

HIGHLIGHTS

- In West Darfur, unidentified gunmen ambush a health ministry vehicle, killing two.
- In Sudan, some 3.1 million children are out of school.
- In Kassala and Red Sea states, FAO targets 45,000 people with nutrition interventions.
- In South Darfur, two aid organizations serving communities in and around Deriege IDP camp have secured funding from WHO to resume operations until the end of 2015.
- In North Darfur, an estimated 9,000 returnees in Tawilla locality need humanitarian assistance.

FIGURES

Displaced people in Sudan (as of Dec 2014)	3.1 million
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Displaced people in Darfur (as of Dec 2014)	2.5 million
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(in 2015)	104,000
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GAM burden	2 million
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South Sudanese refugees in Sudan - since 15 Dec 2013 (UNHCR)	189,809
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Refugees of other nationalities (UNHCR)	175,250
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FUNDING

1.04 billion
requested in 2015 (US\$)

39%
reported funding



IDP children in class in North Darfur (UNAMID file photo, May 2014)

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W. Darfur: two killed in ambush on aid workers

On 8 September, unidentified gunmen ambushed a vehicle carrying State Ministry of Health and World Health Organization (WHO) representatives in West Darfur, killing a security official and the health ministry driver. The attack took place about 40kms from El Geneina in Kereinik locality as the aid workers were returning from a routine mission as part of an ongoing assessment throughout Darfur to ascertain whether guinea-worm disease (*dracunculiasis*) is still present in Sudan. WHO is currently carrying out random sampling at health facilities and in villages to assess the presence of the parasitic disease, with a view to certifying Sudan as dracunculiasis-free.

Kreinik locality hosts about 80,000 displaced people, in three main camps. It is one of the localities in West Darfur with the greatest humanitarian needs and many humanitarian organizations frequently travel to the area. Since January 2015, there have been 131 security incidents in Darfur that have affected humanitarian workers and peacekeepers, including abductions, armed attacks, car jackings and crime.

Sudan: 3.1 million children are out of school

Over 3.1 million of Sudan's 7.9 million school-aged children (between 5 and 13 years) in Sudan are out of school, which is the highest rate in the Middle East and North Africa, according to a report.

Sudan's first *Out-of-School Children Report*, released 10 September by the Ministry of Education, with the support of the UN Children's Agency (UNICEF) and the UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), outlined that the majority of the out-of-school children are from nomadic communities as well as rural and conflict-affected areas. In Sudan, ongoing violence, a lack of awareness regarding the importance of education, and economic under-development are seriously affecting the education of boys and girls, according to the report findings. The highest percentages of these out-of-school children are in Blue Nile (46.8 per cent), Kassala (45.1 per cent) and West Darfur (45.7 per cent) states. Northern State has the lowest rate of out-of-school children with 7.9 per cent.



A classroom in El Serief IDP camp, Nyala, South Darfur (UNAMID file photo, May 2014)

According to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS) funding for education programmes in the 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan is only 31 per cent covered

The study found that gender, traditional beliefs regarding the role of women and a mother's level of education affect children's school attendance. Girls are more likely to drop out of school than boys and children with absent or uneducated mothers are more likely to be out of school than those with educated mothers. In addition, the payment of school fees may deter some poor families from sending their children to school.

UNICEF calls for an end to conflict to ensure access to quality basic education for every girl and boy, increased public sector spending in the education sector and for sustained support from donors. UNICEF is supporting the government's back-to-school campaigns at the state, community and household levels to ensure the most vulnerable children are reached thanks to backing from donors such as the European Union (EU) and the Educate a Child (EAC) global program. UNICEF will also assist in school rehabilitation and construction, the provision of teaching, learning and recreation materials, and teacher training with a focus on individuals from rural communities. According to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS) funding for education programmes in the 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan is only 31 per cent covered.

