

JEBEL MARRA CRISIS

Fact Sheet

Issue 3 | 2 March 2016



New IDPs from Jebel Marra at a water point near Sortony, North Darfur. February 2016 © OCHA

KEY FACTS

- Thousands of civilians have been displaced from the Jebel Marra area in Sudan's Darfur region since mid-January 2016 as a result of increased hostilities between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Abdul Wahid faction of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA/AW). Hostilities continue to be reported in the Jebel Marra and prospects for the newly displaced remain uncertain. Displacement could increase if hostilities continue.
- As of 28 February 2016, more than an estimated **92,000** people from Jebel Marra had arrived in four locations in North Darfur State, the vast majority of whom are women and children. This is an increase of **7,000** people compared to 22 February. Estimates for Central Darfur vary between **3,350** and **50,000**; confirmation of these numbers by the United Nations has not been possible due to lack of access. Close to **1,000** newly displaced people from Jebel Marra have been reported in Kass, South Darfur.
- Aid organisations continue to scale up the response in North Darfur and food, water, sanitation, emergency shelter, household supplies, protection, nutrition and health-related needs are being met, but significant gaps remain (see table on p. 3). The delivery of assistance to all of those in need is hampered by relative isolation of the two main sites where displaced people are arriving, which presents logistical challenges.
- Verification of the new IDPs is ongoing and by 28 February about **65,800** newly displaced people had been verified in North Darfur. This includes about **46,800** people in Sortony and another **19,000** people in Tawilla.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Civilians - especially women and children - continue to bear the brunt of conflict in Sudan. The United Nations calls upon all parties to ensure that civilians and civilian objects are protected in accordance with International Humanitarian Law.
2. The United Nations calls for immediate, safe and unfettered access to all people in need, wherever they may be located, so that affected people can receive the humanitarian assistance they require. In particular, the United Nations urges all parties to the conflict to allow the United Nations and its partners to reach displaced people in Central Darfur.
3. Emergency supplies have been delivered to many of the newly displaced people but more support will be required until they are able to return home.
4. The United Nations is calling for a cessation of hostilities so that humanitarian organisations can assess and respond to those most in need of humanitarian assistance.



92,000

people have been displaced to North Darfur



90%

of the newly displaced in Sortony are women and children



50,000

people may have been displaced around Boori and Wadi Boori villages in Central Darfur

BACKGROUND AND CURRENT SITUATION

The Jebel Marra massif, straddling Sudan's North Darfur, Central Darfur and South Darfur states, has since mid-January seen significant civilian displacement as a result of increased fighting between the SAF and the SLA/AW.

As a result, it is estimated that more than **92,000** people have been displaced to four locations in **North Darfur**. Some **62,000** people have fled to the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) base in Sortony, a remote location that has no established humanitarian presence. Over 90 per cent of them are children and women. By 28 February, **46,818** had been verified in Sortony. Of the **27,453** newly displaced people in Tawilla, east of Sortony, about **19,000** people had been verified. There are **2,285** people in Kebkabiya town and over the past week about **450** new IDPs from Jebel Marra were reported in Shaddad camp in Shangil Tobaya. There are reports from community leaders that more people from Jebel Marra and Sortony are expected to arrive in Tawilla in coming days. The government has reported **72,727** newly displaced in North Darfur.

On 29 February, an aid convoy with food, nutrition and other supplies arrived in Sortony. With this additional delivery, emergency food needs of all verified IDPs in Sortony have been covered for one month. The distribution of emergency shelter and essential household supplies, nutritional supplements and provision of water and sanitation services continues, however, there are still significant gaps in terms of access to safe water and sanitation in Sortony. UNICEF has dispatched a drilling rig to Sortony to address water shortages on the ground.

In **Central Darfur**, humanitarian actors are still unable to verify reported displacement or ascertain and respond to humanitarian needs induced by conflict. On 28 February, an inter-agency team verified the first group of **330** arrivals from Jebel Marra in Hassahisa camp in Zalingei, of whom about 90 per cent are women and children. The government's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) will verify an additional reported **270** new IDPs in Hamediya camp. These two groups combined with the previous figure of about **2,750** new IDPs from HAC brings the total estimated number of the newly displaced in Central Darfur to **3,350** people. Indications are that the numbers of people displaced in the state may be significantly higher. Of particular concern are unconfirmed reports that up to **50,000** people who had reportedly been displaced around Boori and Wadi Boori villages moved deeper into the Jebel Marra area, with some going to Guldo town. Aid organisations have prepared a contingency plan for up to 70,000 newly displaced people in Central Darfur.

Close to **1,000** new IDPs were reported in **South Darfur** following an inter-agency mission to the Kass IDP camp on 23 February.

