

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Sudan and South Sudan agree on timeframes and arrangements to implement the nine agreements signed in Addis Ababa in September 2012
- Access to Blue Nile State improves as humanitarian organizations visit Ed Damazine, Geissan and Kurmuk localities
- The UN Common Humanitarian Fund allocates US \$54 million for priority humanitarian activities in Sudan

## FIGURES

IDPs in camps in Darfur receiving food aid (WFP)	1,430,000
Refugees in Sudan (UNHCR)	142,000
Sudanese refugees from Blue Nile and South Kordofan in South Sudan (UNHCR)	187,000
Sudanese refugees from Blue Nile in Ethiopia (UNHCR)	29,000

## FUNDING

**1 billion**  
requested (US\$)



Aid distribution in Bau locality, Blue Nile State (AORD)

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## Sudan and South Sudan agree to further implement peace deal

Following the agreement reached in Addis Ababa on 8 March to establish a demilitarized border zone, on 12 March the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan signed an Implementation Matrix detailing arrangements for implementing all of the nine agreements signed by the Presidents of Sudan and South Sudan in September 2012. The Implementation Matrix covers, amongst other things, the Agreement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area, including the establishment of the Abyei Area Administration, the Abyei Area Council and the Abyei Area Police. In a statement issued on 12 March, the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU) welcomed the signing of the Implementation Matrix and urged the parties to adhere to the timelines, which are necessary to ensure that the return of displaced persons to their homes in Abyei and the seasonal migration of nomadic groups can continue in a peaceful atmosphere.

The AU Chairperson has noted that both governments have commenced the withdrawal of their armed forces from their common border, as stipulated in the Agreement on Security Arrangements signed on 27 September 2012 and the agreement signed on 8 March 2013. According to the AU, the final status of the Abyei Area and the resolution of the Disputed and Claimed Areas are the only remaining outstanding issues between Sudan and South Sudan after the latter became independent in July 2011.



The signing of the Implementation Matrix in Addis Ababa (AU)

## Joint inter-agency mission with the Government to Blue Nile State

*Access to Blue Nile State improves as humanitarian organizations visit Ed Damazine, Geissan and Kurmuk localities*

A joint inter-agency mission led by the Government Humanitarian Aid Commissioner and the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator took place to the capital of Blue Nile State, Ed Damazine, on 12 March 2013. This was the first such mission to Blue Nile State since the conflict erupted there in September 2011. A number of UN agencies, international organisations and NGOs as well as some donors and HAC took part.

The delegation was warmly received by the Blue Nile State Governor and the State Government. The Governor reported that all of Blue Nile is safe to travel except a small part in the south-west where military operations are on-

going, close to the border with South Sudan. He stressed that the humanitarian situation is stable and under control and that the State's priority is to move from humanitarian assistance to early recovery and development. In his concluding remarks, the Governor reiterated his commitment to create a conducive environment in Blue Nile State for humanitarian organisations to carry out their activities. The UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and other members of the inter-agency delegation welcomed the fact that Government authorities are ready to allow for greater access to Blue Nile State for UN agencies and other humanitarian and development organizations, emphasizing that there is a need to ensure that all conflict-affected civilians in the State get the help that they need. The mission had a tour of Ed Damazine town and the El Roseires dam, including a Government resettlement scheme for people affected by the dam heightening project.

Since the beginning of 2013, similar joint inter-agency missions with the Government's Humanitarian Aid Commission have taken place to Abyei town, Kadugli in South Kordofan, and El Fasher in Darfur.

### UNHCR joint mission to Geissan locality in Blue Nile State

A joint mission of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and representatives of the Government's Commissioner of Refugees (COR) and HAC was undertaken to Geissan locality (near the Ethiopian border) in February 2013. The mission interacted with people who reported that they had returned from Ethiopia, who are currently in Geissan town. Those interviewed said that they went to Ethiopia (just across the border) after the clashes erupted between SAF and SPLM-N in September 2011. The majority said that they did not go to the transit centre or the camps in Assosa, Ethiopia, but stayed in the border area with friends and relatives with the intention of returning to Blue Nile when the situation calmed down.

The returnee population is in need of food, health care and shelter. They could not cultivate last season and the food supplies provided by the government months ago have been used up. Many claim to be surviving with one meal a day, while some said that they have had to resort to eating wild foods. UNHCR in Ethiopia conducted a revalidation exercise in late 2012 which brought down the population in Sherkole, Tongo and Bambasi camps to 29,000 with an estimated 3,000 other refugees living outside camps.

As an immediate response UNHCR has released non-food relief supplies for 3,000 people while the UNHCR Emergency Shelter/Non-Food Items Project is releasing items for an additional 2,000 people. UNHCR had earlier distributed non-food relief supplies to



Distribution of non-food aid in Bau locality, Blue Nile (AORD)

*According to UNHCR, there are 29,000 Sudanese refugees from Blue Nile in three camps in Ethiopia, and an additional 3,000 refugees living outside the camps*

affected people in Geissan and other localities through its local partner, Alsalam Organisation for Relief and Development (AORD).

