

CENTRAL KITCHENS SUPPORT FINAL REPORT



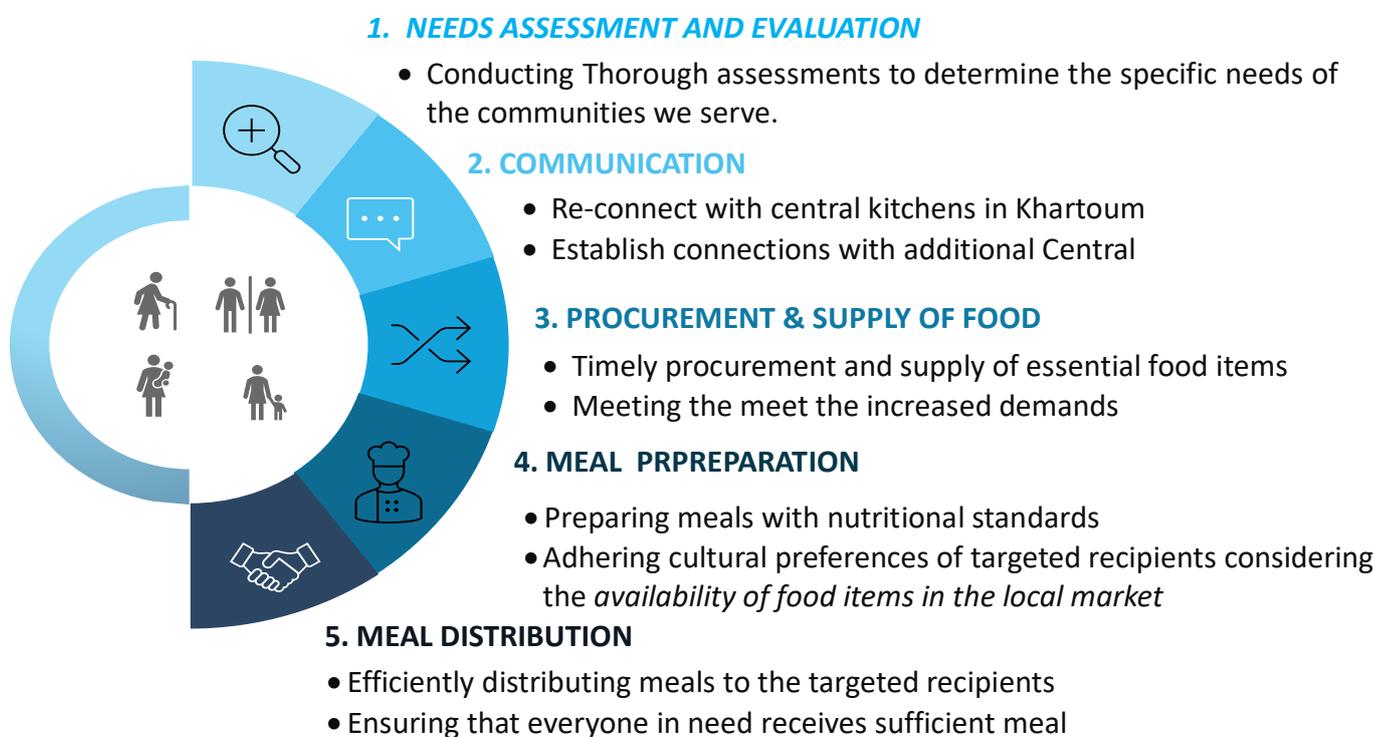
RAMADHAN 2024

The project was launched in Khartoum in November 2023 and subsequently expanded to encompass several IDPS centers across other states. This expansion was propelled by the commitment of supporting parties to address the urgent food security needs of families affected by the ongoing armed conflict in Sudan. This report details the activities carried out during Ramadan, celebrates our achievements, and discusses the challenges we faced, along with offering recommendations for future enhancements.

Throughout Ramadan, the project successfully provided over 1.3 million meals to more than 50,000 beneficiaries daily. These efforts incurred a cost exceeding 240 million Sudanese pounds, equivalent to approximately 200,000 US dollars. Operations were conducted through more than 50 central kitchens and IDP centers across five states. Additionally, 1,000 food packages were distributed to Sudanese refugee camps in the Adre Area of eastern Chad and to Sudanese families in Cairo, Egypt.

