

*This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 12-17 July 2011.*

### **I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES**

- Landmine casualties underscore the need for mine clearance and removal of unexploded ordnance on roads and in towns, and for mine risk education activities throughout South Kordofan State.
- Humanitarian partners report that the number of people displaced in SPLM-N areas may be higher than originally estimated. The number of people displaced by fighting had previously been estimated at around 73,000 people.
- WFP, through local partners, has assisted approximately 102,500 people affected by the conflict with over 1,100 MT of emergency food rations. Roughly half of the food has been distributed in SAF controlled areas, and half in SPLM-N areas.

### **II. Situation Overview**

Since the expiry of the UNMIS mandate on 9 July, it has become increasingly difficult for humanitarian actors present in South Kordofan State to get timely and accurate information on the security situation outside of Kadugli. On 12 and 13 July there were unconfirmed reports of fighting in Salara (south west of Dilling) and Al Tays (south of Kadugli). On 16 July there was reportedly aerial bombardment 10km west of Heiban town, and NGOs have reported continued fighting in Delami over the last ten days. It is reported that a SAF attack on Delami resulted in many civilian casualties, with large numbers of civilians fleeing or trying to flee. Reports of fighting in Talodi and Korungu areas were also received.

On 12 July, two UNMIS national staff members were detained by local authorities inside Kadugli town. No reason has yet been given for their arrest.

The critical need for mine clearance activities has been highlighted by reports that a civilian vehicle hit a landmine on the road from Talodi to Kadugli in recent days, resulting in 11 civilian casualties. A preliminary report of an assessment inside Kadugli town indicates that either landmines or unexploded ordnance contaminate more than one third of the town. According to UNICEF, at least three schools in Kadugli have reported the presence of mines and unexploded ordnance.

International agencies have access to their offices and to the civilian population in Kadugli town. However, with a heavy military presence remaining in the town, it is difficult to conduct independent interviews with civilians without jeopardising their security.

There are unconfirmed reports of a number of civilians leaving Kadugli town in recent days by truck, despite the travel restriction said to be in place across the state. According to the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) over 37,000 displaced people from South Kordofan State have arrived in Khartoum since fighting began on 5 June.

### **III. Humanitarian Needs and Response**

The number of people displaced by fighting in South Kordofan State had previously been estimated at around 73,000 people. However, humanitarian partners are reporting that the number of people displaced in Sudan People's Liberation Movement –North (SPLM-N) areas may be much higher than originally estimated.

Authorities in South Kordofan State continue to demand that relief supplies be channelled through national NGOs or line ministries, but they are now allowing some increased movement in Kadugli and some surrounding villages. WFP and UNICEF staff monitored the delivery of food rations and non-food items to displaced populations in Demik, Baradab and Umadara on 12 July. This is the first time UN staff have received clearance from local authorities to travel outside of Kadugli town to attend the distribution of relief supplies since fighting began on 5 June. On 13 July WFP distributed one month emergency food rations to more than 500 displaced people staying in two sites in Kadugli town.

Food distribution reports received by WFP from humanitarian partners in SPLM-N areas indicate that an additional 44,800 people received WFP food assistance. The food distribution was conducted prior to 1 July; but was not reported until 11 July due to communication constraints. To date, WFP, working through local partners, has assisted approximately 102,500 people affected by the conflict in South Kordofan State with over 1,100 MT of emergency food rations, with an almost equal amount distributed in areas controlled by the Government of Sudan and in SPLM-N areas.

As a result of the fighting, the closure of roads to commercial traffic and severe disruptions to the agriculture cycle during the planting season, increased levels of food insecurity in South Kordofan State is a growing concern. FAO is making efforts to release stocks of seeds and tools currently in warehouses in Kadugli.

The Government of Sudan's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) has confirmed the presence of 4,200 displaced people in Habila locality, reported to be staying in schools in the towns of Kurtala and Habila. With the reopening of schools across South Kordofan State, non-food items and temporary shelters will be needed to assist the relocation of these people.

UNICEF provided technical support to the Ministry of Education with a preliminary assessment of six localities within South Kordofan State (there are 19 localities in total) collecting information on 25,514 affected students from 57 schools. Extensive damage is reported to classrooms, furniture and latrines, with landmines and unexploded ordinance found on the grounds of three schools.

UNICEF has also received reports of 73 missing, unaccompanied or separated children. UNICEF reports that the SRCS and the Ministry of Social Welfare are trying to trace the families of the separated children. UNICEF has also received reports of six children killed and five wounded as a result of the fighting that has taken place in South Kordofan State since 5 June.

UNMAO is seeking funding for mine clearance activities in South Kordofan State, while SRCS and UNICEF have commenced mine risk education activities and awareness campaigns in schools in Kadugli. Some INGOs who previously had mine removal capacity in South Kordofan State, such as Danish Church Aid, had their offices looted and equipment stolen. There is an urgent need for more mine clearance and removal of unexploded ordinance on roads and in towns, and for mine risk education activities throughout South Kordofan State.

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