

HIGHLIGHTS

- More than 20,700 new IDPs have been verified by humanitarian organisations in parts of North Darfur State.
- A hospital operated by MSF in SPLM-N area in South Kordofan was bombed, with one MSF staff and one patient injured.
- An outbreak of measles, with close to 600 cases confirmed, has been reported in Kassala and Gedaref states, according to UNICEF.
- UNHCR says refugee influx from South Sudan continues and by 22 January the number had passed the 120,000 mark.

FIGURES

Displaced people in Sudan	3.1 million
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IDPs in Darfur (to date)	2.4 million
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GAM burden	2 million
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Refugees in Sudan (excluding S. Sudanese) (UNHCR)	168,000
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South Sudanese refugees in Sudan - since 15 Dec 2013 (UNHCR)	120,211
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FUNDING*

986 million
requested in 2014 (US\$)

54 %
reported funding

* The 2015 SRP will be launched soon



New IDPs in Argo camp in Tawila, North Darfur (OCHA)

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Close to 21,000 new IDPs verified in North Darfur

More people are fleeing their homes as a result of ongoing fighting between Government forces and armed movements in parts of Darfur. Humanitarian organisations have assessed and verified more than 20,700 new internally displaced persons (IDPs) in North Darfur State who fled their homes since December 2014. This figure is expected to increase further as reports received from Um Baru locality in North Darfur indicate a considerable increase in the number of new IDPs seeking shelter near the United Nations – African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) Um Baru base.

Agencies unable to access new IDPs in Jebel Marra

Moreover, aid agencies have received reports that many more people have been displaced in the northern parts of Jebel Marra, but have not been able to verify these reports due to access constraints and ongoing fighting in the area. Local authorities, humanitarian organisations and UNAMID in Nertiti town, Central Darfur State reported that some people from the surrounding villages of Baldong, Kenga, Kiwala and Kutrum were seen moving their valuables and property to Nertiti town. However, humanitarian organizations in Nertiti have not yet established the number of people that have so far moved in and/or where they have settled. There are also unconfirmed reports that some people are moving away from Nertiti to Zalingei town in Central Darfur and Kass and Nyala town in South Darfur. The inter-agency forum in Nertiti led by the Government of Sudan's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), has formed an assessment team to conduct regular monitoring and assessment of the situation on the ground.

Humanitarian response is ongoing in most locations that received new IDPs, except for North Jebel Marra locality (lack of access and conflict). In North Darfur, 20,700 verified new IDPs and another 2,900 unverified new IDPs received some form of assistance.

Conflict affecting IDPs' access to labour and income opportunities

The USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) said in its January Food Assistance Outlook Brief released on 22 January that while IDPs in Darfur are benefitting from declining cereal prices due to above-average harvests, intensified conflict has limited access to labour and other income generating opportunities. According to FEWS NET, conflict is expected to continue in Darfur and cause renewed displacement in the coming months, increasing emergency assistance needs.

About 60 per cent of new IDPs are children - UNICEF

On 19 January, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) expressed grave concern that children are increasingly becoming victims in the recent spike in conflict in areas around Jebel Marra in Central Darfur and North Darfur states. It is estimated that over 60 per cent of the verified new IDPs are children, according to UNICEF. UNICEF strongly urges all parties to the conflict in Sudan to stop the fighting, and guarantee at all times, the safety of all children. UNICEF also called for unhindered access to and prioritised investment in basic social services at all levels.

MSF hospital bombed in South Kordofan

A hospital operated by MSF in SPLM-N area in South Kordofan was bombed, with one MSF staff and one patient injured

A hospital run by the international medical humanitarian organisation Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) "was directly targeted in an aerial bombing in South Kordofan on 20 January, forcing the suspension of medical activities", MSF said.

The hospital, located in the Nuba Mountains village of Frandala in South Kordofan was bombed by the Sudanese Air Force (SAF), MSF said in a statement on 22 January. Repeated and targeted bombings in the region prevent the safe operation of medical activities, depriving the local population of lifesaving care, MSF said.

About 150 patients and staff were in the hospital when a SAF fighter jet dropped a cluster of 13 bombs, two of which landed inside the hospital compound, according to MSF. The others struck just outside the hospital fence. One MSF staff member and one patient were injured. The property also suffered damage, the aid group said.

On 23 January, the United Nations condemned the airstrike on the MSF hospital in Frandallah. "Targeting of medical facilities is a serious violation of customary humanitarian law," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric told the media. He added that the United Nations is asking all parties in the conflict to respect their obligations under humanitarian laws, "in particular in relation with the protection of civilians and to ensure safe and unhindered access to humanitarian organizations".

