



## COI QUERY

Country of Origin

**SUDAN**

Main subject

Displacement situation in Darfur and the Two Areas - Update

Question(s)

Information update on the Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and returnees in Darfur and the Two Areas (June-August 2020)

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5. Situation of Returnees

Date of completion

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**N/A**

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The information provided in this response has been researched, evaluated and processed with utmost care within a limited time frame. All sources used are referenced. A quality review has been performed in line with the above mentioned methodology. This document does not claim to be exhaustive neither conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. If a certain event, person or organisation is not mentioned in the report, this does not mean that the event has not taken place or that the person or organisation does not exist. Terminology used should not be regarded as indicative of a particular legal position.

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The target audience is caseworkers, COI researchers, policy makers, and decision making authorities. The answer was finalised on 13 October 2020. Any event taking place after this date is not included in this answer.



### Information update on the Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Darfur and the Two Areas in the period June-August 2020

This COI query response is compiled using information referring to events that took place predominantly between 1 June-31 August 2020. Additionally, a number of events that took place outside the reference period, but were deemed relevant to the response, have been included.

For detailed information about earlier events that took place between August 2019-May 2020 on IDPs in Darfur and the Two Areas, please refer to the [EASO COI Query Response Q15-2020](#).

#### 1. Overview

After going through a severe economic crisis and major political changes in 2019, the number of people in Sudan in need of humanitarian assistance has grown, from some 5.9 million people in need in 2019, to around 9.3 million people in need in 2020, according to estimates by UN OCHA.<sup>1</sup>

With regards to the situation of IDPs, UN OCHA highlighted the fact that, while ‘incidents of fighting have reduced considerably in recent years, the situation of people displaced due to decades of conflict remains unresolved.’<sup>2</sup> The drivers of the Darfur conflict, ‘including security threats, disputes over land ownership and competition for scarce resources’ continue to cause displacement or to prevent IDPs from returning to their lands, according to the Panel of Experts on the Sudan.<sup>3</sup>

Up-to-date figures regarding the number of IDPs and returnees in Sudan are challenging to retrieve. In October 2019, IOM DTM Sudan published the results of the Baseline Zero exercise, which was ‘a compilation of all verified data registrations for both IDPs and returnees, commencing in 2010 and 2015 respectively.’<sup>4</sup> Soon afterwards, IOM DTM Sudan began Round One of the Mobility Tracking exercise, which was concluded in January 2020.

In Round One, IOM DTM identified across North, East, South, West and Central Darfur states, and in South Kordofan (the exercise did not cover Blue Nile):

- approx. 2 326 418 IDPs (compared to 2 000 399 IDPs reported in Round Zero)
- approx. 693 069 returnees from internal displacement, and
- approx. 26 974 returnees from abroad.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> UN OCHA, Humanitarian Response Plan 2019, April 2019, [url](#), p. 4; OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, January 2020, [url](#), p. 5

<sup>2</sup> UN OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, January 2020, [url](#), p. 8

<sup>3</sup> UN SC, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, [url](#), para. 127

<sup>4</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Round Zero, October 2019, [url](#), p. 2

<sup>5</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Round Zero, October 2019, [url](#), pp. 3-5

IOM DTM Sudan, Mobility Tracking Sudan Round 1, April 2020, [url](#), pp. 3-6

	IDP individuals per state						Total
	North Darfur	East Darfur	South Darfur	West Darfur	Central Darfur	South Kordofan	
<b>2003-2010</b>	366 035	93 192	569 448	255 567	233 500	4 284	<b>1 527 807</b>
<b>2011-2017</b>	116 365	4 180	220 368	72 949	99 759	179 827	<b>755 831</b>
<b>2018</b>	15 553	4 090	2 746	2 960	31 450	18 292	<b>76 416</b>
<b>2019</b>	5 247	761	766	3 825	12 500	15 280	<b>39 379</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>503 200</b>	<b>99 697</b>	<b>793 328</b>	<b>335 301</b>	<b>377 209</b>	<b>217 683</b>	<b>2 326 418</b>

**Table 1:** Information from IOM DTM Sudan, Round One Timeline of displacement by states with current IDP population presence, April 2020, [url](#)

## 2. Darfur

Across the Darfur area, IOM DTM Round One identified, as of January 2020, approximately 2 108 735 IDPs (compared to the 1 808 300 IDPs reported in Round Zero).<sup>6</sup>

