

Key Points

- The influx of Sudanese refugees into South Sudan continues, with some 185,000 refugees from Blue Nile and South Kordofan now in camps in South Sudan and Ethiopia, according to UNHCR.
- In South Kordofan, following a recent WFP verification exercise with HAC that identified 109,000 people in need of food assistance, WFP has started distributing food for 16,000 people in Talodi. WFP plans to distribute over 8,000 MT of food to priority locations in parts of South Kordofan over the coming weeks.
- In Abyei, the total number of returnees to areas north of the Bahr el Arab/Kiir River is now over 7,000 people - up from 5,308 reported on 14 May, according to UNISFA. Some 30,000 returnees to areas north of the Bahr el Arab/Kiir River are expected within the next three months.
- The airlift of people of South Sudanese origin stranded at the Kosti way-station, facilitated by IOM, was completed on 6 June. Since 14 May, 11,840 people were flown to Juba in 24 days on 79 flights (average of 555 passengers per day).
- According to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), an estimated 4.7 million people in Sudan face significant levels of food insecurity. Food insecurity is driven principally by conflict in parts of South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Darfur, food shortages due to the poor 2011/12 harvest, high inflation, well above-average food prices, and the impact of reduced oil revenues. FEWS NET notes that food insecurity is of greatest concern in SPLM-N areas in South Kordofan, where about 200,000 to 250,000 people now face Crisis to Emergency levels.

1. South Kordofan and Blue Nile

Security situation

Fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Sudan People's Liberation Movement - North (SPLM-N) forces continued in parts of South Kordofan State. According to reports received by the UN, on 1 June clashes occurred in Tossi village (60km west of Al Abassiya), with no reports of civilian displacement. According to the South Kordofan State Ministry of Health (SMoH), more people are expected to arrive from SPLM-N areas to the State capital Kadugli or other government-controlled areas, fleeing ongoing fighting or looking for basic services.

In Blue Nile State, the UN received reports of an ambush of a SAF patrol by SPLM-N forces on the Kurmuk - Ed Damazine road, 6km from Dindiro (75km south of the State capital, Ed Damazine). This was reportedly followed by SAF bombing of areas around Dindiro from 4 to 6 June. The impact on civilian casualties or displacement due to the reported fighting is unknown as access, for UN agencies and international NGOs outside Ed Damazine town remains restricted.

According to reports received by the UN, on 5 June an armed group from the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) attacked the villages of Almajror and Abu Rai in Ghubaysh locality (294km south-west of El Obeid, North Kordofan), looting local markets and carjacking nine trucks heading to Darfur with commercial goods. Following this incident, the movement of trucks through Ghubaysh locality to South Kordofan and Darfur has been restricted.

Humanitarian response

As of 10 June, there are some 320 national staff of UN agencies and international NGOs in government-controlled areas of South Kordofan. There are also five UN international staff from the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) in South Kordofan. In Blue Nile, there are

more than 200 national staff of UN agencies and international NGOs in government-controlled areas, and no international staff, as a result of government restrictions.

On 10 June WFP began a two-month food distribution for 16,506 people in Talodi, South Kordofan, following the recent World Food Programme (WFP) and Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) verification assessment in Al Abassiya, Abu Jubaiha, Gadir, Talodi, Rashad and El Leri, which identified some 109,000 people in need of food assistance. Over 8,000 metric tons (MT) of food will be delivered to priority locations in parts of South Kordofan over the coming weeks. WFP has also started moving food items and setting up temporary food storage facilities in Talodi and Abu Jubaiha in advance of the rainy season (June to October). The national NGO SOS Sahel will be distributing relief supplies to some 1,200 people in Abu Kershola (Rashad locality) who were displaced from Umm Barak (45km north-west of Rashad) on 26 May.

According to SCS, between 31 May and 6 June 915 children under five were screened under the Community-based Management of Malnutrition Programme (CMAM) in South Kordofan. Some 53 children were identified as severely malnourished and 80 children as moderately malnourished. SCS distributed 18 cartons of the nutritional supplement Plumpy Nut to the severely malnourished children. SCS is supporting CMAM programmes in 15 nutrition centres in South Kordofan. WFP supported 300 moderately malnourished children with supplementary food in Kadugli hospital, Nagala health centre (Kadugli town) and El Kuok health centre (Reif Asharqi).

