

U3AC Africa Forum – Members News

19th January 2024

Programme for the Term



Date	Title and Speaker	Links
19th January	Members' News	
26th January	'The Masai' - Peter Wiles and Alan Bird	
2nd February	'Uganda Then and Now' - Barbara Waldman	
9th February	'My Dad and Africa' - John Tyson	
16th February		
23rd February		
1st March	'Identifying important sites for biodiversity in Africa: the Key Biodiversity Area Programme' - Andy Plumptre, Head Key Biodiversity Area Secretariat	
8th March		
15th March	'Has Mining Helped Economic Development in Africa?' - Richard Lewney, Chair, Cambridge Econometrics	
22nd March	Social Event (in Social Area on second floor at U3A)	

Still to come

- ‘China in Africa’ – Roy Doyon
- ‘Students from Cambridge University Mastercard programme’
- ‘African holdings in Cambridge University’ –Eva Namusoke
 - May defer until Autumn Term
- ‘Bring an African Object’

New members

- Nadia Asho
- Maria Bednarek

Penny Hayman - Algeria

Toni Beardon

Sudan

A land of conflicts

Toni Beardon

January 2024

Summary from the OXFAM website <https://www.oxfamamerica.org/explore/stories/whats-the-difference-between-sudan-and-south-sudan/>

Until 2011, Sudan and South Sudan were one country. That year, following decades of civil war, the southern section seceded, becoming one of the world's newest nations: South Sudan.

Learn what happened before, what happened next, and why Oxfam is working in both countries.

When armed groups in Darfur launched a rebellion in 2003, fighting quickly escalated. Armed militias, known as Janjaweed, began systematically attacking and destroying villages considered sympathetic to the rebels. Today, in Darfur, 2.9 million people are still displaced and living in camps.

Since 2011, the government and rebel forces have also clashed in the states of Blue Nile and South Kordofan—a conflict that has displaced hundreds of thousands from their homes. And refugees have flooded into Sudan, as well, in the wake of



At least 236,000 people were newly displaced in the first few months of 2021 alone, often to places where they lack access to food, water, and basic sanitation facilities and are sometimes denied access to humanitarian actors who could provide for their needs.

In December 2018, protests against al-Bashir's regime began, starting the first phase of the Sudanese revolution. Eight months of sustained civil disobedience were met with violent repression. In April 2019, the military (including the RSF) ousted al-bashir ending his three decades of rule. Bashir was imprisoned in Khartoum.

Mohamed Hamdan 'Hemedti' Dagalo, leader of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has risen from camel trader in Darfur to general and one of the wealthiest and most powerful men in Sudan. In June 2019, the RSF perpetrated the Khartoum massacre in which more than a hundred demonstrators were killed and dozens were raped. Hemedti denied orchestrating the attack.

In August 2019, in response to international pressure and mediation by the African Union and Ethiopia, the military agreed to share power in an interim joint civilian-military unity government (the Transitional Sovereignty Council), headed by a civilian Prime Minister, Abdalla Hamdok, the 15th Prime Minister of Sudan, in office 21 November 2021 – 2 January 2022. Elections were to be held in 2023.

In October 2021 the military seized power in a coup led by Sudanese Armed Force (SAF) leader Abdel Fattah al-Burhan. The Transitional Sovereignty Council was reconstituted as a new military junta led by al-Burhan, monopolizing power and halting Sudan's transition to democracy.

