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1.1.3. Territorial control

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Map 2. Sudan Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 August 2026, Political Geography Now. Circle size indicates the population size of the location, based on estimated population figures. [116](#)

Towards August 2026, the situation regarding territorial control was marked by a divide between western and eastern Sudan. [117](#) Of the country's total 18 states, the RSF controlled the five Darfur states (North, South, East, West and Central Darfur), although with some local exceptions, as parts of North Darfur either remained under SAF control [118](#) or were contested between the RSF and SAF, alongside parts of West Darfur. [119](#) The SLM-AW maintained its area of control in the Jebel Marra mountains in the centre of Darfur in the common border area between North, South and Central Darfur. [120](#)

Moreover, the RSF controlled sizeable territories in the Kordofan region, [121](#) including all of West Kordofan and parts of North Kordofan and South Kordofan. Some areas of western and southeastern South Kordofan were contested between the two main warring parties [122](#) or under the control of SPLM-N, [123](#) which held the Nuba mountains. [124](#)

In Blue Nile state, southern areas bordering South Sudan and Ethiopia were mapped as either contested [125](#) or controlled by the RSF and its allied forces associated with the Taasis coalition. [126](#) In the Northern state, since June 2025, [127](#) the RSF has been in control of a small stretch of territory along Sudan's border triangle with Libya and Egypt [128](#) (the strategic El Uweinat area); [129](#) control further extended into the northern edges of North Darfur. [130](#)

The SAF and their allied militias, meanwhile, controlled most of the territory of the 13 states outside Darfur, including the country's capital Khartoum [131](#) and the eastern, central and northern states, [132](#) as well as large areas in the south and south-east. [133](#) This was notably the result of the SAF's military advances that led to their recapture of Wad Madani in Al Jazirah state (January 2025) and of Khartoum state in May 2025 and further allowed the SAF to retake territory from the RSF in White Nile, North and South Kordofan states. [134](#) Following the offensive conducted July 2026, the SAF further expanded its control within North Kordofan. [135](#)

- [116](#)

PolGeoNow, Sudan Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 August 2026, n.d.

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