikh

A drone struck a market in **Hamra al-Sheikh**, **North Kordofan**, killing **four** civilians including one woman. The **Emergency Lawyers** group condemned the attack as part of a recurring pattern of targeting civilian markets in violation of international humanitarian law.

24 April, Al-Farshaya Market

Two women were killed at a tea and coffee stall in **South Kordofan**. Both died of their wounds. Vendors in a market, working a morning shift. Local sources report worsening security and a rise in aerial bombardments across the area.

THREE YEARS OF WAR • BERLIN CONFERENCE • FUNDING CRISIS

Three Years In: The World's Worst Humanitarian Crisis

34M	14M	150K+	21M
IN URGENT NEED	PEOPLE DISPLACED	ESTIMATED DEATHS	FOOD INSECURE

Berlin Conference

On **April 15**, delegations from over **60** countries gathered in **Berlin** for the third International Conference on Sudan. Countries pledged over **US$1 billion**. The **2026** Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan requires **US$3 billion**.

UN Emergency Relief Coordinator **Tom Fletcher** described Sudan as 'an atrocities laboratory,' citing starvation as a weapon, sieges, sexual violence, and the systematic targeting of schools and hospitals.

Humanitarian funding stands at **16 percent** of what is needed. For every dollar that should reach Sudan, **84 cents** is missing. The **2025** plan received under **25 percent** of its target. Last year's shortfall is this year's famine.



Food and Funding Crisis

Famine conditions have persisted since **August 2024**. Around **28.9 million** people — nearly **62 percent** of the population — face acute food shortages. Some **10 million** children are out of school.

Poverty has reached levels unseen since the **1980s**, with **70 percent** of Sudanese now living below the poverty line, nearly double the pre-war rate.

Sudan is the world's most dependent nation on fertiliser through the Strait of Hormuz, accounting for **54 percent** of imports. The growing season peaks in **April** and **May**. The crisis is arriving precisely when it can do the most damage.



*The organizations still on the ground inside Sudan, including **ERD**, are absorbing what the international system cannot deliver. Every funding gap filled by a donor is a family that gets help before the season ends.*

WHAT WE DO • WHY IT MATTERS • HOW TO HELP

The families cannot wait. Neither can we.

> ***ERD Organization*** *is a Sudanese national NGO with teams operating across* ***West Kordofan***, ***South Kordofan***, ***Central Darfur***, *and* ***North Abyei****. Every dollar that reaches* ***ERD*** *reaches communities that most international organizations cannot access.*

9M	4.4M	16%	84¢
IDPS INSIDE SUDAN	REFUGEES ACROSS BORDERS	OF FUNDING ACTUALLY MET	OF EVERY NEEDED DOLLAR: MISSING

WHAT YOUR SUPPORT MAKES POSSIBLE

An NFI (Non-Food Item) kit	In **March 2026**, **256 families** in **Al-Abbasiya** received non-food item kits through **ERD**. Each kit meant a family slept warm that night. Your contribution funds the next distribution.
A needs assessment	**ERD**'s **January 2026** assessment identified **4,373** displaced people in **Al-Abbasiya**. That evidence secured the **IOM** grant that paid for those kits. Documentation saves lives downstream.
Field presence	**ERD** operates across communities in **Kordofan** and **Darfur** where most international organizations have no staff. Their presence enables rapid response and ground-level verification of needs.
Incident reporting	**ERD** compiles and analyses incident data from published reporting and partner networks. This evidence base supports humanitarian planning and advocacy for accountability.

ERD Organization — How to Engage

ERD Organization's ability to document and respond to what you have just read depends on sustained operational support. Displaced families arriving in ERD's areas grow every week. Every contribution reaches the field within weeks, not months.

Whether through direct funding, partnership, or advocacy, there is a role for you. The communities **ERD** works in are counting on people outside Sudan staying engaged.

Rounag Shimila, Founder & General Manager |
rounag@erdorganization.org |
info@erdorganization.org

www.erdorganization.org

ERD
Organization

NEWSLETTER • APRIL 2026

With deepest gratitude,

The ERD Organization Team

Environment and Rural Women's Development Organization | Sudan

erdorganization.org

info@erdorganization.org

ERD Organization is a Sudanese national NGO operating across West Kordofan, South Kordofan, Central Darfur, and North Abyei. We turn community presence into humanitarian response.