

## Dóchas Statement

As the heads of humanitarian and development organizations working in Sudan, and neighboring countries, we are coming together to call for an urgent end to the crisis in Sudan. There is no time to lose. Over 500 days of relentless conflict have devastated the country and created the largest humanitarian catastrophe in the world.

26 million people are in danger due to the devastation of conflict and hunger. 9 million children are food insecure. Over 700,000 children under 5 are at risk of dying from starvation.

As a result of ongoing conflict, blockages to humanitarian aid, displacement and destruction of services, people are dying of hunger with famine declared in North Darfur. We are in a race against time to prevent a widespread famine from taking hold.

This is a crisis of historic proportions. The world has neglected the people of Sudan over the past year.

Many have been forced to flee repeatedly, with little to no access to shelter, income and basic necessities. Approximately one in seven of the world's internally displaced people is Sudanese.

We are working with Sudanese organizations and community volunteers, who have been at the forefront of response efforts since the conflict began. Humanitarian workers continue to deliver, despite the immense challenges including lack of access, and threats to safety.

With only 41% of the global appeal for funding for Sudan met, humanitarian funding needs to be urgently scaled up to restore health and basic services in Sudan.

Nearly seven million people are currently at risk of gender-based violence in Sudan, with displaced, refugee and migrant women and girls particularly vulnerable. Protection of civilians must be prioritized, and perpetrators of violence must be held to account.

We are here today because we believe that Ireland has a critical voice. Our commitment to reaching those left furthest behind, and highlighting the need for peace, justice and ending hunger, is needed now more than ever.

Ireland has played a historic role in the past by directing the world's attention to famine in Somalia and Ethiopia. At this year's UN General Assembly, Ireland needs to push for a full-scale effort to end hostilities in Sudan and create unfettered access for humanitarian response. Local communities and women as peacemakers must be supported to play their vital role.

As co-chairs of the Group of Friends of Action against Conflict and Hunger, Ireland should continue to highlight the use of starvation as a weapon of war in Sudan, and call for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2736 and the UN Secretary General's note to address food insecurity in Sudan.

Ireland should call for the full respect of obligations to protect civilians, children, healthcare workers and facilities, humanitarian workers, journalists, the sick and the wounded.

As Dóchas, the Irish Network for International Development and Humanitarian organizations, in partnership with former President and Chair of the Elders, Mary Robinson, we call on the Irish Government in the strongest terms to do all that it can.

We cannot stand by as this catastrophic crisis continues to unfold.

We must act now.