

Key Points

- People in South Kordofan State continue to be affected by ongoing fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and forces of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N). The humanitarian community in Sudan are concerned about reports of declining food security and growing health concerns in SPLM-N held areas.
- According to media reports on 25 December, fighting between SAF and the armed Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) in the west of Northern Kordofan State have reportedly resulted in the leader of JEM being killed.
- Due to government reports of large convoys of non-state armed actors moving through South Darfur to South Sudan and to North Kordofan, humanitarian actors have limited their movements in some areas, particularly along the Nyala – Ed Daein road and in Bahr el Arab area in the state's southwest.
- The Ministry of Agriculture reports that the agricultural harvest in Blue Nile State will be roughly 60% of normal yields due to fighting.
- On 19 December, 11 barges departed from Kosti in Sudan to Juba, South Sudan, carrying 2,822 people.

1. South Kordofan State

People in South Kordofan State continue to be affected by ongoing fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and forces of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N). According to UNICEF, approximately 200 people have been displaced by fighting from the villages of Heiban, Masakeen Towal and Kurungu in El Buram locality have arrived in the state capital, Kadugli. An additional 75 people have been displaced from the villages of Warni and Angarto to Abu Gebeiha town.

In Government-held areas, UN agencies and international NGOs are able to work through local staff to provide limited assistance, but assistance delivery and the ability to conduct needs assessments is constrained by government movement restrictions and insecurity. The ability of international staff to access the state of South Kordofan and the delivery of cross-line humanitarian assistance into SPLM-N held areas has been severely limited. All assistance that was pre-positioned prior to the conflict in areas now held by SPLM-N has been exhausted. Some NGOs that were operating prior to the conflict in areas now held by SPLM-N forces continue to undertake limited needs assessments. The humanitarian community in Sudan are concerned about reports of declining food



Map Source: OCHA

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created on 25 Dec 2011.

security and growing health concerns in these areas.

National UN staff working in the Muglad area were asked by the Government to return to Khartoum but, upon reaching Babanoosa en route to Khartoum, were informed by government officials that they did not have permission to undertake any further travel. As of 25 December, UN staff remain stuck in Babanoosa.

According to the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS), approximately 1,575 people were also displaced by tribal clashes between two Misseriya clans south of Abuzabad, in the corridor between Lagawa and El Salam localities, have relocated to the villages of Drongas and Elrigaiga villages in Lagawa locality.

The Ministry of Social Development and the State Council of Child Welfare is operating ten family tracing and reunification teams with UNICEF support. Over the last week, the teams located 79 unaccompanied children living on the streets of Kadugli, Muglad, Mayram, Debab, Babanosa and Dilling. The teams conducted 248 family visits, provided 78 family reunification packages and assisted 118 children through referral to schools and medical care.

2. Blue Nile State

According to reports received by the UN, the security situation in the majority of Blue Nile State is improving, with no significant fighting occurring during the reporting period. Commercial traffic movements in the southeast of the state now extend to the town of Bau, with the west accessible to Buk town in Tadamon locality. Traffic movements south of Bau and Buk are constrained by the presence of land mines according to humanitarian actors on the ground. UN agencies and international NGOs continue to face movement restrictions outside of Ed Damazin town, however, and international staff have still not been permitted to work in the state.

UN agencies report that over 15,500 people remain displaced within the state due to the conflict. According to reports received by the UN, there are 3,565 displaced people living in Diriang and 2,220 displaced people in Dindiro in Bau locality. In Kurmuk locality, there are 1,850 displaced people in Salli, 675 people in Doya, and 5,160 displaced people living in Kurmuk town. Geissan town is hosting 2,215 displaced people. It was also reported that small numbers of people who sought refuge during the conflict in Ethiopia have returned to Sudan and re-settled in Kurmuk and Geissan. Due to movement restrictions, these refugee returns cannot be verified. According to UNHCR, there are approximately 37,000 Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia, of whom 23,000 are living in the Sherkole and Tongo refugee camps and the Ad-Damazin transit centre. Approximately 14,000 refugees are living near the border with host communities.

According to the World Food Programme (WFP), no scarcity in the supply of sorghum and millet, the main staple foods, has been reported in Ed Damazin, Roseiris, Geissan and Tadamon localities. Given movement restrictions on the road from Ed Damazin to Kurmuk town, however, the market prices for staple commodities in the south of the state are high. The Ministry of Agriculture reports that the agricultural harvest in the state will be roughly 60% of normal yields due to fighting. The agricultural season itself, however, is considered good in terms of rainfall and production. The localities of Ed Damazine, Tadamon, Roseiris and part of Bau locality are expected to yield good harvests.

