



## Key Points

- Fighting between Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) continues in South Kordofan, displacing civilians.
- WFP reports that the area under cultivation in South Kordofan has been reduced by 50 per cent due to conflict.
- UNHCR reports that some 75,000 Sudanese refugees from South Kordofan and Blue Nile states fled across the border into South Sudan and efforts to meet their needs are underway.
- Spontaneous returns to areas north of the Bahr el Arab/Kiir River continue in Abyei, with no large-scale movements reported.
- People of South Sudanese origin continue to move to South Sudan from Sudan, some 107,000 people willing to return to South Sudan are registered in and around Khartoum.
- Food prices are on the rise in parts of Darfur due to the poor harvests.

### 1. South Kordofan State

Fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) continues in parts of South Kordofan, according to the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). Mobile telecommunication networks have been non-operational in Kadugli area since 1 January 2012. The SAF conducted aerial bombing in the vicinities of Miri and Korongo, UNDSS reported on 4 January 2012. No civilian casualties or displacement have been reported.

Citing the Government's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), the World Health Organization (WHO) reported this week that 75 newly displaced people arrived in Abu Gubeiha town from Talodi locality. In addition, new arrivals of displaced people were reported in Daleng and Dibabat towns, allegedly coming from Elfarshaya village. In addition, the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) reported that 370 newly displaced people arrived in Kadugli from unspecified locations. Numbers need to be verified, and UN agencies are liaising with the state Government to verify the actual figures of IDPs in Kadugli.

According to WFP's Sudan Food Security Update (SFSU) for December 2011, preliminary results of the State Ministry of Agriculture (SMoA) crop assessment survey suggest that – due to the conflict - the cultivated area was reduced to around 50 per cent of the area cultivated last season. Fighting between the SAF and the SPLM-N has hindered the residents from cultivating and harvesting their fields in the affected areas during the traditional planting period. In addition, continuing insecurity in many areas of the state made farms less accessible to many farmers. Consequently, the lower yields have caused an increase in food prices. The price of sorghum, a staple food, increased by 33 per cent by November 2011 compared to September 2011 prices. While no assessment has been completed on the food security or nutrition situation, the State Ministry of Health (SMoH) and Save the Children - Sweden are conducting screening for malnourished children and pregnant and lactating mothers in Talodi locality. Results will be shared after the survey is completed.

The Japan International Volunteer Centre (JVC ) reported this week that it had finalised the second round of the emergency food distribution for 1,000 newly arrived displaced people in Kadugli. These people originate from the El Buram locality and surrounding areas. They were registered by HAC and SRCS and provided with accommodation by the authorities.

The Sudanese media reported this week that the Secretary-General of the Sudanese National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW) stated on 5 January 2012 that the SPLM-N has sent some 900 children to training camps in South Sudan. The NCCW Secretary-General approached UNICEF on the alleged recruitment of children by the SPLM-N in South Kordofan and UNICEF stressed the need for unhindered humanitarian access to crosscheck

such information independently and to carry out family tracing activities. UNICEF also highlighted other violations currently affecting children, including air bombardment, lack of humanitarian access and armed hostilities in general.

## 2. Blue Nile State

The UN reported that there has been some improvement in the security situation in the state, with the exception of areas in the south and southwest. Access outside of Damazine for UN and INGO staff remains restricted. UN agencies and INGO need special permits from HAC in Khartoum or Damazine, as well as clearance from the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) to travel by car to and from Damazine.

WHO reports that, based on information provided by the office of the Governor of Blue Nile State and SRCS, an estimated 7,000 new IDPs have arrived since 26 December 2011 in the villages of Khor-Magnza, Begees, Wigo and Abu-Gereng, after SAF took control of Gabanit, Kelgo, Bobuk and Jego areas in Bau locality. SRCS has reported cases of diarrhoeal disease and eye infections amongst the displaced, particularly amongst children under five years old.

