

HIGHLIGHTS

- About 60 per cent of an estimated 23,600 newly displaced people in South Kordofan have received initial relief assistance, according to aid agencies.
- UNHCR says 127,700 refugees have arrived in Sudan, of whom 78,200 have received some form of aid.
- Over 2,000 suspected cases of measles have been reported from 13 states in Sudan, including 924 confirmed cases and 15 deaths, according to MoH, WHO and UNICEF.
- About 6,200 people from Golo in the Jebel Marra region arrived in Guldo town and Hassahisa IDP camp over the past few weeks, according to aid agencies.

FIGURES

Displaced people in Sudan 3.1 million

IDPs in Darfur (to date) 2.5 million

GAM burden 2 million

Refugees in Sudan (excluding S. Sudanese) (UNHCR) 168,000

South Sudanese refugees in Sudan - since 15 Dec 2013 (UNHCR) 127,665

FUNDING

1.04 billion requested in 2015 (US\$)

4% reported funding



Aid workers distributing relief supplies to new IDPs in El Abassiya (UN)

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Newly displaced in South Kordofan receive aid

Between 9 and 18 March, an estimated 23,600 people fled their homes and took refuge in El Abassiya, Abu Jubaiha and Rashad towns as well as surrounding villages in South Kordofan State, according to the Government of Sudan's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC). Almost 60 per cent of these new internally displaced people (IDPs) are women and children under the age of five, HAC says. These people fled their homes following fighting between government forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) in the area. Of the 23,600 newly displaced people reported, close to 19,000 are in El Abassiya and Abu Jubaiha localities.

Access to most areas receiving newly displaced people has been restricted by on-going conflict, therefore aid agencies have been unable to verify the scale of new displacement. So far, only El Abassiya town has been cleared for UN operations. Access difficulties to areas south beyond Alabassiya have affected the ability of humanitarian organisations to monitor the distribution of aid. An inter-agency team comprising staff from the World Food Programme (WFP), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Children's Agency (UNICEF) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) visited El Abassiya to conduct a rapid needs assessment and monitor distributions conducted by the national NGO Mubadiroon.

By 22 March, about 60 per cent of an estimated 23,600 newly displaced people in El Abassiya, Abu Jubaiha and Rashad localities in South Kordofan have received initial relief assistance, according to aid agencies.

WFP and its partner organisation Mubadiroon are distributing emergency food rations to newly displaced people in El Abassiya, Abu Jubaiha and Rashad localities. WFP has provided 105.5 tonnes (MT) of food aid to 14,400 people so far. This includes 81 MT of food to provide a 30-day food ration to 9,000 people in El Abassiya. In Abu Jubaiha and Rashad, distributions were conducted through the national NGO Mubadiroon, with 15-day food rations provided - 8.5 MT was sent to 1,900 people in Abu Jubaiha and 16 MT to 3,500 people in Rashad locality. WFP plans to continue to verify and assist the reported displaced people once security permits.

Displacement from South Kordofan's eastern corridor – as of 18 March

Source: HAC

Displaced to	Total displaced people	Men	Women	Children under 5 years
El Abassiya locality	10,126	4,120	4,484	1,522
Abu Jubaiha locality	8,748	3,765	3,579	1,404
Rashad locality	3,867	1,518	1,659	690
Gadeer locality	848	320	386	142
Kadugli town	22	-	-	-
Total	23,611	9,723	10,108	3,758

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The State Ministry of Health (SMOH) – with UNICEF support – are screening children under five years of age for malnutrition. Of the 854 children screened in El Abassiya town so far, 16 are severely malnourished and have been provided with the necessary treatment. Nutrition supplements were sent to El Abassiya and Rashad localities.

For access to clean water, chlorine tablets, 250 jerry cans and 100 cups were distributed to the newly displaced people in El Abassiya town. Aid agencies have also chlorinated existing water points in the town and are tankering water to two distribution points outside the town in areas where the displaced people are sheltering. The government's Water and Environmental Sanitation Department (WES) with support from UNICEF will drill a mini-water yard at the sites where the displaced people have taken refuge. In Abu Jubaiha town, aid agencies are tankering water to two water bladders at a site where the displaced people are sheltering. UNICEF has also sent emergency supplies, including construction materials for 300 latrines, hygiene promotion material, soap, water bladders and hygiene kits.

