

## Key Points

- In South Kordofan, 518 metric tons of World Food Programme (WFP) food has recently been distributed to 32,330 displaced people in Kadugli town, El Berdab, El Kuok and Damik. WFP, in collaboration with the Sudan Government Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), is conducting verification and logistical assessments in El Abassiya, Abu Jubaiha, Gadir, Kalogi, Talodi, Rashad and El Leri localities. WFP international staff have been allowed to participate in the assessments.
- HAC has reported that there are currently 83,401 people internally displaced people in government-controlled areas in South Kordofan.
- On 17 May 2012, the UN Security Council granted a six month extension to the mandate of the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA).
- By 20 May, some 3,600 Southerners who had been stranded in Kosti had been transported to Juba on the humanitarian airlift organised by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) that started on 14 May. At the current rate, the airlift operation is expected to be completed by the end of May.
- According to UNHCR, returnees stranded at departure points in Khartoum do not have access to basic services, such as health, water and sanitation, education and livelihood opportunities.
- In South Darfur, people displaced by clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) on 30 April are returning from El Radoom locality to their homes in Songo and Dafag, reports HAC.

## 1. South Kordofan and Blue Nile

In South Kordofan, there continues to be a serious strain on water resources as a result of the high concentration of nomadic groups who are unable to migrate to their traditional grazing lands near White Lake/Lake Jaw due to insecurity and the closure of the border between Sudan and South Sudan.

On 16 May, the Commissioner of Reif Asharqi locality in South Kordofan informed nomadic tribal leaders that any cross-border trade, including the smuggling of food into South Sudan, would be regarded by authorities as tantamount to collaboration with the enemy, according to local media.

### Displacement and returns

A recent report received by the UN claims that there are some 135,000 internally displaced people in areas controlled by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) in Blue Nile State, of whom 120,000 people were registered by civil society groups in April. Since the UN does not have access to these areas, it has not been possible to verify these figures. Reports mention that the humanitarian situation in these areas is critical. It says that many people remain trapped in areas without food, clean water and medicine, and that malnutrition levels are rising.

According to recent figures from the Sudan Government Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), by 19 May there were 83,401 people internally displaced in government controlled areas of South Kordofan. According to HAC, some 35,000 of the displaced people have taken refuge in abandoned buildings, with relatives, or with host families in Kadugli town. Abu Jubaiha has the second highest number of displaced people, with 17,000, according to HAC. The Government's Water and Environmental Sanitation department (WES), with support from the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), is providing water and sanitation services in Abu Jubaiha.

HAC reports that displaced people continue to arrive in Kadugli town, the majority being from Al Buram locality, with 984 new arrivals reported since the beginning of May 2012. A group of 234 Falata Umbararo nomads from Mambo village (7km north of Higlig town) have recently arrived in Kadugli town, HAC reported on 13 May. These nomads reportedly lost their livestock during the fighting in Higlig in April and are in need of humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian agencies are currently conducting assessments to determine the humanitarian needs of this group.

### **Humanitarian response**

According to the World Food Programme (WFP), 518 metric tons of WFP food has been distributed to 32,330 displaced people in Kadugli town, El Berdab, El Kuok and Damik in South Kordofan. WFP, in collaboration with HAC, is conducting verification and logistical assessments in El Abassiya, Abu Jubaiha, Gadir, Kalogi, Talodi, Rashad and El Leri localities. WFP international staff have been allowed to participate in the assessments. The international NGO Concern has assisted the Ministry of Health (MoH) in transporting nutritional supplies from Kadugli town to the localities of El Abassiya, Abu Jubaiha, Kalogi, El Leri and Talodi.