In a report of 30 July 2020, the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan stated that, in Darfur, civilians, in particular IDPs, continue to ‘suffer the brunt of violent attacks, physical assaults, harassment, intimidation, extortion and sexual violence by armed groups and State security entities.’<sup>7</sup> The joint African Union-United Nations (AU-UN) report of 12 March 2020, highlighted the fact that in Darfur, ‘the main perpetrators of violence are tribal militias, whose size and firepower often exceed those of the Sudanese police.’<sup>8</sup>

Moreover, the majority of victims of sexual violence in Darfur ‘are women and children who are internally displaced persons and who are usually attacked when they leave the camp’, as highlighted by the Independent Expert.<sup>9</sup>

### 2.1. North Darfur

In North Darfur, IOM DTM Round One identified, as of January 2020, approximately 503 200 IDPs (compared to 424 073 in Round Zero), as well as some 246 292 permanent returnees (compared to 153 277 in Round Zero).<sup>10</sup>

The joint AU-UN report of 12 March 2020 highlighted a ‘sharp increase in attacks against farmers by pastoralists’ during the harvest season at the end of 2019, and identified among most affected areas Saraf Omra, Kabkabiyah, Tawilah and Shangil Tobaya, where ‘Northern Rizeigat pastoralists have been attacking Fur and Tunjur internally displaced persons, returnees and farmers.’<sup>11</sup>

<sup>6</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Round Zero, October 2019, [url](#), p. 3

IOM DTM Sudan, Mobility Tracking Sudan Round 1, April 2020, [url](#), p. 3

<sup>7</sup> UN HRC Independent Expert on the Situation of Human Rights in the Sudan, Situation of human rights in the Sudan: report of the Independent Expert on the Situation of Human Rights in the Sudan, 30 July 2020, [url](#), para. 55

<sup>8</sup> UN SC, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic assessment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 12 March 2020, [url](#), para. 54

<sup>9</sup> UN HRC Independent Expert on the Situation of Human Rights in the Sudan, Situation of human rights in the Sudan: report of the Independent Expert on the Situation of Human Rights in the Sudan, 30 July 2020, [url](#), para. 58

<sup>10</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Round Zero, October 2019, [url](#), pp. 3-5

IOM DTM Sudan, Mobility Tracking Sudan Round 1, April 2020, [url](#), pp. 3-6

<sup>11</sup> UN SC, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic assessment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 12 March 2020, [url](#), para. 12



Some of the more recent displacement events in North Darfur include:

- On 25 May 2020, armed tribesmen attacked Bambala returnee village, leading to the forced displacement of all 92 ‘household farmers’ returnees from Bambala to Saraf Umra town, according to UNAMID.<sup>12</sup> On 1 June 2020, UNAMID announced it had sent ‘field protection patrols to Birka Siera and Bambala return villages [...] to deescalate the ongoing simmering inter-communal unrest in the area.’<sup>13</sup> UNAMID’s statement cited a member of the Sudan Police Forces (SPF) in Birka Siera, who ‘reported a tense security situation in the farming area (5 kilometres south of Birka Siera) due to ongoing inter-communal tension’.<sup>14</sup>
- On 3 June 2020, some of the residents of El Jorouf village, El Sareif locality, were forced to flee to neighbouring villages due to an attack by an armed group. According to the media report, four villagers were injured in the attack.<sup>15</sup>
- On 16 June 2020, people in Kabkabiya locality protested ‘against the continued violence, assassinations, rapes, and beatings in the camps for the displaced.’<sup>16</sup> According to Radio Dabanga, protesters claimed that the local police had failed ‘to arrest the perpetrators of the violence that took place in Gargara camp’<sup>17</sup> on 14 June.
- On 6 July 2020, a group of IDPs from Fata Borno Camp initiated a protest, ‘denouncing the alleged increase of attacks by armed groups in the area [that was] preventing them from accessing their lands for farming in the middle of the planting season’<sup>18</sup>. On 13 July 2020, nine people were killed and 16 were injured when ‘over 100 unidentified armed men’<sup>19</sup> attacked Fata Borno camp.
- On 13 July 2020, due to a general escalation of violence in Kutum locality, and highlighting the attacks on IDP camps and ‘clashes between security forces and groups protesting the increasing violence’, the Security Committee of North Darfur called for a State of Emergency throughout North Darfur.<sup>20</sup>