### **WFP assesses food security in Geissan and Kurmuk localities**

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) has completed a verification exercise in eight locations (Geissan, Yarra, Bokari, Alyas, Kurmuk, Dindiro, Keli and Bulang) in Geissan and Kurmuk localities. Some 12,000 returnees in Geissan locality and some 39,000 returnees in Kurmuk locality have been verified. WFP confirmed a need for immediate assistance and will provide two months food rations to these returnees. In addition, WFP is planning to pre-position food requirements for the rainy season – from June to October. WFP has received an agreement from HAC to carry out assessments in all six localities.

## **People displaced by fighting in South Darfur arrive in Al Salam camp**

*Since 12 March more than 5,000 people have arrived in Alsalam camp for internally displaced persons near Nyala*

According to reports received by the United Nations, since 12 March more than 1,000 newly displaced families (an estimated 5,000 people) have arrived in Al Salam camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) near Nyala, the capital of South Darfur State. They are reported to have fled their homes in areas south of Nyala, including Um Gonja, Ab Garajil, Geldi, Hegeer and other villages, following fighting between Government forces and an armed movement. An inter-agency needs assessment mission is set to visit and identify the needs of the newly displaced people in Al Salam camp as soon as the security situation allows.

In addition, an international NGO reported that some 150 families (an estimated 750 people) were newly displaced by inter-tribal conflict from Betikha village in Edd El Fursan locality. These people fled recent fighting between the Beni Halba and Gimir tribes in Edd El Fursan and sought shelter in El Safia in Al Salam locality.



Displaced people from Um Gonja taking refuge in Alsalam camp (UN)

According to reports from community leaders and IDP representatives in Al Salam camp, on 15 March five people were killed – three outside the camp and two close to a water point in the camp. Meanwhile, local authorities reported that five criminals were killed and that they were not IDPs. Humanitarian agencies have not been able to access the camp since 12 March due to the security situation and were unable to verify these reports.

## **Aid continues to Jebel Amir in North Darfur**

Humanitarian agencies continue to provide assistance to people who had been displaced or affected by inter-tribal fighting earlier this year in the Jebel Amir gold mining area in North Darfur. The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) continues water trucking for IDPs in El Sireaf locality in the Jebel Amir area and a second water yard was completed in El Sireaf town, serving 20,000 people. On 16 March, a drilling rig travelling from Garra Az Zawia to El Sireaf had to turn back to Garra Az Zawia due to security concerns. On 17 March, the local authorities in El Sireaf reported the situation in El Sireaf to be calm and the road between Saraf Omra and El Sireaf open.

### **Displaced from Jebel Amir in camps near Zalingei receive humanitarian aid**

The international NGO Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) distributed emergency shelter and non-food items to over 1,000 displaced people from Jebel Amir who are currently residing in IDP camps in Zalingei town. This group was verified by humanitarian organisations

*Over 1,000 displaced people from Jebel Amir in IDP camps in Zalingei town have received non-food relief supplies*

over the past few weeks. In addition, there are estimated to be over 6,000 newly displaced persons who arrived in the camps and surrounding areas in Zalingei over the past weeks who have not been verified, according to humanitarian organisations. Central Darfur State authorities have instructed humanitarian organisations not to provide any humanitarian assistance to these people at this stage, stating that they are not genuine IDPs and that their movement is politically motivated. The state authorities also indicated that this group had settled on privately-owned land and this could lead to tension and conflict as the planting season draws nearer. The Government of Sudan's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) has agreed to provide further updates on this caseload to the humanitarian community in the coming days.

## US \$54 million allocated for priority humanitarian activities

*The UN Common Humanitarian Fund allocation of US \$54 million represents approximately 5 per cent of the total humanitarian appeal for Sudan*

The UN Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) has allocated US \$54 million to fund priority activities included in the 2013 UN and Partners Humanitarian Work Plan for Sudan. The CHF targets projects that respond to the most critical humanitarian needs in Sudan, with life-saving sectors like Food Security (\$10 million), Water and Sanitation (\$8.7 million) and Health (\$6.9 million) receiving much of this initial funding.

The funding provides a vital bridge as humanitarian organization wait for further funding to be confirmed. For example, it allows for critical water and sanitation projects to continue uninterrupted in IDP camps in Darfur, and it allows health providers to continue primary health care activities and disease surveillance systems throughout Sudan. The funding also helps people plan ahead: with summer approaching, people need seeds for the planting season, as well as livestock health support to ensure animals survive the hot months, when mortality risks dramatically increase.

The fund uses a collaborative allocations process, where sector experts, donors and humanitarian organizations together assess projects' geographic and programmatic relevance and technical quality before recommending them for funding. The CHF is committed to supporting National NGOs, and this first allocation provides \$6.8 million in direct funding to Sudanese organizations. This represents 12% of the total allocation – a 3% increase on last year. The CHF also has a reserve for unexpected emergencies that may arise throughout the year.

### Sudan CHF first round of allocations for 2013 by sector (in US\$)

