HIGHLIGHTS

Due to unilateral ceasefires by the Government of Sudan and most armed groups, there has been significantly less conflict related displacement in Darfur during the first nine months of 2017 than during the same period in previous years. A reduction in inter-communal tensions and related displacement in the area has also been observed. About 8,200 people were newly displaced across Darfur this year, according to the UN and partners. An additional estimated 4,000 people were also reportedly displaced, but the UN and partners have not yet verified these figures. A lack of basic services and infrastructure in addition to insecurity in some areas continues to prevent the return of displaced people to their areas of origin. In many areas access has improved following the introduction of new directives for humanitarian action in December 2016, with new areas becoming accessible in the Jebel Marra area. However, the implementation of the directives remains inconsistent across states.

Meanwhile, about 84,000 South Sudanese refugees arrived in East, North and South Darfur between January and 15 September 2017, bringing their total number in the region since December 2013 to about 150,000 people, according to UNHCR. According to the 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview, about 3 million people are currently in need of humanitarian assistance in Darfur.