Source



Omar Hassan
Ahmad al-Bashi
1989 - 2019



Abdalla
Hamdok
2021 - 2022



Mohamed
Hamdan 'Hemedti'
Dagalo
RSF



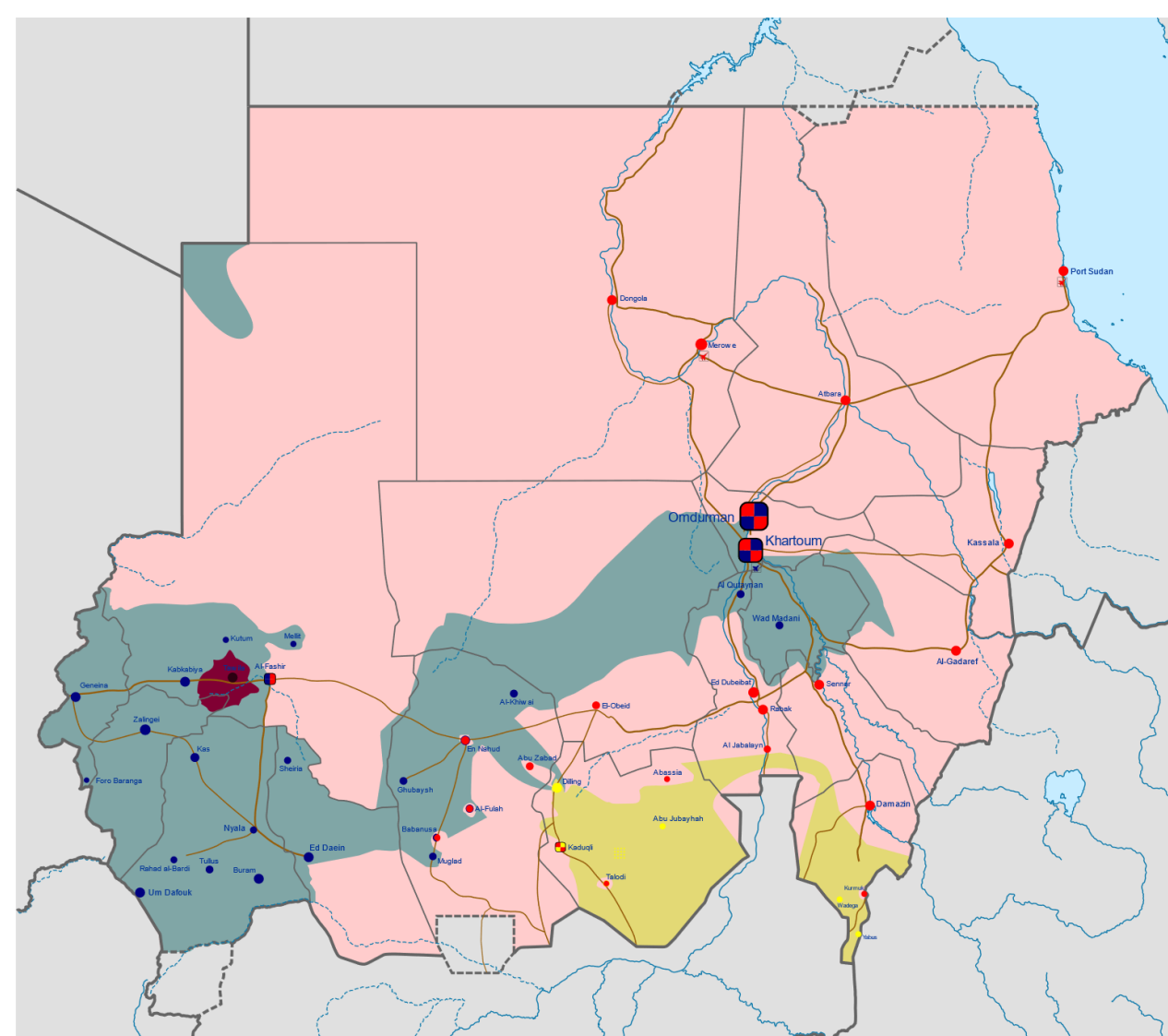
Abdel Fattah al-Burhan
SAF
currently in power

Continuing conflict in Sudan

A war between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) under Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) under Hemedti, rival factions of the military government of Sudan, began on 15 April 2023 during Ramadan. Fighting has been concentrated around the capital city of Khartoum and the Darfur region.

As of 19 December 2023, at least 12,000 people had been killed and 33,000 others were injured.

As of 29 December 2023, over 5.8 million were internally displaced and more than 1.5 million others had fled the country as refugees, and many civilians in Darfur have been reported dead as part of the 2023 Masalit massacre.



-  Controlled by **Sudanese Armed Forces** and allies
-  Controlled by **Rapid Support Forces**
-  Controlled by **SPLM-N (al-Hilu)**
-  Controlled by **SLM (al-Nur)**

SOUTH SUDAN

<https://reporting.unhcr.org/operational/situations/south-sudan-situation>

The South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan includes 108 partners and will cater to the needs of 2.2 million South Sudanese refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda in 2024.

UNHCR will maintain readiness for any possible displacement linked to **the general election scheduled in 2024**.

After nearly a decade of conflict and despite efforts toward implementing the peace agreement, South Sudan continues to grapple with sporadic violence, chronic food insecurity and devastating flooding, often detracting from humanitarian achievements. Over 41,000 South Sudanese fled to neighbouring countries in the first nine months of 2023, while 272,000 returns were recorded.

UNHCR's operation in South Sudan will require sustained support to facilitate logistics and reintegration of returnees who have been forced to return prematurely due to the ongoing conflict in Sudan.

The South Sudanese refugee population, more than 65% of whom are children, remains extremely vulnerable. This protracted situation is the largest refugee situation on the African continent. Over 2.2 million refugees hosted in neighbouring countries live in often precarious conditions that are exacerbated by factors such as the extreme drought and the food insecurity situation in the region.



