



SUDAN

Humanitarian Collapse in Sudan: HI Canada Raises the Alarm on the Situation of Persons with Disabilities

April 14th, 2026, Montreal

Three years after the outbreak of the war in Sudan, the situation for the civilian population is catastrophic. Even more so for persons with disabilities: they face greater difficulties escaping violence and accessing emergency aid. **Humanity & Inclusion (HI) is one of the only international humanitarian organizations providing rehabilitation care in Sudan** and is deeply concerned about the impact of explosive weapons on civilians in this conflict of unprecedented scale.

“Sudan is the world’s worst humanitarian and displacement crisis: 33.7 million people - almost the equivalent of Canada's population - need humanitarian assistance today. The collapse of essential services, worsening food insecurity, repeated attacks on civilians, displacement and widespread human rights violations are driving the population toward catastrophe. As one of the only international humanitarian organisations supporting people with disabilities in Sudan, HI Canada is alarmed by a looming disability crisis.” — **Anne Delorme, Executive Director, Humanity and Inclusion Canada**

Double Impact on People with Disabilities

11.6 million people have been displaced, over 33 million need humanitarian assistance, and there are alarming reports of ethnic cleansing and sexual abuse¹². While the general Sudanese population is suffering enormously from the ongoing violence, **the situation is even more severe for people with disabilities**. They face

¹ Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP), OCHA 2025.

² Humanitarian action, Global Humanitarian Overview 2026, Sudan



greater difficulties in fleeing violence, have limited access to humanitarian aid, and are at a higher risk of becoming victims of physical and sexual violence. Global estimates indicate that **16% of Sudan's population, at least 4.6 million people, live with a disability**¹. In conflict-affected areas, this figure is likely to be far higher due to injury, trauma, chronic health deterioration, and barriers to care.

*“With the onset of the conflict, we were forced to leave our home due to the dangerous conditions and ongoing shelling around us. I was unable to take my diabetes medication regularly. As a result, wounds developed on my body, became infected, and did not respond to treatment or repeated dressing sessions. Consequently, I lost my leg. Since the amputation surgery, I have been unable to walk and now spend all my time in bed.” - **Sadia Abdallah Mohamed, citizen of Wad Madani***

In conflict and crisis settings, people with disabilities are often among the first to lose their lives or to be left behind, and they face heightened risks of violence, abuse, discrimination, and exclusion. **Mortality rates among people with disabilities tend to be two to four times higher than those of the general population in situations of conflict**. Furthermore, inclusive approaches, or the adaptation of humanitarian interventions to meet the needs of people with disabilities, are virtually nonexistent, as are specialized services.

HI's Response in Sudan: Key Provider of Rehabilitation Care

Rehabilitation care is provided, and assistive devices are supplied primarily to people with disabilities in **Wad Madani (Al-Jazirah State)**, southeast of the capital, Khartoum. In addition, stimulation therapy is offered to malnourished children to prevent long-term disabilities. HI provides these services in four existing hospitals and rehabilitation centers. On the western side of the country, in **Tawilah (North Darfur State)**, functional rehabilitation care is provided at the hospital run by HI's partner, Doctors Without Borders. The services primarily assist people with war-related injuries like gunshot wounds, trauma linked to forced displacement, and injuries resulting from precarious living conditions in displacement camps through emergency rehabilitation care. In addition, support is also provided to people with disabilities. Since beginning its work, HI has carried out over 9,500 rehabilitation sessions and provided care for almost 2,400 individuals. More than 150 people have also received assistive devices.



“The fall of El Fasher has led to an influx of displaced people into neighboring Tawilah. An increasing number of individuals with severe injuries, such as gunshot wounds, urgently require rehabilitation care and adapted assistive devices. Without early intervention, these individuals risk developing permanent impairments and chronic pain. Currently, we are one of the few humanitarian organizations able to provide this essential support in Sudan and the only one in Darfur.” – Vincent Dalonneau, Country Director for HI Sudan

HI has also been providing emergency aid in **Geneina (West Darfur State)**. The organization offers financial support and distributes hygiene kits to households with malnourished children. In addition, through its unit Atlas Logistique, HI provides **logistical support** to various humanitarian actors through the storage and transportation of emergency relief supplies, thereby improving connections between different locations in North Darfur.

To ensure that the needs of vulnerable people are met, HI implements **Inclusive Humanitarian Action**. Through training and other activities, HI raises awareness and strengthens the capacity of other humanitarian organizations to deliver emergency assistance as inclusively as possible, ensuring that people with disabilities are not excluded.

As the consequences of this devastating conflict extend beyond the country's borders, HI is also providing rehabilitation care and psychological support in eastern **Chad**. In the border town of Adré (Ouaddaï Province), war victims have been supported since December 2023, and HI plays an important logistical role for dozens of humanitarian organizations operating in the area.

Returnees at Risk

The war in Sudan has triggered the world's largest displacement crisis, with nearly 14 million people displaced at its peak. Despite the ongoing conflict, **more than 3 million people had already returned home** by the end of January 2026, including 700,000 from abroad, according to UNHCR and IOM. Most returns occurred to states where violence had largely subsided, such as Khartoum, Blue Nile, and Al Jazirah.

However, the presence of explosive remnants of war poses a significant danger, particularly in areas of return and along former frontlines. According to UNMAS, there is **heavy contamination from unexploded ordnance, including anti-personnel mines**. These pose a serious threat in homes, schools, hospitals, mosques, and on roads.



“Other conflicts around the world have already shown how the contamination from unexploded ordnance can impact civilian life for decades, even after the conflict has ended. It endangers the lives of the Sudanese population, restricts access to essential services, and hinders economic development.” – Vincent Dalonneau, Country Director for HI Sudan

According to UNMAS, the population of Sudan, especially those living in urban areas, is largely unaware of the risks posed by unexploded ordnance. By **raising awareness** - through sessions that teach people how to identify hazardous objects and act safely - these risks can be minimized. Additionally, **demining activities** must be carried out. However, HI's experience in humanitarian demining shows that this is a slow and challenging process, likely to take many years. Finally, the need for **victim assistance** is very high due to the lack of existing services.

Available for interviews:

- **Vincent Dalonneau**, HI Sudan Country Director, based in Nairobi - Kenya (FR/EN)
- **Fanny Mraz**, HI Director Emergencies, visited Sudan (Al Jazirah) in March 2026, based in Lyon - France (FR/EN)
- **Simon Elmont**, HI Global Land Release Technical Specialist, based in London - UK (EN)