SUDAN: West Darfur Emergency

Situation Report No. 3

As of 11 May 2021

This report is produced by OCHA Sudan in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It is issued by OCHA Sudan and covers the period from 4 to 11 May 2021. The next report will be issued on or around 17 May.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The security situation in Ag Geneina town remains tense and unpredictable
- Some of the 151,400 IDPs in and around Ag Geneina are returning home, but concerns about security are preventing the majority from leaving the gathering sites
- The top needs of the newly displaced people are food, non-food items, water, shelter, protection, health, and education
- Humanitarian organisations continue to scale up operations. As of 11 May, 124,400 people have been assisted
- About US$65 million is needed to meet the urgent lifesaving needs in West Darfur



124,400
People reached

151,400
Internally displaced people (January - April 2021)

250,000
targeted for assistance

65,000
Newly displaced people in April 2021

SITUATION OVERVIEW

There are no major changes regarding the overall security situation in Ag Geneina, West Darfur. It remains tense an unpredictable. There are no reports of violence over the past three weeks following the deployment of additional forces of Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Central Reserve Police (CRP). However, there are reports of an increasing number of criminal incidents, including cases of robberies and carjacking.

On 6 May, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported that about 151,400 people (an estimated 30,300 families) are seeking shelter in Ag Geneina town and surrounding villages. IOM has revisited and verified the entire caseload across all displacement sites in and around Ag Geneina, and the latest figures were crosschecked with the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) data.

Since the last update, there has been an eight per cent decrease in displacement figures - including the decrease of 15,911 people across 23 gathering sites and an increase of 2,363 people at five sites - because of people returning to their homes.

Displaced people in 2021 in West Darfur

Place of origin	Number of IDPs	Per cent of total
Krinding1 and 2 IDP camps	55,494	37
Al Jabal neighbourhood	38,930	26
Sultan House IDP camp	15,738	10
Other locations in Ag Geneina	20,420	13
Other locations outside Ag Geneina	20,855	14
	151,437	**100**

Source: IOM

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) teams have identified at least 18,622 people with additional vulnerabilities who need assistance and support. DTM teams also updated the casualty figures (upon further verification), with 339 people killed and 672 injured, whilst at least 20,858 people have lost personal belongings and livestock in the conflict.

The three main priority needs for the displaced people in Ag Geneina town are: 1) water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), 2) food and 3) shelter. In the villages surrounding Ag Geneina town, the three main priority needs for the displaced are: 1) food, 2) non-food items and 3) WASH services.

Earlier last week, local authorities with humanitarian partners visited Abuzar camp and Al Jabal neighbourhood, during which they interacted with returnees, while monitoring the deployment of security forces.

The protection sector and leaders representing the internally displaced persons (IDP) community visited the Krinding camps last week to assess the security situation, the presence of security forces and security posts, and the number of returnees. While the presence of returnees was not observed, the livestock market at the entrance of the camp was open and the Rapid Support Force (RSF) were present in the area. The situation in the camp was calm, but there have been reports of security incidents over the past few days. The RSF commander at Krinding said that they are going to increase the security posts from five to seven to cover all Krinding camps. Some IDP community leaders said that they returned to Krinding in March, but they had to leave again in April due to attacks.

Gender-based violence (GBV) sub-sector assessed the needs of returnee families in the Al Jabal neighbourhood. A few families have returned to their homes in Block 2 citing several reasons, including congestion in the gathering sites, a lack of basic services in Ag Geneina and the need to protect their remaining belongings. The returnees stated that most houses in Block 2 had their livestock and personal belongings looted or burnt. Women and girls said safety and security is a major concern and expressed fear of renewed attacks. They have limited their movement outside their homes due to physical safety concerns. The GBV sub-sector reported major gaps in terms of the availability of social workers and psychologists to provide Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Psychosocial Support (PSS) services to vulnerable women and girls, and GBV survivors.

