

HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 25,000 people in Belle Elseireif in South Darfur's East Jebel Marra locality are in need of humanitarian aid.
- Aid organisations continue to respond to the needs of over 53,000 Jebel Marra IDPs in North Darfur.
- National cereal production is estimated at 8 million MT—a 70% increase compared to the five-year average.
- Over 11,000 people in Kurmuk locality, Blue Nile State are facing serious water shortages.

FIGURES 2017 HRP

people in need in Sudan (2017 HNO) 4.8 million

people in need in Darfur (2017 HNO) 3 million

GAM caseload (2017 HNO) 2.2 million

South Sudanese refugee arrivals in Sudan - since 15 Dec 2013 (registered by UNHCR) - as of 8 March 2017 332,000

Refugees of other nationalities (registered by UNHCR) - as of 31 Oct 2016 140,626

FUNDING

564.8 million
US\$ received in 2016

58.1%
Reported funding
(as of 5 March 2017)



Local residents at a water point in Belle Elseireif (February 2017, UNICEF)

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25,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance in East Jebel Marra locality, South Darfur

An inter-agency mission to Belle Elseireif village in East Jebel Marra locality, South Darfur, took place from 19 to 21 February to assess humanitarian needs in the area. People in Belle Elseireif and surrounding villages were affected by conflict between government forces and the Sudan Liberation Movement–Abdul Wahid (SLA-AW) between 2014 and 2015.

The mission estimated that about 25,000 people (14,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), 7,500 returnees and 3,500 nomads) in the area need access to clean water and sanitation, health care and nutrition services, emergency household supplies, as well as education and protection support. The area lacks basic services and infrastructure. The mission stated that any humanitarian intervention should consider the nomadic communities who currently share the resources with the IDPs and returnees. Registration and verification of needs should take place before the delivery of humanitarian assistance. However, immediate assistance will soon be provided to the most vulnerable.

More water sources required to meet the needs of people in the area

There are three hand pumps in Belle Elseireif, the main village in the area, which serve both Belle Elseireif and 10 surrounding villages. People often have to wait up to three hours to collect water. According to the mission, existing water sources are sufficient to serve 3,500 out of the 17,600 people in the area. Other water sources are located 2 to 3 kilometres away, which poses potential



A mother cooking for her family in Belle Elseireif, South Darfur (February 2017, UNICEF)

health hazards as the water points are also used by animals, and also means inhabitants may face potential protection risks while collecting water. As a result, the people in the area depend on inadequate, contaminated water sources in the immediate vicinity. There are no sanitation facilities in the area, but a few families were attempting to construct improvised latrines. Some of the mission recommendations include increasing the

If immediate nutrition interventions are not undertaken, the nutrition status of children in Belle ElserEIF will deteriorate, according to mission findings

number of water sources for use by villagers and nomads; building latrines and carrying out sanitation awareness activities; and activating water user committees in Belle ElserEIF.

Urgent need for health and nutrition assistance

There is no health facility in Belle ElserEIF, however, there is a clinic made out of local materials 3km away in Dobo Al Madrassa village, which has one medical assistant and one nurse. This clinic serves people in Belle ElserEIF and surrounding villages. Recommendations include providing a wider range of health services; stocking existing facilities with essential medicines; vaccinating children and women; and carrying out health education and hygiene promotion activities.

A nutrition screening carried out in Belle ElserEIF in September 2016 identified 43 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and four children with oedema—swelling caused by the accumulation of fluid in the body. High rates of oedema can lead to high mortality rates among malnourished populations. During the conflict, nutrition facilities in the area were destroyed or looted, and there are currently no nutrition facilities or staff in Belle ElserEIF or the surrounding villages. If immediate interventions are not undertaken, the nutrition status of children will deteriorate, according to mission findings.

Recommendations include starting outpatient therapeutic programmes (OTP) and therapeutic supplementary feeding programmes (TSFP) to tackle nutrition problems; and carrying out community awareness programmes to improve infant and young child feeding.

Schools need furniture and learning materials

There is one basic school in Belle ElserEIF with 300 students and seven other schools in the surrounding villages accommodating 1,913 children. All schools lack teaching and learning materials and nearly all the teachers are volunteers. Recommendations include rehabilitating the schools in Belle ElserEIF and surrounding villages; providing school furniture and learning materials; and bringing in teachers from the State Ministry of Education (SMoE).