## 2.2. East Darfur

In East Darfur, IOM DTM Round One identified, as of January 2020, approximately 99 697 IDPs (compared to 60 396 in Round Zero).<sup>21</sup>

Of the states included in the IOM DTM exercise, East Darfur has reportedly the second lowest proportion of IDPs (four percent), and the fewest number of IDP locations, at one percent of the

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<sup>12</sup> UNAMID, UNAMID Conducts Field Protection Patrols To Deescalate Tension In Returnee Villages In North Darfur, 1 June 2020, [url](#)

<sup>13</sup> UNAMID, UNAMID Conducts Field Protection Patrols To Deescalate Tension In Returnee Villages In North Darfur, 1 June 2020, [url](#)

<sup>14</sup> UNAMID, UNAMID Conducts Field Protection Patrols To Deescalate Tension In Returnee Villages In North Darfur, 1 June 2020, [url](#)

<sup>15</sup> Radio Dabanga, Four injured in raid on North Darfur village, 4 June 2020, [url](#)

<sup>16</sup> Radio Dabanga, Protest in North Darfur against violence in camps, 17 June 2020, [url](#)

<sup>17</sup> Radio Dabanga, Protest in North Darfur against violence in camps, 17 June 2020, [url](#)

<sup>18</sup> UN OCHA, SUDAN: Escalation of Violence in Darfur Flash Update No. 1, 14 July 2020, [url](#), p. 1

<sup>19</sup> UN OCHA, SUDAN: Escalation of Violence in Darfur Flash Update No. 1, 14 July 2020, [url](#), p. 1

<sup>20</sup> UN OCHA, SUDAN: Escalation of Violence in Darfur Flash Update No. 1, 14 July 2020, [url](#), p. 1

<sup>21</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Round Zero, October 2019, [url](#), p. 3

IOM DTM Sudan, Mobility Tracking Sudan Round 1, April 2020, [url](#), p. 5



total number of locations.<sup>22</sup>

### 2.3. South Darfur

In South Darfur, IOM DTM Round One identified, as of January 2020, approximately 793 328 IDPs (compared to 676 438 in Round Zero).<sup>23</sup>

Some of the more recent displacement events in South Darfur include:

- On 5 May 2020 inter-communal clashes took place ‘between Al-Falata and Arab tribes in Mayra village in Tulus locality’<sup>24</sup>. On 11 June 2020, IOM DTM reported that some 2 909 people had been displaced from Beliel and As Salam localities’ in this event.<sup>25</sup>  
A subsequent monitoring exercise by IOM DTM showed that, as of 16 July 2020, the number of IDPs had increased to 3 265 IDPs from Beliel and As Salam, of which 2 512 people took shelter in Twail, 696 people remained in Tulus, and 57 people remained in Gereida locality.<sup>26</sup>
- On 31 July 2020, ‘inter-communal conflict between the Meseria and Fur tribes in Kass locality [...] due to disputes over land issues’<sup>27</sup> escalated, as armed men attacked ‘several villages around Shataya, west of Kass’, including Boronga village, where they reportedly killed an RSF officer and wounded ‘at least 11 villagers and four RSF soldiers’<sup>28</sup>. A media report of 6 August 2020 highlighted the fact that the attacks had led to the displacement of around 3 000 people, who ‘fled to the square in front of the UNAMID base in the area, while hundreds took refuge in a school in Kass.’<sup>29</sup> On 10 August 2020, IOM DTM reported that approximately 13 321 people had been displaced ‘in Kass town, having arrived from the surrounding villages of Borunga, Morotoga, Gemiza Lagaro and Molla.’<sup>30</sup>
- On 23 July 2020, an attack on Abdoze village reportedly resulted in 19 villagers being killed and 21 injured, according to UN OCHA. Some 4 000 IDP returnees had recently relocated ‘to Abdoze from Gereida town, 10 kilometers away from the village, for seasonal cultivation.’<sup>31</sup>

### 2.4. West Darfur

In West Darfur, IOM DTM Round One identified, as of January 2020, approximately 335 301 IDPs (compared to 216 020 in Round Zero), as well as some 10 527 permanent returnees (compared to 7 359 in Round Zero).<sup>32</sup>

Some of the more recent displacement events in West Darfur include:

- On 29 December 2019, armed Arab together with members of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), attacked Krinding IDP camp, and ‘on 30 and 31 December the [RSF] and armed Arabs attacked 18 returnee villages south and south-east of El Geneina, and an additional three villages in the

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<sup>22</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Mobility Tracking Sudan Round 1, April 2020, [url](#), p. 3

<sup>23</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Round Zero, October 2019, [url](#), p. 3

IOM DTM Sudan, Mobility Tracking Sudan Round 1, April 2020, [url](#), p. 3

<sup>24</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Emergency Event Tracking: Tulus and Gereida, South Darfur UPDATE 1, 11 June 2020, [url](#)

<sup>25</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Emergency Event Tracking: Tulus and Gereida, South Darfur UPDATE 1, 11 June 2020, [url](#)

<sup>26</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Emergency Event Tracking: Tulus and Gereida, South Darfur UPDATE 2, 21 July 2020, [url](#)

<sup>27</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Emergency Event Tracking: Kass, South Darfur, Update 1: 10 August 2020, [url](#)

<sup>28</sup> Radio Dabanga, Gunmen attack South Darfur village, kill RSF officer, 3 August 2020, [url](#)

<sup>29</sup> Radio Dabanga, 3,000 displaced by South Darfur attacks, 6 August 2020, [url](#)

<sup>30</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Emergency Event Tracking: Kass, South Darfur, Update 1: 10 August 2020, [url](#)

<sup>31</sup> UN OCHA, SUDAN: Escalation of Violence in Darfur - Flash Update No. 3, 28 July 2020, [url](#)

<sup>32</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Round Zero, October 2019, [url](#), pp. 3-5

IOM DTM Sudan, Mobility Tracking Sudan Round 1, April 2020, [url](#), p. 5

vicinity of El Geneina’, according to a joint AU-UN report of 12 March 2020.<sup>33</sup> Some 89 civilians were killed and 140 were injured in the clashes.<sup>34</sup> By 12 January 2020 some 46 377 people had been displaced by the events<sup>35</sup>, and a subsequent update of 14 January 2020 reported some 48 870 people displaced.<sup>36</sup> The most recent update related to this incident showed that, as of 20 June 2020, the number of IDPs had decreased to 3 910 IDPs, all of which were reportedly living in schools or other public buildings. At that time, IOM cited field reports stating that ‘IDPs with unaffected houses [were] continuing to return to their locations of origin.’<sup>37</sup>

- On 28 May 2020, a ‘group of Ethiopian gunmen [...] raided Barakat Nourein in El Gureisha locality’, according to Radio Dabanga. The same source reported that, by 2 June 2020, some 5 000 people from Barakat Nourein were displaced, and were ‘hiding in El Kutabi and other adjacent areas.’<sup>38</sup>
- On 2 June, IOM DTM reported the displacement of individuals affected by inter-communal clashes between Arab and Masalit tribes throughout Beida locality, West Darfur.<sup>39</sup> According to IOM, 1 401 individuals fled to Misterei, of which 325 people were displaced from Terti, 500 from Seraf Neltata, and 576 from Khair Wajed.<sup>40</sup> IOM cited sources claiming that ‘several houses were burned as well as significant losses of livestock, the abduction of 26 persons and killing of two [people].’<sup>41</sup>
- On 23 June, IOM DTM reported on the displacement of 1 231 individuals ‘affected by the inter-communal violence stemming from land disputes between nomads and returnee villages on 23 May and 4 June 2020 in Jebel Moon locality.’<sup>42</sup> The IDPs were displaced from Jiljil, Beir Batha, and from Gergi Gergi. Regarding their destination, the IDPs had taken shelter ‘in Selia (485), followed by Korkro (438), Um Rekina (204), Hijilija (47), Arosharow (39) and Beyot Arbaa (18).’<sup>43</sup>
- Armed fighting between Arab and Masalit tribesmen in Ag Geneina that began on 19 July 2020<sup>44</sup> resulted in the displacement of some 433 individuals as of 25 July 2020, who were living ‘dispersed in and around the area [of Ag Geneina]’<sup>45</sup>, according to IOM DTM.
- On 20 July 2020, armed men attacked people in El Ghaba camp, El Geneina, resulting in forced displacement of some of the residents.<sup>46</sup>
- On 25 July 2020 an attack on the Masalit community living in Masterei town resulted in some ‘1 500 families displaced after their houses were burned’<sup>47</sup>, according to a report by UN OCHA,