Humanitarian organisations continue to scale up their operations in and around Ag Geneina. As of 11 May, food security sector partners finalised the April distribution of food assistance for 124,400 people in Ag Geneina. Currently, food distributions are starting in villages outside Ag Geneina, and on 10 May food distribution started in Muli village near Ag Geneina town.

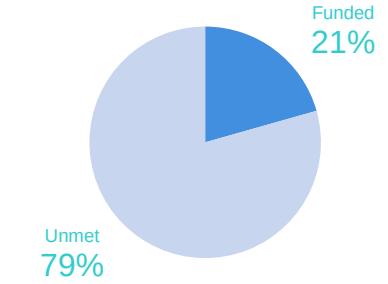
During the reporting period, three people with confirmed COVID-19 were reported by the State Ministry of Health (SMoH), bringing the cumulative number of people with confirmed COVID-19 to 65, including 10 deaths. No COVID-19 cases were reported among the IDPs at the gathering sites in and outside Ag Geneina town. The registration of the priority target groups for COVID-19 vaccination, including medical/health staff, people with chronic diseases and over 60 years of age was completed and the training for medical staff was carried out.

FUNDING

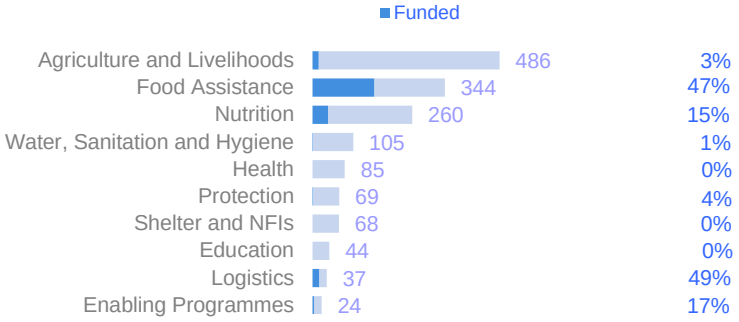
As of 11 May, humanitarian funding is US$303.6 million, including $202.7 million for the HRP (10.5 per cent covered).

Sudan Consolidated Appeal 2021

US$1.9 billion requested



Funding by sector (in million US$)



All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - http://fts.unocha.org) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Education

60

Temporary learning space to accommodate grades eight

Needs

- Schools need hot meals, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance.
- Psychosocial support and post trauma trainings for teachers, children, and PTAs.
- Peacebuilding activities in schools for the next academic year 2021-2022
- Evacuate the currently occupied schools by IDPs families so children can return to schools.
- Advocacy efforts with related line ministries to accelerate the land identification that will help partners to install alternative schools for IDPs children.
- Alternative education programmes should be considered (for further discussion with the State Ministry of Education).

Response

- The construction of 40 temporary learning spaces to accommodate grades 8 and 1 in time for the upcoming national examinations next month is prioritised.

Gaps & Constraints

- The provision of space for the construction of the temporary learning spaces remains unresolved.

Food Security

Needs

- According to the latest analysis, 161,000 people are severely food insecure and need support (of the 645,000 people in West Darfur).
- The sector plans to assist 1,200 and 1,500 households in sections 5 and 10 in Hay Al Jabal respectively.

124,400
People provided with food inside Ag Geneina

Response

- 124,400 people - three quarters of the people in need - were reached with a one-month food assistance package consisting of sorghum, pulses, oil, salt, and high-energy biscuits.

Gaps & Constraints

- Livelihood opportunities and durable solutions are necessary to enable a phase-out of emergency food interventions.

Health

Needs

- Acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea and malaria are the main diseases. There are suspected cases of measles reported from Kereneik, Ag Geneina, Forobaranga and Kulbus.
- The State Ministry of Health (SMoH) reported three confirmed COVID-19 cases during the reporting period, bringing the cumulative number of COVID-19 cases to 65, including 10 associated deaths. Zero cases were reported among the IDPs at the gathering points in and outside Ag Geneina town.
- All gathering sites are overcrowded and the key health concern is the possible large-scale disease outbreaks, especially when the rains start.

