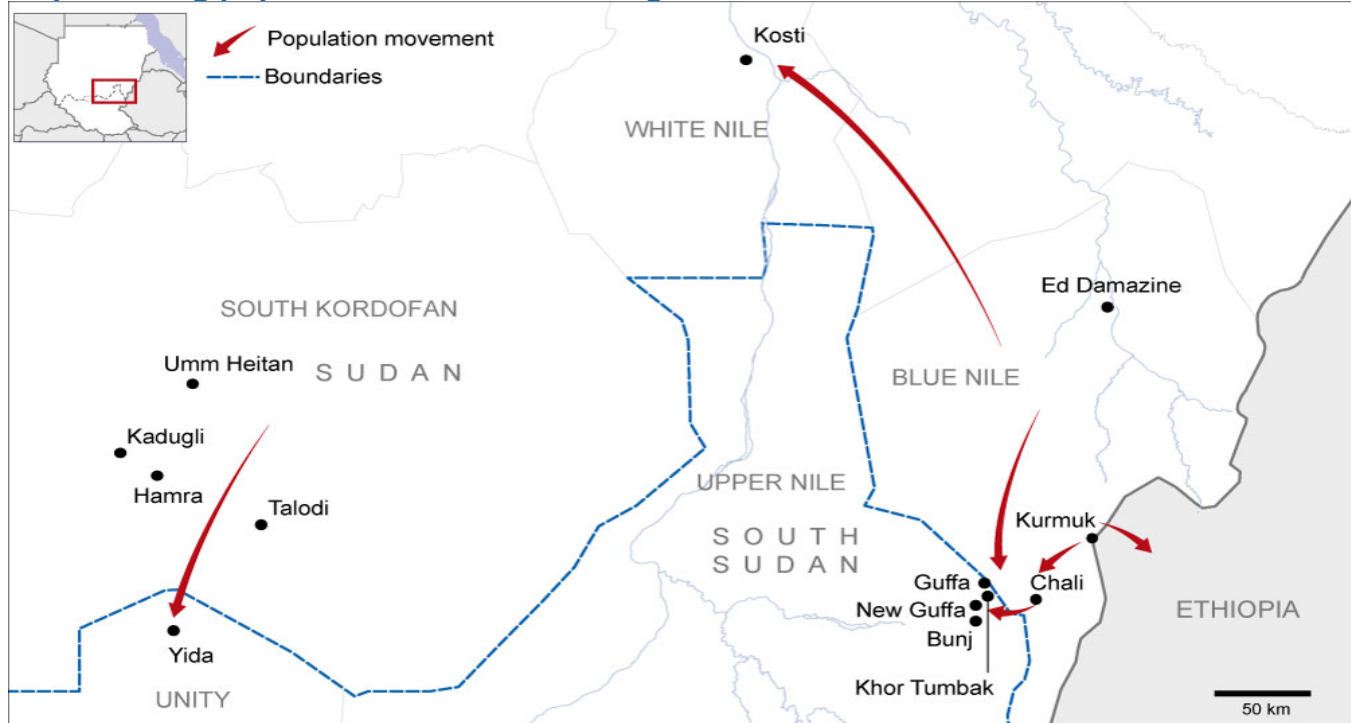


Key Points

- Following the take-over of Kurmuk by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) on 3 November, the Sudanese Red Crescent Society reported that many medical clinics, schools and water points in Kurmuk town were severely damaged as a result of the recent fighting.
- On 8 November, the conflict in Upper Nile State took on a new dimension when aerial bombardment by the SAF in New Guffa and Yafta in Upper Nile State, South Sudan, was reported close to the border with Blue Nile State in Sudan. The UN in South Sudan reported that according to initial investigations, one child and seven SPLA soldiers were killed and a number of injured were evacuated after the bombings.
- In a separate incident on 10 November, aerial bombardment by the SAF was reported in the Yida area in Unity State, South Sudan, close to the border with Sudan. The UN in South Sudan reported that the bombardment struck a temporary camp for displaced and refugee populations in Yida, where more than 20,000 people have taken refuge from fighting in South Kordofan. The UN reported that five bombs hit the Yida area, with two shells falling directly inside a site where refugees and displaced people were sheltering and with one shell falling near a temporary school. According to the UN in South Sudan, there were no confirmed casualties.
- The UN Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan condemned the attack on Yida, expressing serious concern about the impact on the civilian population in the area. The UN Secretary General also condemned the attack, expressing deep concern over the escalation of rhetoric between the Government of Sudan and the Government of South Sudan, particularly in regard to cross border support of rebel groups and incursions into one another's territory. He called on both governments to exercise restraint in managing border tensions and to recommit to a negotiated settlement of outstanding post-CPA issues.
- In Darfur, on 6 November a UNAMID officer was killed and two others injured when their patrol came under attack by unknown gunmen in Nyala.