To meet the health needs of those displaced, the World Health Organization (WHO) and health partners will send three mobile health teams to El Abassiya and Abu Jubaiha localities. Additionally, UNICEF has sent a childhood illness kit to El Abassiya town and two kits to Abu Jubaiha town. Aid agencies have already pre-positioned 48 primary healthcare kits in Abu Jubaiha town as a contingency measure.

An estimated 12,750 people (2,550 families) have received non-food items (NFIs), according to the NFI sector partners. However, some of the newly displaced have complained that the assistance is not adequate because some families are polygamous or have many members. UNHCR was requested by NFI sector to provide additional NFI kits for distribution. So far, UNHCR has provided 1,050 emergency shelter and household supply kits to cover the needs of 5,750 displaced people in El Abassiya, which are being distributed by the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS). Each kit contains one plastic sheet, one jerry can, one kitchen set, two blankets and two sleeping mats. IOM has also provided 1,550 emergency shelter and household supply kits (without kitchen sets) to support 7,750 people in Abu Jubaiha. These kits will later be supplemented with kitchen sets.

Over 127,700 South Sudanese refugees in Sudan

South Sudanese refugees continue to arrive in Sudan fleeing violence that began in mid-December 2013. As of 18 March, an estimated 127,700 refugees had arrived in Sudan, of whom 78,200 have received some form of assistance, according to the UNHCR.

Over 3,000 South Sudanese relocated from Shagara open area

UNHCR said that the relocation of South Sudanese from the Shagara open area in Khartoum to the new Bantiu relocation site continues in Jebel Aulia, Khartoum State. The relocation exercise started on 10 March. By 18 March, about 3,100 South Sudanese had been relocated. With an average of 300 people moved per day, the relocation exercise is expected to finish before the end of March. The Commission for Voluntary and Humanitarian Work (CVHW) and SRCS are facilitating this exercise, with UNHCR providing technical and financial assistance. An estimated 6,000 South Sudanese will be relocated in this exercise, aimed at ensuring improved access to basic services.

About 98,600 South Sudanese registered in Khartoum State

Since 1 February, 98,600 South Sudanese nationals have been registered in Khartoum State and 83,751 identification cards have been issued. UNHCR is supporting the implementation of this initiative. There are two permanent registration centres in Khartoum and Jebel Aulia localities, with eight mobile registration points spread across 'open areas' in the Omdurman and Khartoum North areas of Khartoum State.

Over 4,000 refugees relocated to Um Sangor from El Kuek border crossing

Newly arrived South Sudanese refugees who crossed into Sudan through the El Kuek border crossing have been relocated to Um Sangor camp in White Nile State, where the population now stands at about 4,000 people. The relocation is to ensure the safety of

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new arrivals in the event that fighting in South Sudan moves closer to the border area. Having walked for many hours to reach safety and refugees were assisted with emergency food, water and other services at the border before being moved to the new site.

WFP convoy from Kosti, Sudan reaches South Sudan

On 20 March, WFP reported in its South Sudan situation report that 35 trucks loaded with approximately 1,300 metric tonnes (MT) of sorghum arrived in Melut in South Sudan's Upper Nile State from Kosti, Sudan. Additional trucking capacity is being organised in Kosti, WFP said.

Under the agreement made with the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan in July 2014 on the movement of humanitarian cargo between Sudan and South Sudan, WFP Sudan has transported 4,617 MT of food assistance to South Sudan (excluding the latest shipment of 1,300 MT of sorghum). This has covered the food needs of 267,000 people in northern parts of South Sudan for a month. WFP is planning to move a further 21,000 metric tons within the coming three months, which will cover the needs of 267,000 people for about five months.

A WFP convoy delivered 1,300 MT of sorghum to South Sudan from Kosti, Sudan as part of the humanitarian corridor between Sudan and South Sudan

Close to 1,000 confirmed measles cases in Sudan

Over the past week, 86 cases of measles have been reported across 13 states in Sudan bringing the total number of confirmed measles cases in 2015 to 924 (including 15 deaths), according to the Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF. As of 22 March, the total number of suspected cases stands at about 2,000 from 27 localities. At least 610 patients, including severe and complicated cases, have been hospitalised.

Darfur is the most affected area, with North Darfur, West Darfur, and East Darfur states accounting for 66.7 per cent of measles deaths in Sudan in 2015, an update from MoH, WHO and UNICEF indicates.

