

HIGHLIGHTS (31 May 2021)


- Providing 151,300 IDPs currently sheltering in Ag Geneina with safe water is a daunting task.
- Increasing food prices is bad news for hundreds of thousands of IDPs as things are getting more difficult for them.
- UN Women has been focussing on involving women in decision-making and negotiation to ensure women's needs and concerns are adequately addressed.
- The Ministry of Health and UNICEF launch new initiatives to increase COVID-19 vaccine uptake around vaccination centres.
- In 2020, World Vision Sudan assisted 2.4 million people, of whom more than half were children.



KEY FIGURES

7.3M severely food-insecure people	8.9M people targeted for assistance in 2021
1.1M refugees	2.55M internally displaced people
34,272 total people who contracted COVID-19-related deaths COVID-19	2,446
63,110 Ethiopian refugees from Tigray (UNHCR)	7.6M People reached with aid (Jan-Dec 2020)

FUNDING (2021)

\$1.9B Required	\$284.2M Received
 15% Progress	
FTS: https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/1014/summary	

CONTACTS

Paola Emerson Head of Office for OCHA Sudan emersonp@un.org
James Steel Head, Communications and Information Management steel@un.org
Alimbek Tashtankulov Public Information Officer tashtankulov@un.org

EMERGENCY RESPONSE (31 May 2021)

Challenges of supplying water for thousands of IDPs in Ag Geneina

Children are lining up with their donkeys to fill up water containers at a water point in one of the sections of the Al Jebel neighbourhood, adjacent to the Abuzar camp in Ag Geneina, capital of West Darfur State. They wait patiently for their turn, with their donkeys shooing away flies with their tails.

The children come here almost daily to get water for drinking, cooking and washing for their families. At least it is not far from our houses, other people have to go far or buy water.

Until recently there was piped water in most of the neighbourhood prior to the violence in early April, and the kids did not have to fetch water as it was available in their homes. During the violence the water pumps were badly damaged and people who were operating the pumps and the supply network fled.



A water point in Al Jebel neighbourhood, near Abuzar camp in Ag Geneina, West Darfur, May 2021, OCHA

Meanwhile, in other parts of Ag Geneina one can see queues of water carts pulled by donkeys lining to fill up and move on to provide water to their eager customers. A barrel and a half of water - roughly 240 litres - costs about 3,000 SDG (about US\$32). Very often the water sold in water carts has slight salinity.

This highlights the daunting task of providing 151,300 IDPs currently sheltering in Ag Geneina with safe water.

As of 31 May, humanitarian organizations are providing an estimated 19,000 IDPs in Ag Geneina with about 10 litres of safe water per person per day (l/p/d). Scaling up is challenged by the nature of the displacement with people scattered across over 100 gathering sites making water trucking not feasible and costly.

Moreover, the current situation is quite different from the modus operandi humanitarian organisations in Darfur have been operating with. The current crisis in Ag Geneina is IDPs in an urban setting, where it is not clear how long the people will stay at gathering sites, and where they will eventually move. In a traditional IDP camp setting, humanitarian partners would start working on installing water systems and rely on water trucking only for a limited period. However, this option is not on the table in Ag Geneina.

To tackle the issue, water sector partners are drilling six boreholes in the vicinity of the gathering sites to ensure sustainable access to water supply. Also, the State Water Company is currently upgrading the urban water system by installing 11 submersible pumps, one of them will be dedicated to four gathering sites. This upgrade is aimed at increasing the water supply to host communities and IDPs.

So far, WASH sector partners have covered 55 out of 88 gathering sites in Ag Geneina with at least 10 l/p/d. The Sphere standard is minimum 15 l/p/d. There are some challenges related to lack of private vendors for water trucking and chlorination for urban water network is a critical gap.

Meanwhile, humanitarian partners advocate for a sustainable solution for the 151,300 displaced people in Ag Geneina before the rains start in June-July.

TRENDS (31 May 2021)

Food prices continue to rise, a bad omen for displaced people

Food prices continued to rise across Sudan in April albeit, at a lower rate compared to previous months, the World Food Programme (WFP) reported in its latest [Market Monitor update](#).