Pippa Tagart with MSF in NE Chad

Unused school where clinics are held



Near Sudan border 41 km and two hours of bumpy Road from base



Pippa Tagart with MSF in NE Chad

- <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/dec/30/survivors-give-harrowing-testimony-of-darfur-sudan-year-of-hell>
- Pippa invited to talk to Africa Forum when she returns

Sheila Brookes

Chris Wagner

Ethiopia-Late 2023

Ethiopia-Somaliland Agreement for Red Sea Port (Berbera)

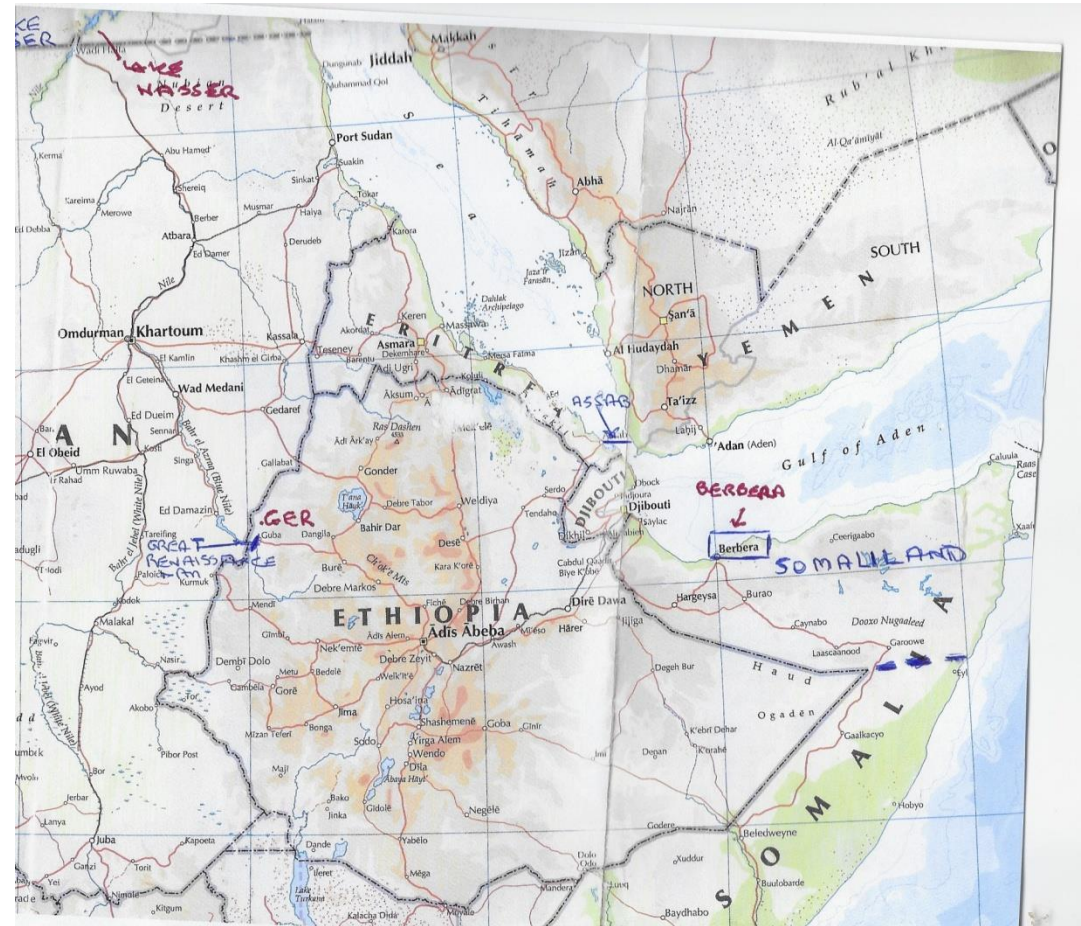
- Somalia oppose this (Somaliland part of Somalia, but little they can do)
- Original Red Sea port for Ethiopia was Assab, but lost to Eritrea in 1991. Since then use of Djibouti port

Grand Renaissance Dam (GER)

- Fully impounded (4th stage of impounding)
- It should be good (very) for Egypt, as much more water available-less evaporation compared to Lake Nasser
- Only partially good for Sudan, as they will loose the fertile silt deposited on the land

Very Heavy Rainfall in September (post the normal rainy season) in Ethiopia, Somalia and also including South Sudan

- Came late and after seeding, so crops this coming season may be reduced



Very Heavy Rainfall in Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan in September to November 2023

Any number of websites about this

- UN warns of “once in a century event”
- Somalia battered by relentless heavy rain that began in October
- Overflowing of Juba and Shebelle rivers
- Region has just emerged from one of worst droughts in four decades
- To blame is El Nino but climate change making extreme rainfall more likely