Food support will be required during the lean season

People in Belle ElserEIF have sufficient stocks of food to meet their current needs. However, their food security is likely to deteriorate during the May-August lean season due to the consumption of these food stocks. Recommendations from the mission include providing agricultural supplies to ensure sufficient food production and to improve livelihood options; and training farmers on using better water harvesting/irrigation techniques.

Support to 53,000 Jebel Marra IDPs in North Darfur

Humanitarian organisations continue to provide assistance and support to about 53,000 IDPs from Jebel Marra who since January 2016 have taken refuge in four locations in North Darfur: Sortony (22,000), Tawilla (25,000), Kebkabiya town (3,000) and Shadad camp (3,000).

Assistance to 21,500 Jebel Marra IDPs in Sortony continues

In Sortony, the governmental Water, Environment and Sanitation (WES) department—supported by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)—and the international NGO Oxfam America continue to provide water averaging 295,000 litres per day, or 13.7 litres per person per day.

For sanitation and hygiene services, Oxfam America and



Jebel Marra IDPs at a water collection point in Sortony, North Darfur (2016). UNHCR

Aid organisations continue to respond to the needs of over 53,000 Jebel Marra IDPs in North Darfur

The most common disease reported at the clinics in Sortony is acute respiratory infection

the national NGO Kebkabiya Small Holders Charitable Society (KSCS) are implementing hygiene and sanitation activities including home visits, cleaning campaigns and hygiene promotion sessions. Oxfam America has also built 18 new latrines in Sortony while the State Ministry of Health (SMoH) Environmental Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion Project (ESHPP) built an additional 20 household latrines.

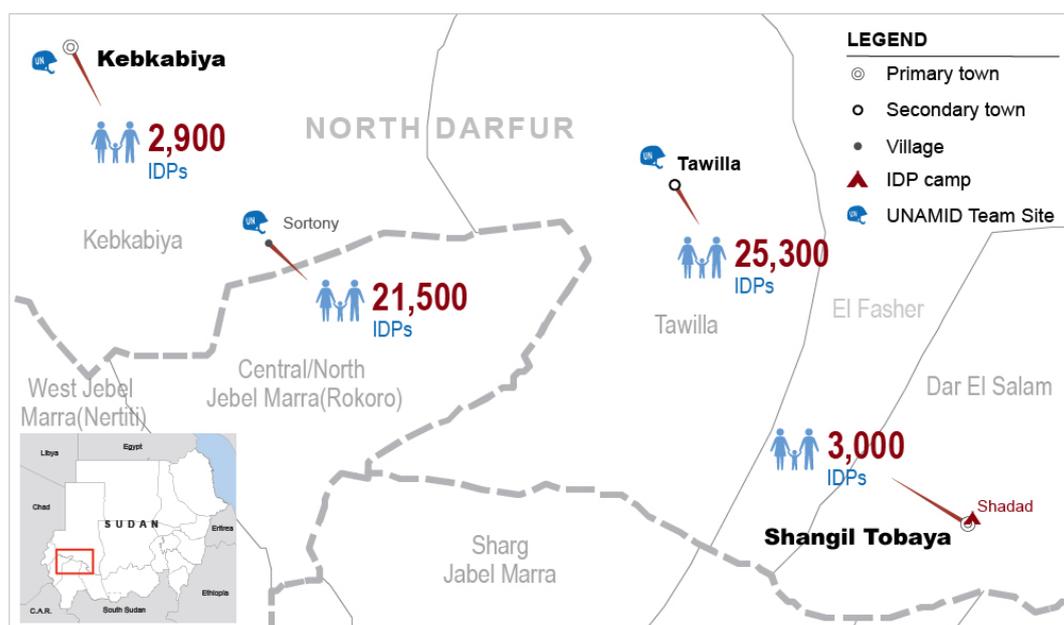
For health, the international NGO Médecins Sans Frontières - Spain (MSF-Spain) and the national NGO Anhar for Peace Development Organisation (ANHAR)—supported by the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and SMoH—continued providing health and nutrition services in three health clinics. The most common disease reported at the clinics is acute respiratory infection. In addition, MSF-Spain is providing health services to nomads in the surrounding area, through two mobile clinics.

