

## Key Points

- Fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) continues in parts of South Kordofan and Blue Nile, displacing more civilians.
- The estimated number of Sudanese refugees in South Sudan and Ethiopia reaches some 140,000 people.
- An airstrike by the SAF in South Sudan is reported to have hit a transit site where Sudanese refugees were sheltering, injuring one boy.
- Spontaneous returns to parts of the Abyei area north of the Bahr el Arab/Kiir River continue.
- IDP and refugee returns continue in various parts of Darfur.
- In Nyala, South Darfur, a UNAMID flight engineer who was abducted by armed men, was subsequently released.

### 1. South Kordofan & Blue Nile

#### Fighting and displacement

Armed clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) continued during the reporting period in parts of South Kordofan and Blue Nile States. On 28 January 2012, humanitarian organisations reported that SPLM-N forces took control of 10 villages in the El Abbasiya area of South Kordofan (Kody Ali, Gardod Alzibil, Kunjurkum, Kadorbat, Mahala, Mundaraya, Karmogiya, Gardod Albasha, Jabal Ahmer, Gardod Godig). An estimated 12,000 people fled these villages to areas northwest of El Abbasiya town. In addition, an estimated 18,000 people fled El Abbasiya town (approximately 95 per cent of the town's population). Many of those displaced from the town have sheltered in schools in Totah and Wad Elhadig villages, while others reached Um Ruwaba town in North Kordofan. Some displaced families from El Abbasiya were also observed heading towards Kosti and Khartoum. Humanitarian organisations have reported that displacement is continuing following the build-up of SAF troops in the area, with armed clashes between the SAF and SPLM-N expected to take place any time.

Meanwhile, the Government of Sudan's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) reported that 96 people from Elganaya and Angola (Boram locality) moved to Kharasana, Kailak locality. Another 1,250 people were displaced from Fangu, Kau and Njaro to Elsahl area in Abu Jubaiha locality. The Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) reported that some 330 people were displaced to Kadugli town from Torogi, Tesse, Elganaya, Angola, Elhadra and Balanja areas in Boram locality. At the same time, HAC reported the return of 1,852 people to Torogi.

According to reports received by the UN, on 23 January 2012 in Blue Nile State aerial bombing was reported in the area of Ullu in Bau locality close to the South Sudanese border. Ullu is about 180 km southwest of Ed Damazine, the Blue Nile State capital, and 70 km west of Kurmuk town and is considered a strategic entry point from South Sudan into Blue Nile. No civilian casualties have been reported.

#### Airstrikes in Elfoj, South Sudan

On 23 January 2012, aerial bombing was reported in a border area in South Sudan's Upper Nile State, where thousands of Sudanese refugees had sought shelter. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) condemned the bombing and reported that two airstrikes in Elfoj left at least one Sudanese boy injured. According to UNCHR, bombs fell at a refugee transit site (10km from the Sudanese border) forcing refugees and humanitarian staff to scatter. UNHCR reported that following the incident 14 refugees are still missing. At the time of the bombing UNHCR and IOM staff were supervising the relocation of some 5,000 refugees to a safer location 70 km from the border. After the bombings, agency staff rapidly mobilised the refugees and a convoy left with 1,140 people on board. Since the start of relocation operations on 6 January 2012, some 11,500 refugees have been assisted by humanitarian organisations to relocate from Elfoj, while some 4,000 others refugees have relocated spontaneously.

## SUDAN



*The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.*

### More Sudanese refugees in South Sudan and Ethiopia

The on-going fighting between the SAF and SPLM-N in South Kordofan and Blue Nile continues to send more Sudanese refugees across the border into South Sudan and Ethiopia. UNHCR reports that the number of Sudanese refugees in South Sudan has reached 101,111 people. The number of Sudanese refugees who are seeking refuge in camps in Ethiopia currently stands at some 24,600 people, with an estimated 10,000-15,000 others hosted by communities along the Sudanese-Ethiopian border, according to UNHCR. In total, some 140,000 Sudanese refugees have fled to South Sudan and Ethiopia since June 2011.

The largest group of Sudanese refugees - some 74,000 people mainly from Blue Nile State - are in South Sudan's Upper Nile State. Some 24,000 Sudanese refugees from Blue Nile have since the beginning of 2012 arrived in South Sudan, indicating that 28 per cent of all Sudanese refugees in South Sudan arrived in January 2012. The UN and humanitarian organisations continue to provide relief assistance to the refugees in South Sudan and Ethiopia.

### Humanitarian response

HAC announced that a rapid needs assessment will be conducted in Government-controlled areas in South Kordofan. Although a number of UN agencies are expected to participate through national staff in the mission, no national or international NGOs are reportedly taking part. Field visits for data collection will take place between 29 January – 7 February 2012, with the outcomes of the assessment to be released on 9 February 2012.