SRF prepared to sign six-month ceasefire

The Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) is prepared to sign a six-month cessation of hostilities with the Government of Sudan for humanitarian purposes, according to a press statement released 15 September. The statement follows a meeting held in Paris from 9-14 September, during which SRF leadership discussed critical issues facing Sudan and sought to establish an alternative roadmap towards peace and a comprehensive National Constitutional Dialogue. The proposed cessation of hostilities agreement would apply throughout Blue Nile, Darfur and the Kordofan area for the purpose of protecting civilians, providing unhindered humanitarian assistance to people in need and creating a conducive environment for the peace process. In the statement, the SRF acknowledges the country's worsening humanitarian and security situations, particularly in Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan as well as Eastern Sudan.

The SRF is a coalition of armed opposition movements, including the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N), formed in 2011. A cessation of hostilities, if agreed to by the government and adhered to by both parties, could allow for delivery of humanitarian assistance to communities that have been largely inaccessible to humanitarian partners for up to and over four years.

FAO gets €600K to address malnutrition in east

UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) received a €600,000 grant from the Government of Italy for malnutrition interventions among rural families in Kassala and Red Sea states. This Integrated Food Security and Livelihoods Project will target 45,000 people from four localities in the two states (Telkok and Rural Aroma localities in Kassala state and Sinkat and Dordeb localities in Red Sea State), all of which have the highest rates of malnutrition in Sudan. The global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates in Kassala and Red Sea states are 15.2 and 20.2 per cent respectively, both of which exceed the emergency threshold of 15 per cent. The two states also have stunting levels classified as very high and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) classified as above the crisis level. In Red Sea State, nearly 30 per cent of mothers of children 0-5 years are under-nourished, according to FAO.

FAO's project will include activities designed to increase access to local food by improving agricultural and livestock production, which is an important strategy to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition for local families and communities. By supporting local families to grow their own food and produce healthy livestock, the project will provide families with 3 to 5 months of nutrient-rich foods and enable them to produce 60 per cent more meat and milk. The project will also help create income-generating opportunities by enabling families to sell surplus crops, milk and meat, giving them funds to meet their basic needs, thereby reducing local poverty and improving the health and wellbeing of families and the broader community.

FAO targets 45,000 people in Kassala and Red Sea states with nutrition interventions in an attempt to combat the high malnutrition rates in these two states

Malnutrition rates in Red Sea and Kassala states

	Stunting	Global acute malnutrition (GAM)	Severe acute malnutrition (SAM)
	Very High > 40%	Critical 15%	Crisis > 3%
Red Sea	45.5	20.2	8.5
Kassala	54.6	15.2	4.3

Source: UNICEF

Funding secured for health services in S. Darfur

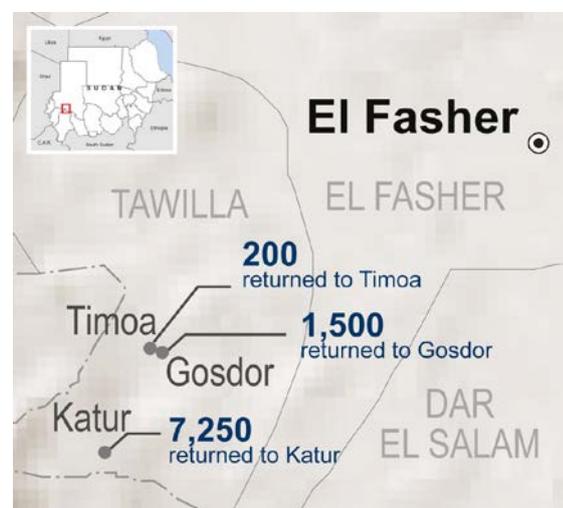
Two aid organizations serving communities in and around South Darfur's Deriege internally displaced persons (IDP) camp have secured funding from WHO to resume operations until the end of 2015. In late August 2015, the international NGO Patient Helping Fund (PHF) and national NGO National Initiative for Development Organization (NIDO) reported that funding shortfalls had forced them to suspend health operations in their respective clinics. PHF closed the reproductive health unit, which was the only still operational section of the primary health care centre (PHCC) PHF managed inside Deriege camp—home to some 36,000 displaced people. NIDO closed down the Sheik Musa Clinic, a PHCC located outside Deriege camp serving both the displaced people and the host community of an estimated 20,000 people. The funding from WHO will allow both organizations to continue services again from 1 October until the end of the year.

