

# SUDAN CONFLICT OBSERVATORY

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS REPORT

REPORT 002 | 15 JUNE 2023

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This report was produced as part of the Sudan Conflict Observatory with the support of the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, United States Department of State. This report does not represent the views of the United States Government. Learn more at [Sudan.ConflictObservatory.org](https://Sudan.ConflictObservatory.org).

The Faculty Director of the Humanitarian Research Lab (HRL) at Yale is Dr. Kaveh Khoshnood. Report production was overseen by Nathaniel Raymond, HRL Executive Director, and managed by Caitlin Howarth, HRL Conflict Observatory Director. Analysis was conducted by the Humanitarian Research Lab.

Dr. Andrew Marx is CEO and chief scientist at PlanetScape Ai.

CITATION | Howarth, Caitlin N., Kaveh Khoshnood, Andrew Marx, Nathaniel A. Raymond, et al. "SITUATIONAL AWARENESS REPORT, Report 002", 15 June 2023, Sudan Conflict Observatory: Washington, DC. Available at <https://sudan.conflictobservatory.org>.

# METHODOLOGY



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## **Mobility Data**

Gravy Analytics ([gravyanalytics.com](https://gravyanalytics.com)) is a commercial company providing hundreds of companies aggregate location information products. All data is commercially available and maintains the highest privacy standards including containing no personal identification information, collected only from users who opt-in to sharing their data and meeting all legal and privacy guidelines including the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

## **Satellite imagery**

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NASA Fire Information for Resource Management System (FIRMS)

This report was produced by PlanetScape Ai. All research and analysis was conducted by PlanetScape Ai.

To contact PlanetScape Ai, email [info@planetscapeai.com](mailto:info@planetscapeai.com).

# METHODOLOGY

Yale SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
*Humanitarian Research Lab*

Data fusion methodologies combine remote sensing analysis with open-source data to assess and geolocate events. When necessary, sources are redacted for protection purposes; a redacted source list is available to authorized users.

## **Terms**

- NASA FIRMS | NASA Fire Information for Resource Management System
- Reported | Based on credible, verified media reporting

# KEY FINDINGS

- **Sudan Conflict Observatory assesses the death of West Darfur Governor Khamis Abdullah Abkar to be an extrajudicial killing highly likely perpetrated by RSF;**
- **Looting and destruction at the WFP compound in El Obeid, with warehouse and solar panels affected;**
- **RSF are likely exercising effective control over key mobility routes across El Obeid;**
- **Major fire event in Khartoum, likely caused by fighting between RSF and SAF on 07 June 2023, appears ongoing as of 14 June;**
- **Since the start of the conflict, 306 buildings damaged or destroyed in Khartoum; and**
- **41.3% decrease in estimated population mobility as of June 11th in the Khartoum City Greater Area.**

# SCO\_037: Extrajudicial Killing of West Darfur Governor Abkar El-Geneina, West Darfur

- Multiple independent news outlets have confirmed the death of West Darfur Governor Khamis Abdullah Abkar as of 14 June 2023. Sudan Conflict Observatory independently assesses this incident as an extrajudicial killing.
- Al Hadath, a regional news broadcaster, interviewed Abkar on the morning of 14 June 2023 regarding events in El-Geneina (West Darfur). During the interview, Abkar blamed RSF and its aligned forces for ongoing violence in the city. Abkar reported that SAF forces remained in their base and did not intervene to stem the violence against civilians.
- Social media accounts have circulated multimedia showing persons, some of whom appear to wear RSF uniforms, detaining and abusing Abkar in El-Geneina. News reports and multimedia circulated during the evening of 14 June 2023 appear to show Abkar's body.
- Large-scale violence against civilians has been reported and documented throughout Darfur since 15 April 2023, including sexual and gender-based assault, killings, the widespread destruction of civilian dwellings, markets, and attacks against health facilities. Killings and other attacks were ongoing throughout the 20 May Ceasefire time period. News reports indicate that the city of El-Geneina has been under siege. El-Geneina's death toll reportedly surpasses 1,100 civilians, and at least 283,220 persons in West Darfur alone are displaced according to IOM's last published Displacement Tracking Matrix.
- On Tuesday 13 June 2023, UN envoy to Sudan Volker Perthes stated that violence in El-Geneina followed "an emerging pattern of large-scale targeted attacks against civilians based on their ethnic identities, allegedly committed by Arab militias and some armed men in Rapid Support Forces (RSF)'s uniform. These reports are deeply worrying and, if verified, could amount to crimes against humanity."
- Governor Abkar held multiple leadership positions among the Masalit people of Darfur over decades, including as a village defense leader and eventual vice-chairman of the Sudan Liberation Army.

