

# “Critical Analysis of Technological Intervention in the Humanitarian Crisis of Sudan and the UN Agencies Resistance”

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**Abstrak** - Sudan merupakan negara yang digambarkan oleh PBB sebagai negara dengan krisis kemanusiaan terburuk pada tahun 2024. Teknologi berperan sebagai mesin pelanggaran HAM oleh pihak yang berkonflik, dan menjadi senjata bagi badan PBB yang bekerja di Sudan untuk mengatasi bencana sosial dan ketahanan pangan dengan memberikan tindakan dan solusi jangka pendek dan jangka panjang melingkupi berbagai bidang. Pengumpulan data dalam tulisan ini dilakukan dengan menggunakan sejarah dan analisis data. Keterbatasan makalah penelitian ini adalah tidak adanya kesempatan bagi peneliti untuk terjun langsung ke Sudan dan mendapatkan data langsung. Sebelum melakukan pengolahan data, semua data akan diperiksa validitasnya ke dalam sumber terpercaya. Dari hasil analisis data dalam makalah tersebut, dapat disimpulkan bahwa intervensi teknologi dalam krisis kemanusiaan telah berkontribusi dan berhasil dalam banyak hal positif dengan menjadi harapan terakhir bagi para korban dan sebaliknya, disalahgunakan dan kurang efektif untuk membuka masalah Sudan kepada komunitas internasional.

**Kata kunci:** Humanitarian Crisis, Sudan, Technological Interventions, UN Agencies

*Abstract - Sudan is a country that has been described by the UN as the worst humanitarian crisis in 2024. Technology became the tool for the human rights violations by the conflicting parties and gun for UN agencies working in Sudan to entangle the social disaster and food security by providing short term and long-term actions and solutions in many fields. The data collection in this paper was carried out using history and data analysis. The limitation of this study paper was the absence of a chance for the researcher to go directly to Sudan to get first-hand data. All data will likely be checked into reliable sources. From the results analysis data in the paper, it can be concluded that technological intervention in the human crisis has contributed and succeeded in many positive ways to being the last platform for the victims and on the contrary, being abused, and failed to open the Sudanese issue to the international community.*

**Keywords—** Humanitarian Crisis, Sudan, Technological Interventions, UN Agencies

## I. INTRODUCTION

Early thought that started and motivated the wiring process of this paper is hence there was never a real democracy and long-lasting peace in Sudan, a country that was claimed by the UN as having the worst humanitarian crisis in the half of 2024. With its promising geopolitics, and

its strategic position on the edge of the Red Sea, the Sahel, and the Horn of Africa, Sudan is also gifted with numerous natural and human resources. However, sadly Sudan is always been the place where the shadow and proxy war between the stronger states and non-state actors that stronger in terms of military and financial aspects, and this humanitarian crisis got a very limited publication in international news media coverage. The constant rise and fall of authoritarian governments has caused political instability and created a domino effect such as food insecurity and social disasters across the nation as the economy and peace continue to evolve from bad to worse.

In recent studies, various sources have highlighted significant findings relevant to current events. For instance, Center for Strategic & International Studies (2024) provides insight into emerging trends in the field, emphasizing the impact of external factors on recent developments [1]. Additionally, BBC (2023) reported on key issues affecting the global landscape, shedding light on the political implications of current affairs. Meanwhile, Al Jazeera (2024) covered crucial stories that underscore social and economic challenges faced by communities worldwide. Finally, VOA Africa (2023) focused on specific regional issues, offering a depth of analysis that captures the complexities of the situation on the ground. These sources collectively contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the ongoing narrative in today's society.

The problem formulations in this paper are as follows:

1. How has the technology been used as a tool of propaganda, brainwashing, spreading hate, failing democracy and removing human rights in Sudan and how far, deep, and complex is its function to result in food insecurity and social disaster?

2. What specific technological interventions have been employed by the UN agencies to counteract these negative effects and address the humanitarian crisis mainly in the fields of food insecurity and social disaster in the country?

The aims of this paper are as follows:

1. To examine how technology has been used and abused as a tool of propaganda, brainwashing, spreading hate, failing democracy, and removing human rights in Sudan, and to determine the depth and complexity of its function in resulting food insecurity and social disasters.

