AWD cases reported only in Central Darfur during March

While all the other 17 States in Sudan—where AWD was reported before—continued to report zero cases in the past three months, during March, new cases of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) were reported in Central Darfur State. This was reported in the latest AWD update issued by Sudan’s Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) and the World Health Organization (WHO) this week. Between 1 March and 3 April 2018, 151 cases of AWD were reported in Central Darfur, with no AWD-related deaths. The total number of new AWD cases reported from Central Darfur from February to March is 468, with almost all cases reported from 63 inaccessible villages in West Jebel Marra locality.

The incidence of AWD outbreak in Sudan started on 17 August 2016 in Kassala State and by May 2017 had spread to 10 states, expanding by August 2017 to all 18 of Sudan’s states. So far, the disease has claimed 823 deaths (case fatality rate of 2.23 per cent) resulting from 37,000 cases (attack rate – 10.09 per 10,000). It has also affected all demographic groups, with females constituting 59 per cent and children below 5 years of age accounting for 15 per cent of all reported cases.

To eliminate the transmission of AWD, response activities must continue until four-week consecutive zero reporting is in place nationwide, in all localities. WHO and FMoH have proposed an in-depth evaluation of AWD response and risk assessment to refine and re-strategize control efforts in early 2018.

After assessing the situation in all 18 states, 17 localities from nine states have been identified for an Oral Cholera Vaccination (OCV) campaign, targeting refugees and host communities. Vaccination will be carried out during 2018-2019.
Displaced civilians seek shelter and assistance in and around Rokero, North Jebel Marra

At least 2,280 newly displaced households (about 11,500 people) arrived in Rokero town and nearby Jemeza village after 18 April, following fighting between armed nomads and sedentary farmer tribes. This figure is a preliminary estimate by a joint inter-agency assessment comprising government ministries, UN agencies and international NGOs that visited the area. In interviews with local authorities and IDP leaders - including women – the team was informed that many of the homes of the displaced had been burnt. Other people have been allegedly displaced into the mountains.

Immediate needs of the newly displaced in Rokero and Jemeza

Emergency shelter, non-food items (ES/NFIs), food and access to water and sanitation services are the priority needs of these new IDPs, according to the joint inter-agency team’s preliminary findings. Listed below are some of the preliminary findings of the mission:

**ES/NFIs**: The new IDPs arrived with few personal belongings and are sheltering under trees.

**Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)**: There is one water pump in Jemeza village, which has been repaired by the inter-agency team, which also brought some WASH materials with them. However, due to the large number of displaced, the amount of water available is below SPHERE standards.

**Health and nutrition**: There is no health facility in Jemeza village and the nearest health facility where IDPs can access health and nutrition services is in Rokero town. The health facility is run by the State Ministry of Health (SMoH) with support from Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and World Relief (WR). Currently, half rations of the 800 cartons of plumpy nut (nutrition supplement) available in the facility is being distributed to children under five. Nutrition screening is also being undertaken.

**Education**: The estimated new IDP population includes about 1,150 school-age children, who are currently out of school due to lack of education facilities in the area.

**Child protection**: Three children were reported missing during interviews with the displaced community.

**Food security and livelihoods**: There are no food supplies in the local market, and the World Food Programme (WFP) sent food supplies to Rokero on 29 April and initial food distribution for the new IDPs is scheduled for 30 April.

Fuel shortages slow humanitarian assistance

Ongoing nation-wide fuel shortages, which started in March are slowing down humanitarian operations in Sudan. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) reported in its latest update on South Sudanese refugee response that fuel shortages across Sudan worsened at the end of March, affecting response logistics and slowing down humanitarian assistance at refugee locations. While some relief has been provided with

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Some 2,280 newly displaced households have arrived in Rokero town and Jemeza village in North Jebel Marra locality, fleeing conflict.

The estimated new IDP population includes about 1,150 school-age children, who are currently out of school due to lack of education facilities in the area.