In April, the national average cost of a local food basket increased by 1.8 per cent compared to March 2021 and was recorded at SDG152 (about US\$0.37). The national average retail price of sorghum was SDG98.5/kg (\$0.24/kg), which is a slight increase of 0.3 per cent compared to March. The retail price of wheat flour was SDG272.2/kg (\$0.67/kg) - an increase of 3.9 per cent compared to March 2021. The average retail price of a goat was SDG9,648/head (\$23.65/head), which is an increase of 12.9 per cent compared with the previous month.

For Mohammed (not his real name), this is bad news as they mean things are getting more difficult. Mohammed was displaced from his ancestral village and arrived in Ag Geneina when the conflict started in Darfur in 2003. When he came to Ag Geneina he was around 30 and now is in his mid-50s, with his seven-member family.

"We used to have a simple but comfortable life before the meshakil [conflict-trouble] started in 2003. We were farming, but also had some sheep, goats and cows. We would slaughter them when we needed and we always had milk," Mohammed said.

"After we came to Ag Geneina, we had to pay for everything. We still do some farming during the planting season, but we cannot rear livestock anymore. It is not safe to graze them outside of Ag Geneina," he added.

This means he has to buy meat from the butcher and pay more than 1,500 SDG per kilo (\$3.68/kg), which is difficult for him to afford as his monthly salary is 9,000 SDG (about \$22) per month. "The food prices are increasing every day. The kilo of meat costs almost the same as in Khartoum. How do you think we can afford it?" he asked.

He spends daily at least 200 SDG (about \$0.50) for his fatur (late breakfast/early lunch) and works 14 days per month. His fatur costs about one-third of his monthly salary.

Many other IDPs across Sudan are in a similar situation. A little over half of IDPs across Sudan are food insecure, according to WFP's [Food Security Monitoring Systems \(FSMS\) report for the 1st quarter of 2021](#). The areas with the highest prevalence of food insecurity include refugee and IDP communities in Darfur, Kordofans and Blue Nile State. Economic vulnerability is cited as a major factor as 96 per cent of IDP families are spending more than 65 per cent of their total expenditure on food, the FSMS report said.



Local food market in El Obeid, North Kordofan, March 2021, Leni Kinzli - WFP

Meanwhile, on 18 May, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported that the April inflation rate in Sudan increased from 342 per cent in March to 363 per cent. The economic crisis and inflation are the main drivers of the increase in the number of people in need, according to the 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview. Humanitarian organisations are advocating for early and flexible funding for the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan.

For more information, please see the WFP Market Monitor April 2021 report [here](#)

FEATURE (31 May 2021)

At Heaven's Doors – the story of Bab Al-Ginan

In an effort to ensure women's needs and concerns are adequately addressed and that they have access to the resources and opportunities they need, UN Women has been focussing on involving women in decision-making and negotiation.

Bab Al-Ginan Mohamed Ishag Adam is a 42-year-old widow from Menwashi village in Mershing locality, South Darfur State. She lost her husband years ago in one of the many conflicts that the Darfur region has witnessed over the past 18 years.

Over 75 per cent of farmers in Darfur are women and they are the main labour force in the region. While the environmental conditions in the region are conducive for crop cultivation, women often find that profits of the harvest are not satisfactory, either due to lack of market trends knowledge or crop rotation scheme. Furthermore, not all women can access land to cultivate. When government authorities offer help, it is usually the men who take the financial assistance, while it is the women who are the actual income generators in almost all households.



Bab Al-Ginan with her two goats (Ahmed Amin Ahmed, UN Women)

To tackle this issue, the joint UN Women and United Nations – African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) State Liaison Functions (SLF) projects were developed to help women like Bab Al-Ginan. She and 64 other women in Darfur participated in a two-day workshop to enhance women's economic empowerment and participation in livelihood initiatives. The workshop aimed to teach women how to increase their incomes through animal production projects (distribution of goats) and advanced farming methods. The workshop introduced women to the basic concepts of cooperatives, how to establish marketing networks as well as saving groups.

