

HIGHLIGHTS

- Government aid institutions, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and partner organisations estimate that some 23,300 people have arrived from South Sudan, excluding arrivals in Abyei.
- The S3M survey is a “gold mine” of credible data on child malnutrition and its underlying causes, according to UNICEF.
- Negotiations between the Government and SPLM-N will resume on 13 February in Addis Ababa under the auspices of AUHIP, says a senior Government official.
- A joint HAC/Humanitarian Partners assessment mission left Kadugli town on 2 February to assess the needs of returnees in Abu Kershola, South Kordofan.



South Sudanese arrivals from Upper Nile State in White Nile (SRCS)

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Influx from South Sudan continues

The Government and aid agencies report that the number of people fleeing conflict in South Sudan and seeking shelter in Sudan has increased in the past week. Government aid institutions, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and partner organisations estimate that some 23,300 people have arrived from South Sudan to five states in Sudan from mid-December to the end of January 2014. An additional 2,500 – 3,000 people are estimated to have arrived in Abyei. The majority of people from South Sudan are taking refuge in White Nile State, where two relocation sites – Kilo 10 in Al Salam locality and Al Alagaya in Jebelein locality – have been set up. The Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) reported that the numbers are expected to increase further.

There are some reports of people from South Sudan proceeding to other parts of Sudan including to some open areas in Khartoum. Overall, UNHCR and other partner organisations estimate that between 350 and 371 South Sudanese people have arrived in Khartoum so far.

On 3 February, The United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, Mr Ali Al-Za'tari, and the Representative *a.i.* for UNHCR in Sudan, Ms. Angela Li Rosi, welcomed the Government of Sudan's commitment to provide international protection and humanitarian aid to South Sudanese people who have fled the conflict in South Sudan. They also welcomed the announcement by the Government of Sudan that the South Sudanese will be granted “special privileges”. Additionally, they encouraged the

FIGURES

IDPs in Darfur – figures currently being reviewed

Refugees in Sudan (UNHCR) 156,000

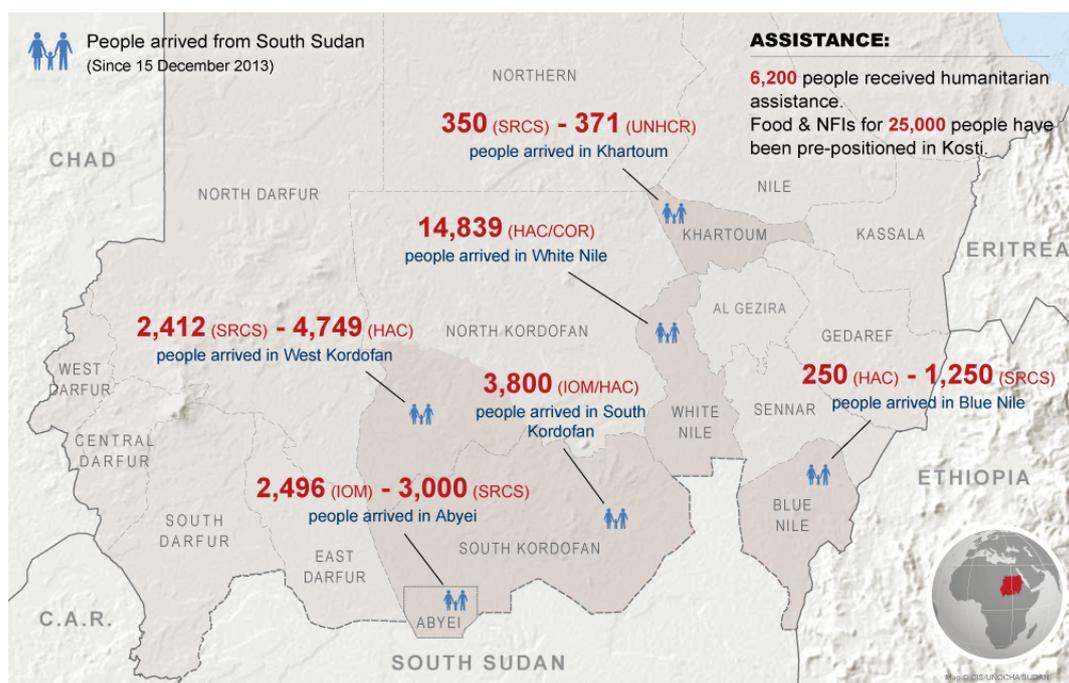
Sudanese refugees in Chad (UNHCR) 350,000

Sudanese refugees in South Sudan & Ethiopia (UNHCR) 248,000

FUNDING

995 million requested in 2014 (US\$)

0.8 % reported funding



People who arrived from South Sudan are in urgent need of more humanitarian aid, including access to health, water and sanitation, food and non-food items and shelter, according to SRCS

Government to further clarify the nature of protection it will extend and the modalities for granting such protection, in line with international instruments ratified by Sudan. The United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and UNHCR expressed concern about reports of rapidly deteriorating humanitarian conditions in the sites where newly arriving South Sudanese reside and to which UN Agencies have had limited access.

