New IDPs from Jebel Marra receive initial aid

The conflict between government security forces and the Sudan Liberation Movement – Abdul Wahid (SLA-AW) that started in mid-January in Jebel Marra, Darfur continues to affect and displace more civilians, according to humanitarian organisations.

Civilians bear the brunt of the fighting and humanitarian organisations call on all parties to the conflict to ensure civilians are protected and facilitate free and unfettered humanitarian access so that affected and displaced civilians can receive humanitarian assistance they urgently need.

By 7 February, 37,000 new internally displaced persons (IDPs) sought shelter in North Darfur State. In Central Darfur, there is a wide range of estimates on the number of newly displaced. The reported figures of newly displaced are yet to be verified and are likely to change. While aid agencies have provided initial assistance to new IDPs in Sortony and other locations in North Darfur, no assistance has been provided in Central Darfur due to lack of access.

About 37,000 new IDPs from Jebel Marra in North Darfur

The cumulative reported number of new IDPs from Jebel Marra in North Darfur is estimated at about 37,000 people, which is about 6,000 more compared to the figure reported during the previous week. This includes 21,690 people in Sortony, 14,000 in Tawila and 1,186 in Kebkabiya.

Aid organisations visited Sortony, North Darfur on 2-4 February and found that 21,690 IDPs (2,200 men, 5,991 women, 13,499 children) have gathered at the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) team site in the area. These new IDPs, of whom 90 per cent are women and children, have arrived from 59 villages. More people are on their way to Sortony, according to the displaced people. Meanwhile, some of the displaced people have moved to Kebkabiya town. A tracking team from the International Organization of Migration (IOM) arrived in Sortony to start IDP verification.
Along with assessing the needs, the mission distributed initial assistance to the displaced. The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the government’s Water and Environmental Sanitation Department (WES) dispatched a water truck from Kebkabiya with a capacity of 26,000 litres. This truck will supply the IDPs with a total of 52,000 litres of water daily. Coupled with UNAMID’s capacity of 40,000 litres, the total available amount of water is 92,000 litres, which translates into 4.2 litres per person per day (l/p/d). The minimum required water quantity per person in such an emergency is 7.5-15 l/p/d, according to SPHERE standards. The mission also distributed nutritional supplies (140 cartons to cover the needs of 1,344 children aged between 6 – 12 months for one week), and hygiene supplies (9,000 bars of soap for 3,000 families).

On 6 February, a second convoy with additional assistance for new IDPs in Sortony was dispatched from El Fasher. The convoy will deliver food for 16,000 people for two months, as well as nutritional supplies for 3,800 children under the age of five and pregnant and nursing women for 15 days. It also includes a full set of emergency households items for 4,500 families (estimated 22,500 people), as well as medical, hygiene and other supplies.

In Tawila, the reported number of new IDPs reached about 14,000 people. This is an increase of almost 5,000 compared to the figure reported last week. Aid organisations and the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA) continue to provide the newly displaced with food, nutrition, emergency household supplies as well as health, water, sanitation and education assistance. So far, at least 10,000 people have received some form of initial assistance, mainly food.

In Kebkabiya, there are 1,186 new IDPs who are staying with extended family or host community. WFP plans to carry out a rapid food security assessment of this group on 7 February.

**Challenges of verifying new IDPs in Central Darfur**

National and international humanitarian organisations are currently not able to carry out any verification or assessment of newly displaced people who arrived in Central Darfur from the Jebel Marra. Local authorities stated that they are taking full responsibility on this matter and will provide any assistance required. However, humanitarian organisations are concerned about whether all displaced and other conflict-affected people are able to receive the assistance they need. Meanwhile, significant movement restrictions and the volatile security situation prevent aid organisations from ascertaining that. This leads to confusion regarding the numbers of new IDPs, with wide range of estimates complicating the understanding of the situation on the ground and potential response.

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**About 37,000 new IDPs reported in North Darfur, an increase of 6,000 people compared to the previous week**
According to the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) in Zalingei, the reported number of new IDPs in Guldo, Thur and Daya has not changed over the past week (see the table below). These figures are not confirmed (not yet individually registered) and are very likely to change after registration and verification.

According to HAC and the Deputy Wali (Governor), local authorities provided or prepositioned some food supplies and 3,000 blankets for the new IDPs in Thur and surrounding areas.

On 3 February, at a meeting with aid organisations the Deputy Wali stated that the authorities would create a conducive environment for humanitarian organisations to participate in verification and assessments to ensure that all conflict-affected people receive assistance.

**Locations and numbers of reported new IDPs in Central Darfur**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number of new IDPs</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guldo</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>Reported by HAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>Reported by HAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daya</td>
<td>2,190</td>
<td>Reported by community leaders and HAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,265</strong></td>
<td><em>these are reported but not yet verified numbers and are likely to change</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**International aid agencies unable to assist people affected by violence in Mulli and surrounding areas**

International aid organisations have been unable to access, assess needs or assist an estimated 5,000 people from Mulli and surrounding villages who arrived in El Geneina town, West Darfur in early January. These people fled the villages of Mulli, Atia, Fangata, Tandikoro, and Jeta following inter-communal violence in the area. Some sources also report that an unknown number of people have fled to neighbouring Chad. HAC in West Darfur had confirmed the number of people who took refuge in El Geneina town and has assessed the needs of the people in Mulli and surrounding villages. At the time of writing this report, the results of the verification and assessment have not yet been shared with aid organisations.

**The authorities provide aid to affected people in the Mulli area**

According to the HAC, on 1 February the DRA sent relief supplies to Mulli, Atia, Fangata, Tandikoro, and Jeta villages. The supplies include 420 bags of sorghum, 1,450 blankets, 1,450 plastic sheets and 140 tents. Local estimates indicate that a 50-kg sack of sorghum can cover the food needs of a family of five people for a month.

According to HAC, this is the third shipment of relief supplies provided by the government and national charity organisations to people affected in Mulli and surrounding villages. The first shipment of relief supplies included unspecified amounts of millet, sugar, oil biscuits, salt, emergency household supplies and mosquito nets provided by
local organisations and traders, according to the HAC. On 26 January, the National NGOs Network, Women’s Union and Civil Society Organisations reportedly sent a second shipment of relief supplies including unspecified amounts of food and emergency household supplies to affected people in Mulii, Atia and other surrounding villages.

**Joint assessment mission to Niteaga, South Darfur**

On 3 February, an inter-agency mission identified that an estimated 2,900 IDPs in Sheigei and Kabgay villages in South Darfur’s Niteaga locality, were in need food, emergency household supplies, water, sanitation, education and health assistance. These people fled their homes in Obeid village in Bielel locality due to fears of violence following armed clashes between farmers and pastoralists in mid-December 2015. In mid-January aid organisations were requested by HAC to assist them to return home. The provision of assistance will be dispatched in the coming weeks.

**Almost 200,000 South Sudanese in Sudan**

As of 1 February, the number of South Sudanese refugees who arrived in Sudan has reached 199,608, of whom 129,135 refugees received some form of humanitarian assistance, according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). These refugees fled fighting that erupted in South Sudan in mid-December 2013. According to UNHCR, in the month of January 5,204 refugees from South Sudan arrived in Sudan, which is higher than the average arrival rate of 3,514 over the past five months.

UNHCR’s biometric registration is ongoing in the White Nile State and is expected to be finalised by the end of February. To date, five sites have been completed and registration is taking place in the last two sites of El Redis II and Um Sangor.