**SOURCES** | <https://www.alhadath.net/2023/06/15/%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF-%D8%A2%D8%AE%D8%B1-%D8%B8%D9%87%D9%88%D8%B1-%D9%84%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A-%D8%BA%D8%B1%D8%A8-%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%81%D9%88%D8%B1-%D9%82%D8%A8%D9%84-%D8%A7%D8%AE%D8%AA%D8%B7%D8%A7%D9%81%D9%87-%D9%88%D9%82%D8%AA%D9%84%D9%87>, archived at <https://perma.cc/JGK8-JE6C> ; <https://twitter.com/AlArabiya/status/1669078577436934146>, archived at <https://perma.cc/45RK-M6QL> ; <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/sudan-situation-report-8?close=true54m>, archived at <https://perma.cc/AH6P-R9N2> ; SCO\_002\_01 ; <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/darfur-cities-under-fire-sudanese-war-spreads-2023-06-14/>, archived at <https://perma.cc/JBD5-YADS> ; <https://unitams.unmissions.org/en/statement-special-representative-secretary-general-sudan-and-head-united-nations-integrated>, archived at <https://perma.cc/9GP2-XQD6> ; <https://twitter.com/AlHadath/status/1669011820814663682>, archived at <https://perma.cc/849F-XM7Y> ; SCO\_002\_02; <https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/el-obeid-besieged-but-electricity-restored>, archived at <https://perma.cc/XC2A-UADN>; [https://www.africa-confidential.com/article-preview/id/1139/A\\_rebel%27s\\_story](https://www.africa-confidential.com/article-preview/id/1139/A_rebel%27s_story), archived at <https://perma.cc/VVQ5-WRM8> ; <https://www.smallarmssurveysudan.org/fileadmin/docs/facts-figures/sudan/darfur/armed-groups/opposition/HSBA-Armed-Groups-SLA-KA.pdf>, archived at <https://perma.cc/7ZB6-F8UE>



# SCO\_033: WFP WAREHOUSES, EL OBEID

Pre-June 10 Ceasefire

Imagery analysis confirms the destruction of warehouse structures at a WFP facility in El Obeid. This incident is assessed to have taken place between 26 May and 08 June 2023. Visual indicators of looting, including that of solar panels, are also present at this facility. This corroborates the Sudan Doctors' Trade Union report of looting in El Obeid published 10 June 2023. It is possible that this activity may have been perpetrated by RSF based on their control of key access roads around the city, as reported across news and social media.



**Date | 2023.05.26**  
All satellite images © 2023 Maxar



**Date | 2023.06.08**

**SOURCES**  
<https://twitter.com/SdDoctorsTU/status/1667619178671484932>, archived at <https://perma.cc/W35S-SCUP>



# SCO\_034: EL OBEID

During and post-June 10 Ceasefire

Imagery analysis confirms the stripping of warehouse roofing at an unidentified facility in El Obeid, observed to have taken place between 12 and 13 June 2023. This activity is consistent with other instances of looting, such as those observed at the WFP facility in El Obeid between 26 May and 08 June 2023.



