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Humanitarian Fund releases \$4.76 million for flood needs

The Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) has released \$4.76 million of international donor funding in response to critical needs brought on by heavy rains and widespread flooding in Sudan.

The resources have been allocated to 15 projects by four UN agencies and five non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the food, health care, non-food item (NFI), emergency shelter, water and sanitation areas.

The World Food Programme (WFP) is providing food for 38,500 people in North Sudan and 8,849 in Southern Sudan, but estimates suggest that these figures could rise rapidly. In Renk county, one of the south's most affected areas, the WFP has also launched a food-for-recovery project, providing food in exchange for digging ditches in Renk town.

Health is also a vital concern, with 691 suspected cases of acute watery diarrhea reported so far, which have led to 48 known deaths. To date, 17 treatment centres have been set up in affected areas, where water chlorination and health education are also being carried out. Four cases of yellow fever have also been reported since the emergency began, leading to three known deaths, all in South Kordofan.

At least 365,000 people have been affected by the floods, totally or partially losing their homes, household goods or food stores. Over 30,000 homes have been completely destroyed, leaving at least 150,000 people homeless, while at least 40,000 more have been seriously damaged.

Disarmament Council approves National Plan

The National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Coordination Council (NDDRCC) approved in principle on 13 August the National Plan for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of former combatants.

Concerns raised by Council members about operational issues in transitional areas still need to be addressed in the plan. Two sub-committees have been formed to look into the issues, particularly operational modalities. Meanwhile, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), in coordination with the Southern Sudan DDR and UNMIS, has begun the pre-registration of SPLA combatants.

The national plan stresses Sudan's ownership of the programme, which will be implemented by the Sudanese and primarily financed by national funds. The DDR Commissions of both the north and south have asked for technical, financial and logistical help from the UN DDR Unit.

Security and Humanitarian Developments

South Darfur

A group of Arab militiamen kidnapped two internally displaced persons (IDPs) collecting firewood outside Kalma IDP camp (15 kilometres southeast of Nyala) on 13 August. They accused the IDPs in the camp of having stolen three herds of cattle the previous day. One of the IDPs was released and asked to carry a message to the camp demanding the animals' return, but the second remains in custody.

Southern Sudan

Four Joint Integrated Unit (JIU) soldiers assaulted a civilian and were then detained at Malakal Police Station on 13 August. Later the same day, JIU soldiers attacked the station, forcing the police officers to seek refuge in the surrounding area. The UN is monitoring the situation.

The corpse of a man with several gunshot wounds was found on 13 August in Bentiu. Initial examination by local police suggested that the person died about three days ago. Police are continuing to investigate the incident.

Senior officials from the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in Rubkona (20 kilometres southwest of Bentiu) reached an agreement on 14 August to prevent soldiers from carrying firearms outside their camps.

The construction of a new security fence for UN Headquarters in Kadugli was stopped after villagers of Al Murta (located near Headquarters) claimed in a letter that the land was theirs. The UN is in contact with village leaders regarding permission the government has given to use the land.

The UN received a letter complaining that nomad attacks in Al Sonut (85 kilometres northwest of Dilling) and flooding were creating a humanitarian crisis. The UN was verbally advised by a member of the Southern Kordofan Security Committee that up to 18 people had been killed since the beginning of August in the area.

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