For nutrition, ANHAR recently finished a mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screening of 922 IDP children (between 6 and 59 months) to assess their nutritional status. The screening identified 42 children with SAM and 116 children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). Meanwhile, 309 malnourished children were admitted to ANHAR's OTP, while 23 children with MAM were admitted into TSFP programmes, increasing the total number of all children admitted to TSFP to 1,002. The national NGO KSCS—with UNICEF support—is running five child-friendly spaces (CFS) which accommodate 4,000 children (half boys and half girls).

An estimated 894 students reportedly dropped out of school in Sortony, mainly due to their inability to pay school fees and lack of school uniforms. The number of students currently enrolled in the two schools is 4,117 (2,003 boys and 2,114 girls) out of the 5,011 school age children in the area. The total number of teachers covering the two schools is 40, of whom only five are full time teachers and the rest are volunteers. The key challenges still facing education in Sortony are the lack of money to pay teachers; inadequate education material; as well as lack of office space, furniture and equipment.

Nutrition situation of Jebel Marra IDP children in Tawilla is stable

In Tawilla, MSF - Spain reports that the general nutrition status is stable, with only 15 children newly admitted to its OTPs and no malnourished children with complications reported during the last two weeks. For safe water, the international NGO Plan Sudan International (PSI) carried out water quality testing in the area where the IDPs have settled. According to the test results, five out of the 20 samples collected from homes and two out of the 10 samples collected from water sources were found to be contaminated. In response, water treatment activities were scaled up.



2016/2017 bumper harvest - FEWS NET

This year the national cereal production is estimated at 8 million MT—a 70 per cent increase compared to the five-year average

The 2016/2017 national cereal production is estimated at 8 million metric tons (MT)—a 70 per cent increase compared to the five-year average—according to preliminary findings of a joint crop and food supply assessment mission (CFSAM) led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This was reported in the latest [Sudan Food Security Outlook report \(February – September 2017\)](#), issued by FEWS NET.

Higher yields of sorghum, millet and wheat

The above-average rainfall from June to October 2016 encouraged farmers to cultivate larger areas of land resulting in higher yields of sorghum and millet. The expected wheat harvest in March 2017 is estimated at 0.48 million MT, which is similar to production in 2015/16 and about 20 – 25 per cent higher than the five-year average. Sorghum production is expected to be about 1.5 million MT above domestic requirements, and millet is expected to be 500,000 MT above domestic requirements. However, wheat production is estimated at 500,000 MT, which only covers about 20 per cent of the annual domestic wheat consumption.

Due to the favourable rainfall in 2016, livestock and herd sizes have returned to normal in most pastoral and agro-pastoral areas following the dryness associated with El Niño in 2015. As a result, FEWS NET assumes that livestock prices will remain above average and income from the sale of livestock will remain close to normal levels.

Sudan to send 10,000 tons of sorghum to South Sudan

On 12 March, the Commissioner General of Sudan's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), Ahmed Mohamed Adam, announced that the Government of Sudan would send 10,000 tons of sorghum.

Below-average harvests expected in some areas

Despite this expected increase in national cereal production, erratic distribution of rainfall and dry spells during critical growth periods in parts of South Kordofan, North Kordofan, West Kordofan, North Darfur, East Darfur and West Darfur states have led to localised below-average production.

Most likely outcomes from February to September 2017

The period from February until September 2017 includes the harvest (February-April) and post-harvest periods, with the peak of the lean season lasting from June to September 2017.

Levels of acute malnutrition are likely to improve in most parts of the country during the February to April harvest period. This is mainly due to increased access to food as a result of the above average 2016/2017 harvest, low staple food prices, and improved purchasing power.

FEWS NET projects that the prevalence of acute malnutrition will remain serious with global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates between 10-15 per cent from February to September 2017. Critical levels of GAM (less than 15 per cent) are expected to persist in vulnerable states such as Blue Nile, Central Darfur, North Darfur, Kassala, Red Sea and South Kordofan. Most households in rural areas that have access to cultivation are likely to face Minimal - equivalent to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 1 – or Stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels of food insecurity through September 2017.