<sup>33</sup> UN SC, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic assessment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 12 March 2020, [url](#), para. 11

<sup>34</sup> UN HRC, Situation of human rights in the Sudan: Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, 30 July 2020, [url](#), para. 55

<sup>35</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Emergency Event Tracking: El Geneina, West Darfur UPDATE 1, 12 January 2020, [url](#)

<sup>36</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Emergency Event Tracking: El Geneina, West Darfur UPDATE 2, 15 January 2020, [url](#)

<sup>37</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Emergency Event Tracking: Ag Geneina, West Darfur UPDATE 10, 23 June 2020, [url](#), pp. 1-2

<sup>38</sup> Radio Dabanga, At least 5,000 people displaced after Sudan-Ethiopia border violence, 2 June 2020, [url](#)

<sup>39</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Emergency Event Tracking: Beida, West Darfur UPDATE 1, 2 June 2020, [url](#)

<sup>40</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Emergency Event Tracking: Beida, West Darfur UPDATE 1, 2 June 2020, [url](#)

<sup>41</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Emergency Event Tracking: Beida, West Darfur UPDATE 1, 2 June 2020, [url](#)

<sup>42</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Emergency Event Tracking: Jebel Moon, West Darfur UPDATE 1, 23 June 2020, [url](#)

<sup>43</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Emergency Event Tracking: Jebel Moon, West Darfur UPDATE 1, 23 June 2020, [url](#)

<sup>44</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Emergency Event Tracking: Aljabaal Ag Geneina, West Darfur, UPDATE 1, 26 July 2020, [url](#)

<sup>45</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Emergency Event Tracking: Aljabaal Ag Geneina, West Darfur, UPDATE 1, 26 July 2020, [url](#)

<sup>46</sup> UNOCHA, Sudan: Escalation of Violence in Darfur - Flash Update No. 3, 28 July 2020, [url](#)

<sup>47</sup> UN OCHA, SUDAN: Escalation of Violence in Darfur - Flash Update No. 3, 28 July 2020, [url](#)

citing ‘preliminary data informed by the Government's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC)’<sup>48</sup>. Moreover, people in localities around Masterei town also fled their homes due to the fear of violence.<sup>49</sup>

As of 30 July 2020, some 19 972 people had been displaced by the fighting between the Arab and Masalit tribes, with around 6 570 people ‘dispersed across Masterei, Beida locality, and 13 402 individuals dispersed across Ag Geneina town, Geneina locality.’<sup>50</sup> Moreover, a UNHCR spokesperson stated on 11 August that at least 2 500 people had fled to neighbouring Chad due to the attack in Masterei.<sup>51</sup>

- By 21 August 2020, the number of displaced people had decreased to 12 939 (3 217 people across Masterei, , and 9 722 individuals in Ag Geneina town).<sup>52</sup> According to IOM, some families had returned to their locations of origin, while the remaining IDPs were ‘sheltering in schools or other public buildings.’<sup>53</sup>

## 2.5. Central Darfur

In Central Darfur, IOM DTM Round One identified, as of mid-January 2020, approximately 377 209 IDPs (compared to 431 373 in Round Zero).<sup>54</sup>

The joint AU-UN report of 12 March 2020, which highlighted a ‘sharp increase in attacks against farmers by pastoralists’, included among the most affected regions the Nertiti-Thur area, where ‘the Nawaiba branch of Northern Rizeigat pastoralists continued to harass internally displaced Fur, preventing their access to farmlands’ during the 2019 harvest season.<sup>55</sup>

Some of the more recent displacement events in Central Darfur include:

- According to UNAMID, armed clashed between two factions of the Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid Al-Nur (SLA-AW) started ‘on 11 June in Wegi village, 10 km north-east of UNAMID’s Golo temporary operating base’<sup>56</sup>, displacing people from Wegi, Ila, Fara, Katiro and Daya villages.<sup>57</sup> According to a report of 27 June 2020 by UN OCHA, the conflict between the two factions - Al Douk and Bursa - over ‘gold mines in the Daya and Dorsa areas’<sup>58</sup>, had displaced around 27 000 people to Jebel Marra’s Toga village. UN OCHA also cited the ‘Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) in Rokero, [who] reported that people fled to Rokero town, Jemeza village, Sabanga IDP gathering site, Togola village, and others sought refuge in the mountains.’<sup>59</sup>
- According to IOM DTM, a data collection exercise that took place between 1-7 July 2020 in ‘six locations within Gharb Jabal Marrah and Wasat Jabal Marrah localities, Central Darfur’ identified