Project Focus and Execution Overview

Throughout Ramadan, our team diligently executed the planned activities as outlined in our implementation proposal. The project concentrated on five key areas essential to our mission:



At the end of February, a specialized form was designed and distributed to the central kitchens' committees to ascertain the number of beneficiary families, including details such as the number of children and special cases (sick, elderly, pregnant, and breastfeeding women). Additionally, a section was added to the form to gather feedback on the types of meals proposed and any deficiencies in the tools, which helped determine the response size and the estimated budget.

Action Plan

Segmentation and Supervision:

Khartoum State was divided into three sectors, with a supervisor appointed for each to oversee operations. The supervisors were responsible for compiling data on the number of beneficiaries and the types of meals provided throughout the month. This data was gathered from reports submitted by the emergency response rooms and committees overseeing the central kitchens, along with appointing a fourth supervisor for IDPS centers in other states.

Authorization and Oversight:

Each kitchen or center identified an authorized representative. This representative's details were confirmed by the sector supervisor and the project team before gaining final approval from the General Director. Once approved, the information was forwarded to the financial department to initiate the disbursement of funds.

Empowering Sector Supervisors:

Sector supervisors were granted full authority to decide on the methods for purchasing food supplies. This could be done either directly from the suppliers, or by transferring the necessary funds to the bank accounts of authorized individuals responsible for making purchases from local markets.

Financial Transactions:

Funds were transferred via the "BANKAK" the most consistent, commonly used and reliable mobile banking application in Sudan to sector supervisors and authorized representatives. Due to intermittent internet service, many suppliers were hesitant to use the banking application, leading representatives to forfeit 10%-15% of the transferred amount to obtain cash. This cash transaction fee was included in the disbursement records and approved as part of the financial liquidation process for the transferred amounts. This was deemed the only viable method to secure cash in conflict-affected areas.

Adapting to Challenges:

The frequent interruptions in communication services across various regions of Sudan, particularly in Khartoum State, forced field teams to operate under difficult circumstances and in areas deemed extremely dangerous. In these areas, teams relied on satellite internet connections via "STAR LINK" devices to maintain communication with the project team.

The economic instability throughout Sudan, marked by a 100% increase in prices over the past two months, necessitated frequent budget adjustments to adapt to the volatile market conditions, ensuring the project's continuity and effectiveness.

Financial Disbursement Flexibility:

Flexibility in financial disbursement procedures is crucial to effectively responding to the increasing challenges presented by the current situation. In areas where obtaining invoices from suppliers or using Official financial receipts is not possible, a bank transfer notice along with a detailed financial liquidation statement which includes disbursement items, quantities, and amounts have been spent.

Reconnecting to Central Kitchens:

Due to the nationwide interruption of communication services, and despite their gradual restoration in many areas of Sudan by the start of Ramadan, initial communications were established with only 16 out of the 25 central kitchens previously supported by Hadhreen and its partners in the neighborhoods of Khartoum State. This situation was compounded by the challenges in verifying requests from emergency response rooms and other grassroots initiatives across different districts of the state, as well as in monitoring performance and implementation progress.

Special Thanks to the swift actions of the project implementation team and the commitment of field teams on the ground, we managed successfully to re-established communication with all previously engaged kitchens. We also addressed the challenges associated with integrating new kitchens and responded to requests from some supporting entities to expand services to IDPS centers in other states, thus broadening our coverage to include:

