SUDAN & SOUTH SUDAN SIGN LANDMARK AGREEMENTS

On 27 September, the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan signed a number of economic, trade and security related agreements in Addis Ababa. These agreements allow for the resumption of oil exports from South Sudan, bringing much needed revenue to both Governments, and they include the establishment of a demilitarised border zone and a cessation of hostilities between the two countries. Despite the range of agreements signed in Addis Ababa, further negotiation is still needed to resolve the dispute over the Abyei area and to agree on the precise location of the border.

Agreement on ‘four freedoms’

Among the nine agreements signed by Sudan and South Sudan, the ‘four freedoms’ agreement is a milestone development for tens of thousands of South Sudanese remaining in Sudan. Following the secession of South Sudan in July 2011, people of South Sudanese origin remaining in Sudan were given nine months to either regularise their status or return to South Sudan.

The ‘four freedoms’ agreement, initialled in April and finally signed in late September, grants South Sudanese in Sudan and Sudanese in South Sudan the freedom to reside, move, acquire and dispose of property, and to undertake economic activities in both States. The agreement is expected to boost positive interaction and to build social and economic ties that will enhance relations between the two States. The implementation of the agreement will be overseen by a Joint High Level Committee, to be co-chaired by the Ministers of Internal Affairs in each State. The agreement will become effective after it is ratified by the parliaments of Sudan and South Sudan.

HIGHLIGHTS IN THE 3RD QUARTER

- Conflict in South Kordofan and Blue Nile continued to affect civilians and there are now over 211,000 Sudanese refugees in camps in South Sudan and Ethiopia.
- In early August, the Government and SPLM-N signed, separately, agreements with the Tripartite initiative on delivering relief aid to all conflict-affected people in South Kordofan and Blue Nile, but by the end of September no aid had been delivered under this initiative.
- Between June and September, more than 240,000 people were affected by heavy rains and flash flooding across Sudan.
- In early August, all residents of the Kassab IDP camp in North Darfur fled following inter-tribal violence. Most returned to the camp within one month, after security was restored.
- Sudan and South Sudan signed the ‘four freedoms’ agreement in September, which enables nationals of each State to be able to reside, move, buy property and undertake economic activities in the other country.
FIGHTING CONTINUES IN S. KORDOFAN & BLUE NILE

Fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) forces continued to affect civilians in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states. Refugees from the two states continued to flee to neighbouring South Sudan and Ethiopia, with the number of those fleeing to South Sudan increasing sharply towards the end of the third quarter.

More displaced people in Kadugli town
In mid-August, fighting between the SAF and SPLM-N forces near El Moreib village in the Al Abbasiya locality in South Kordofan led to the displacement of over 10,000 people, according to the Government’s Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC). Many of these people have fled to other locations within the Al Abbasiya locality and to the neighbouring Rashad locality. HAC, in collaboration with the SRCS and local communities, reported that it distributed Government-supplied food assistance to some 7,800 displaced people in early September.

More refugees flee to South Sudan and Ethiopia
By the end of September, some 211,000 Sudanese refugees from Blue Nile and South Kordofan were in camps in South Sudan and Ethiopia, according to UNHCR. With the end of the rainy season, there has been a sharp increase in the number of new refugees fleeing from South Kordofan to South Sudan.

UNHCR reported that between 10 and 12 September, more than 500 people crossed the border from South Kordofan and made their way to Yida camp in South Sudan’s Unity State – up from an average of 70 people per day in late August.

UNHCR reported that, as of 26 September, more than 173,000 Sudanese refugees from Blue Nile and South Kordofan were sheltered in camps in South Sudan. This includes some 107,000 refugees, mainly from Blue Nile, in camps in Upper Nile State and some 66,000 refugees (mainly from South Kordofan) in camps in Unity State.

In Ethiopia, UNHCR reports that there are currently some 38,000 refugees, mainly from Blue Nile State, in the Assosa region. UNHCR in Ethiopia is preparing for new arrivals of Sudanese refugees with the rainy season ending. Between September and December 2011, Ethiopia received 20,000 Sudanese refugees and a similar surge could occur as the rainy season ends and if fighting between the SAF and SPLM-N forces in Blue Nile continues, according to UNHCR.

