

20 - 26 August 2012

Key Points

- Flash flooding has affected more than 146,000 people since the beginning of July, according to the Sudanese Red Crescent Society.
- Fighting between the SAF and SPLM-N has displaced more people in South Kordofan, according to humanitarian organisations.
- In Abyei, the distribution of food and other relief aid is continuing both north and south of the Bahr al Arab/Kiir River.
- In North Darfur, up to 90 per cent of the 25,000 people who fled Kassab IDP camp in Kutum have now returned, according to UNHCR.
- Two UNAMID peacekeepers have been reported missing in North Darfur.

Flash flooding affects more than 146,000 people

The Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) reports that between early July and 20 August more than 146,000 people across Sudan were affected by heavy rains and flash flooding, with some 11,600 houses destroyed and some 13,000 houses damaged. According to the SRCS and the Government's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), the most affected states are Sennar, Kassala, Blue Nile, Khartoum and the Darfur region.

The international NGO Plan International (PI) reported this week that exceptionally heavy rains and flash floods had destroyed many villages in Kassala and White Nile states. PI also reported that many affected people in these states are unable to access food, water, electricity, and health services, while access to most of the affected communities remains a challenge.

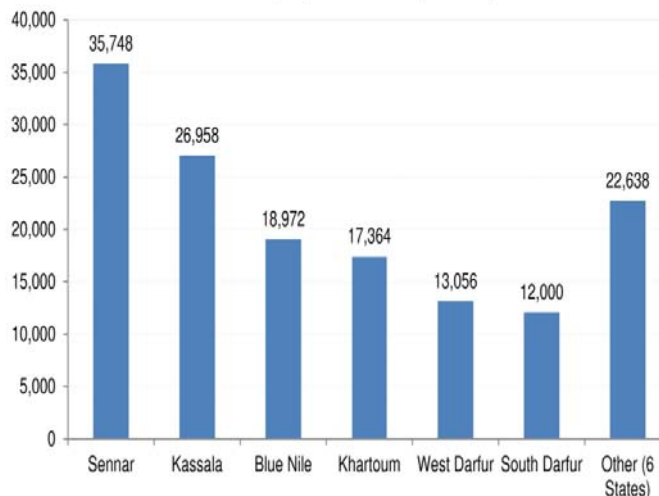


Flooding in Kassala © Plan International

Some areas in the capital, Khartoum, were also inundated with water following heavy rains on 21 August. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) reported that the heavy rains destroyed more than 150 shelters at departure points in Khartoum for people of South Sudanese origin waiting to return to South Sudan. Joint assessments will start on 28 August in three priority Khartoum locations – Jebel Awlia, Sharg El Neil and Umbada localities.

According to SRCS, heavy rains in the Ed Damazine, Bau, and El Rosseires localities in Blue Nile State between 21-23 August damaged 2,800 houses, affecting some 16,000 people. In addition, around 48 horticultural gardens in El Rosaries locality were destroyed.

Number of people affected by flooding



Source: SRCS



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.

Fighting between SAF and SPLM-N displaces more people in S. Kordofan

According to reports received by the UN, fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) forces was reported in the north-eastern part of South Kordofan this week. Since 21 August, armed clashes have been reported in several villages located along the administrative border between the Rashad and El Abassiya localities, including in a village near Abu Kershola in Rashad and El Moreib village in El Abassiya. Reports from humanitarian organisations indicate that the fighting displaced people from the villages of El Moreib, Banat, Tagelo and El Nila to Um Baraka, El Garash and Mabsut in the Rashad locality. HAC initially reported some 8,700 displaced people taking refuge in villages in the Rashad locality and to Um Rawaba and El Semaih in North Kordofan State. HAC and humanitarian organisations are mobilising support to assist the people displaced by this latest round of fighting.

