Coordination Saves Lives

This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period 14-15 June 2011. The next report will be issued on or around 17 June 2011.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Fighting continues around Kadugli, Kauda and Heiban.
- More than 61,000 people have been displaced by the recent clashes, with more than 35,000 people believed to be moving to El Obeid, North Kordofan.
- Humanitarian partners are providing life saving assistance wherever they can access vulnerable populations. More than 26,000 people have received food aid.

II. Situation Overview

Security situation

Fighting continued for a 10th day in parts of the South Kordofan State. Artillery shelling was reported around Kadugli town while heavy fighting, including aerial bombardment, took place in the area of Kauda and Heiban. The bombing in Kauda has reportedly rendered the airstrip unusable. Kadugli airport remains closed for UN flights. This limits the ability of humanitarian organizations to re-supply their stocks in Kadugli town or relocate their staff.

Ongoing insecurity and restrictions on movement of humanitarian actors continue to severely limit humanitarian access to the displaced civilians in and around Kadugli town and other areas. On 15 June, the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) could not reach the IOM way station in Kadugli.

Meanwhile, shelling was reporting on the morning of 15 June morning in the vicinity of Abyei town, in the Abyei Area.

Population movement

UNHCR indicated unconfirmed reports of 35,000 people on the move from South Kordofan to El Obeid. According to the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), an estimated 6,000 displaced people are currently hosted by communities in El Obeid. Another estimated 700-800 people (mainly members of the Nuba tribe, with the majority being women and children) are displaced in the bus market in El Obeid and an estimated 800-900 people are at Tabaldiya (mainly Arab Hawazma) and 1,300 people in Rahad town. HAC in El Obeid reported that there is another group of displaced people who led to Um Rawaba but numbers are unavailable at the moment.

On 15 June, a local source in Talodi reported that an estimated 11,000 people who were displaced from surrounding villages are currently sheltered at several schools in Talodi town.

The SRCS has reported an estimated 5,000 IDPs in Kadugli area who came from Hamra and Atmour areas.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Humanitarian actors continue their efforts to reach out to and provide services to populations affected by the conflict in South Kordofan despite ongoing fighting and movement restrictions. As part of an inter-agency response, members of the Humanitarian Country Team have called for humanitarian corridors, particularly between Kadugli and El Obeid, to allow safe passage to persons who wish to leave.

On 15 June, UNHCR reported that Non Food Items (NFIs) have been distributed amongst IDPs in the area around the UNMIS compound with support from IOM. UNHCR will continue to distribute pre-positioned NFIs, in cooperation with UNMIS and SRCS or other partners wherever they can operate (mainly around UNMIS team sites), depending on the security situation. UNHCR reported that NFI stocks are in place in Khartoum and Port Sudan and can cover up to 75,000 people to complement the current inter-agency contingency stocks at El Obeid.

The WASH sector reported that interventions could only be conducted in the area around the Kadugli UNMIS compound, including the installation of two bladders containing 15,000 litres, distribution of 9,000 bars of soap.

The Health sector reported on 15 June a shortage of blood supply and oxygen cylinders to treat injured patients in Kadugli town. WHO will transport 50 units of blood from the Central Blood Bank in Khartoum as soon as the airspace opens for UN flights to Kadugli. It was reported that the Ministry of Health (MoH) sent 10 specialist doctors to Kadugli town to assist in emergency medical aid. Although the hospital remains open there are few patients as it is not safe to reach the facility for those seeking treatment and many of the staff have left Kadugli.

In Heiban and Um Dorein, NGOs are supporting seven primary healthcare units (PHU). WHO reported that some 33,000 IDPs are currently being served by these PHUs. Although the distribution of drugs is ongoing, stocks are running low due to the disruption of supplies. Further, logistical support is required to deliver stocks to health facilities in Heiban and Um Dorein.

A health facility in the Lagawa locality, less affected by fighting, with a full team on the ground, is ready to expand services when needed, should patients be referred from other localities.

On 15 June, WFP reported that its partners have, to date, distributed short-term food assistance to 26,000 displaced people in Kadugli, Kauda, Talodi, Heiban, Um Durein and Al Rashad in cooperation with partners. A further 9,000 people are scheduled to receive rations on 16 June.

Meanwhile, according to HAC and WFP, displaced people in EI Obeid have received food rations provided by the local government, NGOs and charity organizations. Those willing to move further to Khartoum or other areas where they have extended family networks have been assisted by the local authorities to continue their onward movement.

IV. Coordination

Daily inter-sectoral coordination meetings are taking place in Khartoum. The Humanitarian Coordinator has requested Sector Leads to ensure sector response plans are fully updated and reflect the situation and response in the Three Protocol Areas. In addition, the Sector Leads will determine whether additional resources are required.

To insure a unified approach and format when assessing needs of the affected population in South Kordofan, an amended version of the Inter-Sector approved Assessment for Darfur was suggested as a possible common tool for coordination and harmonization of needs assessments, together with IASC/NATF Key Questions Check List for Rapid Needs Assessments.

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