Last week, the World Health Organization (WHO) sent response teams to Kurmuk and Bau localities, visiting 10,280 people, of whom 50 percent were displaced. According to WHO, the availability of stable basic services such as safe water, sanitation facilities, nutrition services remains a challenge and cases of malnutrition were observed. Malaria remains the leading cause of morbidity reported in health facilities under surveillance, representing 24.3 percent of all reported diseases.

3. Abyei

Over 110,000 people remain displaced from the Abyei Area, the majority now living in Agok town in the south of the Abyei Area as well as Warrap and Unity States in South Sudan. According to UNHCR, the humanitarian

situation in these areas remains relatively stable and, although the living conditions for those displaced are challenging, most basic needs are being met.

Some families are moving from South Sudan up to the Agok area, south of the Bahr el Arab / Kiir River. Some individuals continue to explore conditions north of the river, however the majority of these visits are temporary.

The use of Agok as a transit or staging area for exploratory return movements north of the river is placing increased strain on community resources as the population in Agok increases. However, food security has improved in the last week following WFP's distribution of 79 metric tons of food. More permanent returns north of the Bahr el Arab / Kiir River are precluded by the continued presence of both SPLA and SAF troops in the area and general insecurity.

Misseriya pastoralists are reportedly moving their cattle southward from the north of the Abyei Area, with some cattle having reached the area of Abyei town. No pastoralists have yet been seen in South Sudan, where local government officials in Twic County, Warrap State, have said that they have not been approached by Misseriya leaders to determine agreeable migration corridors. They, however, continue to state their openness to seasonal cattle migration, as long as those migrating are unarmed.

4. Sudan – South Sudan population movements

On 19 December, 11 barges departed from Kosti to Juba, South Sudan, carrying 2,822 people. A medical team consisting of one doctor, two medical assistants, two nurses, one midwife and four social workers travelled with the barge. The 11 barges consist of eight luggage barges and three double-decker passenger barges. The barges are expected to arrive in Juba on 4 January.

Following the barge departure, a meeting was held between IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RCC) of South Sudan to discuss future plans. The RCC committed to providing trucks (for luggage) to support future train movements to Wau and Aweil.

Meanwhile, on 22 December, an International Organization for Migration (IOM) organised flight carrying returnees departed Khartoum for Juba with 113 passengers. Of these, 65 were extremely vulnerable individuals from the Kosti way-station and 48 were South Sudanese who had been evacuated from Libya to Khartoum earlier in the year. An IOM doctor accompanied these returnees.

5. Darfur

According to humanitarian partners on the ground, South Darfur has experienced heightened insecurity over the last week. Due to government reports of large convoys of non-state armed actors moving through South Darfur to South Sudan and to North Kordofan, humanitarian actors have limited their movements in some areas, particularly along the Nyala – Ed Daein road and in Bahr el Arab area in the state's southwest.

According to state and UN security sources, a military build up is occurring on both sides of the border between South Darfur and South Sudan's Northern Bahr el Ghazal state near the Bahr el Arab/Kiir River; an area that serves as an important crossing point for Misseriya and Reisegat migratory groups. During the last two years, this has been the only place in which migrations have been agreed upon and peacefully implemented.

According to media reports on 25 December, fighting between SAF and the armed Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) in the west of Northern Kordofan State have reportedly resulted in the leader of JEM being killed. Humanitarian actors in South Darfur have received no information on any civilian casualties or displacement caused by this fighting, as all humanitarian movements to the Abu-Karinka locality that borders Northern Kordofan have been temporarily suspended due to insecurity. On 24 December, the South Darfur state government reported that members of the JEM attacked Esharaya village, 65 kms west of Ed Daein. According to the community leaders in Esharaya, one police officer was killed and food and fuel were stolen.

Food distributions in Kalma camp, near South Darfur's capital Nyala, remain suspended until a verification of the distribution lists can be undertaken. Although the camp's sheikhs continue to refuse any verification exercise, WFP is continuing to negotiate a solution.

WHO reported 132 cases of diphtheria in North Darfur. Twelve of these cases have been confirmed. The Ministry of Health and WHO are beginning a diphtheria vaccination campaign throughout North Darfur, targeting people most vulnerable to the disease.

Displaced people from Hassahissa camp in Zalingei, West Darfur, have formed a peace and reconciliation committee with local pastoralist groups in order to resolve tensions between these two communities. Since the creation of this committee in October 2011, no security incidents were reported in Hassahissa camp.