Map showing population movements along border areas



1. Blue Nile State

Following the take-over of Kurmuk by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) on 3 November, the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) reports that many medical clinics, schools and water points in Kurmuk town have been severely damaged by recent fighting. SRCS reports that 246 civilians have returned to Kurmuk since fighting in the town ceased. SRCS also report that they expect 23,500 people to return to the locality within the next three months.

On 5 November a complaint was lodged by the Government of Sudan with the United Nations Security Council against South Sudan, alleging that the SPLA was supporting rebel movements within Sudan.

Some humanitarian agencies have withdrawn their staff from the area as a result of the bombings and general insecurity in the area.

Fighting continued during the reporting period between the SAF and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) in Blue Nile State. On 8 November, the conflict in Upper Nile State took on a new dimension when aerial bombardment by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) in New Quffa and Yafta in Upper Nile State, South Sudan, was reported close to the border with Blue Nile State in Sudan. The UN in South Sudan reported that according to initial investigations, one child and seven Sudan People Liberation Army (SPLA) soldiers were killed and a number of injured were evacuated after the bombings.

The ongoing fighting within Blue Nile State continues to cause significant displacement of civilians, with UNHCR reporting that since the fighting began on 1 September, over 35,000 people have been displaced from the state to Ethiopia. An inter-agency assessment mission in South Sudan reported that over 7,000 persons had crossed the border to New Quffa, Upper Nile State, in transit to locations further south such as Bunj.

Humanitarian partners have also reported that some 15,000 – 20,000 people from Kurmuk locality may have fled recently to Chali in the southern part of Blue Nile State. These numbers have not been verified due to access restrictions on international humanitarian agencies. Humanitarian partners are expecting that all or many of these people may continue moving from Chali across the border to Bunj in South Sudan.

2. South Kordofan State

Hostilities between the SAF and the SPLM-N are also ongoing in South Kordofan State. According to humanitarian partners on the ground, heavy fighting occurred in the towns of Talodi, Hamra and Um Hitan during the reporting period. According to humanitarian partners, high numbers of casualties have been reported in Talodi town, with some NGOs considering closing their offices in the town due to insecurity. The fighting in the state has displaced unknown numbers of persons from the Talodi and Buram areas across the border to Unity State, South Sudan. The UN reports that the settlement of Yida in Unity State, South Sudan, has now received over 20,000 refugees from South Kordofan State. In addition, approximately 3,000 people have been displaced from Um Hitan by this fighting, according to WFP. Humanitarian organizations continue to face severe access restrictions in the state. While many UN and INGO national staff are present on the ground in some parts of South Kordofan State, currently there are no UN international staff in South Kordofan State as a result of government-imposed restrictions on access. Humanitarian partners also report that, with the dry season approaching, more fighting is expected in the coming weeks.

On 10 November aerial bombardment by the SAF was reported in the Yida area in Unity State, South Sudan, close to the border with Sudan. The UN in South Sudan reported that the bombardment struck a temporary camp for displaced and refugee populations in Yida, where more than 20,000 people have taken refuge from fighting in South Kordofan. The UN reported that five bombs hit the Yida area, with two shells falling directly inside a site where refugees and displaced people were sheltering and with one shell falling near a temporary school. According to UN in South Sudan there were no confirmed casualties.