Earlier this month, an estimated 3,000 people were displaced from El Moreib village and sought refuge in several locations in South Kordofan and North Kordofan following an attack by SPLM-N forces. In response, UN agencies and HAC provided the displaced people with food and non-food relief supplies. On 22 August, the national NGO SoS Sahel Sudan, with support from the international NGO (INGO) Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), distributed some relief items to 800 families who were displaced from El Moreib to Um Baraka, Trangeze and Rashad town.

During the month of July, the World Food Programme (WFP) provided 2,225 metric tonnes (MT) of food to some 45,000 people directly and indirectly affected by the conflict in the Gadir, Rashad, Abu Gubaiha and El Abassiya localities. In June and July, WFP reported having reached 90,300 people in six eastern localities identified in the May/June assessments. WFP currently focuses on replenishing food supplies for those in the six priority localities where 30-90 day food rations had been provided in June/July. WFP reported having approximately 2,700 MT of food pre-positioned in the three logistics hubs (Kadugli, Abu Gubaiha and Talodi) as well as Kalogi. However, access to those areas has been hampered by bad road conditions due to rains, seasonal flooding as well as insecurity. Meanwhile, WFP continues offering transport and temporary storage services in South Kordofan as part of the logistics common service, as agreed with UN agencies.

Blue Nile State Government announces plan for repatriation from Ethiopia of Sudanese refugees

On 25 August, the Deputy Governor of Blue Nile State told the local media that the State Government is conducting a bi-lateral discussion with the Ethiopian Government for the repatriation of Sudanese refugees from refugee camps in Ethiopia to their places of origin in Blue Nile. The Deputy Governor also reported that the State Government has prepared a plan for the repatriation and re-settlement of these refugees in Blue Nile. According to UNHCR, there are over 38,000 refugees from Blue Nile in Ethiopia.

Assistance to displaced people in Abyei area continues

According to the INGO Save the Children, supplies are being procured for the rehabilitation of 70 hand pumps in villages south of Bahr al Arab/Kiir River to provide some 28,000 displaced people (of whom 60 per cent are women and children) with access to safe drinking water. Save the Children is also receiving supplies to construct latrines for 3,200 vulnerable displaced people in Agok and Abyei. In addition, 679 children received psychosocial support from Save the Children in 11 child-friendly spaces south of Bahr al Arab/Kiir River. The INGO conducted mine risk awareness sessions for some 1,870 children in the same area.

The INGO INTERSOS completed the distribution of non-food relief supplies to some 330 vulnerable people in Wunpeth, south of the Bahr al Arab/Kiir River. This includes single parents with more than four children, elderly people, people living with disabilities, pregnant women, and single heads of households. INTERSOS also conducted hygiene awareness sessions for the displaced people.

FAO reports that its partners on the ground have distributed some 78 MT of seeds to some 9,000 families out of a targeted 14,000 families in Abyei. Agricultural tools have also been delivered to Agok for distribution.

UNAMID peacekeepers reported missing in North Darfur

The African Union - United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) reports that two of its peacekeepers were reported missing on 20 August in North Darfur. The incident took place in Kabkabiya town, located approximately 140km west of El Fasher, and is being investigated by UNAMID and the Government.

Floods affect more than 35,000 people in Darfur

Reports from the SRCS and HAC indicate that since early July flash floods triggered by heavy rains have affected more than 35,000 people in the Darfur region, including 13,000 people in West Darfur, 12,000 people in South Darfur and 12,500 people in North Darfur.

In North Darfur, rains on 18 August and 21 August resulted in flooding in some areas of El Fasher town and in nearby camps. According to HAC, some 11,500 people have been affected in El Fasher town and 1,000 people in Al Salaam and Abu Shouk IDP camps. In El Fasher town, some 1,600 people have been identified by IOM as extremely vulnerable and will be provided with assistance, including non-food relief supplies from UNHCR and food from WFP. The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) has begun a radio-based hygiene promotion campaign.

In South Darfur, HAC reported that between 1,300 and 1,500 people have been seriously affected by floods in Umm Mashtour village in the El Salam locality – currently inaccessible by road – where emergency shelter, non-food relief supplies, and waterborne disease prevention control measures are required. In El Serief IDP camp, the INGO International Islamic Relief Organization (IIRO) reports that some 1,000 people have been affected by heavy rains on 25 August. An inter-agency needs assessment mission will visit the area shortly.