The women also learned how to manage microfinance projects among women groups. They discussed the types of income-generating activities that suit women's economic status and how to open credit accounts in the saving bank. On the second day of the workshop, the women were divided into three groups. One group received four sacks of groundnuts for cooking oil processing and four plastic cooking oil containers; the second group received hair cutting tools for both young girls and boys, and the third group received two goats each. Bab Al-Ginan was in the third group.

To Bab Al-Ginan the two goats made a big difference, allowing her to earn an income for her family. After she received the goats, she started growing crops and selling them in the market. Her success made her a respected member of Menwashi's cooperative network.

Bab Al-Ginan did not stop there. She knew that she needed to support her community and adopted six orphaned children, two girls and four boys. One of these orphans was very young when she took him in, and she was able to use the milk from the goats to feed him, keeping him alive and well-nourished.

She also encourages and helps her neighbours to help those in need. One of her friends now looks after elderly people, people with special needs and victims of conflict. Bab Al-Ginan became a symbol of hope, determination, and success in her community and for women in the region. Her name, Bab Al-Ginan, means the Gates of Heaven in English, a fitting name for an amazing woman.

Photo and written by: Ahmed Amin Ahmed (UN Women Communication Officer)

FEATURE (31 May 2021)

Innovating ways to rally communities for the COVID-19 vaccination in Khartoum

Hellatkoko health facility located in Sharg-el-Nil locality is one of the COVID-19 vaccination centres in Khartoum State. In spite of its strategic location, surrounded by busy markets, automobile repair centres, animal markets and heavily populated areas, the health facility continued to register low numbers of people vaccinated against coronavirus in the locality. The same was the case with other vaccination centres in the state.

Concerned about the trend, the health promotion team at Sharg-el-Nil locality adopted a new strategy targeting people near vaccination centres like Hellatkoko health facility for increased vaccine uptake. This includes the use of mobile vans that go out daily to share information about the vaccine while urging those eligible to go to Hellatkoko health facility to get vaccinated. This is just one of the strategies that the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) and

the UN Children's Agency (UNICEF) have put in place to increase vaccine uptake around vaccination centres and it has yielded major results. According to the FMOH, vaccine coverage for Sharg-el-Nil has increased from 5.1 per cent to 47.1 per cent since the new strategies were initiated.

The mobile van goes out to the communities at least four times a day. After each mobilisation session, more people are seen coming to the facility for the vaccine. At every stop, especially in congested areas like markets, health promoters share messages specific to the COVID-19 vaccine, its availability, safety, efficacy, eligible persons and the vaccination centres around the locality where it could be administered. Health promoters also respond to questions, address rumours and misconceptions that people may have, while reminding those eligible to go to Hellatoko health facility to get vaccinated.

"I am suffering from diabetes. Should I also take the vaccine?" a man asked.

Fortunately, the health promoters are available to answer his question and encourage him to go to the facility to get vaccinated as he is among the persons being targeted.

Persons above 45 years of age with illnesses are among the target population for the COVID-19 vaccine in Sudan. In another case, an elderly man working in a nearby market heard the announcements from the mobile van and realising that he was eligible he was vaccinated.

After the vaccination the people are requested to stay behind for 15 to 30 minutes for observation. As more and more people are reached with the messages, operating hours at the health facility were adjusted to meet the increased demand.

UNICEF and partners continue to support the Government of Sudan to reach everyone with the COVID-19 vaccine by adopting innovating new and unusual techniques. Over 215,000 people in Sudan have received their first dose of the coronavirus vaccine as of 18 May, according to the FMOH. No one is safe until all of us are vaccinated.

UNICEF story, link to the [original](#)



Health personnel talking to citizens about the coronavirus vaccine (UNICEF)

EMERGENCY RESPONSE (31 May 2021)

World Vision Sudan assisted 2.4 million people in 2020

Amidst the pandemic, World Vision Sudan remained steadfast in its commitment to deliver humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable in the country through livelihoods and resilience-building activities. In 2020, World Vision reached an estimated 2.4 million people—more than half of whom were vulnerable children—with assistance, including cash and food. The humanitarian organisation engaged and mobilised partners, including faith leaders and community health workers, to enhance the impact of its programmes on vulnerable children.