Triple still waiting for green light
In South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, humanitarian organisations have been negotiating intensively for access to all conflict-affected civilians since the fighting began in June 2011. In Government-controlled areas, a significant amount of assistance has been provided by the Government and national institutions, with support from international humanitarian organisations, in spite of the security situation and restrictions on the movements of international staff. In SPLM-N areas, no humanitarian staff have been able to enter from within Sudan and no food aid has been delivered, despite intensive negotiations that have been going on now for more than 16 months.

The United Nations has not been able to independently assess or verify humanitarian needs in SPLM-N areas. Meanwhile, humanitarian organisations remain extremely concerned...
by reports from various sources, including refugees arriving in South Sudan and Ethiopia, indicating that civilians are continuing to suffer immensely from the ongoing fighting and insecurity. Reports also indicate that there are serious food shortages in SPLM-N areas, and lack of adequate health care and other basic services.

In addition to the 211,000 refugees from South Kordofan and Blue Nile, HAC reports that in Government-controlled areas, the number of people displaced or severely affected by the conflict by the end of June 2012 was 275,000 (207,000 in South Kordofan and 68,000 in Blue Nile). Added to this, for the SPLM-N controlled areas, information from various sources indicates that there are an estimated 420,000 people who are severely affected (350,000 in South Kordofan and 70,000 in Blue Nile). The UN has no presence in SPLM-N areas and has not been able to independently verify these figures. This brings the estimated number of people displaced or severely affected by this 16-month conflict to 908,000.

In Government-held areas, assistance continues

In Government-controlled areas, since April 2012 the World Food Programme (WFP) has distributed a total 4,871 metric tons (MT) of food to some 123,000 conflict-affected people in the east of South Kordofan. During the same period, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) provided agricultural supplies to 64,250 families. Non-food items/emergency shelter sector partners have provided 234,000 people with 259,700 non-food relief items over the past six months.

In Government-controlled areas in South Kordofan, between

April and September 2012, medical services were provided to more than 1.3 million people through 250 health facilities, with the support of UN agencies and international NGOs. In addition, mobile clinic services provided by the State Ministry of Health (SMoH) and NGOs have reached more than 320,000 people in Government-controlled areas. The nutrition sector reports that, over the past six months, 13,200 children have received nutritional support through the community-based management of acute malnutrition programmes, including 3,742 children who have been treated for severe acute malnutrition (SAM).

In Government-controlled areas in Blue Nile, according to the Government, 95 per cent of all humanitarian aid distributed to people affected by the conflict was provided by Government institutions. In addition, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has been supporting SMoH to sustain the provision of routine immunization services in areas difficult to access, especially during the rainy season, including many settlements of displaced people in Bau, Tadamon and El Kurmuk localities. The effort resulted in maintaining vaccination coverage at over 95 per cent, mitigating any preventable diseases outbreaks in accessible areas.

UNICEF also supported SMoH to conduct a series of polio and measles catch-up campaigns targeting children in different IDP settlements in six localities where 29,283 under five year old children received oral polio vaccines (OPV), while 10,064 children between 9 months and 15 years old were vaccinated against measles.

By mid-July, an estimated 69,000 people in El Rosseires and Geissan localities had received staple crop and vegetable seeds as well as agricultural tools provided by FAO and partners with support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
FLOODS AFFECT A QUARTER OF A MILLION PEOPLE

Flash flooding triggered by unusually heavy rains killed scores of people, and destroyed or damaged houses in many parts of Sudan, with Kassala, South Darfur, Gedaref and Sennar being the worst affected areas. According to the Government of Sudan’s High Council of Civil Defense (HCCD), more than 240,000 people across Sudan have been affected by flash floods. Kassala, in Sudan’s east, is the worst affected state, accounting for some 30 per cent of all people affected by floods. Flash floods have also damaged the shelters of hundreds of displaced people in Darfur’s camps. In some areas, the response to flooding has been hampered by poor roads conditions.

Some 240,000 people affected by floods

According to HCCD, between June and early September flash floods killed 68 people and injured 56 others. Flash floods also killed some 35,000 head of livestock, mainly in Darfur. In total, an estimated 240,000 people have been affected by floods in Sudan. This was the heaviest flooding in Sudan since 2007, when floods killed 64 people and injured 335 others.

