

HIGHLIGHTS

- Sudanese refugee leaders visit their home villages for the first time in a decade.
- Above-average rains from August to October have lifted prospects for the 2017 cereal harvest, reports FEWS NET.
- AWD cases declining with only 50 new cases and one related death reported between 29 October and 4 November.
- Aid organisations assist some 163,000 vulnerable people in the Abyei Area.
- EU donates €106 million (about US\$ 123 million) for humanitarian and development aid in Sudan.

FIGURES 2017

# 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 refugees Since 15 Dec 2013 (registered by UNHCR) - as of 15 Oct 2017	454,660
Other refugees and asylum seekers (registered by UNHCR) - as of 30 June 2017	167,784

FUNDING

316.1 million
US\$ received in 2017

39.3% funded
(FTS, as of 5 Nov 2017)



Sudanese children collecting water in Djabal camp, Chad (UNHCR, archive)

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Sudanese refugee leaders from Chad visit Darfur to assess return prospects

Twenty-five Sudanese refugee leaders are visiting their home villages for the first time in a decade on go-and-see visits organised by UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and government counterparts in Chad and Sudan.

The visits follow the signing of a tri-partite agreement in May 2017 between UNHCR and the Governments of Sudan and Chad outlining key considerations for return. There is an agreement by the three parties that return should be voluntary and that refugees have the right to return to their areas of origin in safety and with dignity.

UNHCR in Sudan and Chad will continue to have a dialogue with Sudanese refugees and local states in Darfur, in coordination with Sudan's Commission for Refugees (COR), to help design support for refugees interested in returning. For return to be sustainable, a secure environment with minimum basic services needs to be in place.

Shelter, basic services, and security are among the key issues the refugee representatives have raised concerns about. UNHCR and partners have already begun providing shelter and basic services in areas where refugees have returned spontaneously. UNHCR estimates that 30,000 refugees may have returned permanently on their own since 2015 from Chad to Darfur. However, some only come back temporarily for seasonal farming due to remaining tensions in some home areas.

Darfur has witnessed some spontaneous returns in the last five years, mainly due to the improvement in security in some areas, with the signing of peace agreements, as well as the efforts of a peacekeeping mission led by the United Nations-African Union hybrid force (UNAMID).

In Chad, Sudanese refugees face dwindling humanitarian support, with cuts to food rations and limited livelihood



Sudanese refugee children in Chad (WFP, 2016)

Over 300,000 Sudanese refugees remain in Chad, according to UNHCR

opportunities and access to land, according to the refugees on the go-and-visit. There are also concerns about the language of instruction for their children's education. Over 300,000 Sudanese refugees remain in Chad, according to UNHCR.

Food security in most areas is improving with average prospects for 2017 cereal crops

The food security situation in most areas of Sudan is improving to Minimal (IPC Phase 1) and Stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels mainly due to the October harvest, seasonal improvement in livestock productivity and increased incomes from seasonal labour, according to the latest FEWS NET [Sudan Food Security Outlook Report for October 2017](#).

However, very poor seasonal progress in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of Kassala, northern Gedaref, and parts of North Darfur states are leading to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of food security and people will need humanitarian assistance between now and mid-2018, the report states.

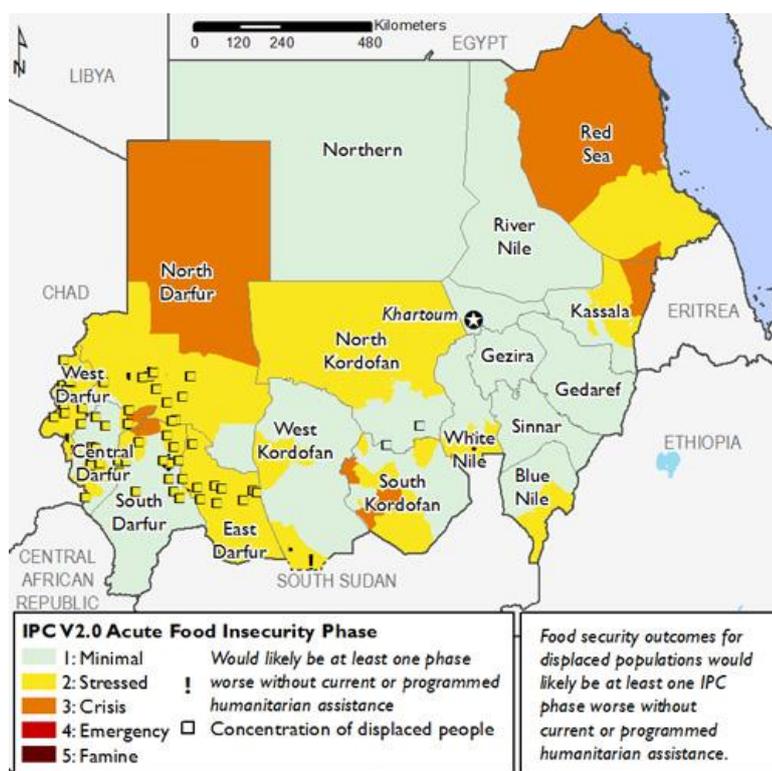
In the Jebel Marra area of Darfur and areas controlled by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) access to food is improving among internally displaced persons (IDPs) and poor households, according to FEWS NET. However, restrictions on access to land, limited agricultural labour opportunities and continued low asset holdings, as a result of conflict, continue to limit household productive capacity. Households in these areas will continue to require humanitarian assistance through May 2018.