In South Kordofan, the international NGO Save the Children Sweden (SCS) is implementing sanitation projects in villages in Lagawa locality. Activities included trainings aimed at enhancing the community's capacity to maintain and repair their own water sources and hygiene promotion sessions for 529 community members from Mango, Shangel and Umshahra villages. In May, the international NGO conducted demobilisation trainings for 23 ex-combatants and distributed reintegration kits to a total of 231 ex-combatants in the state. Since the beginning of the year, a total of 2,208 ex-combatants (1,702 males and 506 females) have been provided with training and reintegration kits.

In Blue Nile State, SCS signed a technical agreement with HAC to implement child protection projects initially in Ed Damazin and El Roseires. Approval for another technical agreement for education activities remains is pending.

### **UN international staff in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states**

As of 20 May, five UN international staff are present in Kadugli town in South Kordofan State, comprising of two WFP staff, two UNICEF staff, and one staff member from the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). Travel permits for these staff are valid for a two-week period only. Other applications submitted to government authorities for UN international staff to travel to South Kordofan and Blue Nile states are still pending.

### **Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia and South Sudan**

In Ethiopia, refugees from Blue Nile continue to arrive in the Sherkole and Tongo refugee camps and Ad-Damazin transit centre, with some 3,000 refugees registered since January 2012. As of 19 May, this brings the total number of Sudanese refugees to arrive in Ethiopia since June 2011 to 32,500, according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

According to UNHCR, over 2,800 refugees arrived in the Yida refugee settlement in South Sudan's Unity State during the reporting period, bringing the total number of refugees in the settlement to some 35,000 people. UNHCR reports that the total number of Sudanese refugees in Unity State has reached 38,000, while 71,500 Sudanese refugees have been registered in South Sudan's Upper Nile State. This brings the total number of Sudanese refugees in South Sudan to 109,500 people.

According to UNHCR, the total number of Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia and South Sudan has reached some 142,000 people as of 19 May 2012.

## **2. Abyei**

### **Extension of UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) mandate**

On 17 May 2012, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 2047 (2012), extending the mandate of the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) for a further six months. The resolution calls on the Government of Sudan to immediately redeploy all military and police personnel from the Abyei area; the Government of Sudan

and the Government of South Sudan to finalise the establishment of the Abyei Area Administration; and the activation of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and the Safe Demilitarised Border Zone between the two countries.

#### **Returns to areas north of Bahr el Arab/Kiir River**

According to UNISFA, no movement of displaced people to areas north of Bahr el Arab/Kiir River has been observed during the reporting period and the number of returnees stands at some 5,300 people.

#### **Nomad migrations continue**

Misseriya nomads with their families, livestock and household possessions continue a reverse migration from Um Khariet, Dumboloya, Banjadeed and Kadama towards Muglad, reports UNISFA. The migration has so far been relatively peaceful, with the notable exception of a cattle raid that took place on 9 May in the area of Leu in which 500 cattle were stolen from a Dinka group by Misseriya nomads. Some of the cattle were later recovered by UNISFA and returned to their owners.

#### **Displacements to Rumamier from Abiemnom**

The total number of displaced from Abiemnom in South Sudan's Unity State to have arrived in the villages of Rumamier and Rum Kor in Abyei now stands at 5,175 people, according to a food needs assessment conducted from 9 to 11 May by WFP, South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) and the national NGO Abyei Community Action for Development (ACAD). According to those displaced, the fear of aerial bombing, the presence of unexploded ordnance (UXOs), and deteriorating food security in the area have all contributed to their displacement. Food insecurity in Abiemnom has increased due to the trade embargo between Sudan and South Sudan, poor crop harvests, and ongoing conflict. In response, one-month WFP food rations were distributed to the 5,175 displaced people, while the international NGO Médecins Sans Frontières - Switzerland (MSF-CH) distributed relief supplies.

#### **Humanitarian response**

UN agencies and humanitarian actors continue to provide assistance to people displaced from Abyei to Agok and other areas south of Bahr el Arab/Kiir River. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that, apart from the health clinic in Rumamier, there are no functioning health facilities north of Bahr el Arab/Kiir River. The agency is holding discussions with communities in Goli, Diffra and Mekines to establish health facilities in these areas that it will support with drugs and capacity-building activities. The international NGO SCS continues routine activities in 22 child-friendly spaces in Agok. This week SCS registered six orphaned children in Agok. SCS is also working in Rumamier to trace and reunite displaced children with their families.