In Blue Nile, the international NGO Save the Children Sweden (SCS) has received information from HAC that the Governor of Blue Nile has stopped the approval of new technical agreements for international NGOs until their activities and programmes are reviewed by the authorities. Following a similar assessment in eastern Sudan, seven international NGOs were ordered by HAC to terminate their projects and close their offices in eastern Sudan by the end of June.

In Blue Nile, SCS and the State Council for Child Welfare (SCCW) have reunited 40 children separated from their families in Geissan locality. UNICEF supported the Governmental Water and Environmental Sanitation Department (WES) in rehabilitating 30 hand pumps, providing 7,500 people with safe drinking water in Al Tadamon locality. According to HAC in Ed Damazine, food aid has been distributed to some 73,000 people in the localities of El Roseires, Bau, El Kurmuk, Al Tadamon, and Geissan, which is expected to last until September 2012. However, no details of the amount distributed has been provided. HAC has also transported relief supplies, including 1,800 pieces of plastic sheeting, and 800 cartons of high energy biscuits, from the UNICEF warehouse in Khartoum to the HAC warehouse in Ed Damazine to be distributed by SMoH and WES in Alshahid Afanid (8km west of Ed Damazine town) Bagis, Khor Maganza, Dereng (Bau locality) and Bakowry (Geissan locality).

Food security

According to a May 2012 update from the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), an estimated 4.7 million people in Sudan face Stressed (IPC Phase 2), Crisis (IPC Phase 3), and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity. The report states that food insecurity is principally driven by conflict in parts of South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Darfur, food shortages due to the poor 2011/12 harvest, high inflation, well above-average food prices, and the impact of reduced oil revenues. FEWS NET reports that food insecurity is of greatest concern in SPLM-N areas in South Kordofan, where about 200,000 to 250,000 people now face Crisis to Emergency levels of food insecurity. Food insecurity in South Kordofan is expected to deteriorate through April to September, however it is not likely to reach the Catastrophe/Famine (Phase 5) level, reports FEWS NET. According to FEWS NET, the main areas of concern in South Kordofan include Heiban (with the main population centre Kauda), Dalami, Al Buram and Talodi localities, where most displaced people are concentrated. The period from July to September will be a critical time, as food prices tend to peak, savings are typically low, and food stocks are exhausted.

In Blue Nile, FEWS NET reports that the food insecurity outlook is expected to be less serious than in South Kordofan, as host communities reportedly have more food stocks to assist the displaced, cross-border movement is easier, and there is better access to markets from adjacent areas with good harvests, such as the Beni Shengol region of Ethiopia. Continuation of prevailing insecurity will affect access to cultivation in the traditional farming sector of Kurmuk, Bau and Geissan localities and the semi-mechanised farming sector in parts of Tadamon and Bau localities. According to FEWS NET, about 200,000 to 250,000 people in Blue Nile are directly affected and/or displaced by the conflict. Of this population, about 100,000 to 150,000 people are located in SPLM-N areas, and

are expected to face Crisis levels of food insecurity through September. About 50-100,000 people affected and/or displaced by the conflict are in government-controlled areas, and are expected to face Stressed levels of food insecurity through September.

Sudanese refugees in South Sudan and Ethiopia

UNHCR reported on 5 June that following a recent influx of more than 35,000 Sudanese refugees from Blue Nile to Upper Nile in South Sudan, there are now more than 152,000 Sudanese refugees from Blue Nile and South Kordofan in camps in South Sudan. This includes an estimated 105,000 refugees from Blue Nile in South Sudan's Upper Nile State and some 47,000 refugees from South Kordofan in Unity State. In Ethiopia, the number of Sudanese refugees, mainly from Blue Nile, currently stands at some 33,000 people. Overall, some 185,000 Sudanese refugees from Blue Nile and South Kordofan have sought shelter in camps in South Sudan and Ethiopia since June 2011. Refugees arriving in South Sudan have reported aerial bombardments and ground fighting between SAF and SPLM-N in the areas they fled, as well as growing conflict-induced food shortages.

2. Abyei

The Abyei Joint Oversight Committee

A meeting of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee (AJOC) was held on 8 June in Addis Ababa and was the first since April 2012. Sudan and South Sudan provisionally endorsed the Terms of References (ToR) for a Joint Monitoring and Observing Committee (JMOC) and agreed to formally adopt the ToRs in the next session to be held on 5 July in Abyei. The meeting also agreed to discuss the ToR of an Abyei Police Service during the upcoming meeting. In the interim, the parties will engage the humanitarian commissions of Sudan and South Sudan to facilitate the provision of assistance to displaced persons who return to Abyei.