Funding shortfalls still affecting health services in areas of South Darfur

Rufieda Health Foundation (RHF) is another aid partner in South Darfur affected by funding constraints. The national organization operates health clinics in Um Dafog town and Otash IDP camp, however, funding for both will run out by 30 September. RHF is the only health provider in Um Dafog locality, providing services to an estimated 16,499 displaced people and returnees as well as over 78,000 people in the host community. RHF is one of three health providers serving Otash IDP camp, home to some 90,440 displaced people. RHF is working to secure additional funding from WHO to continue services in both clinics. Should additional funding not be secured, no other partner is available to take over health services in Um Dafog locality. In Otash camp, clinics operated by World Vision International (WVI) and the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) could absorb some of RHF's services.

Some 9,000 IDPs return home to Tawilla locality

An estimated 9,000 displaced people who have returned to their homes in North Darfur's Tawilla locality – mainly in the Katur area (7,250) and in Gosdor (1,500) and Timoa (200) villages in Mertal area – are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance, according to the findings of a recent inter-agency mission from 2-9 September. These people had taken refuge in IDP camps in Tawilla locality following fighting between government forces and armed groups earlier this year. Today they are in need of food, water, health, education as well as livelihood and agricultural assistance. These people have returned to cultivate their land and are willing to remain if the security situation improves, according to the community leaders. Aid workers are



According to aid organisations, in 2015 an estimated 50,300 displaced people have reportedly returned to their homes in East and North Darfur

developing a response plan to meet the needs of these returnees. The Katur area hosts about 29,000 people and aid organizations have not been able to access the area since 2011 due to insecurity.

According to aid organisations, in 2015 an estimated 50,300 displaced people have reportedly returned to their homes in East Darfur (25,000) and North Darfur (25,300), as of 31 August.

WFP pilots food-for-work on school farms in East Darfur

An estimated 1,230 families (about 6,000 people) will benefit from the food-for-work project in school farms in Shearia and Yassin localities, East Darfur

WFP and the national NGO National Initiative for Development Organization (NIDO) are implementing a pilot food-for-work project in school farms in East Darfur. Targeting six primary schools—three in Yassin locality and three in Shearia locality—the project aims to support the school-feeding programme and promoting community participation.

WFP is providing the food assistance while NIDO is responsible for the day-to-day management. The local community is providing 15 feddans (about 15.6 acres) for each school and assisting with labour and the provision of seeds, mainly sorghum and groundnut. In turn, WFP will provide the families participating in the programme with food through its food-for-work initiative. The direct beneficiaries of the project are the 4,402 students in the six schools (1,769 in Shearia and 2,633 in Yassin) while 1,230 families (about 6,000 people) will benefit from the food-for-work in the school farms.

Over 7,000 IDPs in North Darfur's Um Baru locality have access to improved water sources

An estimated 7,700 people displaced to the Abu Dam village in North Darfur's Um Baru locality recently received water and sanitation assistance from the international NGO Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI) with financial support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

These people were displaced from villages within the same locality due to conflict between government forces and armed groups that began in

January 2015. COOPI has rehabilitated the Abu Dam borehole, upgrading it to a mini-water yard that can provide the surrounding population with 15 litres of water per person per day, enough to meet SPHERE standards. The borehole, which is the sole source of water in the area, was previously dispensing unclean water contaminated with animal waste, often causing water-borne sickness among users. COOPI also constructed water points across the entire village, allowing easy access to the water supply, and conducted 90 hygiene awareness-raising campaigns to promote healthy water handling and hygienic practices.

IOM channelled support through its Rapid Response Fund (RRF), which is designed as a fast-acting funding mechanism to swiftly respond to the critical needs of vulnerable newly displaced people. The RRF is supported by the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA).



IDPs lining up to collect water in Um Baru locality before COOPI's intervention. (UNAMID, Jan 2015)

The new mini-water yard in Abu Dam village will provide residents with 15 litres of water per person per day, meeting SPHERE standards