51,373
People reached with basic medical services

Response

- Health services are provided to 51,373 people inside Ag Geneina and mobile clinics are supporting the displaced people in Kereneik and Beida localities.
- The Early Warning, Alert and Response Network (EWARN) system is functioning in 41 primary health facilities in and around Ag Geneina, including 33 temporary/stationary health facilities and 10 mobile health clinics serving the affected IDPs inside Ag Geneina town and eight stationary/mobile health facilities outside the town.
- Ten medical supplies kits were provided to partners serving IDPs at gathering sites to address the drug supply gap.
- The draft immunization plan targeting children under 5 years of age in and outside Ag Geneina is being finalised.
- COVID-19 vaccination: the registration of the priority target groups and training for medical staff has been completed, vaccination will start upon the arrival of vaccines from Khartoum.

Gaps & Constraints

- Limited funding and the lack of medical supplies.

Nutrition

693

Needs

- Scale-up of nutrition services in the new IDPs gathering sites in the town and areas outside Ag Geneina, including affected nomadic communities.
- Mass MUAC screening campaign to cover PLW and children aged 6-59 months at IDPs gathering points.

severely acute malnourished children were admitted in the exiting OTP sites in the last two months

Response

- Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP)/Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP) activities are underway at 22 gathering sites.
- Close to 700 severely acute malnourished children were admitted in the exiting OTP sites during the past two months. There has been a significant increase of SAM and MAM cases in overall CMAM sites.
- SMoH has been supported to strengthen the quality services of stabilization in Ag Geneina hospital to enable the treatment of SAM children with medical complications.
- SMoH has carried out the mass MUAC screening campaign targeting more than 30,000 children and PLW at IDP gathering sites.

Gaps & Constraints

- Security issues affected the transportation of nutrition supplies to Beida and surrounding areas.

Protection – Child Protection

Needs

4,608

Children reached by child protection partners

- Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) and the provision of psychosocial support (PSS) and other referral services.
- Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) for Unaccompanied/Separated Children (UASC).
- Provision of clothes.
- Awareness raising amongst children and families on child protection (CP).
- Food - children are resorting to negative coping strategies such as begging, which exposes them to protection issues.
- Clearance of unexploded ordnances (UXOs) and provision of mine-awareness sessions.

Response

- 15 children friendly spaces (CFS) were established in gathering points, with 45 animators providing child protection services.
- FTR services provided for 48 children, of whom nine have been reunited with their families.
- About 800 children received PSS.
- 238 girls received awareness on GBV, including referral pathways.
- 2,400 children, 1,000 adolescent girls and women received CP awareness training.
- 70 children were referred for additional support.
- Adolescent kits, recreation kits, tents and sitting mats were distributed.
- Established 14 community child protection networks (CBCPNs) and trained 180 people.
- FTR assessment to register separated children is underway.

Gaps & Constraints

- More CFS are needed.
- IDPs cannot afford to buy medicines since they have lost their medical insurance IDs during the violence and displacement. This could give rise to negative copying strategies and protection issues.

- Limited resources while there are significant new needs.

Protection – Gender-based violence

3,670

Dignity kits distributed to vulnerable IDP women and girls of reproductive age

Needs

- The GBV subsector and its partners have identified 87,000 people to receive support.
- The inter-agency needs assessment identified protection, including GBV, sexual harassment, and physical assault, as top concerns in the IDP gathering sites and surrounding areas.
- High psychological distress levels among IDP women and girls, over-crowdedness, and lack of essential services were observed.

