United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks on Sudan at a Security Council open debate on multilateralism at the UN headquarters in New York, April 24, 2023. (Xinhua/Xie E)

Where the security situation allows it, including in Eastern Sudan, UN partners are continuing their operations, mainly in health and nutrition services. UN relief chief and aid partners are doing their best to reboot the humanitarian response to the catastrophic Sudan crisis, a UN spokesman said on Monday.

Stephane Dujarric, the chief spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, said the UN chief dispatched Undersecretary-General Martin Griffiths, the emergency relief coordinator, "to the region to explore how we can bring immediate relief to millions of people whose lives have been turned upside down by the ongoing fighting in Sudan."

Dujarric said Griffiths is in Nairobi where he met Kenyan President William Ruto, the visiting Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly and others to discuss what the relief chief called the "catastrophic" situation in Sudan.
When asked what happens next with Griffiths in the region, the spokesman replied, "Martin's remit is on ensuring the proper coordination of humanitarian aid, on ensuring that we see scaling up of humanitarian aid that arises, and he will do whatever he can to do that. But the situation is rather volatile. I don't want to predict what will happen."
Dujarric does expect onward travel for Griffiths, but he first had to overcome several logistical issues.
"We very much hope that the two (opposing Sudanese) generals will find a way forward to stop the fighting immediately for the sake of the Sudanese people and to halt the deteriorating humanitarian situation, which is quickly unraveling."

![People wait to be evacuated near an airport in Omdurman, Sudan, April 26, 2023. As conflict continues in Sudan, many people have fled to neighboring countries. (Xinhua)](image)

One of the first steps was the UN World Food Programme (WFP) resuming operations in Sudan. The spokesman recalled operations were suspended when three WFP workers were killed on April 15, the first day the two military factions began fighting each other.
"Where the security situation allows it, including in Eastern Sudan, our partners are continuing their operations, mainly in health and nutrition services," the spokesman said.

The World Health Organization said it distributed fuel to some hospitals in Sudan and is also working to offload six containers of medical supplies that arrived by ship in Port Sudan on the Red Sea. Included are supplies for treating traumatic injuries and severe acute malnutrition.

The UN Population Fund supports partners on the ground with life-saving health care and supplies for safe births.

The UN Refugee Agency, in consultation with the governments involved and relief partners, is planning for over 800,000 people who may flee fighting in Sudan to neighboring countries, Dujarric said. "Without a quick resolution of the crisis, we will continue to see more people forced to flee in search of safety and humanitarian assistance."

He said the latest figures show that 73,000 people are in neighboring countries. ■