UNICEF provided SRCS in South Kordofan with essential drugs to provide basic health care to displaced people in Rashad and Talodi localities. Some 24,000 displaced people will benefit from these supplies for two months. UNICEF also provided the State Ministry of Health (SMoH) with essential drugs to support basic health care services to displaced and other conflict-affected populations in Kadugli.

In Blue Nile, the SRCS continues to provide health services in Kurmuk locality. In Blunge area, SRCS medical teams provided consultations and medicines to over 175 patients. In addition, SRCS mobile clinics have provided health services and drugs to some 300 patients in the Al Khily and Sale areas.

## 2. Abyei

### Spontaneous returns

According to the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and humanitarian organisations, no large-scale return of people displaced from Abyei town and surrounding areas have been reported, but spontaneous returns or visits to homes in areas north of the Bahr el Arab/Kiir River have continued.

UNISFA reports the movements of displaced people to a number of villages, including Mijak, Leu, Mabok, Mading Achueng, Malual Aleu, Awolnom and Marial Achak. On 29 January 2012, UNISFA reported that about 572 people returned to Wunruok village (about 3.5 km southwest of Abyei town). UNISFA also reported that they were assisting the returnees with water supplies and general security.

While welcoming returns as a sustainable solution, humanitarian organisations operating in parts of Abyei area have highlighted that returns should be voluntary, dignified and take place with safety and security of returnees ensured. The continued presence of SAF and the risk of landmines remain a concern for those wishing to return. UNHCR reported that under no circumstances should people displaced from the Abyei area be encouraged to access areas that have not been cleared by UNMAS.

### Risk of landmines

On 23 and 28 January 2012, two landmine incidents affecting livestock were reported in Tajalei. The ongoing mine action operations in the Tajalei area have identified some anti-personal mines in the area. According to UNMAS and the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) Tajalei remains a no-go area for humanitarian organisations because of the presence of Unexploded Ordnances (UXOs), anti-personnel and anti-tank mines. The authorities in Agok have been advised of the dangers of considering Tajalei as an area of return before mine clearance. Meanwhile, the UNMAS team continues the demining of Banton - Rumameer road to allow humanitarian access. Authorities in Agok have also been advised to relay the information on mine risk in certain areas to the displaced and potential returnees.

### Humanitarian response

Between 20 and 26 January, 21,311 people displaced from Abyei received one month's worth of food rations, according to the UN. The distribution of high energy nutritional food for children under five years continues in the Agok area, with 1,600 assisted so far. WFP plans to undertake a blanket food distribution for some 105,000 people displaced from Abyei town and surrounding areas, of whom about 50,000 people are registered in Agok and surroundings with the remainder being supported in different locations in South Sudan.

UNICEF continues to support water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities to ensure that people displaced from Abyei and host communities have access to clean water and proper sanitation. Activities include the drilling of boreholes, the rehabilitation of hand pumps and the construction of latrines.

## 3. Returns to South Sudan

The return of people of South Sudanese origin from Sudan to South Sudan continues and the total number of people who have returned since October 2010 stands at a little over 363,000 people, according to IOM.

### IOM flights to South Sudan

IOM has conducted over the past week flight operations for extremely vulnerable people of South Sudanese origin who have been stranded in Khartoum and the Kosti way-station. In total, 312 extremely vulnerable persons have been transported to Juba, Wau and Aweil on 11 flights. Passengers arrived safely and received some relief supplies upon arrival. The group includes the elderly, people with disabilities, pregnant women and those with

serious medical conditions. Nine unaccompanied and separated minors were also included in the airlift to be reunified with their families in South Sudan.

### **Funding for return movements**

The Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) allocations have been finalised and the returns and reintegration sector will receive US\$4,377,793 in 2012 (out of a total request of US \$5.1 million). The projects selected for funding will provide humanitarian assistance to returnees stranded at the Kosti way-station as well as providing basic services and transportation, and humanitarian assistance to stranded returnees in Khartoum open areas. The CHF funding will also assist some communities who returned to Sudan from South Sudan in 2011 and who have settled in Jabalein and Al Salam localities in White Nile State with reintegration support.

### **Kosti**

There are now nearly 11,000 returnees at the Kosti way-station awaiting assistance to complete their journey to South Sudan. With the CHF allocations, IOM will transport at least 7,000 returnees from Kosti to South Sudan. This will help to ease the pressure on humanitarian organisations at the way-station as up to 100 returnees continue to arrive at the way-station daily, according to IOM. With the transition period for people of South Sudanese origin living in Sudan to either move to South Sudan or regularise their stay in Sudan ending on 8 April 2012, it is expected to see increased daily arrivals at Kosti.