Overall, rains have performed very well over most parts of the country and national harvest prospects are near average. However, severe mid-season dry spells and well below-average seasonal rainfall resulted in significantly reduced area planted in Kassala and northern Gedaref states.

Moreover, poor rainfall in these areas and in parts of North Darfur led to very poor regeneration of pasture and water sources for livestock, according to FEWS NET.

Projected food security outcomes (Nov 2017 – Jan 2018)

Source: FEWS NET



Above-average rains from August to October have lifted prospects for the 2017 cereal harvest, according to FEWS NET

AWD cases continue to decline across the country

Currently only three out of the 18 affected states report active AWD case transmissions

According to the latest report from the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) and the World Health Organization (WHO) Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) cases remain low during the period from 29 October to 4 November, with only 50 new cases and one related death reported. The trend of case fatality rate (CFR) has drastically declined from average 30 deaths per week to less than two in the last three to four weeks. Currently, only three out of the 18 affected states report active case transmissions.

The FMoH continues to lead active scale-up of interventions, however, to eliminate the spread of AWD completely, response will continue until no new cases are reported over four consecutive weeks nationwide. Response will include capacity building for health staff; case management; provision of medicine and medical supplies; water quality control; vector control; and hygiene promotion.

Significant humanitarian needs continue to be reported in the Abyei Area

Limited or absent basic services coupled with the influx of people from South Sudan and returnees who had left at the onset of the Abyei crisis have resulted in continued significant humanitarian needs in the Abyei Area, according to the latest [report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in Abyei](#) issued on 17 October 2017.

Humanitarian organisations working in the area continue to provide humanitarian and recovery assistance

to 163,000 vulnerable people in the area including people displaced from neighbouring South Sudan and seasonal nomads. Since August 2017, an estimated 7,500 people displaced by conflict in South Sudan have transited through the Abyei Area on their way to Sudan. In addition, there were reports of new arrivals from South Sudan who had sought refuge in Abyei, however, exact numbers remain unverified owing to impassable roads during the ongoing rainy season.

In advance of this year's rainy season aid organisations stored food supplies in warehouses in different locations across the Abyei area. As a result, about 100,000 vulnerable people received food assistance, mainly through food for assets, food for education and general food distributions for those displaced from South Sudan. Food assistance was provided to the 27 primary schools in the central and southern parts of the Abyei Area, including Abyei town, reaching 21,700 schoolchildren.

There are 13 health facilities throughout the Abyei Area that operate with support from the humanitarian community. In addition, awareness-raising and capacity-building activities were carried out, including on-the-job training for clinical staff, training of elementary health-service personnel and the holding of health awareness sessions. A targeted supplementary feeding programme continued to assist 4,300 children under five years and pregnant and lactating women.



A South Sudanese man newly arrived in Difra village, Abyei Area (OCHA/Fazli, 2017)

Aid organisations assist some 163,000 vulnerable people—including people displaced from neighbouring South Sudan and seasonal nomads—in the Abyei Area

Assistance efforts to provide clean water benefited some 16,000 people. Other major activities include the drilling of four new boreholes, the rehabilitation of eight hand pumps, the construction of 10 school hand-washing facilities and the distribution of jerry cans and hygiene kits to 300 families. Ensuring a sufficient supply of clean water remained a challenge in northern areas of the Abyei Area, as the water table is low and the communities are scattered.

EU announces €106 million support package for people affected by crises in Sudan

The EU contribution will assist people affected by displacement, malnutrition, disease outbreaks and recurrent extreme climatic conditions in Sudan

On 23 October, the European Commission announced in a [press release](#) a €106 million (about US\$ 123 million) donation for humanitarian and development assistance to help people affected by displacement, malnutrition, disease outbreaks and recurrent extreme climatic conditions in Sudan. Of this amount, €46 million (about \$54 million) will go towards humanitarian assistance and €60 million (about \$70



Women and children at a nutrition Centre in North Darfur (UNAMID, archive)

million) towards development assistance. The funding will ensure the provision of life-saving assistance to the needs of South Sudanese refugees, IDPs and host communities.

This humanitarian support package will help respond to the most pressing food, nutrition, health, protection, shelter, education, water and sanitation needs. Meanwhile, the development support package will support IDPs, migrants and host communities by implementing pilot projects focusing on delivering basic services such as food, water, sanitation and education in the Abyei area, tackling malnutrition in eastern Sudan and addressing forced displacement in urban settings in Darfur.