Kassala was the worst hit state, with an estimated 72,500 people affected, and is followed by South Darfur (28,000 people affected), Gedaref (27,000 people affected) and Sennar (22,000 people affected). Throughout Sudan, HCCD reported that more than 2,000 houses have been destroyed and some 32,500 houses have been partially damaged.

Unusually heavy seasonal rains in Sudan caused the Nile and seasonal rivers to overflow, resulting in extensive flooding throughout the country. The early arrival of heavy rains this year caused rivers in the country’s north and east to burst their banks, inundating villages, towns and farm land. Heavy rains in neighbouring Eritrea and Ethiopia further increased the water levels and caused the Blue Nile River to swell. As the topography of urban centers in Sudan is predominantly flat and devoid of natural drainage systems, in some areas floods submerged entire villages and caused immense damage to infrastructure, including roads and bridges.

Floods response

HCCD provided medical supplies for an estimated 156,000 flood-affected people in Kassala, Gedaref, North Kordofan, South Darfur and Central Darfur states. HCCD also distributed over 820,000 non-food relief items to flood-affected people across the country. The UNHCR Emergency Shelter/Non-Food Items (ES/NFI) Project provided non-food relief items for some 113,500 flood-affected people across the country. Other interventions in the sectors of food security and livelihoods, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) have been implemented by humanitarian organisations across Sudan.

Some IDP camps in Darfur hit by flooding

Flooding also affected a number of IDP settlements in Central Darfur, including Hamediya and Hassahissa IDP camps in Zalingei, as well as Garsila IDP camp in the Wadi Salih locality. Community leaders in Hamediya and Hassahissa camps reported that some 9,000 people had been affected by heavy rains and flooding. Some areas in the Wadi Salih and Nertiti localities were inaccessible due to poor road conditions following rains.
INTER-TRIBAL FIGHTING IN KUTUM, DARFUR

Inter-tribal fighting in parts of Darfur, particularly in North Darfur State, has resulted in new civilian displacement. In other parts of Darfur, refugees and IDPs continued to return to their areas of origin, with more than 200,000 returns verified since January 2011. WFP has been conducting re-registration of people in IDP camps in Darfur and expects the number of IDPs in camps to decrease considerably once the exercise is complete in late October 2012.

Residents of Kassab IDP camp flee to Kutum

In early August 2012, the killing of the Al Waha nomadic community commissioner near Kassab IDP camp in the Kutum locality in North Darfur State led to violence between the assassinated commissioner’s nomadic tribe and people who had been displaced to Kassab IDP camp. This violence resulted in the looting of shelters as well as markets and businesses in the camp and also in Kutum town. The premises of five humanitarian organisations in the area were also ransacked. As a result of the violence, the entire population of the Kassab camp, 25,000 people, fled to Kutum town where they sheltered with the host community.

By early September, 95 per cent of the 25,000 displaced people had returned and humanitarian agencies had resumed their activities in the camp. The returns began after the African Union - United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) deployed additional troops to Kassab camp to protect civilians. Following the incident in early August, UNAMID has been providing continuous patrols and monitoring movements in and out of the camp.

Meanwhile in late September, the media reported that a militia group attacked civilians in Hashaba in the Kutum locality, killing some 70 civilians, including women and children, and injuring 60 others. Media reports have suggested that over 2,000 people were displaced. Humanitarian agencies have not been able to access the area to verify those reports due to insecurity.

Also in early August, newly displaced people started arriving in Zamzam camp – the largest IDP camp in Darfur hosting more than 160,000 people – following inter-tribal clashes in Saq Alnyam, North Darfur. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the international NGO Plan Sudan, some 1,800 people from Saq Alnyam sought shelter at the camp.

In mid-August in Mellit, North Darfur, disagreements between the Ziyadiah and Berti tribes led to violent clashes and six people were killed and 12 others injured. Government security forces secured Mellit following the attack.

Displaced people continue to return

While inter-tribal violence in parts of Darfur led to new civilian displacement, in other parts of Darfur the return of people to their areas of origin continued. The Return and Reintegration Working Group (RRWG) confirmed that between January 2011 and June 2012, 165,000 IDPs and 39,500 refugees from Chad voluntarily returned, bringing the total number of returns to more than 200,000 people.