No	Neighborhood/ IDPS	No. of kitchens	City/ Village	Locality	State
1	Thawra	8	Om Durman	Karary	Khartoum
2	Fiteehab	1	Om Durman	Om Durman	Khartoum
3	AL-Wadi Alakhdar	3	Khartoum Bahry	East Nile	Khartoum
4	Jereef East	2	Khartoum Bahry	East Nile	Khartoum
5	Haj youssif	2	Khartoum Bahry	East Nile	Khartoum
6	Shambat	1	Khartoum Bahry	Khartoum Bahry	Khartoum
7	Mazad	1	Khartoum Bahry	Khartoum Bahry	Khartoum
8	Suba West	1	Khartoum	Khartoum	Khartoum
9	Jereef West	6	Khartoum	Khartoum	Khartoum
10	Sahafa West	1	Khartoum	Khartoum	Khartoum
11	Sahafa East	1	Khartoum	Khartoum	Khartoum
12	Burri	4	Khartoum	Khartoum	Khartoum
13	Emtidad Nassir	6	Khartoum	Khartoum	Khartoum
14	Saggana	1	Khartoum	Khartoum	Khartoum
15	Abu Aadm	6	Khartoum	Khartoum	Khartoum
16	Montazah Center	1	Wadi Halfa	Wadi Halfa	Northen
17	Al-Freeg Algidamy	1	Arbaji	Hisahisa	Al-Jazeera
18	Daim lofty	1	Rofaa	Hisahisa	Al-Jazeera
19	Om Shawka Camp	1	Om Shawka	Sinnar	Sinnar
20	Zat Alnitageen School	1	Sinnar	Sinnar	Sinnar
21	Al-obaied	1	Obaied	Sheekan	Northern Kordofan
22	Almeedan School	1	Gadarif	Gadarif	Gadarif
23	Almofargaat school	1	Gadarif	Gadarif	Gadarif

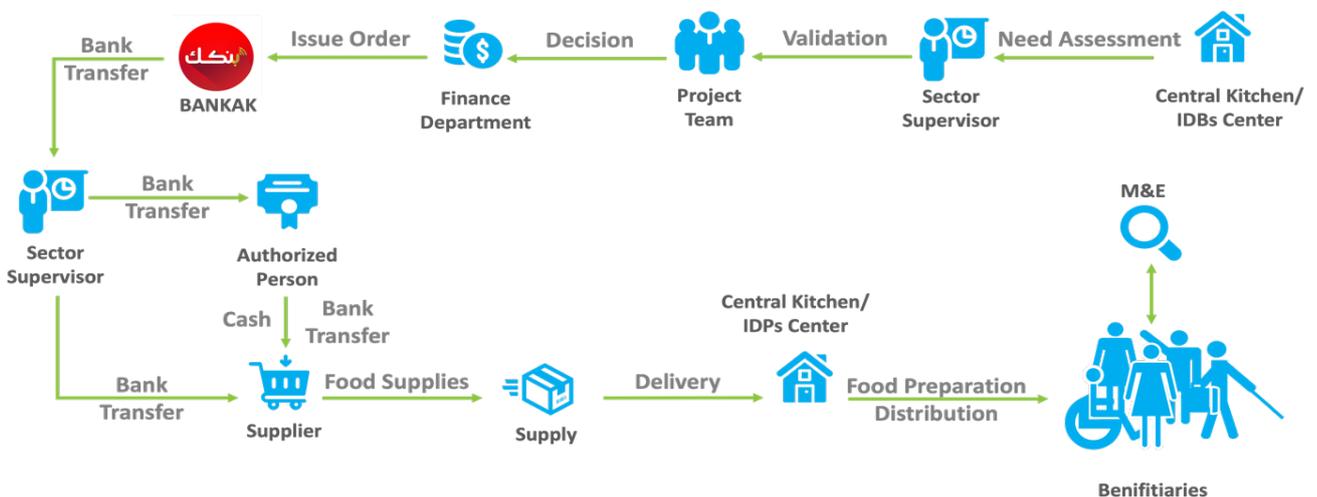
The field team of Hadrhun Organization, in collaboration with local partners represented by emergency response rooms in neighborhoods, grassroots initiatives, and committees supervising central kitchens and IDPs centers, successfully secured basic food supplies from local markets in the project's states. Despite unstable economic conditions and a steady rise in food prices, the team managed to procure the essential components within the as per needs. This was achieved through stringent mechanisms and strict oversight to ensure both transparency and accountability.