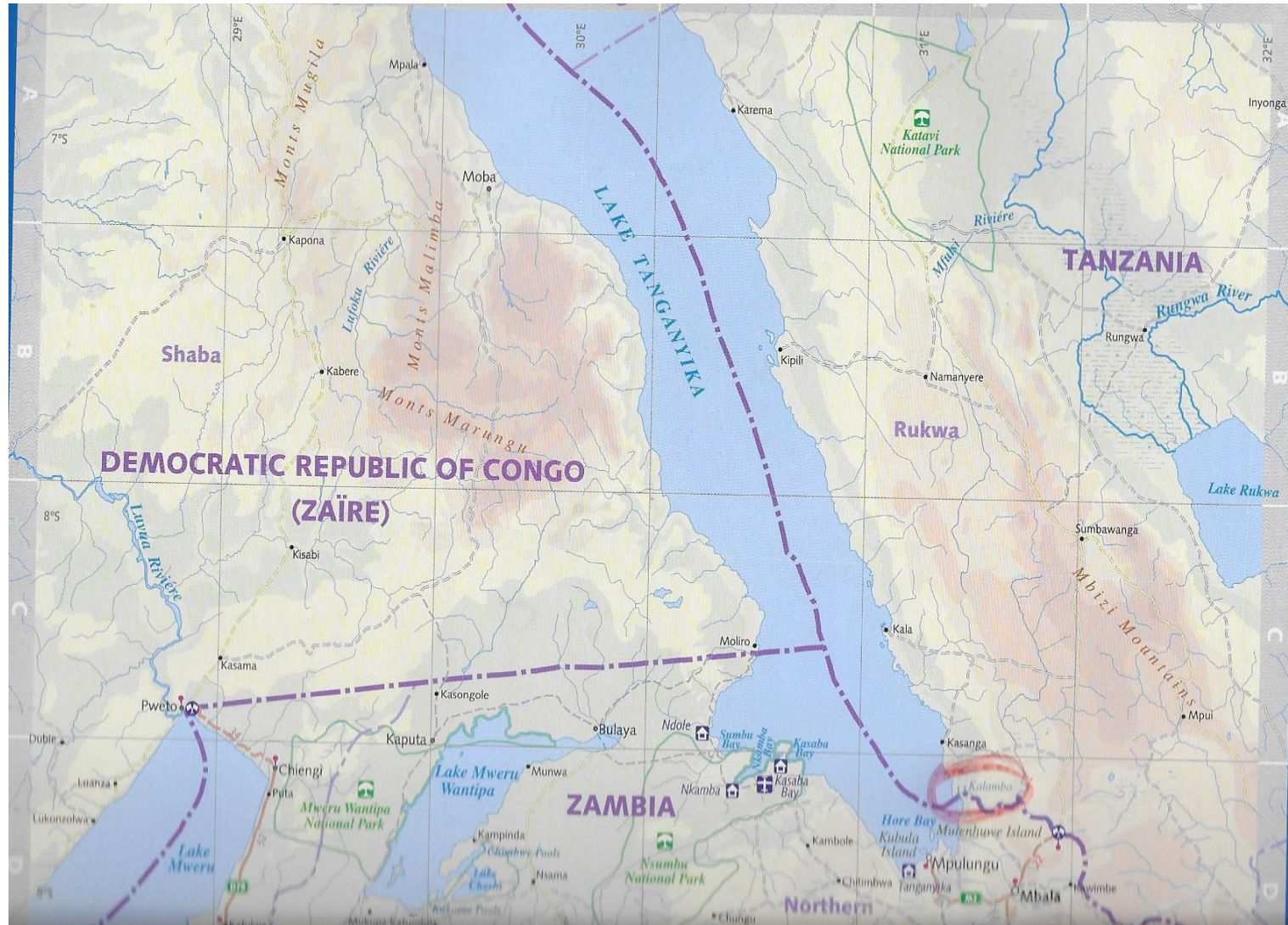
<https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-floods-flash-update-2-15-november-2023>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/11/23/world/africa/rain-floods-kenya-somalia-ethiopia.html>

476 000 Year Old Wooden logs on Kalambo River, on border Tanzania/Zambia

- Reported in most recent (December 2023) History Magazine published by BBC (first published in journal, Nature, in September)
- Location, near 235 m high waterfall at south end of Lake Tanganyika
- Two wooden logs found on banks of the river, maybe part of a walkway, with marks showing cut with stone tools found nearby
- Logs placed at right angles with notches, and evidence that they had been fitted together as a structural object
- Archaeologists from UK (Liverpool University), Belgium and Zambia
- Reported in recent journals and national newspapers
- “very” Early Stone Age

Kalambo Falls (2nd highest single drop falls in Africa)



Kalambo Falls Wooden Logs

- <https://www.sci.news/archaeology/wooden-structure-kalambo-falls-zambia-12283.html>