Date | 2023.06.08



Date | 2023.06.12



Date | 2023.06.13

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# SCO\_035: EL OBEID

During June 10 Ceasefire

Imagery captured on 12 June 2023 indicates the presence of control measures in the form of road impediments. The presence of this road impediment is observed at a key intersection, in the center of the city. The incidence of these control measures are consistent with reports of RSF control over movement in and around the city. These road impediments are therefore highly likely to hinder humanitarian access and civilian mobility across El Obeid.



Date | 2023.06.08



Date | 2023.06.12



# SCO\_036: EL OBEID

Post-June 10 Ceasefire

Vehicle queues sustained over a two-day period – 12 to 13 June 2023 – are observed at a petrol station in El Obeid. This sharp increase since 08 June 2023 is likely indicative of increased demand for petrol in the city. Given access constraints and RSF's effective control of movement in and out of the city, these queues raise concerns of possible fuel shortages.



Date | 2023.06.08



Date | 2023.06.12



Date | 2023.06.13

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# SCO\_032: AIR STREET FIRE EVENT | KHARTOUM

Pre-, during, and post-June 10 Ceasefire

Multimedia circulated 07 June 2023 on social media, assessed as credible, indicates a fire event took place at a gas storage facility. This multi-day fire event – likely caused by fighting – was detected by NASA FIRMS between 07-14 June 2023 in the Air Street area of Khartoum.

Social media accounts widely reported likely clashes between RSF and SAF in this area on 07 June 2023. This fire event raises concerns regarding the availability of gas and fuel in Khartoum, particularly given existing access constraints across Sudan.



LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	BRIGHTNESS	SCAN	TRACK	ACQUIRE TIME	CONFIDENCE	VERSION	BRIGHTNESS	FRP	DAY/NIGHT
15.50415	32.50897	351.47	0.42	0.45	2023-06-14 10:43:00	n	2.0VRT	302.13	7.14	D
15.50896	32.50823	341.52	0.42	0.45	2023-06-14 10:43:00	n	2.0VRT	302.09	8.18	D
15.50795	32.5079	338.78	0.43	0.39	2023-06-13 23:33:00	n	2.0VRT	299.65	16.39	N
15.50549	32.50895	337.1	0.52	0.5	2023-06-12 23:54:00	n	2.0VRT	287.7	8.89	N
15.51002	32.51048	307.36	0.52	0.5	2023-06-12 23:54:00	n	2.0VRT	285.17	2.77	N
15.50995	32.50713	343.47	0.52	0.5	2023-06-12 23:54:00	n	2.0VRT	288.13	15.85	N
15.50923	32.50872	342.29	0.5	0.41	2023-06-12 11:21:00	n	2.0VRT	306.25	33.44	D
15.5085	32.50944	343.22	0.54	0.98	2023-06-12 00:11:00	n	2.0VRT	288.56	7.85	N
15.50744	32.51136	303.31	0.54	0.98	2023-06-12 00:11:00	n	2.0VRT	288.3	5.03	N
15.50924	32.50962	299.21	0.69	0.75	2023-06-11 22:31:00	n	2.0VRT	277.21	2.65	N
15.50989	32.50833	311.02	0.69	0.75	2023-06-11 22:31:00	n	2.0VRT	277.38	3.74	N

