

This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners covering the period 16 September – 23 September 2011.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Fighting has continued between the SAF and SPLM-N forces in both Blue Nile and South Kordofan states throughout the reporting period.
- The Government of Sudan continues to impose severe restrictions on international humanitarian organizations. Currently there is only one UN international humanitarian staff member in South Kordofan and none in Blue Nile State.
- The Sudanese Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) has informed international humanitarian organizations that the Sudanese government is providing assistance to vulnerable civilians in both Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, in partnership with national NGOs, and that any support from international organizations should be channelled through committees that have been established in these states for this purpose.
- HAC has encouraged national staff of international humanitarian organizations to return to Blue Nile State to resume their activities.

II. Situation Overview

Blue Nile State

The situation in the state remains tense. Fighting between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) has continued throughout the reporting period. On 21 September, particularly heavy fighting broke out in the Dindiro area (Kurmuk locality). Aerial bombardment in and around Kurmuk town has also continued.

The overall security situation in Ed Damazine town is reported to be calm. A curfew is still imposed from 7pm each day to 5am. Movement outside the town is restricted.

The President of Sudan appointed a new Governor for Blue Nile State on 20 September, to take over from the interim military ruler. The latter had been appointed following the declaration of a state of emergency and the sacking of the former Governor (and SPLM-N chairman), Malik Agar.

The Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) has informed humanitarian actors that a government-led task force, comprised of HAC, the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS), local NGOs and other government bodies, has been established in Ed Damazine to coordinate humanitarian assistance in the state. HAC has informed international humanitarian organizations that the Sudanese government is providing assistance to vulnerable civilians, in partnership with national NGOs, and has given instructions that all support intended for the people affected by the conflict in Blue Nile State is to be planned and organized through this task force.

The Sudanese authorities have encouraged humanitarian actors to send their national staff back to Blue Nile State. At the moment there are 27 UN national staff in Ed Damazine, and an unspecified number of INGO national staff. As concerns international staff, INGOs have been told that they need to obtain permission from HAC, while UN agencies need to obtain permission from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since 1 September, no permissions for international staff to travel to Blue Nile State have been granted. INGOs also report that some of their national staff in Ed Damazine are having difficulties in gaining access to their offices.

Population movement

According to SRCS, the highest concentration of IDPs in government-controlled areas is currently in the south-west of the state – namely in Tadamon and Baw localities – where there are reported to be about 25,000 people. Most of the IDPs from Ed Damazine and Roseires localities are reported to have returned to

their homes, with the exception of IDPs in Elgazira (some 600 people) and in Alazaza (some 250 people). Due to access restrictions, it has not been possible to confirm these figures independently.

In the case of SPLM-N controlled areas, there are reports that some 11,000 people from the western part of Kurmuk locality have been displaced to the southern part of the State, close to the South Sudan border.

UNHCR reports that the number of refugees from Blue Nile State in Ethiopia stands at around 17,000. Another 4,000 refugees are currently in Upper Nile State, South Sudan.

South Kordofan State

There have been reports of new fighting near Dilling and in Kortalib near Abu Jubeiha as well as in Rashad locality. Regular SAF aerial bombardments of SPLM-N controlled areas have been reported throughout the reporting period. Further clashes took place in the surrounding areas of Kadugli and near Talodi.

On 19 September an aircraft dropped four bombs in the vicinity of the UNMIS camp in Kauda, Heiban locality. Some UN property was damaged but there are no reports of fatalities or injuries.

There is currently only one UN international staff member in Kadugli (from WHO), and 75 national staff.

Population Movement

UNHCR reported that 820 IDPs currently in Arid (Abu Jubeiha locality) remained inaccessible due to heavy rains and insecurity in the area. During the reporting period, some 300 individuals, previously displaced, arrived in Kadugli from Reka and joined their relatives in Samalat and Kafei Tayara. In addition, 114 individuals, also previously displaced, arrived in Kadugli from Shat Sufiya on the 18 September 2011.

In the case of SPLM-N areas, INGO staff on the ground are trying to gather more precise information on the numbers of displaced people. Due to access restrictions and continued fighting and insecurity, it has not been possible thus far to obtain detailed information on this.