2. To identify the specific technological interventions employed by the UN agencies to counteract the negative effects of technology and address the humanitarian crisis, particularly in the fields of food insecurity and social disaster in Sudan.

This paper provides for the advantages for the future such as pinned points on the critical issues of technological intervention in humanitarian crises, specifically focusing on Sudan. By addressing that technology also has a very negative impact on its intervention such as a tool of propaganda, brainwashing, spreading hate, failing democracy, removing human rights in Sudan and raising awareness.

The paper also specifically identified technological interventions by the UN agencies to counter back these negative effects and handle the humanitarian crisis in Sudan, highlighting food insecurity and social disaster. The analysis can provide useful insights for policymakers, humanitarian organizations, and stakeholders taking part in managing similar crises in the future.

This paper also can function as a learning tool for choosing more suitable approaches and strategies in the future. It can facilitate further research and investigation into more effective uses of technology in humanitarian efforts, contributing to developing more creative solutions for addressing global crises.

Overall, this paper has the prospect to inform and influence future policies, interventions, and strategies aimed at the use of technology for humanitarian purposes, eventually contributing to more practical and impactful answers to humanitarian crises worldwide.

## II. RESEARCH AIM & METHOD

### A. Research Aim

As the exact title of this paper 'The Invisible Delegation: Critical Analysis of Technological Interventions in the Humanitarian Crisis of Sudan and the UN Agencies Resistance', this paper aims to find answers by examining how technology has been used and abused as a tool of propaganda, brainwashing, spreading hate, failing democracy, and removing human rights in Sudan, and to determine the depth and complexity of its function in resulting food insecurity and social disasters. Also identify the specific technological interventions, which are analogized as the invisible delegation used by the UN agencies to counteract the negative effects of technology and address the humanitarian crisis, particularly in the fields of food insecurity and social disaster in Sudan.

### B. Research Method

The methods that have been used by the author to conduct this research and gather valid information are observation historical and data analysis and document analysis.

1. Historical data analysis will implicate reviewing past events and their impact on the humanitarian crisis in Sudan, with a specific focus on the role of technology.

2. Document analysis will be used for the review and extract of in-depth analysis of reports, articles, and official documents regarding to the use of technology and UN interventions in Sudan.

The data sources for this research will include educational publications such as educational articles, news articles, and international organizations' report papers related to technology, humanitarian crises, and UN interventions. Besides, official reports and publications from UN agencies, and governmental organizations involved in Sudan's humanitarian crisis will be accessed and analyzed.

Qualitative analysis will be conducted to gain a deep understanding of the narratives and perspectives connected to the use of technology and UN interventions in Sudan. The limitation in conducting this paper's research is the author's inability to get access to firsthand data in Sudan, which may limit the depth of the analysis. The data validity and credibility portrayal will be critical and aimed at safeguarding the academic trustworthiness of the research results by using proper crediting and referencing from all sources.

## III. RESULT & DISCUSSION

A. How has the technology been used as a tool of propaganda, brainwashing, spreading hate, failing democracy and removing human rights in Sudan and how far, deep, and complex is its function to result in food insecurity and social disaster?

On 15th April 2023, Omar al Bashir, who had been a longtime military dictator, was forcefully removed from power after three decades through a military coup d'état. This significant event marked a dramatic shift in the political landscape (Center for Preventive Action, 2024) [2]. This military coup d'etat was supported widely by the citizens and paramilitary groups across the country in the hope of ending the authoritarian rule in Sudan. However, instead of establishing a democratic government for its people, the military won't let go of its control over the full power in government and just change it with another authoritarian ruler. The transfer of power triggered the rebellion from a powerful paramilitary group named Rapid Support Force versus the Sudanese Armed Forces. Both have various backing from powerful countries such as the United Arab Emirates and Russia. In a recent study, Kurtz (2024) describes the rebellion as leading to a year filled with misery and a humanitarian catastrophe that severely affected its citizens. This situation highlights the profound impact of the conflict on the population, underscoring the urgent need for humanitarian assistance and intervention in times of crisis [3].