Response hampered by heavy rains and flooding

In Central Darfur, humanitarian actors continue to assist the flood-affected communities in the Bindisi, Wadi Salih, and Nertiti localities. According to HAC, the federal government is airlifting nine MT of non-food relief supplies,

vector control and medical supplies for distribution to flood-affected communities in the state. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities are being conducted by the INGO Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TGH), which is distributing sanitation supplies, constructing sanitation facilities and has launched a hygiene promotion campaign in the Bindisi locality. According to humanitarian actors on the ground, non-food relief supplies and WASH programmes are the major needs of the people who have moved from the flooded Bindisi IDP camp to higher ground in Bindisi Shamal.

In the Wadi Salih locality, the INGO International Medical Corps (IMC) is supporting outdoor spraying in Anjokiti and Ras El Fil villages to reduce vector-borne diseases. IMC also donated essential medical supplies to Garsila hospital and provided training on acute watery diarrhoea to health workers. WFP will be distributing food aid once needs have been assessed, however, transportation of supplies and the lack of food storage facilities in Foro Baranga in West Darfur are a challenge. WFP has distributed regular food rations to displaced people on their general food distribution list. An assessment will be conducted to assess the food needs of the local community. Emergency shelter and non-food relief supplies have been distributed by the SRCS and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to 1,800 people in the locality.

In West Darfur, a joint assessment of the Foro Baranga locality determined that some 2,600 people have been affected by recent floods. Many roads are impassable, delaying the transportation of relief assistance. Some water wells – the primary water sources in area – and the majority of sanitation facilities have been damaged and are in need of repair. There are concerns that stagnant water and the possible contamination of water wells may lead to waterborne diseases and malaria.

Resumption of relief supplies shipment for Darfur from El Obeid

After many months of failing to receive authorization to access non-food relief supplies, five trucks departed the UNHCR ES/NFI warehouses in El Obeid in North Kordofan State during the past week to begin replenishments to the Darfur field warehouses. Some 74 additional trucks will begin loading and transporting supplies to Darfur on 27 August. New non-food relief stocks are also arriving at the El Obeid warehouses from Port Sudan, which will also be dispatched to Darfur. The UNHCR Non-Food Items/Emergency Shelter (NFI/ES) Project reported having dispatched since early August relief supplies, including plastic sheets, jerry cans, blankets, cooking sets and sleeping mats to cover the needs of over 3,100 flood-affected families across Darfur. Assessments are underway in all Darfur States for a further 4,800 affected families.

Almost all displaced people return to Kassab IDP camp

UNHCR reported on 23 August that up to 90 per cent of people who fled the Kassab IDP camp in Kutum following inter-tribal fighting in the area have now returned, based on reports from community leaders and local authorities. UNAMID forces continue to patrol the area, while water and sanitation services, health and food assistance are being provided in the camp. From 27 to 30 August, UNHCR plans to conduct a joint mission to Kutum together with UNICEF and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) to verify the movements of displaced people and to undertake a protection and shelter assessment.

Handover of facilities run by NGOs to the Government and communities

Due to insufficient funding, the international NGO World Vision International (WVI) is planning to hand over four primary health care centres in Galdi, El Geneina market, Mershing and Khor Abeche in South and East Darfur to the respective State Ministries of Health (SMoH). WVI will continue to supply drugs to the health centres until the end of September 2012.

In West Darfur, according to the INGO Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the planned handover of water facilities to the community in Abuzar IDP camp, which hosts some 16,000 displaced people, has been delayed until the end of 2012. CRS began capacity-building support in the camp in May 2012 with the formation of Water Users Committees that manages and maintains water facilities. In Riyadh IDP camp, the INGO Triangle will hand over the water yard system to the community in six months. These initiatives are part of the West Darfur WASH sector strategy to hand over all water facilities to the communities by the end of 2012.