Coordination Saves Lives

This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 19-21 June 2011. The next report will be issued on or around 24 June 2011.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Humanitarian agencies are still unable to freely access the civilian population, despite improvements in the security situation.
- An estimated 73,000 people have been displaced since 5 June when fighting broke out.
- All the displaced who had taken refuge by the UNMIS compound in Kadugli have returned to Kadugli town, leaving only some 135 South Sudanese returnees.
- WFP and local partners to prioritise distribution to locations expected to be inaccessible during the rainy season.

II. Situation Overview

Security situation

The security situation in and around Kadugli town, capital of South Kordofan State, has generally been calm during the reporting period. While some aerial activity has been witnessed, no air strikes or shelling have been reported in the Kadugli area. Until 20 June Kadugli airport remained closed for UN flights. Media reports indicated bombardments in the Nuba Mountains during the reporting period. However, humanitarian partners have not able to confirm these reports due the lack of access to these areas.

On June 21, UNMIS was granted three flights to Team Site Kauda, Talodi and Julud for re-supply and extraction of staff members. A total of 54 national and international staff members were relocated to Kadugli.

Some spontaneous clashes have been reported across the state, though on a scale far smaller than in previous days. The United Nations Mine Action Office (UNMAO) has received reports of three separate Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) related incidents in Kadugli town resulting in deaths and injuries. There are reports of unexploded ordnance scattered on the outskirts of Kadugli town.

Several roads in and out of Kadugli town to places like Talodi and Kauda are reportedly blocked. On 19 June a WFP convoy, led by the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS), traveled from El Obeid headed for Kadugli with the following itinerary: El Abassia, Rashad, Abu Gubeiha, Kologi and Talodi. At the time of writing it was in Rashad.

Humanitarian agencies, however, still do not have freedom of movement to access the affected population in South Kordofan State.

Population movement

According to figures from the SRCS, the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) and UN agencies in Kadugli, at least 73,000 people were initially displaced throughout central and eastern localities of the South Kordofan State as a result of fighting. Some of these people have now returned to their homes.

Information available indicates that on 20 June, local authorities entered the area around the UNMIS compound near Kadugli town and informed displaced people that Kadugli town was now safe for them to return to their homes, and that services would no longer be provided at that location but rather in areas of return. A radio broadcast by the Ministry of Health two days earlier similarly encouraged displaced people to return home.

Those whose houses were destroyed in the fighting were told that they would be registered, provided assistance, and accommodated either in schools or at Kadugli Stadium. Vehicles were provided by the state government to transport them back to their places of origin.

Displaced people had been seen leaving the site in the past three days and the site population had already decreased from an estimated 7,000 to approximately 2500 individuals by 19 June.

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By the afternoon of 20 June, the majority of people around the UNMIS compound had vacated the area, and by 21 June, only some 135 southern Sudanese returnees who had registered at the site remained. They have been advised by HAC and UNHCR to remain in the site while transportation is arranged for their onward travel.

Interviews conducted with displaced people on the site and general observation indicate that combination of incentives through assistance and intimidation was used to exert pressure on the displaced people to return to Kadugli.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

WFP and local partners such as SRCS have reported that they will prioritise distribution to locations expected to be inaccessible during the rainy season or in the event that fighting resumes. WFP plans to urgently reach an additional 9,500 IDPs in greater Kadugli area, 4,000 in Dilling and Dibebat and 3,000 in Julud. Plans are also in place to provide food assistance to some 20,000 affected people estimated to be in Kauda.

As of 19 June, WFP and partners have delivered some 185 MT of food to 34,500 people affected by the conflict in South Kordofan State. The food distribution team is proceeding to Abu Korshola area to provide assistance to an additional 8,500 IDPs.

The WASH sector reported that 22,000 litres of potable water were supplied to displaced people in the area around the Kadugli UNMIS compound on 19 June.

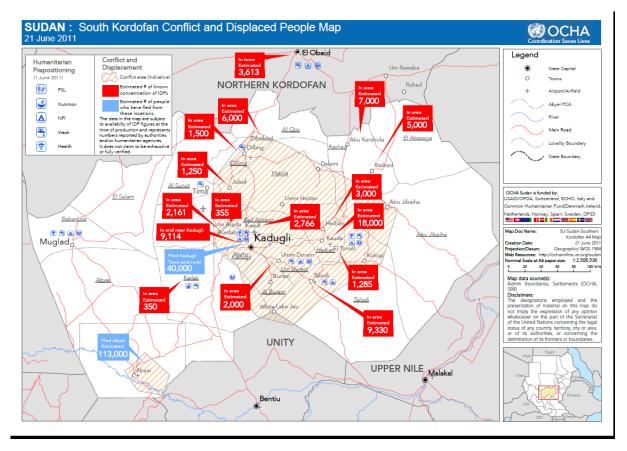
A total of 271 patients visited Site health facilities, with major complaints being respiratory track infection and diarrhea. A medical team from Federal Ministry of Health (MoH) is currently visiting Kadugli, Rashad, Abu Kershola, Talodi and Al Berdab to support the provision of health services, vector spraying and water chlorination & testing in those locations.

The Minister of Education informed that schools will reopen the first week of July, as the teachers who had fled the conflict are slowly returning. Concerns about IDPs settled in some of the schools being voluntarily returned/ relocated, and possibility of mines and UXOs in the schools were also raised.

IV. Coordination

In a meeting between the Governor of South Kordofan and the UNMIS Regional Coordinator, the Governor reportedly agreed on the need for international staff of humanitarian agencies to have access to Kadugli town. Agencies have prepared the modalities for assessments by international staff in Kadugli town, to be presented to the authorities.

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