IDPs taking refuge inside a traditional bakery (IA Mission, April 2018)
renewed availability of fuel supplies, additional shortages are anticipated in the coming months, according to UNHCR.

In South Kordofan, some international NGOs (INGOs) are not able to access their pre-positioned fuel stocks stored at fuelling stations in the State capital, Kadugli. They are only allowed to receive a limited amount of fuel, not considered enough for their operations. The UN has requested from the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) in South Kordofan to facilitate INGOs’ access to fuel stocks. As for UN agencies, the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) has agreed to supply fuel to all UN agencies based in South Kordofan.

Fuel shortages are likely to affect various aspects of humanitarian operations across Sudan. For instance, lack of diesel for generators and water pumps will impact the cold chain for vaccines and could lead to shortages of water for drinking, livestock and agriculture, which will eventually impact food security. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said in its Early Warning Early Action report on food security and agriculture for April-June 2018 that the scarcity of fuel and subsequent increase in production costs could threaten the 2018/2019 agricultural season. This will further impact the availability and price of food, and increase rural-to-urban movement in search of employment, FAO said.

Continued fuel shortages will inevitably affect the delivery of educational supplies, materials for construction, and Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF) for children identified with severe acute malnutrition (SAM). It may also lead to operational delays in the implementation and monitoring of humanitarian programmes, which may result in late or inadequate reporting and accountability of programmatic outcomes and results.

In its latest update FEWS NET reports that fuel shortages across most parts of Sudan has worsened towards end of March beginning of April 2018, coinciding with the continued high inflation and local currency depreciation following the macro-economic changes in Sudan during January and February 2018. This has led to high transportation costs, which resulted in high prices of food and non-food items across different parts of the country, says FEWS NET. FEWS NET added that cereal and non-cereal food prices are likely to continue increasing more rapidly than usual from April through September 2018. This is due to high transportation costs resulting from severe fuel shortages during March and April, associated with continue local currency depreciation and high inflation rates, FEWS NET said.

The SHF has allocated some $20 million to 45 projects implemented by 30 partner organizations in Darfur, Kassala, West Kordofan and Abyei.

The Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF) allocated some US$20 million to 45 projects implemented by 30 partner organisations to respond to the prioritised education, health, livelihood, nutrition, WASH and protection needs of IDPs, refugees and vulnerable host communities in the five Darfur States, Kassala West Kordofan, and Abyei.

The amount of $6 million was allocated for multi-sector humanitarian responses in areas with new displacement and/or newly accessible areas in Central Darfur (Golo, Nertiti, Rokero), North Darfur (Al Lait) and South Darfur (East Jebel Marra). In the past weeks conflict in different areas in Jebel Marra has been observed. It is estimated that 11,500 people were displaced to Rokero and thousands more have been affected in East Jebel Marra locality, South Darfur. The early SHF allocation, including, $2.5 million to Rokero and East Jebel Marra ($0.7 million to Rokero and $1.8 million to East Jebel Marra) enables partner organisations to immediately respond to some of the needs of the new arrivals.

An amount of $4.6 million was allocated to conduct a multi-sector response to areas with protracted needs in North Darfur (Dar El Salam, Tawilla, Kebkabiya (Sortony) and Kutum), South Darfur (Bielel, Kass, Nyala North) and Abyei. Aside from the suffering from protracted humanitarian needs, some of these areas have also received new IDPs over the past years. Programming will respond to the humanitarian needs while at the same time increasing self-reliance.
An amount of $3 million was allocated to respond to the needs of out-of-camp South Sudanese refugees in East Darfur (Abu Jabra, Abu Karinka, Adila), South Darfur (Buram), and West Kordofan (El Meiram, Gebaysh, El Nuhud). At the beginning of the year, these localities hosted over 50,000 South Sudanese refugees among host communities. Programming will focus on education, the improvement of livelihoods, WASH, health and integrated protection.