<sup>48</sup> UN OCHA, SUDAN: Escalation of Violence in Darfur - Flash Update No. 3, 28 July 2020, [url](#)

<sup>49</sup> UN OCHA, SUDAN: Escalation of Violence in Darfur - Flash Update No. 3, 28 July 2020, [url](#)

<sup>50</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Emergency Event Tracking: Misterei and Ag Geneina, West Darfur UPDATE 2, 4 August 2020, [url](#)

<sup>51</sup> UNHCR, Clashes in Sudan’s West Darfur force 2,500 to seek safety in Chad, 11 August 2020, [url](#)

<sup>52</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Emergency Event Tracking: Misterei and Ag Geneina, West Darfur UPDATE 3, 23 August 2020, [url](#)

<sup>53</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Emergency Event Tracking: Misterei and Ag Geneina, West Darfur UPDATE 3, 23 August 2020, [url](#)

<sup>54</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Round Zero, October 2019, [url](#), p. 3

IOM DTM Sudan, Mobility Tracking Sudan Round 1, April 2020, [url](#), p. 3

<sup>55</sup> UN SC, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic assessment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 12 March 2020, [url](#), para. 12

<sup>56</sup> UNAMID, UNAMID Deplores Recent Clashes Between Sla-Abdul Wahid Al-Nur’s Factions And Calls For A Stop To The Fighting, 24 June 2020, [url](#)

<sup>57</sup> UNAMID, UNAMID Deplores Recent Clashes Between Sla-Abdul Wahid Al-Nur’s Factions And Calls For A Stop To The Fighting, 24 June 2020, [url](#)

<sup>58</sup> UN OCHA, Sudan Situation Report, 25 June 2020, [url](#)

<sup>59</sup> UN OCHA, Sudan Situation Report, 25 June 2020, [url](#)



some 4 443 IDPs.<sup>60</sup> The distribution of the IDPs according to the locations was: Manabo (3 928 IDPs), Jekosti (325 IDPs), Dorsa (126 IDPs), Geldo (64), while no IDPs were identified in Boory and Briry Ari.<sup>61</sup>

### 3. South Kordofan

In South Kordofan, IOM DTM identified, as of mid-January 2020, approximately 217 683 IDPs (compared to 192 099 in Round Zero).<sup>62</sup>

Some of the more recent displacement events in South Kordofan include:

- On 4 June 2020, UN OCHA reported that, due to fighting ‘between different armed groups affiliated with two tribes’<sup>63</sup> on 12-13 May 2020, some 20 400 people had been displaced. The same source reported that around 18 000 of the IDPs had fled from ‘Tillo IDP camp, Albardab, Alban-Jadid and Burnuo [...] taking refuge in two schools in the southern part of Kadugli - Um Battah Basic School and Liwaa Al-Islam Boys Basic School and some other locations.’<sup>64</sup> A subsequent assessment of Tillo settlement for IDPs found the area ‘vandalized and destroyed’<sup>65</sup>, as well as being affected by the presence of unexploded ordnances (UXOs).<sup>66</sup>
- According to a report by the Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (HART), in June 2020 some ‘1 500 households [had] reportedly fled their homes in Western Kadugli and taken refuge in Um Durain and Thobo county following a recent escalation in violence between communities and the Missiriya.’<sup>67</sup>
- HART also reported that, in July 2020, around 283 000 people were ‘registered in Kadugli following clashes in Rashad.’<sup>68</sup> Additionally, HART cited the results of an August 2020 assessment, which had identified 21 989 returnees in South Kordofan, of which 15 492 in Thobo, 4 075 in Um Durain, 1 677 in Western Kadugli, and 745 in Eastern Rural.<sup>69</sup> The same source reported a ‘high displacement into the areas particularly in Thobo and Western Kadugli [...] primarily as a result of tensions and insecurity in Kadugli.’<sup>70</sup>
- On 21-22 July 2020, some 2 000 people from Murta, Kulba and Elshaeer neighbourhoods of Kadugli were displaced ‘as a result of deployment and shootings by RSF soldiers in response to the demonstration/ protest by residents’, according to local NGO Hudo Centre.<sup>71</sup>