However, new IDPs, returnees, and refugees in the Jebel Marra area, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile states who have no access or limited access to land and/or who missed the cultivation season will not have access to food from their own harvests. They may also have income from the sale of staple and cash crops, and may have limited resources from which to produce supplemental income, according to FEWS NET. The main income-earning opportunity for these households was seasonal agricultural labour on the farms of the host community during the November to January harvest period. Movement

Levels of acute malnutrition are likely to decrease in most parts of the country during the February to April harvest period

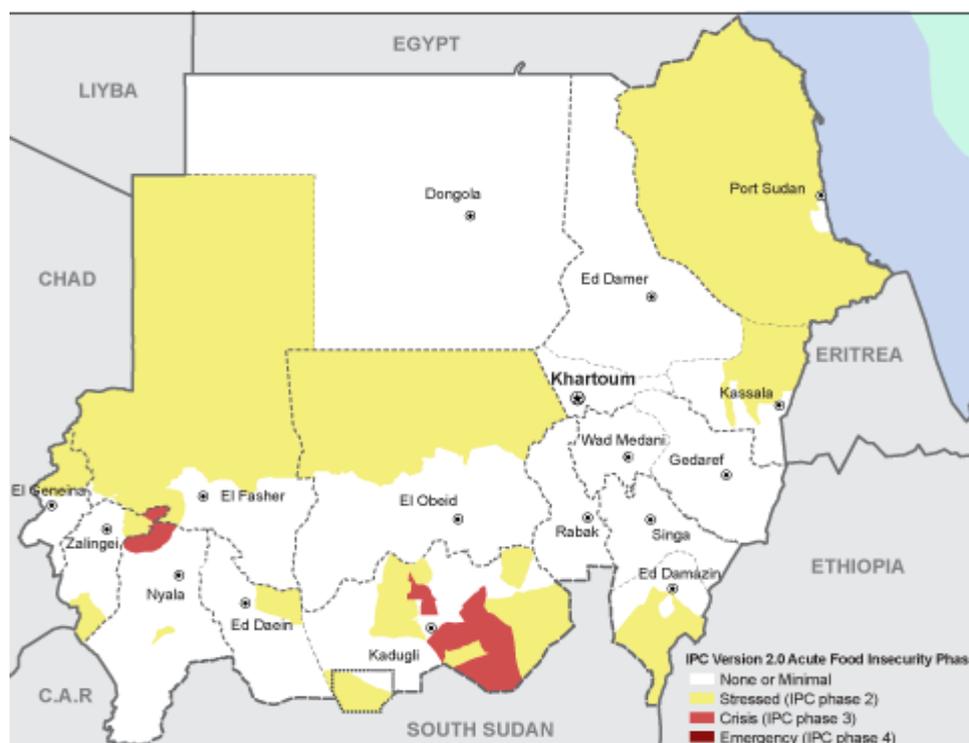
New IDPs, returnees, and refugees in Jebel Marra, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile who have no/limited access to land and/or missed the cultivation season will not have access to food from their own harvests, said FEWS NET

restrictions for IDPs in some parts of Blue Nile and South Kordofan states is likely to reduce access to seasonal agricultural labour, according to FEWS NET.

Moreover, particularly in South Kordofan, seasonal progress was poor in localised areas, leading to significant crop losses even among resident households. Parts of Jebel Marra area and some SPLM-N-controlled areas of South Kordofan will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) level of food security from February to May. Without humanitarian assistance, food security will likely deteriorate in these areas to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) during the peak of the lean season between June and September 2017, according to the report.

Projected food security in Sudan (March – May 2017)

Source: FEWS NET



Over 11,000 people affected by water shortages in Dindiro town, Blue Nile State

Dindiro town in Kurmuk locality, Blue Nile State, is facing serious water shortages affecting over 11,000 people (2,500 IDPs and 8,560 residents). A joint team from UNICEF and relevant government departments is in Kurmuk town to implement a 90-day response plan to tackle these shortages.

In response to the water shortage, UNICEF, the international NGO Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW) and WES have started trucking water to Dindiro. Water trucking will continue for three months until the start of the rainy season. In addition, UNICEF carried out three hygiene promotion activities in Dindiro and rehabilitated 20 hand pumps in the Dindiro, Bulnag and Kurmuk areas.