Meal Preparation:

Despite challenging circumstances and limited resources, the specificity of the meals provided during Ramadan did not hinder our volunteers' extraordinary dedication and commitment. They prepared various meals with high nutritional value and meticulous attention to quality. This high efficiency was evident from the lack of any complaints about the rations provided or instances of food poisoning. The field teams supervising the preparation considered the food preferences and cultural standards of the target population in each region, considering the availability of food in nearby local markets. The meals included Sudanese traditional dishes (Porridge/Gurasa), Egyptian fava beans, Okra and Rice with Vegetables along with Juices. Bread and ice were also supplied in several settled areas.

Meal Distributions:

Meals were directly distributed to targeted families from central kitchens and, in some areas, through communal tables. Community support was crucial in organizing and facilitating the smooth operation of distribution, with both male and female volunteers actively participating. They ensured comprehensive access for all families, including non-Muslim families, who received their daily meals promptly. Additionally, meals were prepared during the day for children and individuals unable to fast due to health and other reasons.



Initial Launch and Expansion:

The project commenced during Ramadan by providing daily meals to approximately 4,700 families affected by the conflict, utilizing 16 central kitchens across Khartoum State on the first day of Ramadan. Subsequently, the initiative expanded to include new kitchens within the state and established IDPs centers in additional states with total number of 52 kitchens in neighborhoods and IDPs Centers within five states, in addition to that; 1,100 food baskets were distributed to the families of Sudanese refugees in Chad and Egypt.

Impact on Affected Families:

The project significantly alleviated the hardships of affected families by ensuring consistent access to daily meals. This effort notably reduced the stress associated with food insecurity, contributed to the stability of affected families, and enhanced the resilience of local communities.

Started with:

- In Khartoum
- Approximately 4,700 families
- 16 central kitchens across Khartoum

Expanded:

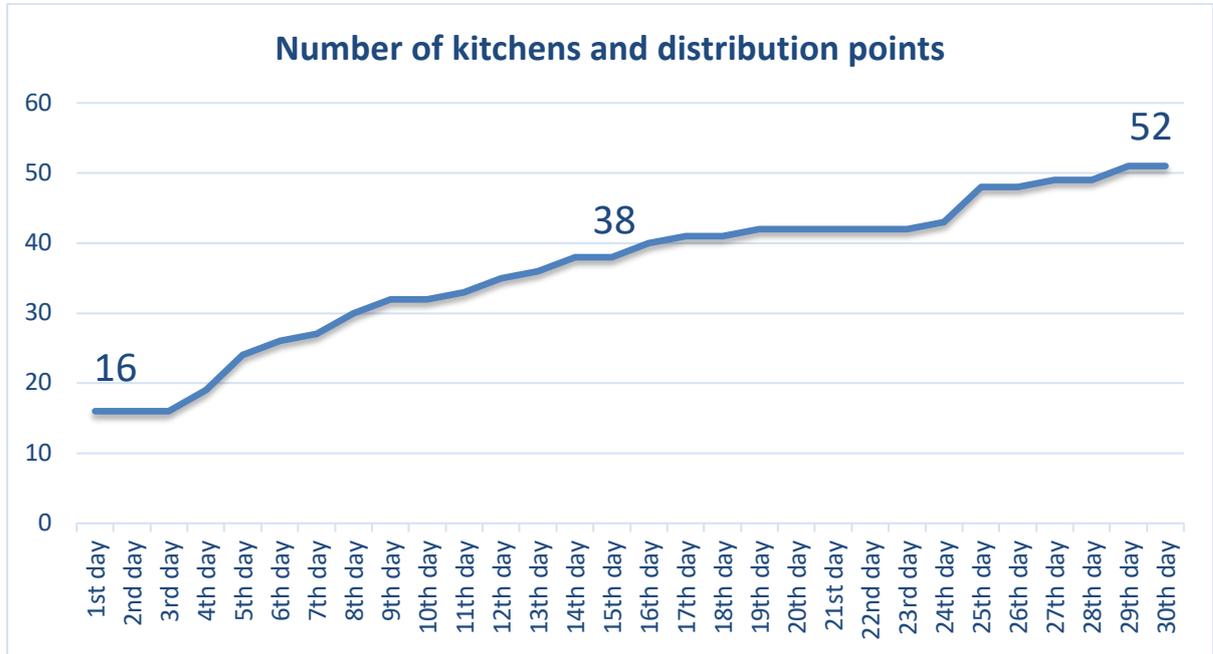
- 5 States
- 52 Kitchens and IDP Centers
- 9,872 Families Daily
- 59,232 Beneficiaries daily
- 240,247,000 SDG (193,735 USD)
- 1,100 food baskets for Sudanese refugees' families in Chad and Egypt

