

aid cuts push child malnutrition to breaking point in Sudan



under-five mortality

is now projected to rise for the first time this century

32%

projected decrease in international aid for basic nutrition between 2024 and 2026

12M

more children could die by 2045 if health funding decreases by 20%

20M

people in Sudan are experiencing acute hunger – that's 2 out of every 5 people

Since 2000, under-five mortality has declined by more than half, driven largely by expanded and more equitable access to essential health and nutrition services. But this progress is under threat as countries retreat from funding child and maternal nutrition.

Sudan's hunger crisis shows the devastating impacts aid cuts have on child malnutrition.

- Sudan has faced the world's largest humanitarian crisis since the start of the civil war in 2023.
- only 31.5% of funding has been fulfilled for Sudan's 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan.
- USAID previously supported half of the world's supply of vital nutrition supplements that treat severe acute malnutrition. But cuts have caused a critical shortage, limiting treatment options and ultimately increasing child mortality.

Armed conflict in Sudan was already placing enormous stress on the food system. **Now, aid cuts have made the situation even worse, pushing Sudan's hunger crisis to a catastrophic breaking point.**

- nearly 20 million people in Sudan are experiencing acute hunger – that's 2 out of every 5 people.
- more than 800,000 children are at risk of severe acute malnutrition in 2026.
- malnutrition is set to worsen even more as shrinking international aid, spreading infections, and conflict- and climate-related disruptions further limit access to adequate nutrition.
- humanitarian workers are seeing overcrowded nutrition clinics with a growing number of malnourished children.

Canada has historically played a leading role in global nutrition, including as the largest donor of vitamin A supplementation. But cuts to global health funding announced in 2025 threaten to diminish the progress Canada has supported and further cuts would only worsen ongoing crises like Sudan.

Budget 2026 provides an opportunity for the Canadian government to show leadership and support a healthier world by stopping cuts to international aid.