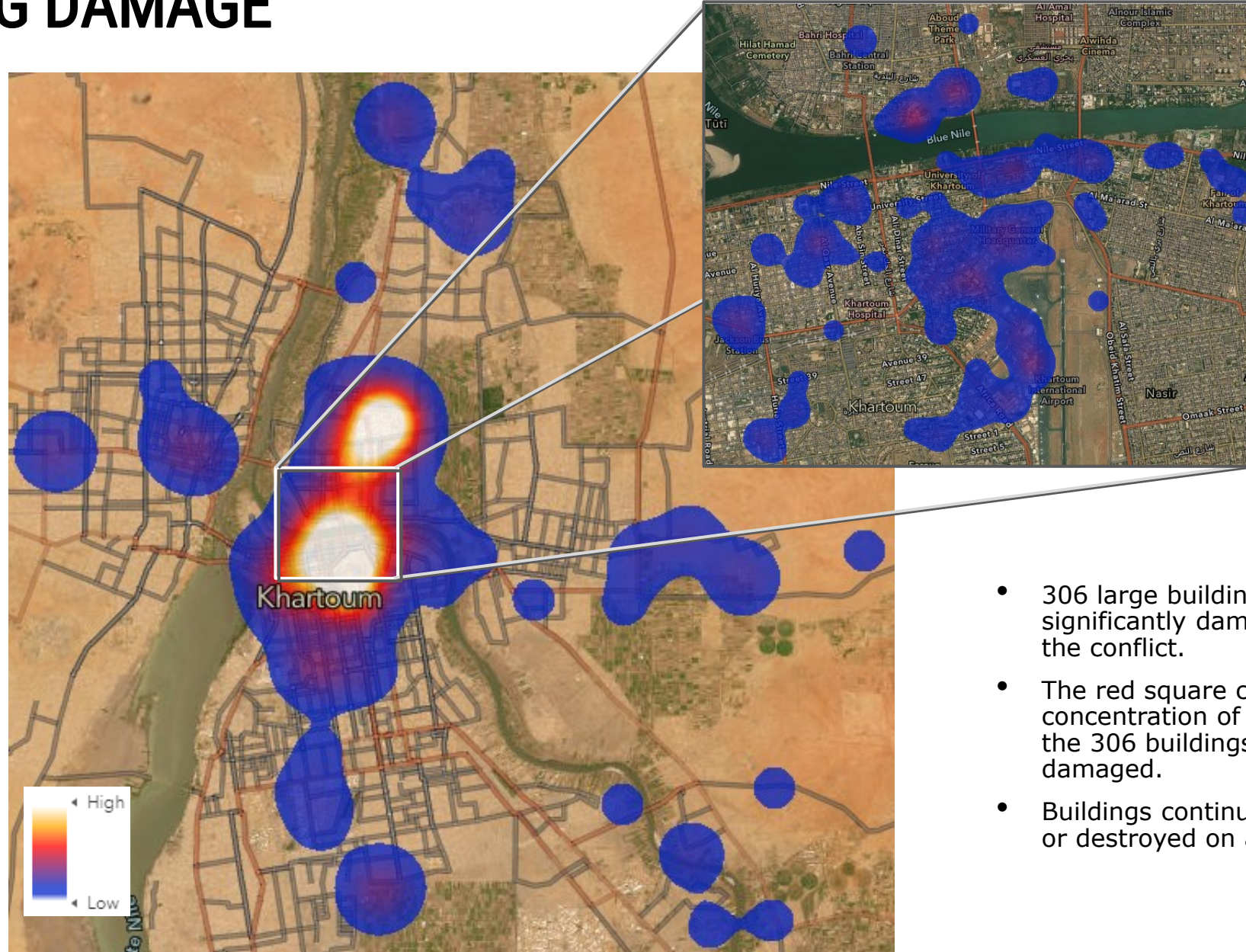
Date | 2023.06.13

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**SOURCES |**  
[https://twitter.com/Sudan\\_tweet/status/1666443941737103360](https://twitter.com/Sudan_tweet/status/1666443941737103360), archived at <https://perma.cc/FS36-WPAM>  
<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/sudan-military-factions-battle-over-weapons-fuel-depots-2023-06-07/>, archived at <https://perma.cc/V746-RC26>