Ensured Consistency:

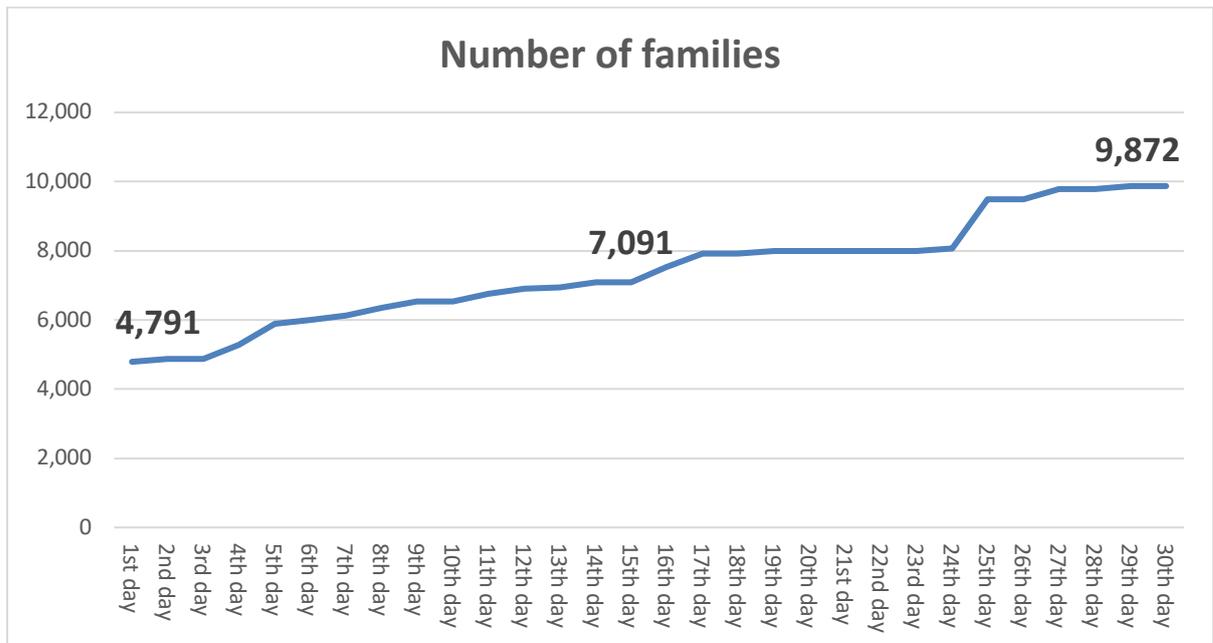
- Significantly alleviated the hardships of affected families by ensuring consistent access to daily meals.