Here are some of World Vision's achievements in 2020:

- reached over 900,000 people with COVID-19 preventive messages and supplies.
- provided over 600,000 people with food, cash, and sustainable livelihoods assistance.
- treated over 23,000 children with malnutrition at nutrition centres.
- provided antenatal care to over 60,000 pregnant women at World Vision-run health centres.

To download or read the full summary, click [here](#).



World Vision snapshot

MEDIA (16 May 2021)



View this Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-NOhqvRuak>

Climate change leaves Ethiopian refugees vulnerable (Mary Theru, producer / Joshua Werema, cameraperson, editor / Andre Therik, drone operator)
UNHCR

FEATURE (12 May 2021)

Hay Al Jebel neighbourhood is “a ghost town” in Ag Geneina

Driving through the Hay Al Jabal neighbourhood of Ag Geneina town is like driving through a ghost town. There is a sense of surreal tranquillity, with almost complete lack of residents in most parts and many houses or traditional huts called rakubas torched. The burnt and cracked remains of earthen pots are silent witnesses of the calamity that had befallen the area.

It has been about a month since a wave of inter-communal violence engulfed parts of Ag Geneina, including Hay Al Jabal, with people fleeing violence, firefights in the streets, houses torched and looted. “When the fighting started near our house, we all fled to Abuzar camp, with our children, and only our clothes on and some small things. We ran for our lives as there was a heavy shooting,” Sarah (not her real name), a 25-year old resident of Hay Al Jabal neighbourhood, said near her torched house.

“We lost everything, everything was burned down, the sacks of millet and other food we had, even our kitchen utensils were either taken or burned,” Sarah said.

Sarah and her family arrived in the area in 2003 when the conflict started in Darfur. They were displaced from an area outside of Ag Geneina. After 18 years, they are now displaced again. She and her seven children, and her parents are now sheltering in the nearby Abuzar camp.



Her house is in a part of the neighbourhood inhabited mainly by members of Massalit, Zaghawa and Bargo tribes. She used to sell some groceries and other supplies in the market to make a living. Now she is trying to make a meagre income by washing clothes for other people or cleaning their houses. "Whatever money I manage to make we buy food," Sarah said, adding her husband is now unemployed.

The parts of the neighbourhood where people of Arab descent live were also affected by fighting. "An RPG rocket landed just near our house and bullets were flying around, while we tried to keep the children and women deeper inside the house," said Muntasir (not his real name), the father of five who has over 10 people, including his five grandchildren, in his household.

"When the people with arms came over, we managed to hide our Massalit neighbours and protect them," he said. "We have been living here for more than 20 years with our Massalit, Zaghawa and Bargo neighbours without any problems, but now our area looks like a war zone."

His extended family is staying at home and schools are closed or occupied by people displaced by conflict. Muntasir's elder son cannot go to work as the areas he needs to go to may not be safe for him.

Following the recent wave of violence in Ag Geneina, there is a deep polarization and increased apprehension. People of visibly Massalit appearance do not go to areas inhabited by Arabs and vice versa, Arabs do not go to Massalit areas for fear of being targeted.

Meanwhile, all parts of Hay Al Jabal are suffering from lack of water and electricity. During the violence in early April, the water pumps and generators powering the electricity and water systems were damaged, and the people who were operating them fled.

"We just came back to try and salvage whatever we can, but as you see nothing is left, only ashes," said Sarah. "How can we live here, without water and with no roof over our heads? We don't even have a kas [cup] to drink from."

Muntasir echoed Sarah's sentiments. "We have not had running water for almost a month. We buy one and a half of barrels of water delivered by water cart sellers for 3,000 SDG [about US\$7.7], which lasts for only one day as we are more than 10 people in the household. We have to buy bottled water for drinking as the water delivered by water carts is too salty."

The neighbourhood did not have power for about two weeks. "When there is no electricity, there is no water," Safia, Sarah's sister said.

Sarah and her extended family approached the Abuzar camp officials for help, but they were told that they are not IDPs registered in the camp and that aid workers would come and assist them in their neighbourhoods. "So far, nobody has come and asked us what we need, nor how we are surviving," she said.

