

HIGHLIGHTS

- New corridor for the delivery of humanitarian aid to Bentiu, South Sudan, from Sudan.
- 8,000 people, who fled their homes in East Darfur due to inter-communal violence, have arrived in El Lait, North Darfur.
- 68% of households in Sudan have access to improved water sources.
- Ireland donates €3 million (US\$3.3 million) to the Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF).



South Sudanese refugees in a camp in Darfur (Jan 2017, CIS)

In this issue

- New aid corridor to South Sudan P.1
- Inter-communal fighting displaces 8,000 P.2
- World Water Day, 22 March P.3
- Armed conflict and children in Sudan P.4

FIGURES 2017 HRP

# people in need in Sudan (2017 HNO)	4.8 million
# people in need in Darfur (2017 HNO)	3 million
GAM caseload (2017 HNO)	2.2 million
South Sudanese refugee arrivals in Sudan - since 15 Dec 2013 (registered by UNHCR) - as of 15 March 2017	351,000
Refugees of other nationalities (registered by UNHCR) - as of 31 Oct 2016	140,626

FUNDING

566.8 million
US\$ received in 2016

58.3%

Reported funding
(as of 26 March 2017)

New aid corridor from El Obeid, Sudan to Bentiu in South Sudan

On 26 March, the Government of Sudan announced the opening of a new humanitarian corridor for humanitarian assistance to be delivered by the World Food Programme (WFP) from El Obeid in central Sudan to Bentiu, a town in Unity State, South Sudan, where 100,000 people are enduring famine amid a deepening humanitarian crisis across the country. The new northern corridor will ensure that food assistance rapidly reaches vulnerable communities in South Sudan before the onset of the rainy season.

WFP will be moving an initial delivery of 11,000 metric tonnes (MT) of sorghum—including 1,000 MT donated by the Government of Sudan—in seven convoys of 30 to 40 trucks, which is enough to feed 300,000 people for three months. The convoys will take up to one week to complete the 500km journey.

The first convoy will transport 1,200 MT of sorghum in 27 trucks by early April. The humanitarian corridor will not only allow for the timely delivery of food aid, but will also help reduce reliance on air operations, which cost six to seven times as much as moving food by river and road. Meanwhile, WFP continues to use the existing corridor in Kosti, White Nile State, to reach people in need in Renk, South Sudan. Since November 2014, WFP has delivered 57,900 MT to over 200,000 people in Renk, of which 3,490 MT was delivered in 2017.

At least 7.5 million people across South Sudan—almost two thirds of the population—need humanitarian assistance. Sudan is currently hosting over 350,000 South Sudanese refugees, who have arrived since the conflict erupted in December 2013.

351,048 SOUTH SUDANESE HAVE ARRIVED IN SUDAN



WFP and the US support food insecure people in Sudan and South Sudan

On 20 March, WFP said in a [statement](#) that two US ships docked in Port Sudan and over 47,880 MT of sorghum was unloaded, over 20,000 MT of which will be transported

through Sudan into South Sudan. In March and April, more ships will arrive from the US with an additional 47,500 MT of sorghum, 5,000 MT of lentils and 1,700 MT of vegetable oil, destined to provide assistance to South Sudanese refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sudan.

In 2017, WFP plans to assist more than 4.4 million vulnerable people in Sudan—IDPs, refugees, climate-affected populations, and host communities—through a range of activities, including emergency food aid, cash-based transfers, nutritional support, and resilience-building activities to help communities become independent.

About 8,000 people fled their homes in East Darfur and took refuge in El Lait, North Darfur

8,000 people fled their homes in East Darfur due to inter-communal violence and arrived in El Lait, North Darfur

Following reports from state authorities in North Darfur of the arrival of thousands of people in El Lait locality, fleeing inter-communal conflict between farmers and pastoralists in East Darfur, an inter-agency mission visited the area from 19 to 23 March to assess humanitarian needs. The mission included representatives from the Government's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), UN agencies, international and national NGOs and state line ministries.