The Abyei Education Office (AEO) in Agok has started the distribution of education materials provided by UNICEF. There are now 26 schools open in the Abyei area, an increase of 12 schools since last year, reports the AEO. Of this number, six schools are located in areas north of Bahr el Arab/Kiir River. According to the AEO, 22,204 children are registered in basic schools in the Abyei area.

### **3. Returns to South Sudan**

#### **Transportation of returnees stranded in Kosti by air**

By 20 May, the IOM-organized humanitarian airlift of stranded Southerners to Juba had transported 3,600 people, according to IOM. The operation is proceeding smoothly initially with two flights a day until 16 May when the number of daily flights increased to four flights a day. IOM has requested government authorities to allow a further increase to six flights a day, but permission is still pending. At this rate, IOM expects the airlift operation to finish by the end of the month. Airlifts for the 12,000 to 15,000 returnees stranded at the Kosti way-station started on 14 May.

According to IOM, the Government of Sudan has allocated the Haj and Umra terminal for the humanitarian airlift operation. A fee of 35 Sudanese Pounds (approximately US\$12.50) per person is currently being charged as an airport departure fee, however, the initial \$100 migrant fee that the Government wanted charged to each individual being airlifted has been waived.

**Update on South Sudanese at departure points in Khartoum**

According to UNHCR, returnees stranded at departure points in Khartoum do not have access to basic services, such as health, water and sanitation, education and livelihood opportunities. The stranded returnees have expressed concern that they are not receiving any information on organised return movements. Some of these people have been stranded at Khartoum departure points since November 2010, when the Government of South Sudan first started organised return movements. Some returnees have reportedly expressed frustration and resentment towards the ongoing return operation from Kosti and wish to know when they are going to receive assistance, reports UNHCR.

**Update on situation of returnees in Renk, South Sudan**

According to humanitarian actors in Renk, South Sudan, the luggage of people being transported by air has started to arrive from Kosti on truck convoys organised by the Government of South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC). One family member is allowed to accompany the luggage during the move. Trucks started arriving in Renk on 14 May, with some 15 trucks reportedly arriving by 17 May. Humanitarian actors are concerned about the limited space available in Renk for storing this luggage if onward transportation is not rapidly provided, as the upcoming rains will soon make road transport in South Sudan virtually impossible.

There have also been reports of spontaneous returns by road from Kosti to Renk. According to humanitarian actors, people are arriving in Renk at an average rate of 50 to 75 returnees a day.

**Insecurity affecting returnees in Renk, South Sudan**

According to reports received by the UN, on 15 May the Mina transit site in Renk came under attack from militias, with returnees at the site reportedly forced to flee into surrounding areas. The incident reflects the vulnerability of the returnees near the border areas and the need to move them to safer locations as soon as possible. The situation at the Mina transit site is reportedly back to normal and the returnees who fled are returning.

According to IOM, as of 15 May 377,705 people of South Sudanese origin have returned to South Sudan from Sudan since October 2011.

## 4. Darfur

**Security and fighting**

In Darfur, several clashes between government forces and armed movements were reported during the reporting period. In North Darfur, the locality commissioner cancelled an inter-agency mission to Klaimendo over security concerns. In addition, Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) reportedly clashed with an unknown armed movement at a checkpoint in Tabit (approximately 45km south-west of El Fasher, North Darfur).

**Access**

On 16 May, HAC informed humanitarian actors in South Darfur that movement restrictions are lifted from the areas of Al Salam, Mershing, Kass, and Edd Fursan localities. Restrictions remain in place on roads from Nyala to Ed Daein, Labado, Muhajiriya, Sheiria and Gereida.