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<sup>60</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Situation Assessment Report, Report 1: 9 August 2020 | Data collection: 1-7 July 2020 Jabal Marrah, Central Darfur, 9 August 2020, [url](#), p. 1

<sup>61</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Situation Assessment Report, Report 1: 9 August 2020 | Data collection: 1-7 July 2020 Jabal Marrah, Central Darfur, 9 August 2020, [url](#), p. 1

<sup>62</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Round Zero, October 2019, [url](#), p. 3

IOM DTM Sudan, DTM Mobility Tracking Sudan Round 1, April 2020, [url](#), p. 3

<sup>63</sup> UN OCHA, Sudan Situation Report, 04 June 2020, [url](#), p. 23

<sup>64</sup> UN OCHA, Sudan Situation Report, 04 June 2020, [url](#), p. 23

<sup>65</sup> UN OCHA, Sudan Situation Report, 04 June 2020, [url](#), p. 24

<sup>66</sup> UN OCHA, Sudan Situation Report, 04 June 2020, [url](#), p. 23

<sup>67</sup> HART, SKBN Coordination Unit Humanitarian Update, June 2020, [url](#), p. 5

<sup>68</sup> HART, SKBN Coordination Unit Humanitarian Update, July 2020 [url](#), p. 6

<sup>69</sup> HART, SKBN Coordination Unit Humanitarian Update, August 2020, [url](#), p. 6

<sup>70</sup> HART, SKBN Coordination Unit Humanitarian Update, August 2020, [url](#), p. 6

<sup>71</sup> Hudo Centre, Further Wave of Displacement Within Kadugli, Sudan, 25 July 2020, [url](#)

#### 4. Blue Nile

There is less information with regards to the current number of displaced persons and/or returnees to Blue Nile, as the IOM DTM Round 1 exercise did not cover the state. According to UN OCHA, some 80 000 IDPs were identified as needing humanitarian assistance, in a report published in January 2020.<sup>72</sup>

Information on events of displacement in Blue Nile was scarce among the sources consulted within the time constraints of this query. Some of the available reports with regards to Blue Nile, covering mainly the movement of returnees, include:

- During February-March 2020, some 1 560 returnees were registered, mostly students returning from Ethiopia, of which 650 were registered in Yabus, 360 in Wadaka, 290 in Komo Ganza, and 260 in Chali.<sup>73</sup> According to HART, 'other returnees were farmers who came to clear their farms and others returned to their homes because of stability and security in the region.'<sup>74</sup>
- In April 2020, some '2 500 individuals were recorded by the administration in Chali payam and 500 in Wadaka payam'.<sup>75</sup> According to HART, reports indicate that these returnees commute regularly between Blue Nile and refugee camps in Maban during the rainy season for cultivation purposes.'<sup>76</sup>

#### 5. Situation of Returnees

With regards to the situation of returnees, or of displaced people who wish to return to their original location, the Panel of Experts on the Sudan highlight the fact that, in Darfur:

'root causes of the Darfur conflict, including security threats, disputes over land ownership and competition for scarce resources, continued, impeding a significant number of returns of internally displaced persons in most areas of Darfur [...] In many incidents, internally displaced persons claiming legitimate ownership of their lands and trying to return to them, were harassed, threatened, chased away and assaulted, and sometimes killed. Women and girls were sexually assaulted and raped.'<sup>77</sup>

Thus, in some cases, returnees who could not access their land safely were forced to go back to the IDP camps, or to experience secondary displacement.<sup>78</sup>

According to a joint AU-UN report of 12 March 2020, in Darfur, 'the main perpetrators of violence are tribal militias [...] who have used physical and conflict-related sexual violence to displace communities and prevent them from returning to their farmlands.'<sup>79</sup>

In its report of 30 July 2020, the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan noted that, in Darfur, 'the ongoing conflict and general insecurity provide little incentive for those

<sup>72</sup> UN OCHA, Humanitarian Needs overview, January 2020, [url](#), p. 24

<sup>73</sup> HART, SKBN Coordination Unit Humanitarian Update, March 2020, [url](#), p. 4

<sup>74</sup> HART, SKBN Coordination Unit Humanitarian Update, March 2020, [url](#), p. 4

<sup>75</sup> HART, SKBN Coordination Unit Humanitarian Update, April 2020, [url](#), p. 4