Another $1.4 million was allocated to FAO, and the international NGOs Practical Action and GOAL to respond to the emerging drought crisis in Kassala and North Darfur respectively. Another $4 million was allocated for a two-year multi-sector response (health, livelihood, nutrition, and WASH) to respond to acute malnutrition in Kassala. The international NGOs Practical Action and Kuwaiti Patient Helping Fund will lead a consortium to address the high malnutrition rates in a comprehensive manner in Hamashkoreib and Telkok localities.

Finally, $1.3 million was allocated for the second year of the returnee pilot in Um Dukhun. Catholic Relief Services, Triangle, SORC and UNDP will aim to decrease vulnerabilities in the three targeted villages of Garaya, Beltebei and Magan in Um Dukhun.

In line with the commitments of the World Humanitarian Summit, most of the funding was allocated to NGOs. Of the total amount, 75 per cent of the funding was allocated to international NGOs, 10 per cent to national NGOs and 15 per cent to UN agencies.

Ongoing steady rate of new refugee arrivals

According to UNHCR, over 1,600 South Sudanese refugees newly arrived in Sudan in the first two weeks of April. While this is a slower rate of new arrivals than observed in 2017, the flows continue to be steady across border states in Sudan (over 23,000 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Sudan in April 2017). As of 15 April, over 16,000 South Sudanese refugees have arrived in Sudan in 2018 so far, bringing the total number of South Sudanese refugees in the country to about 771,900.

New refugee reception centre opens in South Kordofan

COR has completed the installation of a new reception center at Gedeid in Abu Jubaiha locality in South Kordofan. Abu Jubaiha is a key settlement area for new arrivals to the state. In 2017, an estimated 40 per cent of new arrivals crossed through Gedeid, Sirajiya and Quaryd. The reception center will provide health screenings, hot meals and household registration.

NFI distribution completed for refugees and host communities in Khartoum ‘open areas’

UNHCR and Sudan’s Commission for Refugees (COR) completed the distribution of non-food items (NFIs) to over 10,000 South Sudanese refugee and host community households in ‘open areas’ in Khartoum and to vulnerable host community households. The distribution included blankets and plastic sheeting as interim shelter assistance, while inter-agency partners develop a more sustainable shelter response.

The NFI distribution follows the completion of an inter-agency needs assessment of the ‘open areas’ in December 2017, which found significant protection, livelihoods, shelter and NFI needs, as well as health and education service gaps. Partners are currently developing a response plan and mobilizing resources to begin delivering humanitarian assistance.

Between 2010 and 2013, UNHCR and the Commissioner for Voluntary Humanitarian Works (CVHW), in collaboration with IOM, assisted the voluntary return of some 75,000 South Sudanese people living in Sudan by road, river, train and air. In Khartoum, the South Sudanese population willing to return were advised to assemble at 41 departure points (staging areas). However, in 2013, as conflict erupted in South Sudan, many South Sudanese people were left stranded and were unable or unwilling to return. As a result, the departure points in Khartoum have gradually evolved into so-called “open areas,” where South Sudanese people are now living as refugees in poor conditions.
Statistics of South Sudanese refugees in Sudan
Source: UNHCR South Sudanese refugee response update, 15 April 2018

SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES IN NUMBERS:
Total no. of refugees 771,862
Pre-Dec 2013 refugees 352,212
Post-Dec 2013 refugees 419,650
Total arrivals in 2018 16,357

SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES by state / region:

- N. DARFUR: 13,236
- S. DARFUR: 51,051
- W. DARFUR: 385
- W. KORDOFAN: 8,563
- S. KORDOFAN: 1,435
- N. KORDOFAN: 56,811
- E. DARFUR: 97,907
- WHITE NILE: 173,265
- RIVER NILE: 2,500
- NORTHERN: 2,500
- KHARTOUM: 285,705
- EASTERN SUDAN REGION: 35,050

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION:
23% in camps
77% out of camps

REGISTRATION PROGRESS:
8% household registration
35% individual registration
57% unregistered