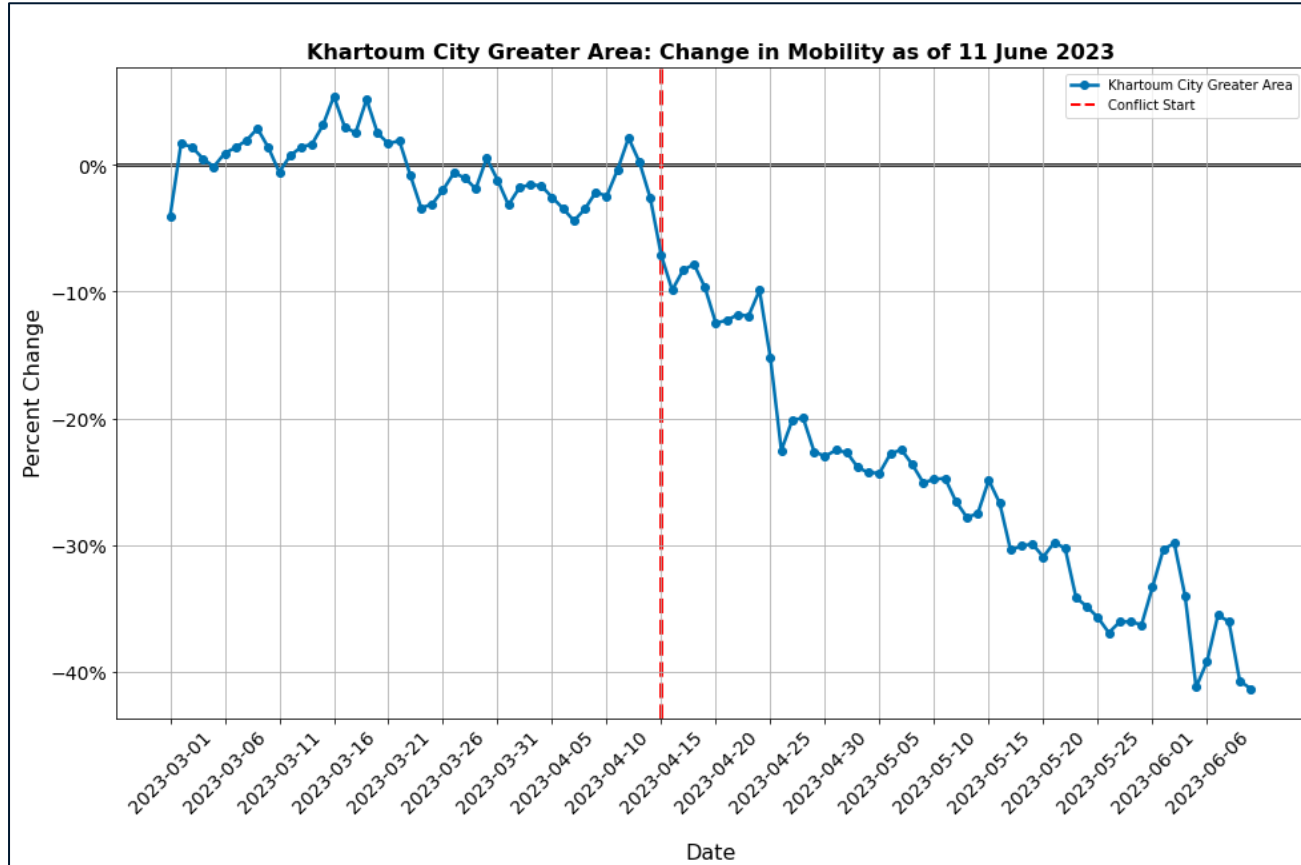
# KHARTOUM: SATELLITE DETECTED BUILDING DAMAGE



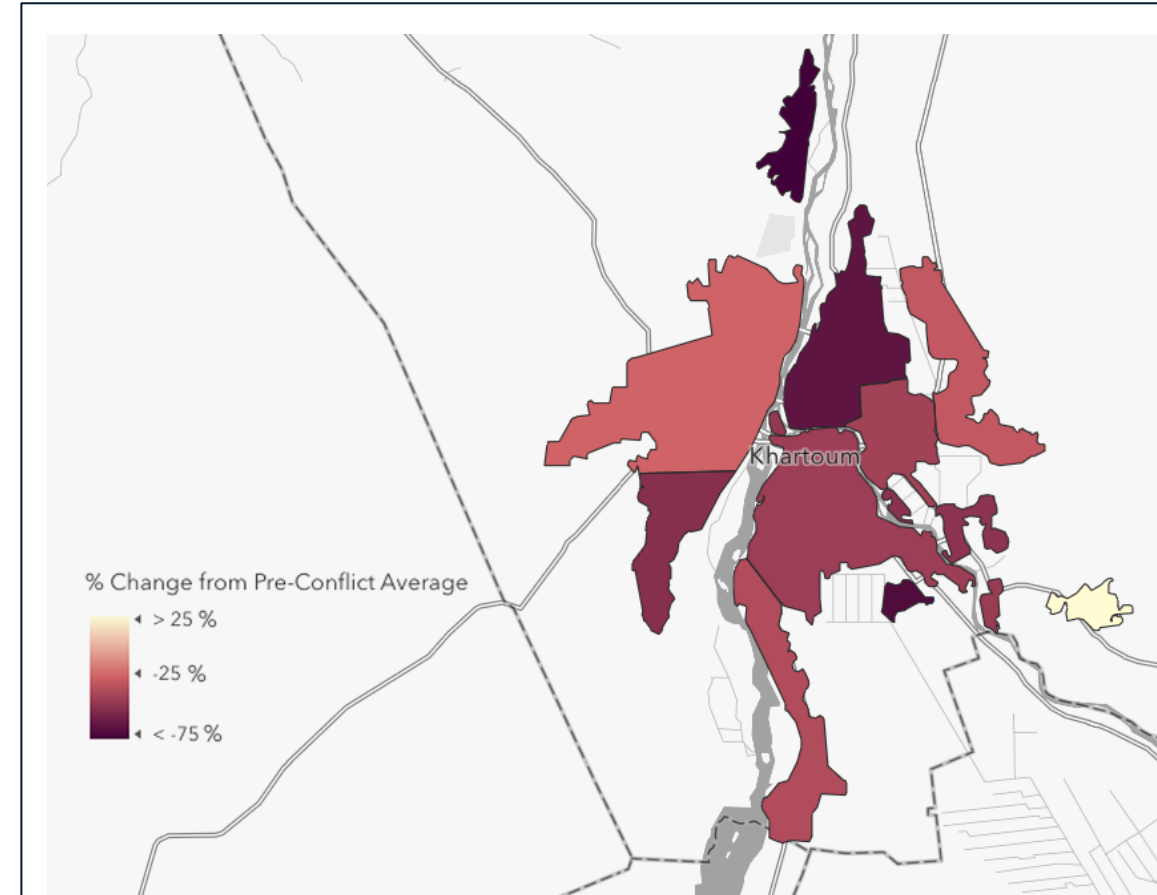
- 306 large buildings have been significantly damaged since the start of the conflict.
- The red square contains the largest concentration of damage with 51% of the 306 buildings in the immediate area damaged.
- Buildings continue to be damaged or destroyed on a daily basis.