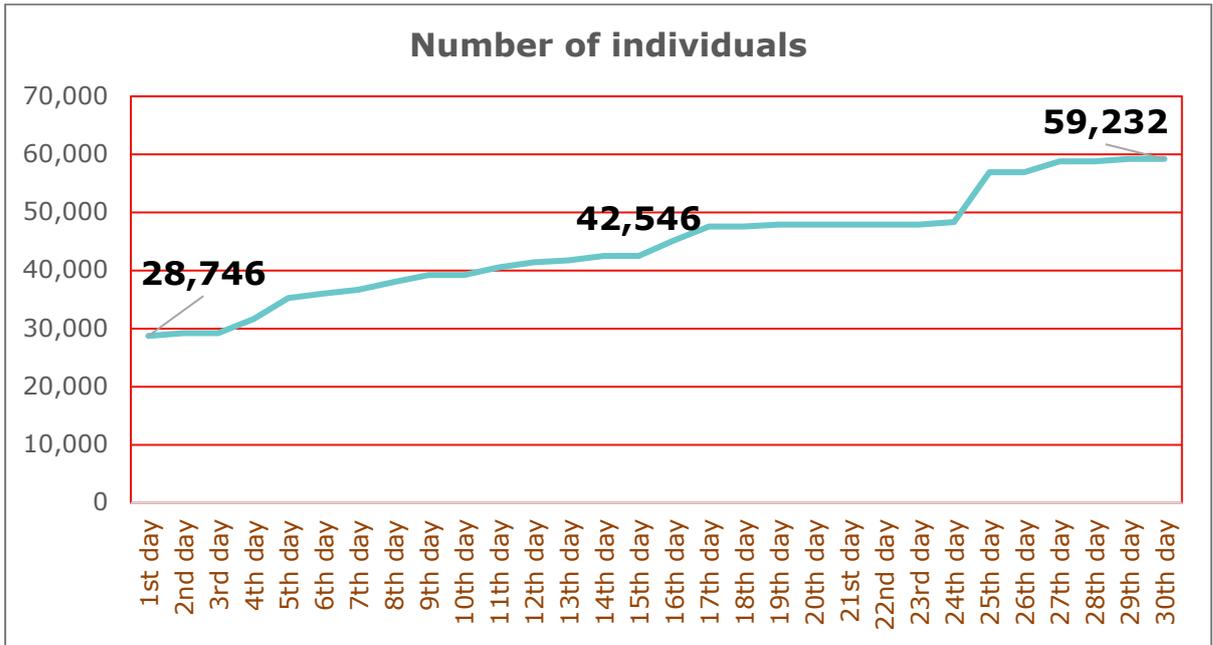


1. The growth of Kitchens and distribution Points

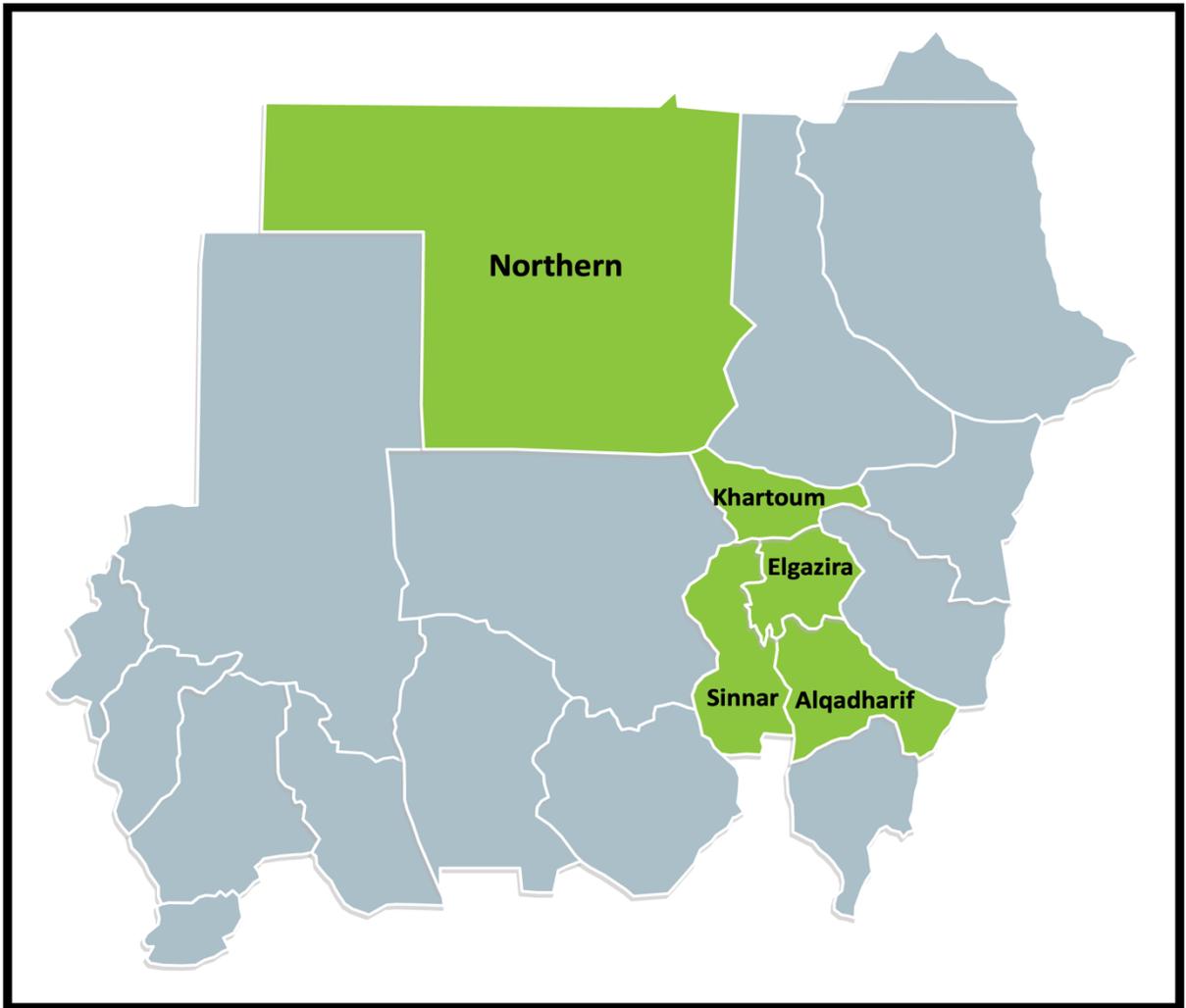


2. The growth of beneficiaries (Families & Individuals)





3. Intervention map



- **Security Situation:** Particularly in areas of armed conflict where risks are heightened.
- **Infrastructure and Supply Chain Restrictions:** Challenges in the logistics and supply chains affect the timely delivery of food supplies.
- **Economic Instability:** Unstable economic conditions and a steady rise in food prices exacerbate food insecurity.
- **Increased Demand:** There is a growing demand for food aid during Ramadan, which strains resources.
- **Resource Management:** Strengthening the coordination and management of limited resources is crucial.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Consistently monitoring and evaluating project effectiveness remains a challenge.

Risk Mitigation

Restricted Movement: The movement of field teams was limited to extreme necessities. The organization's network of relationships in different regions was leveraged to deliver necessary funds and food supplies, granting teams full authority to purchase directly from local markets to avoid delays.

Advance Procurement: Ensured enough supplies were purchased in advance to cover food needs for reasonable periods (one week to ten days).

Continuous Communication: Maintained ongoing communication with partner organizations, supporting bodies from the private sector, and global supporters of Sudanese descent. Regular updates through daily reports informed them of the accomplishments and increasing requests for food aid, prompting a broad response and more financial contributions.