Various assessments by humanitarian organisations indicate that returnees face significant challenges upon return to their areas of origin, including a lack of sustainable basic services, a lack of viable livelihoods opportunities, food insecurity, as

HEALTH (DARFUR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Malaria cases</th>
<th>Bloody Diarrhoea cases</th>
<th>Acute Respiratory Infection cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012 (per 10,000)</td>
<td>2011-2012 (per 10,000)</td>
<td>2011-2012 (per 10,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Darfur</td>
<td>South Darfur</td>
<td>West Darfur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Week</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WHO Sudan Emergency Preparedness and Humanitarian Action (EHA) Weekly Highlights
well as issues relating to land tenure. Inter-agency assessments indicated that a perceived lack of security, such as a police presence, was also a concern to many returnees.

These challenges are in the context of a historically low level of government investment or support in these areas and threaten the overall sustainability of returns.

**GOOD HARVEST PROSPECTS IN DARFUR**

Good rains between June and August 2012 had a positive impact on crop growth and pastures for livestock in Darfur, with good harvest prospects for this year. There have been reports that grain traders in Darfur started to release their stocks in light of good harvest prospects, with cereal prices starting to decline.

According to the WFP Sudan Food Security Update for August 2012, sorghum prices in many parts of Darfur decreased between 9 and 15 per cent from the previous month, while the prices in North Darfur remained stable. North Darfur was the most affected state as a result of poor and erratic rainfall and poor harvest last year. However, prices remain high compared to August 2011.

FAO reports that overall food security conditions are expected to improve with the beginning of the new harvest in mid-October. In Darfur, the number of food insecure people is expected to decrease by approximately one third due to the good production prospects and improved access to land for displaced people.

**WFP verify Darfur camp populations**

WFP reports that it has been conducting a verification of IDPs in Darfur camps since late 2010. By late September 2012, some 1.2 million out of 1.7 million IDPs in Darfur camps had been verified. The verification will be finalised by the end of October 2012 and is expected to result in a significant reduction in the number of registered IDPs in camps supported by WFP. In addition, there are displaced people outside of camps, including those residing in urban areas or living with host communities.

**RETURNS TO SOUTH SUDAN SLOW DOWN**

Returns from Sudan to South Sudan slowed down during the third quarter of 2012 due to the closed border between the two countries, insecurity along some major return routes and poor road conditions as a result of heavy seasonal rains.

IOM in South Sudan reports that some 11,500 people of South Sudanese origin returned from Sudan to South Sudan between July and September 2012, bringing the total number of people who had returned since January 2012 to 126,000 people.

While returns to South Sudan from Sudan continued on a lower scale compared to previous months, there have been reports of reverse movements from South Sudan to Sudan during the third quarter of 2012. According to UNHCR, by the end of August, some 250 families (an estimated 1,250 people) who earlier returned to South Sudan had come back to South Darfur.

**WFP FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS (DARFUR)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Beneficiaries planned vs actually reached (in millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North, South, West Darfur</td>
<td>Actual beneficiaries North, South, West Darfur (in millions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source: WFP Food Security Monitoring System Reports</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOUTH SUDANESE IN SUDAN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>South Sudanese in Sudan</th>
<th>Location of people of South Sudanese origin in Sudan, according to Government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source: IDP Center</td>
<td>27% Khartoum, 73% rest of Sudan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IDPs in Zamzam camp, North Darfur © OCHA
Airlift of 2,000 orphans and widow commences

The African Inland Church Organisation, based in South Sudan, reported that it would fund the airlift of some 2,000 orphans and widows of South Sudanese origin from Sudan to South Sudan and the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) assumed the responsibility for coordinating the operation. On 19 September, the first plane transported 150 people from Khartoum to Juba.

Meanwhile, there are an estimated 3,500 people of South Sudanese origin who are stranded at the Kosti railway station in White Nile State and need assistance to travel to South Sudan, according to humanitarian organisations.