Response

- Social workers from the State Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (SMoHSW) continue providing psychological first aid (PFA) and PSS services in IDP gathering sites and monitoring protection concerns, including GBV.
- The GBV working group has reached 1,123 women and girls and 170 men at the IDP gathering sites and provided awareness-raising sessions on GBV and available support services to vulnerable women and girls, and survivors of GBV.
- The GBV WG partners have distributed close to 3,700 dignity kits to vulnerable IDP women and girls of reproductive age, this includes 800 kits in Ag Geneina locality office, 180 dignity kits in Alemam Alkazeim, 60 in the Taxation office, 362 in the culture and medial office, 134 in the commissioner house, 123 in the Judiciary office, 945 in Ag Geneina University, 450 in Donkey Desa, and 619 dignity kits in Alsadage school. Throughout the distribution, women and girls have been sensitized on GBV, the available GBV services and support, personal hygiene, and how to use the dignity kits.
- Women and girls have been sensitized on GBV, the updated referral pathways, personal hygiene, and how to use the dignity kits.
- Survivors of GBV continue to receive PSS and health support, including Clinical Management of Rape (CMR), at the GBV confidential corner in Ag Geneina Teaching Hospital.
- The GBV working group is coordinating with INGOs to extend CMR services in their existing health facilities and to include them in the GBV referral pathways.
- Transport for referral and financial assistance to GBV survivors and affected women and girls are also supported.

Gaps & Constraints

- There is a $1.6 million gap the six-month GBV emergency response plan (total $2 million).
- Material support, including dignity kits for about 50,000 women and girls of reproductive age in and outside Ag Geneina town, returnees to Krinding and other affected villages, and vulnerable host populations sheltering the displaced people.
- Support to maintain the services at the GBV confidential corner in Ag Geneina Teaching Hospital 24 hours a day and temporary confidential spaces outside of the gathering sites to provide PSS.
- There is a shortage of experienced GBV social workers and psychologists to cover all the gathering sites and affected areas outside of Ag Geneina.
- Shortage of safe spaces where women and girls can reconnect with their networks, get information and sensitization, and report incidents.
- Rapid capacity building (sensitization sessions) for first-line service providers targeting social workers, midwives, police, especially on referrals and survivor-centred approach to GBV.
- There is a need to reactivate and support community-based protection networks. This will help link affected communities to service providers.

Shelter/NFI

15,506
People reached with NFIs

Needs

- Provide shelter/NFIs assistance to affected people

Response

- About 1,600 households displaced from Abuzar IDP camp and Al Jabal area received assistance at seven new gathering points within Ag Geneina.
- About 20,000 people in 18 new gathering sites in Ag Geneina have received full non-food item (NFI) kits.
- Registration for the shelter assistance is ongoing in Gokar, Nyooro and Botingyo targeting 2,000 households for shelter cash support.
- 10,000 emergency shelter kits will be distributed amongst returnees in their places of origin.

Gaps & Constraints

- There is a gap of 10,000 NFI kits.
- One of the challenges is the continuous movement of the families from one location to another.
- There is a need for a functioning registration system - many IDPs have lost their personal identification documents.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

91,600
People reached

Needs

- Water provision of a minimum of 10 l/p/d, water storage, building of emergency latrines and rehabilitation of fixed latrines; provision of hygiene kits; providing solid waste disposal and identifying disposal areas within the gathering sites. Scaling up response outside of Ag Geneina
- Rehabilitation of broken hand pumps in Al Jabal area; water storage and tap dispensing for at least 10,000 – 15,000 litres and installing new hand pumps.

Response

- 65 gathering points inside town have been reached by WASH partners.
- 150 tons of garbage transported by partners over the past week.
- New partners started operations and filling the gaps, including the installation lights at 20 gathering sites.
- A weekly sector meeting was held on 5 May, with the participation of the national sector co-lead.
- WASH sector establishing technical working groups to address the technical challenges (e.g. lack of space and sustainability of services), especially with regard to sanitation and hygiene activities.

Gaps & Constraints

- The lack of space to build emergency latrines at the IDP gathering sites remain critical.
- Water supply is also becoming an issue, as water trucking to such a large population is not sustainable.