Humanitarian actors in South Sudan report that some 10,000 people have arrived in Unity State since beginning of hostilities.

III. Humanitarian Response

Blue Nile State

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOOD

WFP still awaits approval from the government to conduct a preliminary assessment to identify the needs of affected people following the conflict. According to HAC, adequate food commodities are available to cover food requirements for one month and that WFP assessments are not required for the time being. The Zakhat Chamber (charity) and some local organizations confirmed that they will provide food assistance to affected people identified by the government in Ed Damazine, Roseires and Tadamon localities. Updates on IDP numbers and tonnage distributed so far are not yet available.

The Government of Sudan (GoS) confirms dispatching over 2,300 MT of assorted food commodities. However, no figures of beneficiaries are available.

NON-FOOD ITEMS AND EMERGENCY SHELTER

Joint ICRC/SRCS assessments to distribute NFIs (among them plastic sheeting, clothing, blankets, sleeping mats, household items) and WASH material are continuing.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Through WES, the WASH sector distributed 74 cartons of chlorine tablets, two chlorine test kits, five kits of H₂S in Ed Damazine and Roseires localities. Accordingly, water chlorination was conducted in Abu Hashim, Sereo, Elban Gadid, Abu Ramad in Ed Damazine locality, and in Garif, Bados, Tarfa, Tulunkush, Hilat Hagar and Wad Afodi in Roseires locality.

HEALTH

According to the State Minister of Health, apart from a lack of trained personnel and limited financial resources, no other gap exists. All Health and Nutrition sector interventions are coordinated through a health task force.

WHO donated to SMoH supplies such as vaccines (snake, rabies and scorpion vaccines) and Cary Blair media, in addition to HIV/AIDS supplies. Also, WHO is supporting the SRCS to run mobile health clinics and other health relief services for IDPs and conflict-affected population in Ed Damazine and other parts of the state that are accessible to SRSC.

NUTRITION

Around 2,600 children (6 months to 5 years) in various villages north of Ed Damazine town (Badus, Algarif, Abu Ramad, Alsalha and Serio) have received emergency food rations (BP-5). BP5 stock is low, with 517 out of the available 565 cartons distributed. 10 OTPs out of the available 14 run by State Ministry of Health (SMOH) are functioning as well as Ed Damazine and Roseires stabilization centers.

PROTECTION

UNICEF conducted a meeting with the Director General of the State Ministry of Social Welfare (SMoSW) on the current situation children and women. There is no exact figure or particular information regarding children issues and concerns at SMoSW. UNICEF and SMoSW will start preparations to conduct assessments by social workers in IDP locations in Ed Damazine and Rosaries localities, as other localities are difficult to access due to the current security problem.

UNICEF also met with the Sennar Council of Child Welfare (SCCW) and the FTR focal point and reported four cases of separated children due to the conflict. Families were traced and children reunited.

EDUCATION

According to the State Ministry of Education (SMOE), school attendance is poor. Various schools in Tadamon locality (Roro and Guli villages) are still being used as shelter by IDPs from Baw locality.

South Kordofan State

NON-FOOD ITEMS AND EMERGENCY SHELTER

SRCS is currently distributing food and NFIs to some 2,400 IDPs in Gibailat, Rashad locality. Distribution was completed to some 1,300 IDPs in the Tarawa area.

HEALTH

In response to the new IDP movement and the reported health services gaps in Rashad, WHO donated two basic kits to the State Ministry of Health (SMoH) and two basic health kits to SRCS to support health clinics serving IDPs. In addition, WHO donated 5 oxygen cylinders to Kadugli hospital to support the hospital in life saving procedures. WHO is also supporting SRCS to start its mobile clinic services in Rashad locality.

UNICEF donated three primary health kits to SMoH.

Due to inaccessibility, the Health Sector's main challenge in SK is the lack of implementing partners.

MINE RISK EDUCATION

Two MRE tasks were completed in South Kordofan state by SRCS and Jasmara.

IV. Contact

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