

HIGHLIGHTS

- Civilians are continuing to flee their homes in South Kordofan and Blue Nile as a result of the ongoing conflict
- Heavy rains in Darfur cause flash flooding, resulting in loss of life and significant damage to property.
- Returns to the Abyei area slowed down in July, with the total number of returns now at some 10,000 people.
- Small numbers of people of South Sudanese origin who had earlier returned to South Sudan have now relocated back to Darfur



Credit: OCHA/M. Delaney
Returning farmers in Abyei work on their fields

In this issue

- Fighting in SKS and BNS P.1
- Heavy rains in Darfur P.2
- Returns to Abyei P.2
- Returns to South Sudan P.3

More displacement in South Kordofan and Blue Nile

Civilians are continuing to flee their homes in South Kordofan and Blue Nile as a result of the ongoing conflict between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N). The number of displaced people now living in Kadugli, the capital of South Kordofan, has reached 45,400 people, according to a joint verification by the UN World Food Programme (WFP), the Government's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) and the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS). Over 10,000 people have been displaced to Kadugli since the last joint verification exercise in mid-May.

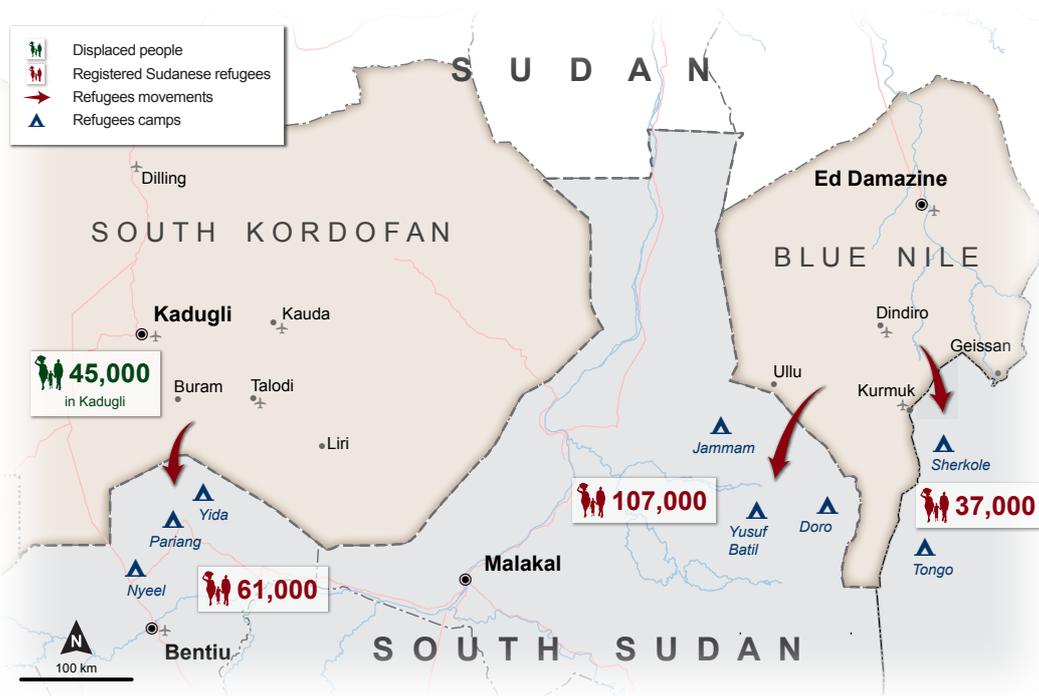
FIGURES

IDPs in camps in Darfur	1.7 m
Refugees in Sudan	139,000
IDPs/severely affected people in Blue Nile State	145,000
IDPs/severely affected people in South Kordofan State	520,000

FUNDING

1.1 billion
requested (US\$)

44 % funded



According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the influx of Sudanese refugees into South Sudan continues. By the end of July, more than 205,000 Sudanese refugees had fled from Blue Nile and South Kordofan to camps in South Sudan and Ethiopia. Approximately 37,700 refugees primarily from Sudan's Blue Nile state are now living in several camps in Ethiopia's Assosa region. In South Sudan, there are some 106,700 refugees, mainly from Blue Nile, in several refugee camps in Upper Nile State and approximately 60,900 refugees from South Kordofan State that have now fled to three locations in Unity State. UNHCR has reported that the number of refugees arriving in Unity State has dropped from around 800 people per day in June to approximately 250 people per day throughout July.

“The worsening humanitarian situation in Sudan and South Sudan, and the lack of access to populations surrounded by fighting in Sudan’s South Kordofan and Blue Nile States, is a cause for deep concern”.

Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response (Brussels, 5 July 2012).

Under the auspices of the African Union/League of Arab States/United Nations tripartite initiative, the Government of Sudan and the SPLM-N held separate talks with representatives of the tripartite group in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 23-25 July. This resulted on 4-5 August in the signing by the Government of Sudan and the SPLM-N, separately, of Memoranda of Understanding on access to war-affected populations in South Kordofan and Blue Nile. The priority now is to ensure the rapid implementation of these Memoranda of Understanding so that humanitarian assistance can be delivered to vulnerable civilians in both Government areas and SPLM-N held areas.

Heavy rains cause flash flooding in Darfur

Heavy rains throughout July caused loss of life and extensive property damage in parts of Darfur. Humanitarian actors reported that in Malha locality in North Darfur at least eight people were killed by flash flooding, and at least 1,000 people were displaced by the floods. Reports of significant loss of property, including housing and livestock, have also been received. In Malha locality, some 10,000 head of livestock are estimated to have been killed by floods, according to humanitarian agencies. In South Darfur, World Vision International (WVI) reported that at least 200 homes

in Ed El Fursan locality were damaged by flooding. The UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and WVI distributed non-food relief items to those affected. In Central Darfur, at least 1,400 people from Hassa Hissa camp, near Zalingei, were affected by flooding, according to an inter-agency assessment. Norwegian Church Aid provided non-food relief items to those affected, but humanitarian operations in many other parts of Darfur were interrupted by damaged and impassable roads. WFP, for example, was unable to access locations such as Bindisi, Mukjar, Um Kheir, and Um Dukhun for much of July.

In Malha, North Darfur, the emergency response to flood affected communities was slow. This was the result of poor road conditions, as well as non-food items being blocked in a warehouse in El Obeid, North Kordofan. By the end of July, the World Health Organization had dispatched rapid response kits to meet the health needs of 3,000 people for up to three months. A team from the Government’s Water and Environmental Sanitation Department (WES) began chlorinating water sources and rehabilitating damaged water points and WFP commenced food distribution in Malha town.



“I would like to draw your attention to a particularly urgent issue: the plight of the populations of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States. While only a political solution to the conflict in these two areas can put a stop to the attendant humanitarian crisis there, the need for immediate, safe and unconditional distribution of humanitarian assistance to the war-affected population in the meantime cannot be over-emphasized”.

Mr. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General on the United Nations, Remarks to the African Union Peace and Security Council Meeting on Sudan and South Sudan (Addis Ababa, 14 July 2012).

Returns to Abyei slow down

Although return movements north of the river intensified in June, a leveling out of returns has been observed in July, with no significant movements reported. According to a population tracking and monitoring team from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), approximately 10,000 people had returned to their homes north of the Bahr el Arab/Kiir River, following displacement in June 2011. By the end of July, approximately 1,860 people had returned to Abyei town.

Humanitarian agencies continue to provide assistance to displaced people in Abyei, despite the heavy rains making many roads impassable. According to humanitarian colleagues, all returnees in Abyei town received non-food relief supplies, including plastic sheeting. The United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and humanitarian agencies continue to monitor the provision of safe drinking water throughout Abyei, with UNISFA trucking water to return areas where hand pumps and wells are not operational.



Credit: OCHA/M. Delaney
Returnees in front of their newly rebuilt home in Abyei .

Some South Sudanese return to Darfur

Humanitarian actors in Darfur have reported that there is an increasing movement of people of South Sudanese origin back to Darfur, among those who had earlier returned from Sudan to South Sudan. According to UNHCR, some 250 people of South Sudanese origin, who were supported by IOM in their return to South Sudan via the Kosti way station, have returned to El Ferdous locality in East Darfur. The majority of these reverse-returnees have cited a lack of basic services and viable employment opportunities in South Sudan. UNHCR reports that it expects reverse returns from South Sudan back to East and South Darfur States to increase at the end of the rainy season.

By the end of July, a rapid needs assessment of people of South Sudanese origin living in open-air departure points around Khartoum was finalized, and IOM and UNHCR had begun registering and medically screening extremely vulnerable individuals (EVIs). A total of 655 EVIs suitable for airlifting to South Sudan were identified in July. Due to the high number of EVIs living in Khartoum's open-air departure points and a shortage of funds for movement by air, selection criteria for those being airlifted has been limited to only people with physical disabilities.

On 10 July, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a circular saying that people of South Sudanese origin working for international or regional organizations and for diplomatic missions in Sudan are required to obtain residency and work permits by the end of the month.

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