

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 23 October, the head of the national NGO Al Sugia Charity Organization was killed by unidentified gunmen near Nyala, South Darfur.
- Government announces cessation of hostilities for 1-12 November 2013 for vaccinations in South Kordofan and Blue Nile.
- DRA plans to kick-start new registration of IDPs in different camps in Darfur and Darfuri refugees outside the country, to be used for return and repatriation purposes.
- Some 176,000 people displaced by fighting since April in East Darfur. Lack of access to clean water and sanitation is one of the main gaps.



A child in Sudan receiving the polio vaccine (WHO)

In this issue

- Head of a national NGO killed in Darfur P.1
- Vaccination campaign P.2
- Insecurity in East Darfur constrains aid P.2
- DRA to register IDPs and refugees P.3

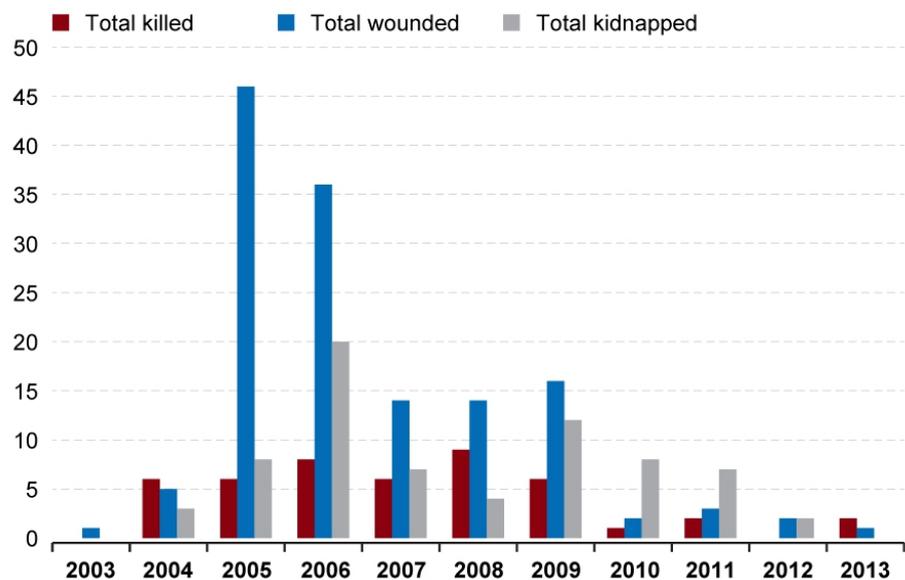
Head of a national NGO killed in South Darfur

On 23 October, the head of the national NGO Al Sugia Charity Organization was killed by unidentified gunmen near Sakali village, about 15 km southwest of Nyala town in South Darfur, according to reports received by the UN. Another staff member of Al Sugia on-board the NGO vehicle and a police officer were injured when the gunmen ambushed and hijacked the vehicle. The NGO has been supporting water and sanitation activities in Edd El Fursan locality. National NGOs in South Darfur have had wider access to remote areas than international aid agencies and the incident will affect the delivery of water and sanitation services in the area. Following the incident, field missions to remote areas are expected to be curtailed to a minimum, with national NGOs now also facing serious security threats once they move out of Nyala.

It has been reported that since the fighting in July between members of Government security forces and some militia groups in Nyala, most of the militia have moved to the outskirts of the town. This has reportedly contributed to the rise in criminality and insecurity in areas outside of Nyala. The July fighting resulted in the killing of two aid workers and serious injuries to two other staff members of the international NGO World Vision. According to the Aid Worker Security Database (AWSDB), since 2003, 261 aid workers have been killed, injured or abducted in Darfur.

Number of aid workers killed, injured and abducted in Darfur since 2003

Source: Aid Workers Security Database (AWSDB)



FIGURES

IDPs in Darfur – figures currently being reviewed

Refugees in Sudan (UNHCR) 159,000

Sudanese refugees in Chad (UNHCR) 346,000

Sudanese refugees in South Sudan & Ethiopia (UNHCR) 229,000

FUNDING

985 million requested (US\$)

475 million reported funding (US\$)

48.2% reported funding

Government announces cessation of hostilities for vaccination campaign

Government announces cessation of hostilities for 1-12 November 2013 for vaccinations in South Kordofan and Blue Nile

On 27 October, the Government of Sudan announced a 12-day cessation of hostilities in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, beginning on 1 November 2013, to allow for a polio vaccination and vitamin A supplementation campaign for children under-five years of age. Sudan was recently declared polio free, but since April 2013, the virus has re-appeared in eastern Africa. There is a risk that the virus may spread into Sudan, especially in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, where no polio vaccination have taken place in areas controlled by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) since the armed conflict began in 2011.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Children's Agency (UNICEF) – in collaboration with the Sudanese Ministry of Health and the relief wing of the SPLM-N – have put in place plans for a polio vaccination and vitamin A distribution for 154,000 children under-five years of age in SPLM-N controlled areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile. The SPLM-N has requested further talks to finalise arrangements. Meanwhile, UNICEF, WHO and other operational partners are continuing consultations with both the Government and SPLM-N in an attempt to ensure that the vaccination campaign goes ahead as soon as possible.