HAC Commissioner appointed for Abyei

A delegation from the federal HAC led by the HAC Commissioner, Dr. Suleiman, visited Kadugli last week. The delegation had a meeting with UNICEF on 8 June, during which the federal HAC reported that a HAC Commissioner has been appointed for Abyei who will be in charge of humanitarian coordination in Abyei areas north of the Bahr el Arab/Kiir River.

Returns to areas north of the Bahr el Arab/Kiir River

According to the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), following the withdrawal of both South Sudanese and Sudanese forces from Abyei the total number of returnees to areas north of the Bahr el Arab/Kiir River is as of 10 June, over 7,000 people. This is up from 5,308 last reported on 29 May. The returnees are reportedly preparing their farms for planting. UNISFA has also reported increased Dinka Ngok 'go-and-see' visits from Agok and surrounding areas to Abyei town to confirm the withdrawal of all military forces and to assess their properties. According to UNHCR, people displaced south of the Bahr el Arab/Kiir River are concerned at the lack of basic services and the possible presence of landmines. Surveys of individual households in Agok conducted by humanitarian agencies indicate that most displaced people will wait until the next harvest in October before returning.

Humanitarian assistance

Humanitarian actors continue to provide people displaced from Abyei with assistance in education, child protection, relief supplies and water, sanitation and hygiene. The international NGO CARITAS has reported that 3,000 relief supply kits are en route to Agok, where 1,500 kits will be distributed to displaced people in Agok and the remaining 1,500 will be pre-positioned to support returnees.

Humanitarian organisations are updating a response plan for the expected arrival of some 30,000 returnees to areas north of the Bahr el Arab/Kiir River within the next three months. WFP has started the pre-positioning of 200 MT of WFP food stocks to be distributed during July-September.

According to the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), Abyei town is clear of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) and is safe for returnees and humanitarian organisations. UNMAS also reports that most of the Abyei area has been cleared, except for the areas of Tajalei, Noong, Todach and Maker, north of Abyei town.

3. Returns to South Sudan

People of South Sudanese origin remaining in Sudan continued to return to South Sudan by air during the reporting period with support from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM.) The airlift of South Sudanese stranded at the Kosti way-station was completed on 6 June when the last flight carrying 100 people left Khartoum for South Sudan. Since the airlift began on 14 May, 11,840 people have been flown to Juba in 24 days on 79 flights (average of 555 passengers per day). One of the major challenges of the airlift was the high volume of oversized and overweight luggage, with many returnees wishing to transport up to 60 kg each, despite the limit of 20kg per person. The service provider contracted for the operation also provided one cargo plane.

Overall, more than 391,000 people of South Sudanese origin have returned to South Sudan from Sudan since late October 2010, according to IOM.

As of 10 June, there are some 1,200 people remaining at the way-station, the majority of whom made their way there from Khartoum once the movements began, according to IOM. On 6 June, the international NGO Fellowship for African Relief (FAR) was requested by the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) to leave the way-station. IOM and the Returns Sector continue to advocate for assistance to be available for these groups of people remaining at the way-station. South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) continues to transport luggage from Kosti to Renk in South Sudan, with the next convoy (26 trucks and 8 buses) scheduled to depart on 11 June.

Meanwhile, 413 extremely vulnerable South Sudanese returnees were flown to Juba between 7-9 June out of a targeted 735 caseload, taking advantage of the aircraft, current mechanisms and set-up of the recent IOM-facilitated airlift. This was a group registered in March 2012 but their movement was delayed due to the Higlig crisis in April. The number transported was lower than those registered, as some had already travelled on their own or did not come forward.

4. Darfur

Security and fighting

According to reports received by the UN, fighting continued between SAF and Arab nomads in Abata (approximately 30km north-east of Zalingei, Central Darfur) resulting in the death of a nomad leader and three soldiers on 4 June. Clashes started in the area on 22 May, when local farmers in Abata complained to the authorities about crop destruction by nomads that resulted in the displacement of some 2,000 people to Zalingei and surrounding areas. An inter-agency mission to the area has verified that some 100 people have since returned to their homes. More security personnel have been deployed to the area. Local residents state that their primary needs are security, access to clean water and agricultural inputs.

Unexploded ordnance

According to reports received by the UN, a UXO was found by local residents in the Buta Gbaish area (approximately 10km south-west of Muhajiriya in Sheiria locality, South Darfur) on 4 June. The UN demining team has been informed of the incident. On 6 June, a UNAMID patrol found eight UXO items in Abu Kudeldel village (approximately 23km north of the United Nations/African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) team site in Shangil Tobaya, North Darfur). A UNAMID demining team will dispose of the UXO.