The United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan, Ms. Lise Grande, strongly condemned the attack on Yida, expressing serious concern about the impact on the civilian population in the area. In a statement on 14 November, the UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki Moon, also condemned the attack, expressing deep concern over the escalation of rhetoric between the Government of Sudan and the Government of South Sudan, particularly in regard to cross border support of rebel groups and incursions into one another's territory. He called on both governments to exercise restraint in managing border tensions and to recommit to a negotiated settlement of outstanding post-CPA issues.

3. Abyei

On 10 November, a planning workshop on returns and nomadic migration through the Abyei area was held in Agok in the Abyei Administrative Area. UN agencies, government authorities, national and international NGOs participated in the workshop. The objective of the workshop was to agree on planning scenarios for IDP returns and nomadic migration and to discuss key operational issues that would impact humanitarian and early recovery response. To facilitate safe voluntary returns, it was agreed that the withdrawal of SAF, the full deployment of UNISFA, and the demining of affected areas was necessary.

According to the Resident Coordinator's Support Office (RCSO) the Misseriya migration Abyei started around 31 October. To date, between 5,000 to 6,000 head of cattle have been observed within the northern areas notably in Farouk, Meknes, Balom, Um Khariet and Goli. UNISFA interviewed the nomads who reported concerns and fears of a possible attack by the Dinka Ngok but highlighted that they wished for peaceful migration.

Landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) remain a serious concern in the Abyei area. The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) has noted that reported landmines and UXO have been observed along main roads. One UNMAO team will be dedicated to road survey and clearance and another two teams will be sent to reported contaminated areas. A budget of US\$ 6.7 million dollars has been allocated for mine action in Abyei. UNMAS implementing partner MECHEM, has begun mobilising staff and equipment necessary for these activities, which are expected to begin in December. Meanwhile, UNISFA identified and cleared eight mines on the road to Rumameer where a company operating base (COB) will be established to improve security for the civilian population.

4. North-South population movements

Kosti

According to UNHCR, flooding threatens the Kosti way-station as water levels of the Nile river have risen by approximately 1.5 metres. At the way-station, access roads to the river jetty and water pump are being threatened. A convoy of IOM sponsored barges is scheduled to depart Kosti to South Sudan on 13 and 14 November.

IOM also reports that on 6 November returnee trains to South Sudan carrying 2,700 people departed Babanusa, South Kordofan State, after a significant delay.

5. Darfur

On 6 November, a UNAMID officer was shot and killed and two others injured when their patrol came under attack by unknown gunmen in Nyala. Continued attacks on UNAMID and humanitarians have affected their ability to provide assistance to people in need in South Darfur. UN agencies now rely entirely on UNAMID escorts for any mission out of Nyala town. Since the initial deployment of UNAMID on 31 December 2007, 34 peacekeepers have been killed as a result of armed attacks. Less than a month ago, two Rwandan soldiers and one Senegalese UNAMID Police advisor were killed in the Zamzam IDP Camp, North Darfur.

In two weeks, the international NGO Medair will be closing its WASH programmes in Ardamata, Dorti and Sisi IDP camps, West Darfur, after ten years of operations. UNICEF will discuss the filling of this gap with the Water and

Environmental Sanitation Department (WES). If WES is unable to take over Medair's programmes, the urban municipality will be approached to integrate the camp water supply systems with the urban water system.

Following UNHCR reports that some 160 Ambororo living in Wau, South Sudan, wish to return to their tribal land in Tulus, South Darfur, reports suggested that most of the Ambororo had already left Wau and were on their way to South Darfur. Ambororo community leaders estimate that there are some 500 Ambororo households living in and around Tulus town, but the number of recent returnees was not specified. Community leaders claimed that they co-exist peacefully with communities in the area and that they were willing to allocate tribal land to any Ambororo returning from South Sudan. Those who have already returned are facing livelihood challenges and are working as casual labourers while being supported by relatives as a temporary coping strategy. Other issues raised by the community were the lack of access to basic water, health and education services as well as veterinary services for their cattle.