Collaboration: Hadhreen joined a national coalition of several Sudanese organizations to coordinate efforts during Ramadan.

Social media and Communication: Regular updates on various social media platforms and continuous communication by the project team ensured the flow of services from central kitchens and maintained quality control, while ensuring the privacy of beneficiaries by not showing their faces in any photos or videos.

Quality Assessment: Field teams provided a detailed questionnaire to randomly selected beneficiaries to evaluate the quality and quantity of services provided post-Ramadan.

Enhance Coordination:

Strengthen coordination with grassroots emergency response teams and stakeholders to mitigate the impact of volatile market conditions and ensure continuous food supply.

Improve Monitoring:

Enhance monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of distribution efforts and identify areas for service improvement.

Expand Scope:

Explore opportunities to expand the project's scope and impact through strategic partnerships with international and national organizations, the private sector, and community initiatives.

Conclusion

The month of Ramadan marked a significant milestone for the Central Kitchens Support Project, achieving substantial progress in meeting the immediate food needs of families affected by the armed conflict in Khartoum State and beyond. Despite considerable challenges and risks, the project displayed remarkable flexibility and determination in achieving its primary goal of providing essential support to affected families. Moving forward, sustained efforts and effective coordination will be essential to build on these achievements and expand the project's reach and impact in the coming months.







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