According to MSF, the Frandala hospital was previously bombed in June 2014. The agency noted that the attack took place despite the Sudanese government's knowledge of the hospital location and its activities, which had been previously communicated to them by MSF. One patient was killed in the attack and several others were wounded. The hospital also sustained significant damage. MSF publicly condemned the attack and demanded respect of medical facilities.



MSF hospital in Frandallah, South Kordofan (MSF)

Measles outbreak in Kassala and Gedaref

An outbreak of measles, with close to 600 cases confirmed, has been reported in Kassala and Gedaref states, according to UNICEF

UNICEF confirmed this week that an outbreak of measles has been registered in the Gedaref and Kassala states in eastern Sudan. By 15 January, twelve localities have been affected with 593 confirmed cases, the majority being children under five years. On 19 January, Ministry of Health at Federal and State levels, in collaboration with UNICEF, World Health Organization (WHO) and MSF launched a week-long vaccination campaign (between 19 - 24 January) to address the outbreak. One million children between the ages of 6 months - 15 years have been immunised against measles during the campaign.

According to WHO, measles is a highly contagious, serious disease caused by a virus. In 1980, before widespread vaccination, measles caused an estimated 2.6 million deaths each year. The disease remains one of the leading causes of death among young children globally, despite the availability of a safe and effective vaccine.

Over 120,000 South Sudanese refugees in Sudan

UNHCR says refugee influx from South Sudan continues and by 22 January the number had passed the 120,000 mark

UNHCR reports in its most recent update on South Sudanese refugees in Sudan that the influx from South Sudan continues and by 22 January the number had passed the 120,000 mark. The majority of new arrivals are entering Sudan from South Sudan's Upper Nile State via various border points, UNHCR said. Continuing clashes in Upper Nile and other neighbouring states of South Sudan are believed to be the main factor behind this ongoing influx, according to aid agencies.

Some 7,330 South Sudanese refugees have reportedly fled Darati area in Abu Jubeiha, South Kordofan and moved to Gedeid and Aleri as a result of the ongoing conflict between the SAF and Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N). According to UNHCR, there are 14,200 South Sudanese refugees registered in South Kordofan.

UNHCR also reports that the relocation of 500 refugee families (an estimated 2,500 people) to the new relocation sites of El Redis 2 and Dabat Bosin in White Nile State has been completed. Further relocations will continue as required to relieve the congestion of the existing sites.

Humanitarian actors continue to provide aid to South Sudanese refugees

On 17 January, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) distributed personal hygiene kits and sanitary items to women and girls in Jouri, Al Kashafa, El Redis and Al Alagaya relocation sites.

The international NGO Plan Sudan, in partnership with national NGO Eithar, has provided an estimated 2,000 refugees with 800 household water containers in El Redis 2 site this week. Preparations are underway to distribute supplies to all recently relocated new arrivals in the state.

Table: non-food and shelter assistance to refugees in White Nile State

Location	Families	Families assisted	Shelter gap
Al Kashafa	1,804	1,431	373
El Redis	3,071	1,389	1,652
Jouri	2,032	1,839	224
Al Alagaya	1,872	1,504	368
El Redis 2	740	740	-
Dabat Bosin	500	500	-
Total	10,019	7,403	2,166

Source: UNHCR

In Dabat Bosin relocation site, the national NGO Sub-Saharan International Development Organization (SIDO) has installed an additional six water bladders, which are fully functional. SIDO also distributed 3,300 pieces of soap to 1,650 refugee families (benefitting an estimated 8,250 people) in Al Alagaya and Dabat Bosin.

Raising funds to meet the needs of South Sudanese refugees remains one of the top challenges for UNHCR and its partners. By 31 December 2014, UNHCR received only 27 per cent of the funds required, while no funds have been received for 2015. UNHCR expects that the number of South Sudanese refugees in Sudan will reach 196,000 by the end of 2015. UNHCR needs \$152 million for its South Sudanese refugee operation in 2015.



Source: UNHCR

WFP cash voucher system in South Darfur

WFP and WVI are assisting about 57,500 IDPs in Otash camp, South Darfur through the Cash Voucher programme

In South Darfur, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the international NGO World Vision International (WVI) are currently assisting about 57,500 displaced people in Otash IDP camp through the Cash Voucher programme. WFP plans to extend the cash voucher programme to benefit some 21,000 displaced people in Dereige IDP camp in February and 53,800 displaced people in Kass IDP camp in April. WFP is currently in the process of contracting traders in Dereige and Kass IDP camps to become part of the programme. WFP anticipates recruiting about 100 traders by April to support the three camps.

The cash voucher programme was introduced to Sudan in January 2011. The system offers families a wide variety of food items that cater to local preferences. The vouchers also boost the local economy, helping to stimulate local markets by engaging traders who buy from local farmers and markets.



A woman exchanges her WFP voucher for food in an IDP camp in Darfur (UNAMID file photo)