

This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 22-24 June 2011. The next report will be issued on 28 June 2011.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Continued air strikes and artillery shelling by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) particularly in the eastern and southern parts of the Nuba mountains have reportedly resulted in civilian casualties.
- Humanitarian partners are still unable to freely access the civilian population in Kadugli, including the 7,000 people who were instructed by local authorities to return to the town
- Four of the six UNMIS national staff detained by local authorities in Kadugli airport on 22 June are still being held
- 137 southern Sudanese returnees who had been stranded in Kadugli were transported on 23 June to El Obeid and arrangements are being made for their onward transportation to southern Sudan
- WFP has distributed food, through local partners, to 42,000 vulnerable people

II. Situation Overview

Security situation

Sporadic air strikes and artillery shelling in South Kordofan State have continued during the reporting period, particularly around the eastern and southern parts of the Nuba Mountains. According to partners on the ground one woman was killed and four others, including two children, were wounded in an aerial attack on Kauda on 22 June. Several rockets landed near the Kauda UNMIS Team Site on 24 June. Due to the ongoing restrictions on movements of humanitarian staff, it is difficult to verify reports or properly assess the overall impact of the ongoing military operations on civilians..

Kadugli Airport has been open for UNMIS operations since 22 June with prior clearance from SAF. The population of Kadugli town continues to return slowly. Reportedly, some of the local market is open and some public transportation has resumed along the main road to El Obeid.

On 22 June, six UNMIS staff were arrested at the Kadugli Airport as they were trying to board an UNMIS flight to Wau in southern Sudan. On 24 June, two of the detained staff members were released. Access has been denied to the remaining four staff members. UNMIS continues to request access to those being held and requests their immediate release by the Sudanese authorities.

The WFP food aid convoy that departed El Obeid in North Kordofan on 19 June has moved from Abu Gebaiha area (located approximately 200 km from Talodi) to Talodi after being granted clearance by security authorities. , An estimated 11,000 displaced people are located in Talodi.

Population movement

According to figures from the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS), the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) and UN agencies in Kadugli, at least 73,000 people have been displaced throughout central and eastern localities of the South Kordofan State as a result of fighting.

In Kadugli, humanitarian agencies still do not have freedom of movement to access the affected population. 7,000 people who had been sheltering outside the UNMIS base were instructed by local authorities to return to the town, Access to this group for monitoring and assessment of needs continues to be denied, despite clear indications that authorities used coercion to expedite returns. . Local authorities including the HAC have signalled that the creation of displacement camps would not be accepted in South Kordofan State.

On 23 June, the 137 southern Sudanese returnees, previously outside the UNMIS compound in Kadugli, travelled to El Obeid in a convoy organised by UNHCR, HAC, SRCS and the Voluntary Return and Reintegration Committee (VRRRC). Despite a police escort one returnee was taken into custody by security officials at the first checkpoint, near Kadugli airport, who claimed he was from Darfur. He was released on 24 June and rejoined the returnees in El Obeid.

It was initially agreed that the returnees would be permitted to stay in El Obeid while they awaited onward UNHAS flights to southern Sudan. However, when approaching El Obeid, the convoy was rerouted by authorities to an open space outside the city where SRCS provided food, water, blankets and plastic sheeting.

On 25 June, scheduled UNHAS flights for the returnees from El Obeid to Juba and from El Obeid to Wau were postponed to 26 June due to logistical constraints and clearance procedures.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

WFP continues to prioritize life-saving activities in South Kordofan State, while distributions are targeting locations expected to be inaccessible when the rains start. As of 24 June, WFP's local partners distributed food to some 42,100 people affected by the conflict, having reached an additional 8,500 IDPs in the Abu Korshola area.

UNICEF provided essential drugs to the health center in El Kweik, benefiting 2,700 displaced people. In Heiban and Kauda, two Primary Health Care (PHC) and two Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) kits were distributed to the clinics in the area. To date, UNICEF has supported mobile clinics operated by the Ministry of Health with the supply of essential drugs for 40,000 people.

Since the beginning of the crisis UNICEF, with the support of SRCS and local partners, has supplied nearly 17,000 people with non-food items such as blankets, sleeping mats, plastic sheeting and soap. A total of 19 recreation kits have been distributed in Kadugli, Kauda, Heiban and Talodi.

IV. Coordination

On 22 June, the Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Georg Charpentier, visited Kadugli. This was the first flight to Kadugli since 9 June. The Humanitarian Coordinator met with the Governor of South Kordofan to express concern about the humanitarian situation, to stress the responsibility of the government in ensuring the protection of civilians, and to request access for humanitarian staff, including access to those displaced people who had recently returned to the town from the vicinity of the UNMIS base. The Governor said that the policy was for the bulk of the humanitarian assistance to be channelled through local NGOs such as the SRCS, but agreed that humanitarian agencies would be provided access to oversee and participate in the response.

Two humanitarian coordination meetings are held daily at the UNMIS compound in Kadugli for planning and response purposes.

WHO has initiated a daily Health Sector meeting, which is attended by UNICEF, OCHA, SRCS and Pan Core. Meetings are conducted in the UNMIS compound in Kadugli, due to the continued restrictions on staff movements in Kadugli town.

Inter-sectoral coordination meetings are also taking place in Khartoum three times a week.

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