IOM also reports that WFP will resume food distributions for all returnees at the Kosti way-station on 29 January 2012 with the provision of two-week food rations. WFP will also look into providing supplementary food rations for vulnerable groups.

## **4. Darfur**

### **Demonstrations in South Darfur**

Following the establishment of Central Darfur State and East Darfur State and the appointment of new governors, public protests took place in Nyala, South Darfur. On 24 January 2012, a public event organised by the authorities to welcome the new Wali of South Darfur State was disrupted when demonstrations supporting the previous Wali, Abdel Hameed Kasha, took to the streets. In response, security forces were deployed and on 26 January 2012, the new Wali ordered that schools and the University of Nyala be closed for a week after a group of demonstrators attacked his headquarters. There have been reports of property damage and the burning of local markets. A UNAMID convoy was also attacked by a group of youths. No injuries were reported but there were minor damages to vehicles. Also on 26 January 2012, a UNAMID flight engineer was abducted at gunpoint near his guesthouse. Government security forces were able to rescue the engineer on the same day, but the perpetrators escaped. Reports from the Nyala hospital indicate that three people were killed and over 40 sustained injuries during the demonstrations. The situation is reported to be calm at present with heavy presence of security forces in Nyala.

### **Returns**

Between October – December 2011, HAC reports that some 4,000 people returned from South Darfur to Siref Jebel in North Darfur, (17km east of Kutum). Humanitarian actors stressed to HAC the importance of line ministries' participation in all levels of return response and planning.

UNHCR reported the return of 1,147 people between July – December 2011 to the localities of El Waha, Tawilla, Tine, Kornoi and Kalimindo in North Darfur. Of the total number of returnees, 896 were internally displaced and 251 were refugees who returned from Chad.

UNHCR conducted a returns verification mission to Hashaba Dadi village in West Darfur. Findings showed that the 4,340 returnees in Hashaba Dadi are mainly members of the Misseriya tribe who were displaced to Zalingei and Nyagadulo, Central Darfur, in 2003 and decided to return to the village following conflict between the Abala and Baggara tribes in 2010. The most critical need of these people is water, as all existing water facilities were destroyed in the conflict in 2003. HAC will contact the State Water Corporation (SWC) to conduct an assessment on water availability in the area prior to an inter-agency assessment mission.

Meanwhile, the construction of shelters for some 4,700 returnees in Terbeba (40 km southwest of El Geneina, West Darfur) by the NNGO Community Development Foundation (CDF) has been delayed due to land ownership claims by some refugees in Chad. The native administration and the local executive authorities will meet to look for an alternative site to resettle the returnees. The returnees are reportedly originally from villages close to Terbeba. Once the land dispute is solved, CDF and NNGO Al Masar will continue the shelter and relief supplies programmes as contracted to by the INGO Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

#### **INGO Terre des Hommes to suspended activities in three IDP Camps in West Darfur**

On 26 January 2012, HAC requested the INGO Terre des Hommes (TDH) to suspend its activities in Ardamata, Dorti and Riyadh IDP camps in West Darfur citing security concerns. Discussions will be held with HAC and concerned partners to agree on the way forward.

#### **Insecurity in Al Salaam and Abu Shouk IDP camps, North Darfur**

Camp leaders in Al Salaam and Abu Shouk IDP camps, North Darfur, have been reporting an increase of criminal incidents, including theft, harassment, and armed robbery inside the camps. Community leaders have urged UNAMID to take a more active role in improving security inside the camps.

#### **Beleil IDP Camp, South Darfur, accepts re-verification exercise**

According to the NNGO Sudanese Popular Committee for Relief (SPCR), sheikhs from Beleil IDP camp, South Darfur, have accepted the WFP re-verification exercise. Beleil is one of the two camps in Nyala that opposed the exercise and food and other relief supplies have not been distributed in the camp since October 2011. Kalma IDP camp leaders have still not accepted the re-verification exercise.

#### **New cases of suspected diphtheria reported in North Darfur**

The international NGO Mercy Malaysia has reported 13 suspected diphtheria cases in their clinic in Zamzam IDP camp during the last two weeks. All samples have been sent for laboratory testing. In response to the outbreak, the Kuwaiti Patient Helping Fund (KPHF), in collaboration with the SMOH, started a month long awareness campaign on diphtheria targeting Abu Shouk, Al Salaam, Zamzam IDP camps, and El Fasher town.

#### **Health clinic in East Jebel Marra, West Darfur, to re-open**

The INGO Partner Aid International (PAI) plans to reopen its clinic in Goz Dor, southwest of Tawila in the East Jebel Marra area, which had been closed in February 2010 due to security concerns following clashes between some armed movements in the area. The security situation is stable and the INGO is sending staff to resume health services in the clinic.