While there is police presence in various parts of the neighbourhood, mainly the Central Reserve Police deployed from Khartoum, some residents are still not convinced it is safe to return to their homes. "We want to be sure of our safety before we return, that is the first thing. Then what do we return to? There is nothing left, no food, nothing to cook in and keep supplies, not even a sareer [traditional bedframe] to sleep on. We need help so that we can start going back," Khadija, another resident in her 30s, said with frustration in her voice.

While the security situation remains tense and unpredictable in Ag Geneina, humanitarian organisations have been scaling up response to meet the needs of people affected. About 124,400 people received food assistance, over 51,000 can access healthcare services and about 30,000 people have access to safe water.

However, there are various challenges that the aid agencies face. Diminishing funding is a major issues, which may result in many people like Sarah not receiving the assistance they desperately need. "We are glad that we are living and able to eat, what can we do? Allah Kareem [God is gracious]," said Sarah referring to the expression used by Sudanese for hope.

ANALYSIS (12 May 2021)

Half of IDPs and refugees are food insecure - WFP

A little over half of IDPs and 45 per cent of refugee families across Sudan are food insecure, according to the [Food Security Monitoring Systems \(FSMS\) report for the 1st quarter of 2021](#) issued by the World Food Programme (WFP). Despite the season's above-average harvest (CFSAM), the food security situation has not improved compared to last year (which had a poor harvest), the FSMS report said. The areas with the highest prevalence of food insecurity include refugee and internally displaced persons (IDP) communities in the Darfurs, Kordofans and Blue Nile State.

Economic vulnerability is cited as a major factor as 96 per cent of IDP households and 91 per cent of refugee households are spending more than 65 per cent of their total expenditure on food, FSMS report said.



IDPs in Ag Geneina, January 2021 UNHCR

While the prevalence of poor food consumption was on the lower side, more than one third of households relied on food-based and livelihood-based negative coping strategies, focusing on immediate food needs and depleting their assets. Most common livelihood coping strategies include spending savings and cutting down on expenses for other basic needs such as education and health.

Also, high market reliance for food supplies was observed. The market reliance for food commodities often reached higher than 90 per cent, with the other significant source being food assistance. With the deterioration of macroeconomic situation characterised by high inflation and food prices, the purchasing power of the households has significantly diminished.

Other contributing factors include protracted political instability and the COVID-19 pandemic, which has negatively impacted livelihoods. Households headed by women were more likely to be food insecure than a household headed by men by at least 12 per cent, mostly due to limited access to the labour market. With the ongoing economic crisis and upcoming of the lean season in May, the food security situation is expected to worsen in the coming months.

For more information, please see the FSMS report [here](#)

FEATURE (16 May 2021)

Heat and rains make the life of Ethiopian refugees miserable in eastern Sudan

As the rains begin in Sudan, UNHCR and partners race to shield refugees from the risk of flooding.

By Catherine Wachia in Tunaydbah refugee settlement, Sudan

Anna* recalls how just a few days ago she would sigh with relief as she stepped out of the scorching heat into the welcoming shade of her tent in eastern Sudan's Tunaydbah refugee settlement.

"The heat can be unbearable," says the 21-year-old Ethiopian refugee who is now grappling with another problem – heavy rains.

Her struggle with the extreme weather is similar to that of thousands of Ethiopians who have arrived in eastern Sudan over the past six months, after fleeing violence in Tigray. Many brought very few belongings and after months of scorching heat, are now facing the long rains, which begin in May and last until October.

Rain and strong winds have already destroyed some shelters and latrines and resulted in flooding in some areas of the settlement, which hosts some 20,000 refugees.

The settlement, which is in a semi-arid area where temperatures can reach as high as 45°C, was set up in January this year to cope with the influx after another settlement, Um Rakuba reached its full capacity. The flat surrounding landscape, dotted with sparse bushes and rocky outcrops, is prone to flash floods that have become more severe in recent years.