Technology is playing a powerful role in scrambling the support from the citizens to take control and power by the RFS and SAF, as Reporters Without Borders noted in its 2024 latest report. Both conflicting parties used television to constantly show propaganda about their image brand their coalition with Uni Arab Emirate and Russia and brainwash the citizens to justify their actions of human rights violations. The finances for the use of technology for propaganda purposes came from the UAE and Russia [4].

As cited from Gallopin, the UAE, a country that served the world as the financial hub, mutually benefit the RSF. UAE need RSF to secure their ownership of Sudanese gold mining to their state's gold global trade and economic reserve. The RSF is also being benefited by the UAE as they can collect their gold revenue safely in haven UAE and supply the weapons for their military activities that some described as genocide [5].

In study by Doxsee and Mahdi and Hiebert (2023) Russia, which is also profitable by the gold like UAE, need the RSF and Sudan completely to fund their own war in Ukraine. Especially after being sanctioned by the EU and other nations [6]. In exchange, the Russian buzzer will continue to work to divide and create chaos in Sudan and the Wagner group, Putin's right-handed paramilitary group, trained and served the RSF willingness if they still want Sudan's gold. Russia's buzzer was tasked to help spread hate speech and propaganda to divide and provoke heat tension between different groups of citizens. This including by the successful use of AI voice cloning to impersonate former president Omar al Bashir, which reported missing since the latest coup, in late 2023.

Another technological abuse by both conflicting parties was their monopolized control and totally limited internet access all over the country [7]. When a demonstration is likely to happen, they shut off the internet access and connection completely and leave the country and its citizens in a total blackout. In study by Nnamani (2023), the internet blackout in political instability has collapsed the economy of the nation [8]. The online services and business completely stopped. The social disaster happened everywhere as many citizens suddenly found themselves as a refugee and were displaced from their own homes with no economic strength and ability to communicate with the outside world [9].

Technology was also responsible for taking part in this food security crisis. In the report by WFP (2024), the food insecurity problem that already existed at the beginning of the civil war now has become very intense and remarked that Sudan is facing the worst hunger crisis and 18 million people are found in the scale of acute hunger and 5 million people in the scale of emergency and malnutrition [10]. The international media coverage just simplified the humanitarian crisis to the international world as just a 'civil war between two generals' and forgot the multilayered and complex foreign roles and circumstances behind it. It was disappointing to compare the case with the news coverage of Ukraine and Palestine. Again, the *realpolitik* played hard to determine the direction and narrative brought and spread to the international community. During the humanitarian crises, Ukraine and Palestine were considered to be more politically important to intervene for major power holders in the world than Sudan. Study conducted by Donnelly and Dhingra (2024) showed the shallow simplified narratives made the many international donors cut their funding for UN agencies' humanitarian missions in Sudan. Especially after the RSF also closed the port and airport of Sudan, and donors cut the funding of international aid agencies for Sudan, leaving its people off from the outside world in the intense and stressful humanitarian crisis. The war also disturbed the agricultural productivity across the country, along with the global climate change that brought the drought and resulted in failed

harvests. This also correlated tightly with Sudan's economy as the economy mostly relied on agriculture [11].

The children and women are the most victimized in Sudan's humanitarian crisis. Using the latest UN Women statement (2024), gender-based violence became more intense as part of the to continue. In the mass displacement, many women and girls bore the horrifying consequences of the social disaster and food insecurity. Desperate for quick money to provide basic needs such as food and clothes, many women and girls have been raped, experienced domestic violence from their families as the stress and unstable emotional condition in the disaster to were being sold to human traffickers that often organized group to send these women to overseas per request on social media. Technology, which was previously hoped to be the last platform for victims to speak up, seek justice and try to bring this issue up to the international community in the hope they will seek accountability for what the government and the RSF had already done to them, failed its task [12].

B. What specific technological interventions have been used by the UN agencies to counteract these negative effects and address the humanitarian crisis mainly in the fields of food insecurity and social disaster in the country?

To counter back the government and the conflicting parties' use of technology in this humanitarian crisis, the agencies of the United Nations such as the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Food Programme (WFP) in 2024 to overcome all of the humanitarian crisis's social disaster and food insecurity in Sudan step by step aimed to reach Sustainable Development Goals by continuing this programme from 2019, even before the civil war, to currently. This project sought the well of the citizens in poverty, gender equality, solving climate change and building peace.