Security Incidents involving humanitarian personnel increase

Due to a recent reported increase in the number of security incidents involving humanitarian actors, on 4 June the South Darfur government informed humanitarian organisations that security forces will increase their patrols around UN and international NGO offices and residences in the Al Mataar and Al Nahda areas in Nyala town. UNAMID civilian police will provide logistical support to a police post that has been established near the WFP warehouse to protect the warehouse and ensure the safety of humanitarian workers driving from Nyala town to the UNAMID super camp. UNAMID has also been asked to increase patrols on the road from Nyala to the airport that is frequently used by UN and international NGO staff.

UNAMID leadership condemned a criminal act by a group of armed men who left a pregnant woman on the road after carjacking an ambulance in Drouk valley, 30km northeast from Dar el Salam in North Darfur. According to eyewitnesses, on 8 June some 30 assailants, reportedly affiliated with an armed movement from the area, stopped the ambulance belonging to Dar el Salam hospital carrying a pregnant woman to El Fasher Hospital. The group abducted the ambulance driver and took the car, leaving the woman on the roadside. She was later rescued by a passing local vehicle and transported to El Fasher.

Returns

According to UNHCR, returnees to Terbibba village (77km south-west of El Geneina, West Darfur) have been going back to their areas of displacement due to lack of services in the village. People had been arriving in Terbibba from Chad and 13 surrounding villages since April 2011. An inter-agency mission conducted in May 2011 verified the return of some 5,900 people. However, UNHCR reported that some 2,000 people have moved to Chad since April 2012 due to lack of access to clean water, food, health, education and other basic services. Such reverse movements are reportedly a common trend in most return sites where there is a lack of basic services. According to UNHCR, 140,000 IDPs and refugees returned to Darfur in 2011. This includes 31,000 verified refugee returns from Chad and 109,000 verified IDP returns.

Food security

FEWS NET reports that recent armed clashes in parts of Darfur are likely to reduce access to farms for cultivation during the coming rainy season. Fighting could spread to other locations and disturb seasonal animal migrations to rainy season grazing areas in the north. The main areas of concern include Um Dafug, Hufrat El Nahas, Kafan Dibeil and Gereida (South Darfur), Samaha (East Darfur), Golo and Rokoro (Central Darfur) and Dar el Salam, Tabit and Kuttum (North Darfur). According to FEWS NET, the majority of people displaced in Darfur face higher levels of food insecurity and about 1.2 million resident/host communities in the drought-affected areas of North Darfur face Crisis levels. Food security is of most concern in North Darfur, where production was at 30 per cent the level of 2010/11 production, and in Jebel Marra area (South Darfur and West Darfur) due to insecurity. This year the lean season started two months earlier than usual (in March/April versus May/June).

Humanitarian response

The international NGO Care International Switzerland (CIS) registered some 17,000 children under the age of three in Kass IDP camp, South Darfur, as beneficiaries of the integrated blanket supplementary feeding programme (IBSFP). WFP and UNICEF provided nutritional and medical supplies for the programme, which will run through August 2012.

Following the WFP re-verification exercise in some IDP camps in South and East Darfur, WFP announced a total caseload reduction of approximately 30 per cent in Otash, Al Salam, Dereige, Al Neem and Bileil camps. Results from the Kass verification exercise are being finalised. The IDP camps of Kubum, Um Labasa, Thur, Nyamma, Dagadousa, Adila and Abu Jabra cannot be accessed for re-verification and their caseload remains unchanged. Discussions are ongoing between WFP and community leaders in Kalma IDP camp who are still divided on whether to accept the re-verification exercise. Distributions to the new caseloads will take effect in August. Based on this re-verification exercise, WFP reported that in East Darfur some 143,000 displaced people will be receiving food for seasonal support instead of general food distributions (GFD) between June-October 2012.

IOM has registered and verified an estimated 125 people who were displaced to Zamzam IDP camp from Tukumari village around 15 May due to fighting between armed groups and SAF. The main gap in the humanitarian response is shelter, as newly arrived IDPs are using the plastic sheets from the NFI kits as shelter, which is insufficient for the upcoming rainy season.

Street children reunited with families

According to the national NGO African Charity Organization, 61 separated children in Nyala town, South Darfur were reunited with their families through the UNICEF-supported street children programme.