The SMoH Rapid Response Team (RRT), supported by WHO, conducted a rapid needs assessment in the area and confirmed cases of eye infections, diarrhoea and malnutrition, with lack of WASH services contributing to the deterioration of the situation. The urgent needs of this caseload are nutrition supplies, hygiene promotion activities (soap and other supplies) and the provision of safe drinking water (chlorine and additional water sources); food, shelter and non-food items (NFIs).

Meanwhile, SRCS continues to provide humanitarian assistance to people returning to Blue Nile State who had been earlier displaced by fighting between the SAF and the SPLM-N. SRCS medical teams provided health services to more than 3,000 returnees in Kurmuk locality. Between 2-4 January 2012, SRCS conducted a needs assessment targeting an estimated 3,500-4,000 people who returned to Geissan town from Sherkole refugee camp in Ethiopia, providing the returnees with some food assistance.

UNHCR reported on 6 January 2012 that some 75,000 Sudanese refugees from South Kordofan and Blue Nile states fled across the border into Unity and Upper Nile states in South Sudan.

WFP's SFSU report for December 2011 indicates that large areas of cereal crops, mainly millet and sorghum, are at harvesting stage. The harvest is expected to be normal in most of the secure localities of the state. However, in some areas - such as Kurmuk and Bau localities – there will be no harvest due to poor security situation. Insecurity, poor pasture and high prices of cereal and livestock are expected to affect the food security situation in the state. Of particular worry is the southern half of Kurmuk locality.

Meanwhile, the INGO ADRA has signed a technical agreement with the State Ministry of Education (some) to start a school feeding programme in 29 primary schools in Geissan locality targeting 9,327 students. The implementation of ADRA's project will commence after HAC endorses the agreement. The school feeding project will be accompanied by livelihood support activities in the villages covered by the project.

## 3. Abyei

No large-scale returns of displaced have been reported. However, UNHCR South Sudan reports that spontaneous returns of people to areas north of the Bahr el Arab/Kiir River continue.

The UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) reported that a group of 500 people had returned from Agok and surrounding areas to Leu, north of the Bahr el Arab/Kiir River. The Abyei Administration based in Agok does not have precise figures of returnees but said that it will work with the traditional leadership to agree on a mechanism to verify the returnee figures.

Many displaced people who are currently in Agok (in the southern part of Abyei) or in neighboring counties in South Sudan are willing to return but cite the presence of the SAF, risk of landmines, lack of food assistance, and lack of livelihood opportunities as the main factors preventing their return. It is believed that the capacity of UNISFA to protect civilians will also be a determining factor for the displaced to return.

At the same time, many people who had been displaced from Abyei area and found refuge in Turalei or Twic in South Sudan, are reportedly moving to the southern part of the Abyei area, south of the Bahr el Arab/Kiir River. UNHCR reported that no significant movements of, or tensions with Misseriya pastoralists in Twic County, South Sudan, and monitored areas of Abyei have been noted during the past week.

Meanwhile, the increasing numbers of persons using Agok as a “transit” area for possible further movements north continue to strain the host community’s resources. Access to food has been noted as a pressing concern for both host and displaced populations.

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) has started mine clearance activities on the Banton – Rumamier road to allow UN agencies and NGOs to access an important area where some displaced people have returned to.

With UNICEF support, the Abyei Education Office has finalized a plan for the distribution of education emergency supplies received from Juba last week to benefit more than 3,600 schoolchildren.

#### 4. North-South population movements

The return of people of South Sudanese origin from Sudan to South Sudan continues. According to IOM, a plane carrying 65 vulnerable persons departed for Juba on 22 December 2011. More flights to South Sudan will be arranged in January 2012 for extremely vulnerable individuals from Khartoum and those currently in Kosti way-station. The barges, which left Kosti way station on 19 December 2011 with 2,822 passengers, arrived in Juba on 6 January 2012 with 2,364 passengers onboard as some returnees decided to disembark at ports along the Nile River before Juba.

According to IOM, almost 360,000 people have returned from Sudan to South Sudan since October 2010. UNHCR estimates that some 700,000 people of South Sudanese origin still remain in Sudan, mostly in Khartoum State.