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

Humanitarian access to large parts of the Jebel Marra massif has been cut off for many years. People sheltering at the Sortony UNAMID base in North Darfur continue to receive immediate, basic humanitarian assistance. There are issues with physical access to Sortony from El Fasher to provide aid as the location is remote, roads are poor, water supply is very limited and the hard ground makes building latrines difficult. It takes 4-5 days for an aid convoy to reach Sortony from El Fasher with a UNAMID escort.

In Central Darfur, access has been extremely limited, with humanitarian actors being excluded from all efforts to verify reported displacement. So far, no assessment missions have been permitted anywhere in the state. OCHA is engaged in ongoing discussions with authorities to undertake needs assessments in Nertiti, Thur and Boori/Wadi Boori.

In South Darfur, aid organisations on 23 February carried out an inter-agency mission to the Kass IDP camp to verify reports of newly displaced people from Jebel Marra and assess their needs. On 17 February, a request for a mission to Deribat, East Jebel Marra locality was submitted.

Since 24 January, over 15 requests for aid delivery and needs assessments have been submitted to the North, Central and South Darfur state authorities. Of these, seven were approved (including the visit by the Humanitarian Coordinator to Tawilla on 22 February), five were rejected and three are still under the process. While in North Darfur access has not been an issue, Central and South Darfur accounted for the rejected and pending cases of access requests. Moreover, Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator's planned trip to Sortony last week could not proceed initially, but did take place on 29 February.

THE RESPONSE

Note: This table represents an aggregation of assistance provided in the three locations in Darfur: Sortony, Tawilla and Kebkabiya, as of 29 February 2016.

State	Sector	Target Response, as per 2015 Emergency Response Framework	Actual Response by the internat'l humanitarian community, to date
NORTH DARFUR 92,400 displaced people	Food & Livelihoods	1 month emergency ration.	Emergency food aid to cover the needs of 95,000 people in Sortony, Tawilla and Kebkabiya for 1-2 months (depending on the location) has been provided. Vaccination/treatment of livestock and animal feed provision are yet to start.
	Shelter & household items	1 kit (jerry can, cooking set, plastic sheet, sleeping mats, blankets) per HH (5 people).	57 per cent of needs not covered: 16,883 families need NFI kits, while 7,222 families have received them (some supplies delayed by customs).
	Water & Sanitation	Water: 7.5 l/p/d (litres per person per day). Sanitation: 1 latrine for 50 people. Hygiene: 1 hygiene promoter per 500 people.	In Tawilla, water provision is 5.8 l/p/d. In Sortony, water provision is 2.6l/p/d. Significant gaps in pit latrine coverage are reported in Sortony, with latrines constructed covering the needs of 2,050 people out of 62,192 - or 3%. In Tawilla, latrines have been provided for 7,750 people.
	Health	10,000 persons for 1 health unit and 50,000 persons for 1 health center. Less than 50 consultations/day per clinician. Weekly morbidity and mortality bulletin. 1 BEmNOC / 125,000 population	Medicines to cover the needs of some 20,000 out of 63,223 people in Sortony have been delivered. 2 out of 4 reports have been completed. Of the 737 emergency cases requiring referral, some 48 have been referred. Basic emergency obstetric and new born care has targeted 13,200 people, out of 34,700 people in need.
	Nutrition	>70% emergency blanket supplementary food (eBSF) coverage of children under five and PLW. >90% of beneficiaries are accessing treatment.	Gaps in provision and sustaining of eBSFP supplies to at risk children under five and pregnant and lactating women. All children in both sites are being screened for malnutrition (17,414 children in Sortony). Of the 24,814 children targeted for eBSF 17,934 have received it. A total of 401 severe acute malnourished children have been admitted to Outpatient Therapeutic Programme. 2,704 children (6-59 months) received Vitamin A preventive supplementation.
	Protection	Registration of unaccompanied/separated children (UASC) and missing children and reunification of separated children. Reinforcement or establishment of Child friendly-spaces. Provision of assistance kits for most vulnerable children. Persons with special needs identified and supported. GBV survivors reached and referred to service providers. Personal hygiene kits provided.	588 UASC identified (needs: 1,700 children); 132 missing children reported and tracing efforts ongoing; 18 staff deployed for family tracing & verification; 57 recreational kits, 1,213 plastic sheets and 830 blankets distributed to households with vulnerable children; 5 child friendly spaces in construction, out of 15 planned; 3,100 women and girls (out of 23,000) received hygiene kits; 1 community kit delivered for 20,000 IDPs.
	IDP Tracking	Verification of registered data within 2 weeks after first registration, including disaggregation by age, sex and vulnerable groups.	Registration and verification of new arrivals is continuing.
CENTRAL DARFUR 3,350 displaced people	All	As above	No assistance provided to date due to lack of access. A contingency plan for up to 70,000 people has been prepared.