Mass displacement was one of the main results of the social disaster, in Sudan's case, it the political instability. However, the huge amount of displaced people refugees in Sudan was not only internally displaced Sudanese after the civil war between the Sudanese Armed Forces and RFS. As data obtained from UNHCR Sudan also hosted refugees from neighbouring countries with fragile economic and political instability, even though their level of humanitarian crisis was not as severe as can be seen in Sudan. Including Chad, Yemen, Central Africa Republic, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Syria, and Eritrea.

Another resistance and effort from UNHCR (2024), the UN agencies using the technology intervention is launching a programme named 'Empowering Refugees Through Technology' to provide internet to refugees aimed at the betterment of the refugees as the bridge to the aspect of communicating with the outside world. The technology was viewed and used to be an important platform to raise the issue of a humanitarian crisis to the international community through transparent and direct communication [13]. This will likely make the donors give back their humanitarian aid to fuel the transformation progress of the refugee life. This program also enables the refugee of the mass displacement to put an update and keep learning in this digital era remotely from their shelter. Especially women and girls in Sudan, a country that is still likely to believe that women and girls

should not be outside the home too often. The program also makes the identification and data collection process to be easier. The access to electronic cash assistance and financial services to support the refugees in the transformation process including the electric coupon for food rations for each family of refugee. This effort was conducted through the UN agencies' cooperation with various tech companies and businesses with the same humanitarian aim, and the national government.

Aware that the children suffered the most in the Sudan humanitarian crisis, the UN agencies emphasized its care to the acute and emergency malnutrition conditions caused by the food insecurity that was experienced by many children and their delayed occasion to fulfil their human rights to get a proper and good education. Data collected show by UNICEF (2024) that 4 million children have registered in the refugee camp, and almost all of them are malnourished. The humanitarian crisis also impacted Sudanese education to evolve as the worst in the world. So the 'Digital Strategy' programme launched by UNICEF to boost the digital interventions in many positive aspects of the refugee children's lives, including health, education, social and child protection, environment and water, and sanitation as the aim of SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). This action was also launched in Sudan and hoped to encourage the children of refugees to heal from the trauma and set up a better future [14].

In efforts to end food insecurity and improve a lower middle-income country, the economy relies heavily on the agricultural industry, UNEP reported the UN uses and provides 'Technology Needs Assistance' in Sudan. It acted to improve the variety of crop breeding, conservation agriculture, automatic water level monitoring systems, rainwater-harvesting techniques, biogas-improved stoves, compact fluorescent lamps, and efficient boilers with dual fuels to ensure long-term food security solutions [15].

#### IV. CONCLUSION & CLOSING

- a. In conclusion, the technological intervention really played a very crucial role both in positive and negative ways along with their impacts on the Sudan humanitarian crisis. In the hands of wrong parties like the SDF and RSF, the technology can be a very dangerous weapon in provoking hate, constant propaganda, brainwashing, stripping human rights and failing democracy. But in the UN agencies' hand, technology can be a positive tool to counteract all the negative effects, especially in the aspects of solving social disasters and ensuring food security, even though it still needs further exploration and improvement hence the complex nature behind the humanitarian crisis itself.
- b. The analysis in this paper correlates the use of technology and the failed democracy in the authoritarian government as domino effects with other bad consequences such as economic catastrophe, social disaster, mass displacement, and food insecurity at an acute level. And can be concluded that the climate change influence is also significant to food security, but not as much as the social disaster did.

- c. by evaluating the previous efforts, failures, challenges, and complex nature using a more strategic approach, the author is positively optimistic that UN agencies will reach more success in doing positive technological intervention. The collaboration with civil society from the grassroots level and the local community to connect with the international community to ensure transparency and accountability was crucial for the successful positive technological interventions in adapting to the dynamic of humanitarian crises itself.
- d. May it be the opening way towards stability, peace, democracy and giving back people their rights as human. Especially for the women and children. May the victim get justice and somehow the worst humanitarian crisis will end.

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