



Prepared: **WHITE & CASE**

IFRC COVID-19 Emergency Decree Pro Bono Research: Sudan

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1. Is there coordination between state and non-state actors, e.g. through a national emergency response mechanism?

Yes. The Federal Ministry of Health, with the support of the WHO, developed a US\$76 million nationwide preparedness and response plan for COVID-19 (the "Preparedness Plan"), which measures include^{1,2}:

- Creation of two isolation centers to treat COVID-19 patients. In addition, military hospitals in Khartoum and in the states to be created for shelter and treatment.
- Closure of all schools, universities, religious institutes, universities, colleges and higher institutes for one month, starting from March 14. Basic certification exams in all states to be postponed until further notice.
- All festivals, camps and sports events to be cancelled, and public gatherings such as weddings have been banned.
- Measures to reduce congestion in the workplace for public and private institutions.
- Additional health measures and controls to be taken in prisons and correction centers.
- Tightening control over public markets and prices of food, as well as over medical and non-medical supplies.

On 23 March 2020, the government instituted a curfew for the whole country from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. to curb the spread of COVID-19,³ and on 31 March 2020 the curfew was extended to a daily 12-hour period from 6pm to 6am of the following day.⁴

The Sudan Aviation Authority issued a circular on 24 March 2020 stating that Khartoum and domestic airports will remain closed until 23 April 2020, with the exception of humanitarian and medical assistance

¹ See <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/sudan> accessed 30 March 2020.

² See https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/200317_Sudan%20COVID-19%20Preparedness%20and%20Response%20Plan.pdf accessed 30 March 2020.

³ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-flash-update-23-march-2020-two-cases-covid-19-have-been-confirmed-sudan> accessed 30 March 2020.

⁴ <https://esudan.gov.sd/news/642/11> accessed 30 March 2020.

flights, emergency landings, and fuel supply flights that do not require offloading of passengers.⁵ Additionally, all travel between states has been banned with the exception for humanitarian, commercial and technical shipments as of 26 March 2020.⁶

2. Is there mention of the role of Red Cross (RC) or humanitarian actors? In what areas/sectors? What responsibilities are ascribed to RC?

Humanitarian actors have deployed support in various ways:⁷

- Since February, the UN has supported the Federal Ministry of Health with setting up intensive care units in Khartoum, provided medicine and medical supplies, procured and disseminated infection prevention and control materials, and education and communication materials.
- WHO trained staff deployed at points of entry and rapid response teams in Khartoum on COVID-19 response
- Various humanitarian agencies (*e.g.*, UNICEF, UNHCR, *etc.*) have allocated and mobilized resources to support COVID-19 preparedness in Sudan, including with respect to supplies for use in points of entries to Sudan, ambulances and communications to prevent the spread of the outbreak.
- UN Population Fund (“UNFPA”) is working with the temporary quarantine teams to ensure that women and girls of reproductive age that are admitted will receive dignity kits and that visibly pregnant women will receive clean delivery kits. UNFPA procured 10,000 dignity kits to cover the needs of vulnerable women and girls including those in isolation centers.
- A medical shipment sent by Chinese businessman Jack Ma to assist the country in facing the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in Khartoum on March 23, with World Food Programme and other actors providing logistical support. The shipment includes 20,000 testing kits, 100,000 masks and 1,000 protective suits.
- The International Committee of the Red Cross (“ICRC”) is reported to be speeding up efforts to improve access to water by repairing handpumps in West Darfur and al Geneina, and by accelerating an urban water project in Damazine.⁸
- ICRC is also reported to be helping federal and state Ministries of Health to build up contingency stocks of gloves, gowns, disinfectant and personal protective material, with plans to support detention authorities for hygiene promotion and supporting the Sudanese Red Crescent Society in their COVID-19 awareness campaigns, especially where the ICRC is working in Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan.⁹
- The UN Refugee Agency and partners distributed soap to 260,000 refugees, IDPs and members of host communities across Sudan in recent weeks.

⁵ See <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/sudan> accessed 30 March 2020.

⁶ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-flash-update-23-march-2020-two-cases-covid-19-have-been-confirmed-sudan> accessed 30 March 2020.