# KHARTOUM: CONTINUED DECREASE IN MOBILITY

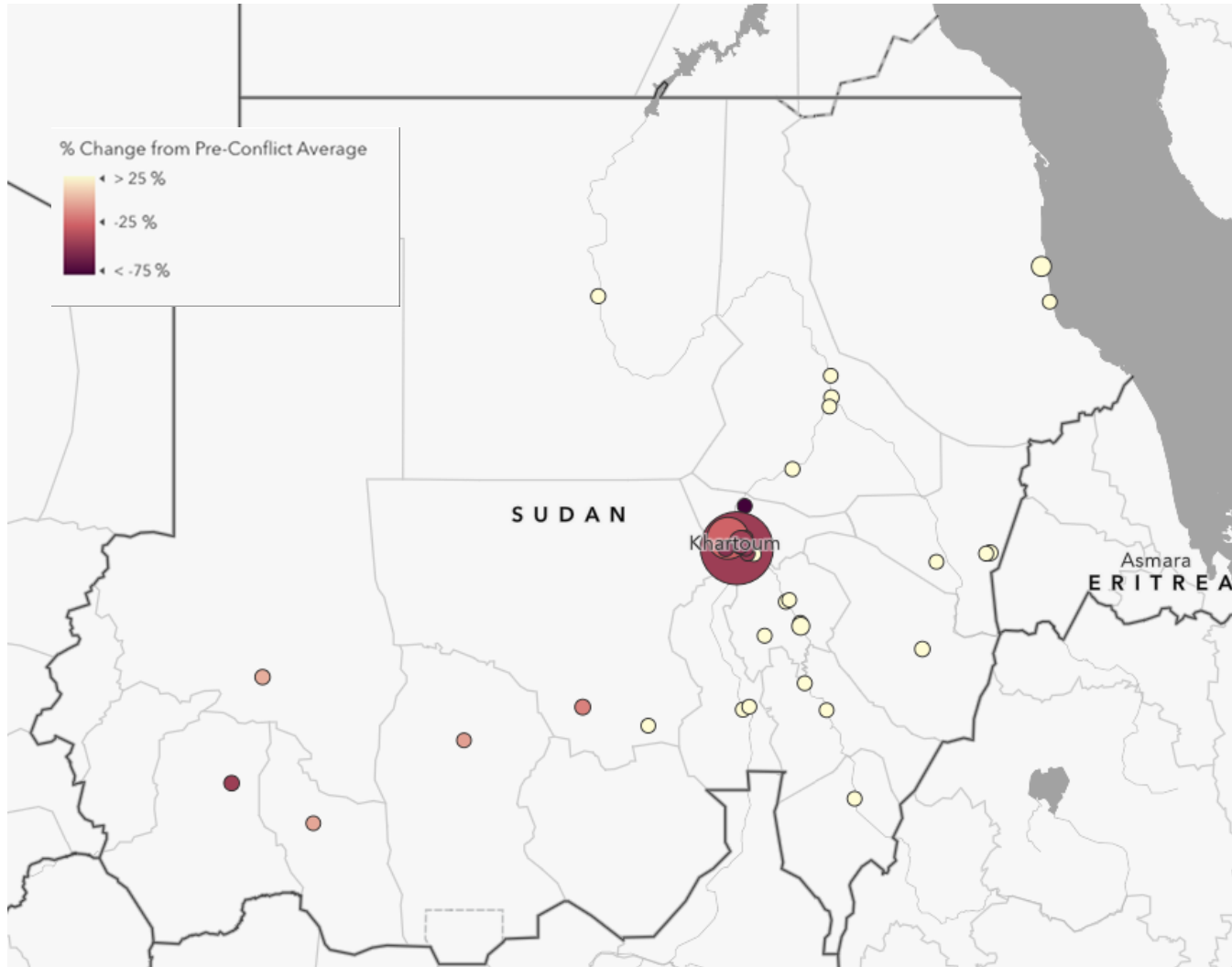


The Khartoum City Greater Area continues to see a slow decline in its estimated population with a 41.3% decrease in mobility on 11 June from its pre-conflict average (shown above).



Data collected daily within Khartoum City Greater Area highlights sub-areas of the city with higher or lower levels of mobility disruption.

# MOBILITY: CONTINUED DECREASE IN MOBILITY OF KHARTOUM AND DARFUR CAPITALS



- Khartoum and Darfur state capitals continue to see their mobility decrease due to restrictions in regional mobility as well as residents fleeing.
- Eastern cities such as Port Sudan, Ed Damer, and Wad Medani continue to grow as IDPs seek their relative safety.
- As the conflict intensifies and spreads, large population movements and new IDP camps are expected.