ABYEI RETURNS STALLED

Following the demilitarisation of Abyei in May-June 2012, aid agencies developed contingency plans to support up to 30,000 returns during the rainy season. The rainy season is ending without large returnee numbers. By the end of the third quarter of 2012, just over 2,000 individuals had returned to areas north of the Bahr al Arab/Kiir River in Abyei.

Reports suggest low return rates to areas north of the Bahr al Arab/Kiir River in the Abyei area are attributable to a number of factors, including limited access during the rainy season (July-October), lack of housing and infrastructure in Abyei and concerns of political instability. Humanitarian organisations estimate that some 60,000 people remain displaced in Agok and South Sudan.

IOM registered 10,800 people in 47 villages in the Abyei area in July 2012. By early September 2012, IOM undertook verification exercises in 20 villages out of the 47 and found that 84 per cent of the assessed population remained in the village/town that they were in during the earlier assessment.

According to UNHCR, the majority of returnee families are female-headed as it is mainly the role of women in Abyei to start rebuilding the shelter and clean up the houses, while many husbands remain in areas of displacement with children. While some families have started to reunite, female-headed households remain the majority.

Assistance to displaced people continues

Food distributions for displaced people and host communities in the Abyei/Agok region continued and in August some 75,000 people received food assistance. Humanitarian organisations also distributed seeds and agricultural tools to displaced people.

According to WHO, the health and nutrition situation is stable but there continues to be no surveillance system in areas north of the Bahr al Arab/Kiir River. UNICEF and IOM continued providing displaced persons and returnees with access to potable water.

Aid agencies in Abyei are drafting an assistance plan for the dry season - November 2012 to end June 2013 - considering the needs of displaced people, returnees, and the Misseriya.

ABYEI RETURNS

Male/Female headed returnee households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Type</th>
<th>Number of Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male/Female Headed</td>
<td>1,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Headed</td>
<td>664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Headed</td>
<td>602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male with Wife</td>
<td>421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female with Husband</td>
<td>527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Parent</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vulnerabilities affecting the assessed population

- Missing Child: 6
- Mentally Disabled: 7
- Malnourished: 20
- Unaccompanied Child: 29
- Pregnant: 66
- Medical Condition: 145
- Lactating: 192
- Physically Disabled: 266
- Single Parent: 506
- Separated Child: 638
- Vulnerable returnees: 1,875

Source: Abyei Tracking Report July-August 2012, IOM
HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

The 2012 UN and Partners Humanitarian Work Plan (HWP) for Sudan outlines requirements for US$1.1 billion. By the end of September, agencies/NGOs and donors had reported contributions amounting to some US$533 million (51 per cent). As urgent requirements outpace contributions to humanitarian operations, humanitarian financing tools such as the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) are being used in an effort to close this gap.

Humanitarian Work Plan Funding

The Sudan Humanitarian Work Plan funding stood at US$533 million or 51 per cent of the US$1.1 billion requirement by end September 2012. Reported funding varied greatly across sectors. The Food Security and Livelihoods sector is the highest funded, with 65 per cent of funding needs having already been met. The Coordination/Common Services sector is also funded at over 60 per cent. Nutrition has been funded at 50 per cent, while the Health and Education sectors have been funded at about 40 per cent. The Refugees Multi-sector, Protection and Mine Action are all at or below 20 per cent.

Common Humanitarian Fund

The CHF has allocated a total of $70.8 million to date, funding 149 projects. NGOs received an increasing share of allocations amounting to 50 per cent of the total, up from 40 per cent last year. Projects in Darfur were allocated 51 per cent, while South Kordofan and Blue Nile states as well as Abyei received 22 per cent going to multi area projects. Due to late contributions, the Humanitarian Coordinator has decided to cancel the launch of the second round of CHF allocations. Outstanding and emerging urgent and critical needs are being addressed through the CHF Emergency Reserve.

The Emergency Reserve allocated more than $ 4.2 million to 13 projects this year in response to critical funding gaps identified by various sectors across Sudan.

Central Emergency Response Fund

The Humanitarian Coordinator put forward a multi-sector grant request to address critical gaps across Darfur to the CERF Underfunded Emergencies Window in the third quarter. Some $14 million was granted to eight sectors, reaching over 250,000 people. Total CERF contributions, including Rapid Response grants to WFP and IOM, had reached $ 17.5 million by the end of September 2012.