In a statement on 24 October, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, Ali Al-Za'tari, said in a statement that "Sudan's future lies in the health of its children". He went on to say that "this is an opportunity for all parties to put children's health before politics and to ensure that this campaign goes ahead without delay".

East Darfur: insecurity and lack of escorts constrains humanitarian response

An estimated 176,000 people have been displaced in East Darfur since April 2013 as a result of fighting between SAF and the Sudan Liberation Army – Minni Minawi (SLA-MM) in Muhajeria and Labado in April/May, followed by inter-tribal fighting between Rizeigat and Ma'aliya tribes in parts of Adila and Abu Karinka localities that started in August 2013. This includes 140,100 people displaced by the Rizeigat and Ma'aliya fighting, of whom 134,910 are in Adila and Abu Karinka, according to HAC (these figures have not been verified due to lack of access) and 5,190 displaced people are in Al Jalabi Sunta and Mina Al Bari in Ed Daein locality. Another 36,000 people were displaced by fighting around Muhajeria and Labado in April/May. Reports received from the community leaders and IDP community leaders indicate that there are some IDP locations where there are critical gaps. These include Labado, Muhajeria, Yassin, Selea, Abu Hadid, Adila and Abu Karinka.

According to the Government of Sudan's Water and Environmental Sanitation Department (WES), this massive civilian displacement has put enormous pressure on the existing water sources in 23 displacement areas in East Darfur.

In spite of the massive humanitarian needs in East Darfur, humanitarian organisations have had limited access to affected people as a result of

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A water point in Yassin shared by displaced people and livestock (UN)

insecurity and lack of escorts for humanitarian personnel. The State Government has authorised humanitarian staff to travel to some of the affected areas, but it has not authorised UNAMID escorts. As a result of this restriction, there have not been any UN humanitarian convoys outside of the Ed Daein area in East Darfur since 13 August 2013.

Darfur Regional Authority to register IDPs/refugees for returns

DRA plans to kick-start new registration of IDPs in different camps in Darfur and Darfuri refugees outside the country, to be used for return and repatriation purposes

The Darfur Regional Authority (DRA) announced on 23 October its plans to kick-start new registration of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in different camps in Darfur and Darfuri refugees outside the country, to be used for return and repatriation purposes. The new database will build on the already existing data, mainly from the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Meanwhile, WFP, IOM and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) are continuing their on-going exercise to provide a detailed database of all IDPs in Darfur.

Returnees in Sirba and Jebel Moon localities, West Darfur need aid

An estimated 17,000 people who returned to 12 villages in Sirba and Jebel Moon locality, West Darfur, are in need of basic services including water, sanitation, health, and education, according to findings from two inter-agency missions led by HAC and UNHCR earlier this month. The villages assessed include Umsebeigha, Burta, Bir Saliba, Gimri and Rufaida villages in Sirba locality, as well as

Tatinga, Shatan, Jamal Arkeek, Tombostat, Umgussa and Badda villages in Jebel Moon locality. In Badda village, of the estimated 4,800 returnees found, only 200 confirmed that they had permanently returned. The remaining returnees were seasonal returnees who indicated they were willing to settle permanently in the area if better access to basic services was provided.



A returnee in West Darfur (UNAMID)

Whooping cough and measles cases in Darfur

WHO has reported that the whooping cough outbreak is still on-going in North Darfur's El Sireaf locality. The total number of suspected cases reached 58, with two fatalities representing a case fatality rate (CFR) of 3.4 per cent. All identified cases are being treated. WHO provided technical and operational support to a rapid response team from the Epidemiology Department of the State Ministry of Health (SMoH). The team is conducting active search for cases. Coordination with the expanded programme on immunization (EPI) is underway to revise the vaccination coverage in the area.

Meanwhile in South Darfur's El Serif IDP camp, the international NGO Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) – Belgium has reported four suspected cases of measles in the camp. Samples have been taken for laboratory testing. Measles is a highly contagious disease and it remains one of the leading causes of death among young children globally, despite the availability of a safe and effective vaccine. Overcrowding in IDP camps greatly increases the risk of infection, according to WHO.