Various studies, including by UN agencies, suggest this is due to changes in the climate that are resulting in increasingly unpredictable rainfall and rising temperatures across Sudan's arid and semi-arid drylands. Climate change is being felt worldwide, but Sudan is among the countries that are [most vulnerable](#) and least ready to adapt to its effects, which it is experiencing while simultaneously struggling with conflict, poverty and high levels of displacement.

Last year, heavy rains and [floods wreaked havoc](#) across Sudan, affecting hundreds of thousands of people, including [refugees and internally displaced people](#).

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and partners are already evacuating refugees whose shelters have been affected by the rains and putting other measures in place.

Akaran Napakiro, a field officer with UNHCR based in Gedaref State where the settlement is located, is leading these efforts.

She explains that some 50 people whose tents were destroyed have been moved to one of the agency's larger tents and that there are plans to provide refugees with more durable shelters to protect them from the elements. Relief items, including food, blankets and sleeping mats that were stockpiled will be distributed to affected families.

"We want to combine all these efforts to prevent other problems that come along with the floods, like cholera," she says.



Anna* prepares traditional coffee in the kitchen area of her tent in Tunaydbah refugee settlement, eastern Sudan. © UNHCR/Ahmed Kwarté

She adds that a topographical survey of the area was done to better understand which areas of the settlement are most at risk of flooding.

"The topographical images show that when it floods, the western side will be more affected," Akaran explains. "We are creating canals to avert the water away from the population on that side."

With access to the settlement set to become more difficult as heavy rains render roads impassable, there are plans to reinforce the road to the nearest town where supplies come from over 130 kilometres away.

Another priority is to create more sustainable conditions for refugees living here. That includes addressing their energy needs to reduce deforestation and the need for them to search or pay for firewood. Together with the Government of Sudan and partners including the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNHCR has distributed energy-saving stoves and solar panels for cooking and lighting. UNDP has also installed solar lamps in common areas like markets and streets.

"Refugees are already using these stoves and cutting down the cost of energy," explains Akaran.

She adds that they are also encouraged to make their own traditional cooking stoves which are energy-saving, convenient and culturally accepted.

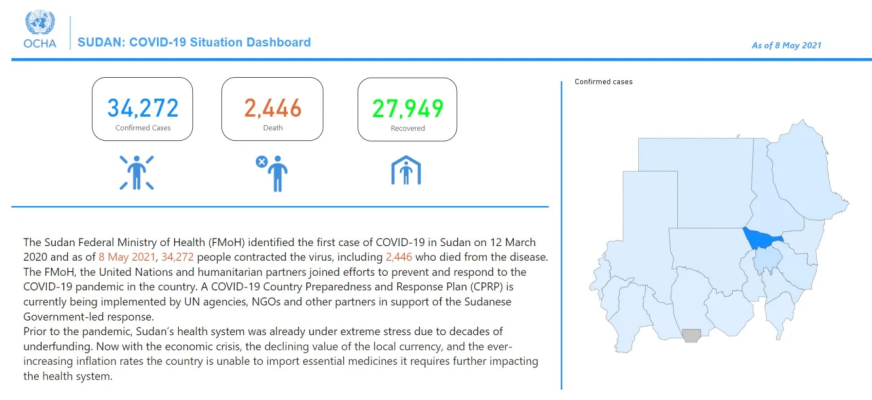
Refugees are also being assisted to plant drought-resistant plants and fruits such as bananas, both to supplement their diets and to provide shade and greenery in the settlement.

As UNHCR works with partners to shield refugees from the rains, refugees like Anna continue adjusting to the extreme climate.

"I miss the nice weather and the normal life I had back home," says Anna, who was studying psychology at university when the violence broke out. "If I could, I would return home right now. But the situation is still terrible, so I have to stay here. At least I am safe."

INTERACTIVE (18 Jan 2021)

Sudan: COVID-19 Situation Dashboard 2021 - Interactive Dashboard



View this interactive graphic: <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoibTJmYTlkZTgtOTgyOC00ZWY1LTlmZDA0NzQ1OTIxNDhjZDZlIiwidCI6IjBmOWUzNWwRiLTU0NGYtNGY2MC1iZGNjLTVIYTQxNmU2ZGM3MCIslmMiOj9>

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