On 15 May, a United Nations – African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) escort team accompanying fuel and UN trucks on their way to Manawashi were stopped by government personnel in Al Malam (5km south of Manga, which is 90km north-north-east of Nyala, South Darfur). The convoy was informed that their travel permit was only valid until Manga and was asked to turn back.

On 16 and 17 May, UN humanitarian actors were stopped at the Zamzam IDP Camp checkpoint in North Darfur and were asked to return to El Fasher, as they did not have written permission from HAC to enter the camp. However, on 17 May a second UN team was allowed access to the camp after negotiations at the checkpoint.

**South Sudanese in West and Central Darfur**

On 14 March, 141 South Sudanese left El Fasher on commercial trucks and have safely arrived in Awiel, Ariath, Nyiamlel, Rummading and Wau in South Sudan, reports UNHCR.

UNHCR and the SRCS assessment of South Sudanese in Darfur continued throughout the reporting period. According to UNHCR, some 1,820 South Sudanese currently reside in six locations in West and Central Darfur states. Central Darfur hosts some 1,165 people (64 per cent) while West Darfur hosts some 655 people (36 per cent). According to the assessment, 91 per cent of the South Sudanese have expressed a willingness to return to South Sudan as soon as possible. Fears on their legal status in Sudan and problems accessing basic services, were cited as factors behind their wish to return. The lack of an organised movement to transport them to South Sudan was also of concern to these people. Community leaders have reported harassment by government security, inability in finding employment, children have not been permitted to continue in schools and paying high fees for medical services, as they are not included in medical insurance programs, reports UNHCR.

The numbers of South Sudanese in North Darfur are currently being assessed. Community leaders are reporting some 5,000 people of South Sudanese origin residing in North Darfur, according to UNHCR.

### **Displacements and returns**

According to the international NGO Plan Sudan, 99 people have arrived in Zamzam IDP Camp, North Darfur, from the villages of Numari and Tukumari, South of Tabit in North Darfur, following clashes between SAF and an armed movement on 12 and 13 May.

According to HAC, people displaced to Songo and Dafag from Kafindibei, Kafia Kingi, Abu Hugara and Hilat Abul Banat in El Radoom locality, South Darfur, are returning to their homes. These people were displaced following clashes between SAF and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) on 30 April.

### **Humanitarian gaps and response**

According to the State Ministry of Agriculture (SMoA) in Central Darfur, results from an assessment conducted in December 2011 show that available food in the state can only cover 64 per cent of food requirements for the year leaving a food deficit of 36 per cent. Communities are expected to feel the effect of this food gap soon. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the price of 100kg of sorghum in Zalingei has risen from 80 Sudanese Pounds (SDG) (approximately US\$30) in January to 200 SDG (approximately \$75) in April, a 150 per cent increase. In response, the Government released 50 metric tons of cereals to Central Darfur State, resulting in the stabilisation of prices during the month of May 2012.

Rainy season relief supplies have been distributed to only half of the 100,000 targeted beneficiaries in Central and West Darfur, report humanitarian actors. However, delays in obtaining clearances and approval from government authorities to transport relief supplies from El Obeid to Darfur may affect distributions to the remaining 50,000 people, as available stocks in the El Geneina warehouse will not cover reported needs. According to humanitarian partners in the emergency shelter/non-food items sector, existing relief supplies can only reach half of the remaining 50,000 people.

Humanitarian actors have started the delivery of assistance to some 19,000 people displaced from Samaha town (100km east of Ed Daein, East Darfur) to Al Kubu (20km south of Samaha town) following an alleged SPLA attack on the town on 17 April 2012. According to an earlier assessment conducted by HAC, the displaced people are in need of food, emergency shelter material, relief supplies and water. In response, WES, with the support of the international NGO United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), provided the displaced people with water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assistance. The international NGOs Tear Fund, ZOA and UMCOR will be providing relief supplies while WFP will soon be distributing 15-days food rations.