In Kurmuk locality, IRW will rehabilitate 20 hand pumps—with the support of UNICEF and WES—and will upgrade two water yards and replace them with solar panels to reduce operation and maintenance costs. The international NGO Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA) will rehabilitate two hafirs (dams) in the Dindiro area and WES—with the support of UNICEF—will rehabilitate a generator in Kurmuk.

In addition, UNICEF has started pre-positioning emergency supplies in Kurmuk locality, including 200 cartons of soap for 4,500 families, chlorine tablets for the treatment of household and water sources. For education, UNICEF will rehabilitate 10 schools and will

Over 11,000 people in Kurmuk locality are facing serious water shortages

train 30 parent teacher association members on education in emergencies. In addition, 60 teachers will be trained and education supplies will be pre-positioned.

New study on household priorities for sustainable livelihoods in Darfur

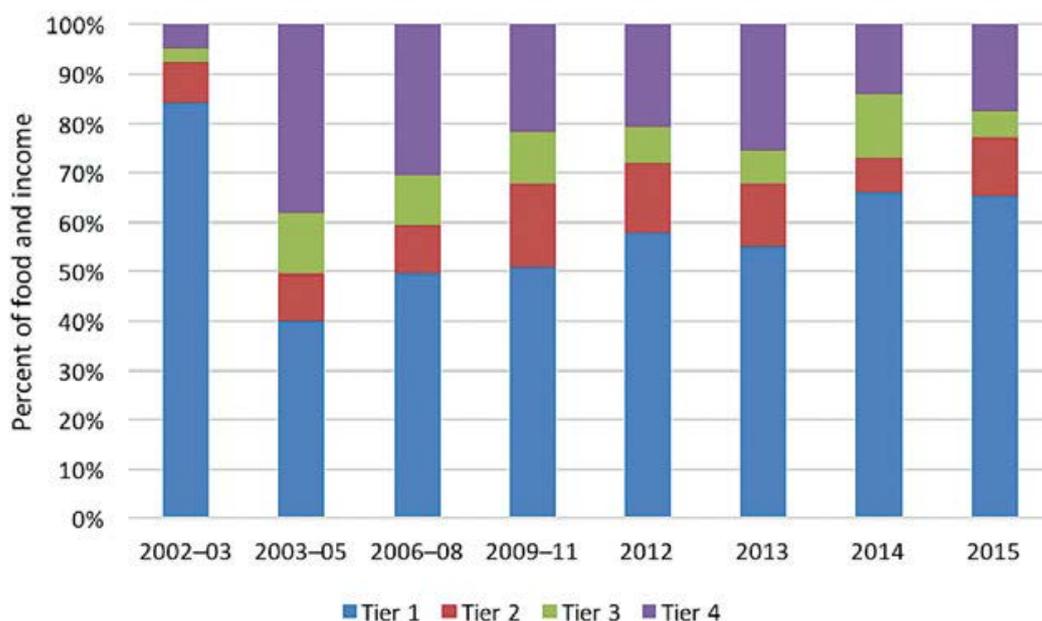
Tufts University's Feinstein International Centre published a new research paper on '[Risk and Returns: Household Priorities For Resilient Livelihoods in Darfur](#)'.

This study describes and analyzes how livelihoods in the Darfur Region have been affected by multiple shocks experienced over the past 15 years, the choices families have made to sustain themselves throughout, and the extent to which they have recovered.

The case studies in the different localities and states mapped changes in livelihood strategies over time and revealed major shifts in livelihood strategies in response to the wide-ranging shocks and risks over the past decade or more.

The study findings highlight that local solutions are generally the most effective in managing local natural resources, but are heavily influenced by national and state policy. The study was funded by the UK Department for International Development (DfID) in their support to the Taadoud Project—a three year project led by the international NGO Catholic Relief Services (CRS) that supports conflict-affected people rebuild their livelihoods and prepares them to deal with future shocks and stresses.

The relative importance of different income streams in West Darfur villages: Trends from 2000 to 2015



Tier 1—cultivation and livestock rearing; *Tier 2*—trade, butcher shops, restaurants, mills, donkey carts, skilled artisans, and salaried jobs; *Tier 3*—gifts, remittances/migrating for labor, local labor; *Tier 4*—collection of grass, firewood, and palm leaves, making charcoal, humanitarian assistance.

Please be advised that the OCHA Sudan Humanitarian Bulletin is now issued every two weeks.