Initial findings identified that about 8,000 people had arrived in Dalil Babikir, Dalil Dokhry, Futaha and Fagakh villages close to the East Darfur border. This is the only instance of internal displacement in Darfur since 1 January 2017, according to reports received by humanitarian partners.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and HAC in North Darfur have completed verification and registration of the new arrivals and results will be shared in coming weeks.

Immediate needs of the newly displaced persons include emergency shelter, water, food as well as access to health and education services. The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the State Ministry of Health (SMoH) have already delivered three basic medical kits to the health facilities in Futaha, Dalil Babikir, and Dalil Dokhry, which will meet the needs of up to 18,000 people for one month. The IDPs said they will not return to their home areas and will remain in the new locations. Once the results of the verification and registration exercise are shared, humanitarian organisations will begin providing assistance to those in need.

Humanitarian assistance to the Jebel Marra area

Aid organisations are continuing to assist people in need in a number of areas of the Jebel Marra massif located in Central Darfur. Humanitarian partners are currently waiting for the results of an IOM and HAC registration exercise, to determine the accurate



New IDP arrivals from East Darfur in El Lait North Darfur (Mar 2017, IA mission)

Aid organisations continue to assist people in need of humanitarian aid in the Jebel Marra area

WFP distributed one-month food rations to 25,000 people in Golo town

numbers of IDPs, returnees and other affected populations in the Golo area and to determine further response.

Humanitarian organisations improve water services

In Golo town in Central Darfur's Nertiti locality, the Government Water, Environment and Sanitation (WES) department is rehabilitating the solar water pumping station.

In Rokoro town, Rokoro locality, the international NGO Near East Foundation (NEF) rehabilitated 13 hand pumps, distributed hygiene kits to 350 people, casted 190 latrine slabs and trained 13 people on hand pump maintenance.

Targeting both new and pre-existing IDP populations, the international NGO World Relief (WR) completed water stations maintenance training for 21 people in Nertiti town; established four water user committees in Thur village and Nertiti town; and carried out two water container cleaning campaigns targeting 5,000 people in Nertiti town. WR also built 200 latrines in Thur village.

In addition, the international NGO Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) is carrying out hygiene promotion training for 50 people in IDP camps in Nertiti locality.

Food security and livelihood assistance reaches over 26,000 people

Agricultural supplies, including seeds and tools, were delivered to people in need in the Golo area and the international NGO Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has started distributions to 250 families (benefitting about 1,250 people). This is the first distribution of agricultural inputs to people in Golo since 2015.

In addition, WFP distributed one-month food rations in Golo town reaching 25,000 people. This is the second time WFP distributed food assistance in the area since October 2016.

Over 6,000 people receive emergency shelter and household supplies

On 23 March, NCA distributed emergency shelter and household supplies to 1,281 vulnerable families (benefitting about 6,400 people) in Nertiti and Thur IDP sites in West Jebel Marra locality. The distribution included people who were newly displaced from other parts of Jebel Marra in 2016. More resources are being mobilised to assist other vulnerable people in West and Central Jebel Marra localities.

World Water Day: 68% of households in Sudan have access to improved water sources

22 March was World Water Day, which celebrates the progress in achieving global water targets. This year's theme was "Why waste water?" in support of Sustainable Development Goal 6.3 on improving water quality and reducing, treating and reusing wastewater.

In Sudan, 68 per cent of households have access to basic improved water, with disparities in access between rural and urban populations at 64 and 78 per cent respectively, according to a [statement](#) issued by the UN Children's Agency (UNICEF) for World Water Day. There are also disparities



Girls wash their hands in a child-friendly space in Kassala, eastern Sudan (UNICEF)

In 2016, UNICEF and partners assisted 2 million vulnerable people in emergency and unserved areas with access to improved water

between states; around a third of households have access to safe water in Red Sea, White Nile and Gedaref states compared to 90 per cent in Khartoum and northern states. Lack of funding, inadequate management and inadequate community participation are some of the main reasons for poor access to clean water, as per the statement.