⁷ See <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/sudan> accessed 30 March 2020.

⁸ See <https://www.africanews.com/2020/03/30/covid-19-africa-international-committee-of-the-red-cross-icrc-response-to-the-coronavirus-in-africa/> accessed 30 March 2020.

⁹ Ibid.

3. Are there exceptions to travel restrictions that will facilitate the movement of RC/humanitarian relief teams and/or aid across borders? What (if any) quarantine requirements or other conditions are attached?

Until further notice, all commercial flights to Sudan have been cancelled and all land borders have been closed.¹⁰ Sudan will also halt all long-haul bus trips between cities and states beginning on 26 March 2020.¹¹

The Sudan Aviation Authority issued a circular on 24 March 2020 stating that Khartoum and domestic airports will remain closed until 23 April 2020, with the exception of humanitarian and medical assistance flights, emergency landings, and fuel supply flights that do not require offloading of passengers.¹² UN Humanitarian Air Services flights are expected to continue.¹³ Further details on the exceptions could not be found.

4. Are there exceptions to quarantines, curfews and other restrictions on movement that allow RC/humanitarian organizations access to vulnerable populations (including for psychosocial or non-medical aid)?

As noted above, air travel may still be permitted for humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian organizations including WHO, UNICEF and the UN have been working in collaboration with various branches of the Sudanese government to provide aid, in which case the relevant authorities could provide relief from restrictions on movement on a case-by-case basis. However, further details regarding uniform exceptions to quarantines, curfews and other travel restrictions could not be found,

5. Have any special legal facilities or exemptions been put in place for the importation of medical aid or other relief items or personnel (International Disaster Response Law)? What (if any) quarantine requirements or other conditions are attached?

While “special legal facilities or exemptions” have not been found in our research, the Preparedness Plan does specifically identify “operational support and logistics” as a key issue, and more specifically, the (i) “review of supply chain control and management system (stockpiling, storage, security, transportation and distribution arrangements) for medical and other essential supplies, including COVID-19 DCP and patient kit reserve in-country” and (ii) review of procurement processes (including importation and customs) for medical and other essential supplies” are identified as key work streams thereunder.¹⁴ The implementers of these work streams are identified to be WHO, UNICEF and the World Food Programme, and the total cost of these work streams is stated to be US\$530,000.¹⁵

6. Is the RC (or humanitarian organizations) categorized as 'essential' or 'emergency' services, for the purposes of exemptions to restrictions on business operations and opening hours?

On 24 March 2020, the government of Sudan imposed a nationwide curfew¹⁶, and on 31 March 2020 this was extended to a daily 12-hour period from 6pm to 6am of the following day.¹⁷ All long-haul bus rides have also been suspended. The restrictions do not apply to humanitarian, commercial and technical

¹⁰ See <https://sd.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/> accessed 30 March 2020.

¹¹ See <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2020-03-23/sudan-imposes-10-hour-night-time-curfew-to-curb-coronavirus-spread> accessed 30 March 2020.

¹² See <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/sudan> accessed 30 March 2020.

¹³ See <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Flash%20Update%20-%20Sudan%20-%2019%20Mar%202020%20%281%29.pdf> accessed 30 March 2020.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ See <https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-sudan/sudan-imposes-10-hour-night-time-curfew-to-curb-coronavirus-spread-idUKKBN21A39P> accessed 30 March 2020.

¹⁷ See <https://esudan.gov.sd/news/642/11> accessed 30 March 2020.

support shipments. As such, it would appear that the RC and related humanitarian organizations would not be caught by the restriction.

7. What other measures are provided in the emergency decrees? (for governmental actors, for communities, for health workers, etc).

From 16 March 2020, the government enacted a public health state of emergency. The government has asked the public to cooperate with health and security officials in their containment measures. The high ministerial committee has also decided to allow for the use of force to subject at-risk individuals to testing or quarantine.¹⁸

8. Have restrictions been adopted or put in place that ban the export of protective medical equipment?

Our research has not found that Sudan currently exports medical equipment, or that any such ban is in place if it did.

¹⁸ See <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/coronavirus-sudan-confusion-reigns-hundreds-escape-quarantine> accessed 30 March 2020.