According to MoH, WHO and UNICEF, the measles outbreak spread rate rises again because of the spread of the outbreak wild virus in Darfur states. After the outbreak started, it subsequently declined following the response immunisation in Gedaref and Kassala states. The outbreak is spreading rapidly in Darfur states, MoH and WHO said.

Response to new displacement in Darfur continues

Aid organisations continue to register and assist people displaced by fighting between government forces and armed groups in North Darfur's Tawila locality and parts of the Jebel Marra area. As of 22 March, 32,700 newly displaced people have been verified, of whom IOM has registered 20,000 people. Aid organisations are still unable to access people in parts of Central and North Jebel Marra localities.

Response to newly displaced in North Darfur

In Argo IDP camp in North Darfur's Tawila locality, SRCS has distributed cooking sets to an estimated 4,500 people (1,093 families). In Um Baru town, UNICEF and the international NGO Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI) constructed 182 out of 250 latrines needed for the 7,222 newly displaced people in the town.

About 6,000 IDPs registered in Guldo town, Central Darfur

In Guldo town, HAC, SRCS, the international NGOs Tearfund and Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and the government's water, environment and sanitation department (WES) registered about 6,000 newly displaced people (1,219 families) who arrived from Golo town and surrounding villages over the past two weeks. These people are in need of food, emergency household and shelter supplies, as well as water, sanitation and health assistance, according to the mission. They reportedly fled their homes due to militia attacks that destroyed their homes. This is in addition to 4,325 people already verified in Guldo who received emergency household and shelter supplies as well as water, sanitation and health assistance.

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Displaced people arrive in Hassahisa IDP camp from Golo, Central Darfur

According to the findings of an inter-agency assessment mission to Central Darfur's Hassahisa IDP camp on 15 March, people displaced from Golo town (Jebel Marra area) have started arriving in the camp. About 250 people, mostly women, children and elderly people, some with disabilities, reportedly fled their homes in the Jebel Marra area due to tensions between government forces and armed groups. They are in need of food, shelter, nutrition as well as water and sanitation services, according to the mission. This brings the total number of people who have arrived in the camp from the Jebel Marra area this month to just over 400. UNICEF will extend the existing water supply line to areas where the new arrivals have settled. WFP and UNHCR are processing requests for food and emergency household/shelter supplies respectively.

New alternative energy project in El Neem camp

Following a 30 per cent reduction in donor funding, WFP – through the national NGO Social Worker Specialist Organization (SWSO) – will implement the “Safe Access to Firewood and Alternative Energy” project in East Darfur's El Neem internally displaced persons (IDP) camp.

The project will target a certain portion of people in the current General Food Distribution (GFD) who have been removed from the GFD list due to improved food security. This group will be determined after 5,715 household questionnaires in El Neem have been processed and analysed.

The project envisages production of improved energy saving stoves and planting of tree seedlings. The most vulnerable of this targeted group have been provided with food rations for six months. They will be trained to make the stoves and briquettes (biofuel substitute) using litter/waste from their camps. The project will create income from the sale of the briquettes and at the same time contribute to a cleaner local environment. The energy saving stoves will use some of the briquettes, potentially keeping women safer from possible harassment when they collect firewood outside the camp. The environmental impact of cutting trees will be reduced, as the displaced people will plant trees as part of the programme. The project aims to plant 20,000 trees around the camp and its surrounds.



IDP women in a Darfur camp cooking with “Safe stoves” (UNAMID)

UNHAS training on aviation emergency planning

The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) in collaboration with the Sudan Civil Aviation Authority recently completed a four-day training course on emergency planning for civil aviation staff and other members of the aviation community in Sudan.

The training course held in Khartoum from 15 to 18 March focused on providing civil aviation staff with essential skills on designing, implementing and optimising airport and airline emergency response plans in compliance with international aviation industry practice and regulatory requirements. Certified training experts from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) conducted the training. Thirty selected staff from the Sudan Civil Aviation Authority and UN organisations such as WFP, African Union – United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), the United Nations Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and UNHAS participated in the training. Managed by WFP, UNHAS provides safe and reliable air service to members of the humanitarian community in Sudan, especially those working in areas where air transport is the only mean of reaching the remote communities they serve. In 2014, UNHAS served more than 40,000 aid travel to 36 locations across Darfur and in six others in other parts of Sudan.

New alternative energy project by WFP in El Neem camp will help those targeted to improve their access to energy as well as reduce protection concerns