An estimated 13 million people in Sudan are still using unimproved drinking water sources, according to UNICEF, with about 32 per cent of the population drinking contaminated water from unimproved water sources. The majority of unimproved water sources are surface water while some are groundwater sources (open wells and contaminated groundwater aquifers). Pollutants mainly come from industrial waste and domestic and commercial waste, which are washed into surface water bodies or seep into the groundwater aquifers. National and state level policies preventing water pollution exist, but need to be enforced.

For children, lack of access to safe water can be dangerous, as diarrhoeal diseases linked to unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation, or poor hygiene are some of the leading causes of malnutrition and child mortality in Sudan, according to UNICEF. Significant investment and commitment is required from the Government of Sudan, donors and the private sector to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

UNICEF is working with the Government of Sudan and other key partners to support increased access to basic improved water supplies for communities, IDP camps, and schools, with a focus on women and children. By the end of 2016, UNICEF and partners succeeded in assisting 2 million vulnerable people (IDPs, refugees and people at risk of acute watery diarrhoea) in emergency and unserved areas with access to improved water through the operation, maintenance and chlorination of water sources at community and household levels.

In 2016, Sudan received 59 per cent of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) funding requested, of which 5 per cent went to the water, sanitation and hygiene sector, according to the financial tracking service (FTS) for Sudan.



Women at a water pump in North Darfur (archive, UNAMID)

New report on the impact of armed conflict on children in Sudan

On 6 March, the UN Secretary-General issued a [new report](#) detailing the impact of armed conflict on children in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile and in the Abyei Administrative Area. Leila Zerrougui, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, said in a [statement](#) that child recruitment and use of children in armed conflict has declined during the period covered by the report (March 2011 to December 2016). However, boys and girls continued to be victims of grave violations committed by all parties to the conflict, including killing and maiming, sexual violence and attacks on schools and hospitals, Zerrougui said.

Child recruitment and use of children in armed conflict declined in Sudan between March 2011 and December 2016, according to a new report by the UN SG

The report is the fifth by the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Sudan. It is also the first report on children and armed conflict published since the independence of South Sudan and the start of conflict in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states.

Throughout the reporting period, access by the UN to conflict-affected areas across Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile was a challenge and the information presented in the report might provide only a partial assessment of the actual situation of children affected by armed conflict in Sudan, the statement by the Special Representative read.

The Special Representative called for the UN to be given unrestricted access to all conflict areas to ensure adequate monitoring and reporting, to monitor compliance in the implementation of Action Plans and to facilitate the delivery of lifesaving humanitarian assistance to thousands of children.

Ireland donates €3 million to Sudan Humanitarian Fund

In 2016, SHF allocated about US\$39 million to 47 humanitarian partners in Sudan

On 20 March, the Government of Ireland announced a contribution of €3 million (about US\$3.3 million) to the UN Humanitarian Pooled Fund in Sudan – the Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF). This funding will be used to provide life-saving assistance through UN and NGO partners, based on the needs of vulnerable people facing conflict, forced to leave their homes, and with insufficient food to feed their families, according to a [press release](#) by the Irish Government.

This funding from Ireland will be disbursed through the current SHF allocation process. The SHF is a cost-effective way to support humanitarian action in Sudan. Under the direction of the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC), the SHF aims to support the timely allocation and disbursement of donor resources to the most critical humanitarian needs as defined by the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) or any agreed upon strategy by the HC. The SHF provides funding to international and national NGOs and UN agencies. The SHF receives voluntary donor contributions and supports humanitarian response year-round.

In 2016, SHF allocated about \$39 million to 47 humanitarian partners in Sudan.



Pedestrian bridge in Ed Daein (East Darfur) constructed with funds from the SHF (archive, UN)