Conflict erupts in East Darfur

Following weeks of renewed tensions between the Southern Reizegat and Ma’aliya tribes in East Darfur, fighting between these groups erupted on 10 May near Abu Karinka. These clashes will leave a massive impact on the civilian population, causing significant new displacement and loss of life. Hospitals in Adila and Ed Daein towns have started admitting injured parties and reports of both civilian and combatant casualties, 85 among the Ma’aliya and 16 among the Southern Reizegat, were received by the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) following the first day of fighting. These numbers are expected to increase as more information becomes available. Reports of displacement in East Darfur and the surrounding states have been received, however, this information has not yet been verified. Humanitarian partners are undertaking preparedness measures to respond immediately once fighting ceases and access is obtained. According to UNAMID, a significant portion of Abu Karinka town has been destroyed, with people remaining in the town (numbers unknown) urgently requiring water, food and fuel for generators, as electricity has been cut off.

The Ma’aliya and the Southern Reizegat have had intermittent disputes over land ownership and cattle thefts for several years. The trigger for this current conflict were cattle raids conducted by both sides in April during which some 300 cows were reportedly stolen. Despite attempts by UNAMID, the Government, and community leaders to diffuse the situation and prevent further escalation, both sides began mobilizing fighters and weapons over the weekend in preparation for large-scale attacks.

Previous clashes between the two tribes have had significant humanitarian consequences. Fighting in August 2014 resulted in 323 people killed, and clashes throughout 2013 left over 149 people dead and forced over 120,000 people to flee their homes. Humanitarian response to these emergencies was severely delayed due to access constraints, taking 13 months before aid organizations could enter the affected areas.

FUNDING

1.04 billion requested in 2015 (US$)

27% reported funding
areas. A government sponsored peace and reconciliation conference in February 2015 attempted to resolve the longstanding tribal conflict, but ended without an agreement.

New IDPs arrive in Zalingei’s Hassahissa camp

On 10 May, an inter-agency team visited Hassahissa IDP camp in Zalingei, Central Darfur, to assess the health, food, education, and emergency household supply needs of 344 new arrivals whose villages were burnt down by militia groups in January and February 2015. Of the new arrivals, 290 had come from Funga in North Jebel Marra locality and 54 from Donkey Bashim in Kutum locality, North Darfur. The IDPs from Funga reported fleeing conflict between government forces and armed groups in January, after which they spent four months in the mountains in Nisacam area without any humanitarian assistance. They then moved on to Golo locality, before arriving in Hassahissa camp last week. Reportedly, the IDPs from Donkey Bashim initially fled to El Fasher locality, Tawila locality and Kutum IDP camp in North Darfur where they did not receive any humanitarian assistance. Family ties eventually brought them to Hassahissa IDP camp. The new arrivals bring the total number of arrivals to Hassahissa since March 2015 to 804 people, of whom 460 have been assisted with food, emergency household supplies, and health and hygiene kits, including 55 clean delivery kits distributed last week by the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) to newly arrived pregnant women.

Humanitarian response continues in North Darfur

Aid partners continued responding to the emergency situation in Mellit locality following the conflict between the Berti and Zayadia tribes in February and March 2015. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has begun registration of the IDPs, thus far covering 3 of the 11 targeted villages and registering 4,571 IDPs. The State Ministry of Health (SMoH) continued the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference screening (MUAC) in Koskare village and nearby settlements in the Saiyah Administrative Unit, reaching some 1,568 children under the age of five. The Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate among all screened children consequently rose from the 9.4 per cent documented last week to 14.7 per cent, which is now only slightly below the emergency threshold of 15 per cent. Registration and screening activities will continue in the coming days until all 11 affected villages are covered. The Government’s Department of Water and Sanitation (WES), with the support of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), rehabilitated 25 hand pumps in Saiyah Administrative Unit. The Abu Gira motorized water yard, in the same area, was also rehabilitated and now pumps approximately 120m³ of water per day. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has handed over emergency household supply kits, which include blankets, sleeping mats, plastic sheeting, water jerry cans, and cooking sets, to Médecins Sans Frontières Spain (MSF-E) to distribute to 312 families affected by the conflict.

Kuma locality, also affected by the tribal conflict, received a submersible pump from WES and UNICEF that will pump around 120m³ of water per day. The pump, together with the planned extension of a water pipeline to three new water points, is expected to increase and stabilize the water supply in the area following the population influx caused by the insecurity.
Funding constraints end aid operations

A continual decrease in humanitarian funding to Sudan has taken its toll on aid partners throughout the country, forcing some to pull out of operations that currently provide critical services for thousands of vulnerable IDPs and children.