Response to South Sudan influx faces challenges

SRCS has reported that the needs of the people who arrived from South Sudan are enormous. Many are in urgent need of wide-ranging humanitarian assistance, including health, water and sanitation, food and non-food relief items and shelter. SRCS stated that its volunteers on the ground have reported several challenges in identifying the arrivals and responding to their needs, including long distances to reach the affected people, poor state of roads and lack of fuel.



South Sudanese in Kweik, White Nile State (SRCS)

In White Nile State, where nearly 15,000 South Sudanese have so far arrived, the State Emergency Committee has delivered food items - including 200 sacks of beans, 50 sacks of lentils and 50 sacks of dates - for urgent distribution to people in need. SRCS reports that it has provided food, shelter and non-food relief supplies, including the allocation of 200 tents for the two relocation sites. The World Food Programme (WFP) has started food distribution in White Nile. Further, UNHCR pre-positioned non-food relief items for 5,000 households have arrived in Kosti and are ready for distribution. The UN Children's Agency (UNICEF) provided three water bladders (10,000 liters) and the Ministry of Health deployed an eye clinic on 23 January. Elsewhere, WFP has sent a team to West Kordofan State to assess the needs of new arrivals from South Sudan. As soon as the assessment is completed, emergency food rations will be provided.

S3M nutrition survey results launched in Sudan

On 29 January, the Government of Sudan, in collaboration with UNICEF, released new data from a child malnutrition survey across the country's 18 states. The survey utilized the Simple Spatial Survey Methodology (S3M), which is widely considered a comprehensive source of credible data on child malnutrition and its underlying causes, according to UNICEF. The head of UNICEF in Sudan, Mr Geert Cappelaere, stated, "Sudan has only had general data on the nutritional status of its children – and we know that national and even state level averages often mask disparities at lower levels."

The Sudan S3M survey results show a mix of very different realities across the country with high levels of stunting (chronic malnutrition) and low levels of coverage for safe water and sanitation in some areas. "With these new survey results, we know exactly where the pockets of high need are located, so investment can be tailored to make sure that every single child in need is reached," Mr Cappelaere said.

The results also indicate that poor child feeding practices are a problem across the country, with localities in Kassala and Gedaref states among the most critical. The eastern region and the Kordofan states have the lowest coverage of safe drinking water and improved latrine facilities, while the Red Sea, Blue Nile and the Darfur region show the highest prevalence of diarrhoea. On the other hand, the use of iodised salt has improved, reaching over 90 per cent of households in some localities in Red Sea, South Darfur, Blue Nile and Kassala.

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ICRC activities have been suspended due to technical issues related to ICRC's planned activities in 2014, according to HAC

Government suspends ICRC activities in Sudan

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) released a statement on 2 February noting that they had received an official letter from the Government of Sudan's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) informing them to suspend all activities in Sudan as of 1 February 2014. According to the ICRC statement, HAC cited that the suspension is a result of technical issues related to the work ICRC plans to undertake this year. Discussions with relevant Government authorities are underway to resolve this issue.

ICRC started working in Sudan in 1978 and extended its operations to Darfur in 2003. The Sudan operation focuses on protecting and assisting victims of conflict. It facilitates coordination within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and maintains contact with the United Nations and other agencies in the field to maximise the impact of humanitarian work. SRCS is ICRC's primary partner in Sudan. The two organisations co-operate in delivering relief aid to populations affected by conflict. The ICRC provides technical support to the SRCS in building its capacity in emergency preparedness and response, restoring family links, as well as in communicating humanitarian principles.

Joint inter-sector mission to South Kordofan

A joint HAC/Humanitarian Partners assessment mission left the state capital of South Kordofan, Kadugli, on 2 February to assess the needs of returnees in Abu Kershola. The mission comprised of HAC, line ministries, UN agencies as well as national and international NGOs representing almost all sectors. This is the first joint HAC-Humanitarian Partners assessment mission since January 2012.

In April and May 2013, some 50,000 people fled the Abu Kershola area to various locations in South and North Kordofan, as well as Khartoum, following fighting between Government forces and the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF). Recent registrations by HAC and SRCS in January 2014 indicate that over 14,000 people have returned to Abu Kershola over the last six months.

