declared a state of emergency in several areas, restricting
movement, access to markets and livelihood activities (IPC,
June 2019).

In the Greater Darfur region, security improvements in 2018
allowed substantial numbers of IDPs to return home and
engage in agricultural activities, pushing up millet production
in this key producing area to record levels (FAO-GIEWS, March
2019) and lowering household market dependence. This
lessened the impact of soaring food prices during the 2019
lean season. Incidents of fighting had also declined in South
Kordofan and Blue Nile States. However, 1.9 million IDPs
who could not afford the basic food basket and 1.1 million
refugees and asylum seekers displaced by conflict continued
to need humanitarian assistance, both in camps and within
host communities. Intercommunal tensions escalated in some
areas in Darfur, Abyei and Eastern Sudan, with about 12 700
people newly displaced, mainly due to conflict in areas of
Jebel Marra (Darfur) (OCHA, January 2020).

NUTRITION OVERVIEW

The Sudan has the fourth highest GAM rates in the world
(UNICEF, 2019) with 14.1 percent of children under 5 years
acutely malnourished. Eight of the country’s 18 states recorded
‘very high’ GAM rates, peaking at 19.5 percent in North Darfur
(S3M-II, 2019). Around 2.7 million children under 5 years were
acutely malnourished, 522 000 severely so.

Increasing food prices, deteriorating health care, poor
sanitation and water (with sources contaminated by flooding)
and food insecurity aggravate persistently high levels of
malnutrition (OCHA 2020). Just 24.1 percent of children
receive an adequately diverse diet. One third of the population
continues to practise open defecation (S3M-II 2019).

The Sudan experienced increased morbidity with disease
outbreaks including cholera, chikungunya, dengue, malaria,
measles and Rift Valley fever in 2019. Malaria cases were at
epidemic levels in several states, with the Ministry of Health
(MoH) recording over 1.7 million cases, the majority in North
Darfur, double the number of 2018. There were 3 813 cases of
measles as of August 2019 (OCHA, January 2020).

Nutrition status of refugees

GAM among refugee populations was also above the ‘very
high’ threshold in 13 of the 23 camps and was ‘high’ in seven
camps. The prevalence of stunting was greater than the
30 percent ‘very high’ threshold in 10 out of 23 camps, ‘high’
in 2 camps, and ‘medium’ in 11 camps.

In more than half of the camps anaemia prevalence
among children aged 6–59 months was at critical levels
(≥40 percent). The prevalence of anaemia among non-
pregnant women aged 15–49 years was at critical levels
(≥40 percent) in four camps and acceptable in only one
(SENS, 2018).