<sup>76</sup> HART, SKBN Coordination Unit Humanitarian Update, April 2020, [url](#), p. 4

<sup>77</sup> UN SC, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, [url](#), para. 127

<sup>78</sup> UN SC, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, [url](#), para. 128

<sup>79</sup> UN SC, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and a follow-on presence, 12 March 2020, [url](#), para. 54



who wish to return.<sup>80</sup>

With regards to Blue Nile, the Independent Expert highlighted the fact that some IDPs:

‘have returned to their homes voluntarily, despite the lack of basic services including water, electricity, adequate housing, health facilities and education. Reportedly, some returnees found that their lands had been sold by the ousted Government to large-scale farmers who have power and wealth, leaving the small-scale farmers empty-handed.’<sup>81</sup>

The Chair of the Security Council Committee, in its report of September 2020, described the security environment in Darfur since June 2020 as ‘volatile’, having deteriorated in some areas, while highlighting the increasing number of attacks on civilians, ‘in particular those on internally displaced persons and farmers trying to return to their land.’<sup>82</sup>

Some of the more recent events involving returnees include:

- Between January-March 2020, in South Darfur some 31 102 returnees were registered ‘in the villages of Kosa and Komber (Feina), East Jebel Marra locality [...] Of the total caseload, 126 individuals were registered as seasonal returnees, whilst the majority [...] had the intention to remain permanently.’<sup>83</sup>
- On 1 June 2020, UNAMID reported that Bambala returnee village in North Darfur had been attacked on 25 May 2020, leading to the secondary displacement of all 92 ‘household farmers’ returnees from Bambala to Saraf Umra town, according to UNAMID.<sup>84</sup>
- On 23 June, IOM DTM reported on the displacement of 1 231 individuals in West Darfur ‘affected by the inter-communal violence stemming from land disputes between nomads and returnee villages on 23 May and 4 June 2020 in Jebel Moon locality.’<sup>85</sup> The IDPs were displaced from Jiljil, Beir Batha, and from Gergi Gergi, and took shelter ‘in Selia (485), followed by Korkro (438), Um Rekina (204), Hijilija (47), Arosharow (39) and Beyot Arbaa (18).’<sup>86</sup>
- On 6 July 2020, a group of IDPs from Fata Borno Camp in North Darfur protested against ‘the alleged increase of attacks by armed groups in the area [that was] preventing them from accessing their lands for farming in the middle of the planting season’<sup>87</sup>.
- On 23 July 2020, an attack on Abdoze village in South Darfur – home to some 4 000 returnees from Gereida Town - reportedly resulted in 19 villagers being killed and 21 injured, according to UN OCHA.<sup>88</sup>

For a map of Sudan’s IDP population density across Darfur and South Kordofan in April 2020, please see IOM DTM Sudan, IDP population density across Darfur and South Kordofan, April 2020, [url](#).

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<sup>80</sup> UN HRC Independent Expert on the Situation of Human Rights in the Sudan, Situation of human rights in the Sudan : report of the Independent Expert on the Situation of Human Rights in the Sudan, 30 July 2020, [url](#), para. 60

<sup>81</sup> UN HRC Independent Expert on the Situation of Human Rights in the Sudan, Situation of human rights in the Sudan : report of the Independent Expert on the Situation of Human Rights in the Sudan, 30 July 2020, [url](#), para. 63

<sup>82</sup> UN SC, Letter dated 15 September 2020 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan addressed to the President of the Security Council, 15 September 2020, [url](#), para. 6

<sup>83</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Registration Report January - March 2020, 30 June 2020, [url](#), p. 4

<sup>84</sup> UNAMID, UNAMID Conducts Field Protection Patrols To Deescalate Tension In Returnee Villages In North Darfur, 1 June 2020, [url](#)

<sup>85</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Emergency Event Tracking: Jebel Moon, West Darfur UPDATE 1, 23 June 2020, [url](#)

<sup>86</sup> IOM DTM Sudan, Emergency Event Tracking: Jebel Moon, West Darfur UPDATE 1, 23 June 2020, [url](#)

<sup>87</sup> UN OCHA, SUDAN: Escalation of Violence in Darfur Flash Update No. 1, 14 July 2020, [url](#), p. 1

<sup>88</sup> UN OCHA, SUDAN: Escalation of Violence in Darfur - Flash Update No. 3, 28 July 2020, [url](#)



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