Furthermore, according to South Kordofan's Voluntary Return and Rehabilitation Committee (VRRRC), over 22,000 displaced people in El Rahad, Umm Ruwaba and other areas in North Kordofan have expressed their willingness to return to Abu Kershola before the end of this year. UNHCR and the Return, Recovery, and Reintegration (RRR) Sector will assess the voluntariness and appropriateness of the planned return.

Government talks with SPLM-N to start on 13 February in Addis Ababa

Negotiations between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) are to resume on 13 February under the auspices of African Union High-Level Implementation Panel on Sudan (AUHIP) in Addis Ababa, according to a senior Government official. Presidential Assistant and Chief Negotiator, Mr. Ibrahim Gandour, told the media on 2 February that the basis of the talks will be UN Security Council resolution 2046 of May 2012, which called for the parties to reach a negotiated settlement to end the conflict in South Kordofan and Blue Nile. The last direct talks between the Government of Sudan and the SPLM-N were conducted in April 2013.

Returns to Central Darfur continue

On 29 January, the national NGO, the Great Family Organization (GFO), reported that some people who fled parts of Central Darfur State following armed clashes between the Misseriya and Salamat tribes as well as fighting between the Ta'aisha and Salamat tribes last year, decided to return to Central Darfur. Humanitarian organisations estimate that 11,400 people from the Salamat tribe fled to Markondi and Kubum towns in South Darfur's Kubum locality in August-September 2013. In Markondi town, an estimated 5,200 displaced Salamat– who fled from Central Darfur's Um Dukhun locality and took refuge in the town – have started to return to Um Dukhun locality. The remaining 6,200 people in Kubum town – who fled from South Darfur's Rahad El Berdi and Ed El Fursan localities

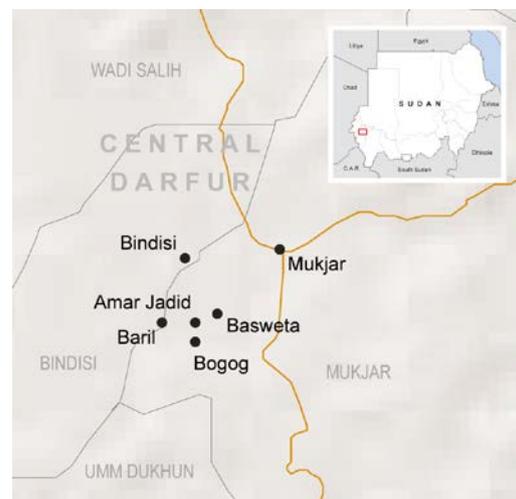
An estimated 5,200 people displaced South Darfur have started to return to Um Dukhun locality, Central Darfur

– have decided to remain in Kubum until the security situation in their areas of origin improves, according to GFO.

Some 4,000 recent returnees in need of humanitarian assistance

An estimated 4,000 returnees to Mukjar locality, Central Darfur State, are in need of drinking water, emergency shelter and non-food items and education assistance

An estimated 4,000 people have returned to the villages of Amar Jadid, Baril, Basweta, Raskileib, Bogog and Saraf Gimaiz in Mukjar locality from Bindisi town and the Tharou area in Central Darfur State, according to findings from an inter-agency mission that visited the villages on 24 December. The mission found that the returnees are in need of drinking water, emergency shelter and non-food items and education assistance. The returnees are from the Gimir, Tama Marareet and Salamat tribes who fled their homes in November 2013 due to fighting between the Salamat and Misseriya tribes. The improved security situation - following efforts by the local-level peace and reconciliation committee to promote inter-tribal peace - prompted the returns.



CHF-funded bridge in Ed Daein inaugurated

On 22 July, the Governor of East Darfur State inaugurated a bridge in the state capital Ed Daein. The bridge will help many displaced people access essential services, particularly during the rainy season. An estimated 75,000 displaced people live in four camps in connection to the urban area of Ed Daein. These people are not able to access to basic and social services in Ed Daein locality during the rainy season, which can last up to three months. Humanitarian agencies also face challenges to deliver assistance to these displaced people during the rainy season.

The construction of the bridge is part of a UN Office for the Project Services (UNOPS) led project financed by the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF). The aim of the project is to improve the timely distribution of humanitarian assistance by providing safe and year round access to vulnerable populations. During the rainy season, one of the most urgent infrastructure needs is the functioning of crossing points or bridges across riverbeds (wadis).



Pedestrian bridge – constructed with CHF funds – that links four IDP camps to the urban area of Ed Daein town, East Darfur (UN)