##### **Kosti**

As of 5 January 2012, there are 8,958 returnees at the Kosti way station, according to IOM/ADRA tracking hubs. The majority are waiting for transport assistance to travel to Juba. UNHCR reported that spontaneous arrivals continued to arrive in Kosti at an average rate of 100 people per day. The highest numbers of new arrivals are from eastern states and Blue Nile State. Registration of new arrivals from Blue Nile is ongoing in Kosti and the team has registered 1,812 people from Blue Nile State who wish to move to South Sudan.

UNHCR reported that although returnees can access major services at the way-station, they have an urgent need for food, especially among female-headed households and the most recent arrivals. Moreover, repairs on the dykes are urgently required to mitigate the risk of flooding.

##### **Khartoum**

Over the next two months, IOM will arrange train movements from Khartoum to Wau and Aweil in South Sudan. The Returns Task Force is expected to start preparing manifests and medical screening of returnees next week. UNHCR and the Governmental Commission for Voluntary and Humanitarian Work (CVHW) continue to register people of South Sudanese origin who wish to move to South Sudan. As of 4 January 2012, the joint UNHCR/CVHW team have registered 107,168 people. The registration exercise started on 24 November 2011.

## 5. Darfur

### Arrest of armed group leader in North Darfur

On 2 January 2012, NISS in Zalingei confirmed the capture of Abu Indigeer, an Arab militia leader affiliated with the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid (SLA/AW). He was arrested in the area of Kebkabiya, North Darfur along with 11 of his group members. According to NISS, Abu Indigeer was also involved in the abduction of the Italian INGO staff member in Nyala in 2011.

On 4 January 2012, local NGOs operating in the return area of Hashaba village in West Darfur were advised by the police to leave the area due to security reasons. The police warned the NGOs of presence of armed group affiliated to SLA/AW in the area.

### Food security

WFP reported (SFSU December 2011) that cereal prices remained high in the main markets of North Darfur State, which is unusual for the harvest period. The Crop and Food Security Assessment (CFSA) findings indicate that this is due to poor cereal production this season. Various reports last year noted the late arrival of the rainy season and erratic rainfall in the state, which was expected to affect agricultural production. The Government's Strategic Grain Reserve may have to intervene and supply cereals to the markets to curb scarcity and price hikes. The preliminary findings of the Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) indicate that the food security situation is deteriorating in North Darfur due to the poor harvest and high prices.

In West Darfur, cereal prices remained at the same level as in November 2011 in main markets of El Geneina, Mukjar and Habila. In Zalingei market, however, sorghum prices on average have increased by 20-33 per cent compared to October 2011, WFP reported.

In South Darfur, food prices are also on the rise, however, the food security situation was stable in most of the localities, following a regular seasonal trend as the harvest is ongoing. Recent nutrition survey results that have been endorsed by the state Government state that the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates in the areas of Adilla and Selea, as well as Kalma, Otash, Al Salam and Alserif IDP camps were above the global emergency threshold of 15 per cent.

### Lack of medicines in parts of North Darfur

It was reported on 4 January 2012, that one of the major issues in the health sector in North Darfur continues to be a shortage of medicines in rural clinics, particularly in Tawila, Dares Salam, Kebkabiya, Ein Siro and Anka. This is due to restrictions imposed on the transport of medical supplies by the NISS and the Military Intelligence (MI). The SMoH confirmed that efforts are ongoing to resolve this issue. In addition, the international NGO, Refugees International (RI), reported that they have suspended their mobile clinic services in Zamzam IDP camp due to a lack of funding.

### Verification of IDP numbers in some camps in South Darfur

Community leaders in Kalma and Belail IDP camps in South Darfur continue to stall the WFP-led verification exercise of IDP numbers, despite continuing negotiations with WFP. As a result, no food distribution has taken place in these camps since October 2011. Winter season NFIs distribution has also been put on hold. Sheikhs in Kass IDP have also rejected the verification exercise and it is likely that food distribution will be suspended in the camp from January 2011.

The North Darfur State Ministry of Health (SMoH) reported that, as of 2 January 2012, the number of diphtheria cases had reached 10,423.