

This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 6-11 July 2011.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- The security situation in South Kordofan State remains unpredictable, with aerial bombing and gunfire reported again in the vicinity of the state capital, Kadugli town, on 11 July. Sporadic fighting was also reported in several locations in South Kordofan State during the last six days.

II. Situation Overview

Security situation

According to UNMIS and UN agencies in Kadugli, fighting has continued in several parts of South Kordofan State. Heavy aerial bombardment was reported near Delami, 100km north east of Kadugli, on 7 July. Aerial bombing was reported 15km south of Delami on 8 July, and 10 km south west of Dilling between 8 and 10 July. Sporadic gunfire has been reported near Kurungu and Talodi on several occasions, while the village of Kurchi was reportedly subjected to bombing every day from 6 to 9 July.

The situation in Kadugli town remains tense and unpredictable due to the significant military presence observed in and around the town. On 6 July, sporadic gunfire was reported west of Kadugli, in addition to bombing to the northwest. On 8 July, aerial bombing was conducted 15km west of Kadugli town. On 11 July, heavy bombing and gunfire was reported around Kadugli town, but at the time of writing there have been no reports of civilian casualties. Only two UNMIS flights were able to land in Kadugli during the reporting period.

Population movement

On 8 July the Government of Sudan's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) reported the arrival of more than 2,000 displaced people from Delami in Kurtala village in Habila locality. According to HAC, people moved due to the fighting that has taken place in the vicinity of Delami. HAC and the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) have dispatched a joint team to Kurtala to verify numbers and conduct a rapid assessment of needs. The mission is also expected to look into reports of 420 people previously reported in the same village, who are yet to receive assistance. UN agencies present in Kadugli town have requested permission to travel to Kurtala, but have so far been denied access by local authorities due to security concerns.

According to HAC estimates, the number of people in South Kordofan State that remain displaced has decreased significantly from the 73,000 believed to have been initially displaced by the fighting that first erupted on 5 June. We have received no information as to HAC's estimate of remaining displaced numbers. HAC attributes this decrease to the number of displaced who have returned to their homes after improvements in the security situation. UN agencies and other international humanitarian actors have not been able to verify this as they have not been allowed to travel to these areas.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Preliminary results of the intersectoral assessment undertaken in Kadugli town and led by HAC and line ministries, indicate that the most urgent humanitarian needs identified include food, water, medical services and shelter for displaced people.

After repeated attempts by WFP to get clearance for food trucks to proceed from El Obeid to the more than 3,000 displaced people in Kurtala, Abassiya, and Debibat failed, SRCS completed the distribution of one month of food rations to over 1,500 displaced people in Abassiya area on behalf of WFP.

Four WFP trucks travelling to Dilling were turned back to El Obeid by local authorities on security grounds. To date WFP, working through local partners, has assisted approximately 51,400 people affected by the conflict in South Kordofan State with emergency rations in both SAF and areas outside their control.

Humanitarian actors present in South Kordofan State have so far relied on prepositioned stocks to carry out limited activities in response to humanitarian needs in the state. These prepositioned stocks are running critically low, and need urgent replenishment as soon as access is granted for humanitarian actors.

Humanitarian actors report that additional funding is urgently required to maintain adequate levels of stocks for the emergency facing South Kordofan State. They report that key access roads and bridges need immediate repair, and mine clearance activities are also critical.

At the same time, UN aid agencies and international NGOs are being requested by government authorities to channel their assistance through national partners and local organisations. Although this practice has permitted delivery of assistance to some of the vulnerable populations, national and local partners are facing serious capacity constraints on the ground, which is limiting the overall relief efforts. In areas outside the control of the Government of Sudan, NGO and local partners who were present when fighting broke out on 5 June continue to respond to needs of vulnerable people with prepositioned stocks.

IV. Coordination

With the mandate of UNMIS having come to an end on 9 July, UN agencies present in Kadugli town have met to discuss a unified approach to the constraints on movement and access imposed by local authorities.

Intersector coordination meetings are being held in Khartoum for all agencies and NGOs that have a presence in South Kordofan State.

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