Primary health care centres in West Darfur plan to close

The INGO Human Relief Foundation UK (HRF UK) will be forced to hand over four primary health care centres to the State Ministry of Health (SMoH) at the end of June 2015 when their current funding runs out. HRF UK has supported the clinics for the past four years with sporadic funding from different donors including the World Humanitarian Organization (WHO) and the Sudan Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF). This year, however, the organization was unable to raise sufficient funds due to competing international and in-country emergencies. As the SMoH does not have capacity to run the clinics, the health centres will likely shut down at the end of June if emergency funds cannot be mobilized. Two of the clinics are located in Riyadh IDP camp, one in Tareiba return village and one in Aljabal Area in El Geneina (also serving Abuzar IDP camp). As no other organizations are providing health services in Tareiba village and Riyadh IDP camp, the closures will create a critical gap in the provision of primary health services and antenatal care to more than 30,000 IDPs.

Two national partners phasing out of South Kordofan nutrition projects

The national NGOs Al Manar and Sibro will phase out their nutrition operations in South Kordofan’s Diling and El Gouz localities, respectively, due to lack of funding. As a result, two nutrition centres have already been handed over to the SMoH and three more will be handed over at the end of July. As the SMoH also suffers from limited resources, and in particular a nutrition staffing shortage, UNICEF will continue providing technical and material support to all nutrition activities state-wide including those in Diling and El Gouz localities. Due to lack of access, however, UNICEF is unable to conduct activities in three localities ranked by the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) as areas of highest priority.

Rainy season preparations underway in White Nile and South Kordofan states

The World Food Programme (WFP) has begun contingency plan General Food Distributions (GFDs) in El Abbassiya, Abu Jubaiha and Elleri localities in South Kordofan. WFP will provide refugees with a four-month supply of food to last until the rainy season, in addition to a final food distribution scheduled for May. In White Nile State, WFP has begun erecting Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) in each of five camps. In addition to the three MSUs erected last year, this will provide each of the state’s seven camps with its own MSU with the exception of El Redis, which will have two due to the large number of refugees. Once the MSUs are ready, WFP will begin prepositioning food ahead of the rainy season.

Pre-rainy season distribution of emergency household items and shelters by UNHCR is also in progress in South Kordofan and White Nile state. Emergency household items are currently being provided to 700 households in Elleri and 200 households in Abu Jubaiha localities in the eastern part of South Kordofan. Access routes to these areas will soon become impassable with the onset of the rainy season.
rainy season. In White Nile State, all new camp arrivals will receive emergency household supplies next week. Some 3,000 households will also receive a repeat distribution of replacement plastic sheeting and other shelter items, including poles that were previously damaged by termite infestation. Each camp in White Nile state will receive a contingency stock of emergency household supplies for 200 households to cover potential new arrivals during the rainy season.

South Sudanese arrivals in West Kordofan, more refugees expected

The total number of South Sudanese arrivals to Sudan jumped by 11,587 people this week, partly due to an increase of 13,774 people in West Kordofan State. This figure does not represent the actual number of arrivals to West Kordofan State in the past week, but rather an updated and more accurate total number of arrivals since December 2013. Improvements in reporting and data collection enabled better estimations of refugee numbers, which for several months had remained static at just under 4,000 people due data collection difficulties. Meanwhile, refugee population figures in South Kordofan State decreased by 3,598 people this week due to the onward movement of people within Sudan, likely to White Nile and Khartoum states.

Escalating tribal conflict in East and North Darfur has also increased population movements into West Kordofan State, although verifiable numbers of displaced are not yet available. Fierce fighting in South Sudan’s Unity State has also displaced people to locations near the Sudan-South Sudan border, many of whom may now enter Sudan through West Kordofan State.

Launch of Sudan 2015 HRP

The Sudan 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) was officially launched at a press conference on 5 May 2015. Developed by the UN and partners, in consultation with the Government of Sudan, the HRP calls for just over US$ 1 billion to target the 5.4 million people with the highest prioritized humanitarian needs across the country. The projects listed in the HRP will be implemented by 112 humanitarian partners and seek to assist the 3.1 million people displaced by conflict and the 4.2 million people affected by food insecurity and malnutrition country-wide.