

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 7 April, the International Donor Conference for Darfur began in Doha, seeking \$7.2 billion for recovery, reconstruction and development in Darfur.
- WFP starts food distributions to some 51,000 people in Blue Nile State for the first time since September 2011.
- Thousands of people take refuge near the UNAMID team sites in Muhajeriya and Labado towns in East Darfur following fighting between SAF and SLA-MM.
- Inter-tribal conflict leads to new civilian displacement in Central and South Darfur.

FIGURES

IDPs in camps in Darfur receiving food aid (WFP) 1,430,000

Refugees in Sudan (UNHCR) 142,000

Sudanese refugees in South Sudan (UNHCR) 189,000

Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia (UNHCR) 29,000

FUNDING

984 million
requested (US\$)

221 million
reported funding (US\$)

22%
reported funding



Newly displaced people in Kalma IDP camp in South Darfur (UN)

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Darfur donor conference starts in Doha, Qatar

A two-day conference to raise support for Darfur began in Doha, Qatar on 7 April. The International Donor Conference for Reconstruction and Development in Darfur was agreed under the framework of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD). DDPD is a peace deal that the Government of Sudan signed in the Qatari capital with an armed group, the LJM, in July 2011. It aims to address the root causes of the conflict in Darfur and its consequences, including power and wealth sharing, human rights, justice and reconciliation, compensation and return, and internal dialogue.

The conference brings together representatives of the Government of Sudan, the international donor community, UN agencies, international and national NGOs and international funds and foundations. The conference provides a forum for the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA) and the Government of Sudan to discuss with its development partners the needs for economic recovery, development and poverty eradication in Darfur. These needs were assessed during a multi-stakeholder consultative process in September and October 2012 in Darfur and have been summarised in the Darfur Recovery, Reconstruction and Development Strategy.

In the run-up to the Doha conference, some peaceful demonstrations against the conference took place in some IDP camps in Central and South Darfur. IDP protesters said that they are against returns in the absence of comprehensive peace in Darfur and that they do not trust that the funds will be used for their benefit.

The Doha donor conference comes after more than a thousand people gathered last week for an IDP

conference in Nyala, capital of South Darfur State, to discuss strategies to facilitate the voluntary return and resettlement of IDPs. The conference organised by the DRA within the framework of the DDPD was attended by hundreds of IDPs from across Darfur, as well as refugees from Darfur living in neighboring countries.



Opening of the donors conference for Darfur in Doha (UNAMID)

Thousands of civilians newly displaced in Darfur

Thousands of people take refuge near the UNAMID team sites in Muhajeriya and Labado towns in East Darfur following fighting between SAF and SLA-MM

According to the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), thousands of civilians have been displaced from their homes in the towns of Muhajeriya (Shaeria locality) and Labado (Yassin locality) in East Darfur, following fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan Liberation Army – Minni Minawi (SLA-MM) on 6 April. Some displaced people, along with their livestock, have taken refuge close to the UNAMID team sites in Muhajeriya and Labado towns. The number of casualties and displaced cannot be determined due to the security situation, but initial estimates by an NGO suggest up to 15,000. There have also been reports from local authorities of people arriving at Abu Hadid village near Selea town in Yassin locality. An inter-agency assessment mission will go to the two towns as soon as security allows.

According to UNAMID, Government authorities have confirmed that the SLA-MM has taken control of the two towns. Both Muhajeriya and Labado towns are located in strategic positions along main supply routes used by traders and humanitarians to move supplies from Khartoum through East Darfur to South Darfur. The total population of Muhajeriya and Labado towns before the fighting started was an estimated 67,000 people, according to the State Ministry of Health (SMoH).

Inter-tribal fighting displaces civilians in Central and South Darfur

Meanwhile in Um Dukhun, Central Darfur, local leaders have reported civilian displacement from the areas of Marary, Hagar Sultan, Abugaradil and Al Garaia villages – south of Um Dukhun town – following armed clashes between the Misseriya and Salamat tribes that started on 3 April. According to tribal leaders, many people from both tribes were killed or wounded, but exact numbers are not known. The local community also estimates that some 5,000 people have fled into neighbouring Chad or the Central African Republic (CAR) or are internally displaced. Humanitarian partners are unable to verify these numbers as needs assessment missions are yet to be conducted.

According to the WFP, Um Dukhun town was already hosting about 50,000 IDPs who are registered for General Food Distribution (GFD). There are also over 2,000 people from Chad and CAR living in a refugee-like situation. The town and surrounding villages are predominantly composed of Salamat and Misseriya tribes who have been living peacefully together in other parts of Central Darfur.

In South Darfur, the UN has also received reports of fighting between the same two tribes in Rahad El Birdi locality that started on 5 April over land disputes. The fighting reportedly led to the death or injury of many tribesmen from both tribes. There have also been unconfirmed reports of people from the Salamat tribe fleeing to Chad. The situation in the area is reportedly tense.



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.

Authorities in Central Darfur are trying to persuade displaced people who have taken refuge near Zalingei town to return to their homes or relocate onto government-owned land

Influx of IDPs putting strain on services in camps

According to humanitarian partners on the ground, there has been increased strain on humanitarian services in IDP camps in Zalingei, Central Darfur, following the massive influx of displaced people from other parts of the state and from the Jebel Amir area, North Darfur. Over the past weeks humanitarian partners have verified and assisted an estimated 1,000 displaced people who have settled in Tayba and Alsalam IDP camps. However, IDP leaders in the two camps have reported that an additional 6,000 displaced people have settled near Zalingei town that have not been verified by humanitarian organisations. Humanitarian partners on the ground are waiting for local authorities to determine the status of these newly arrived people and to give humanitarian actors permission to verify and assess their needs. According to HAC, authorities are trying to persuade the displaced people to return to their homes or to relocate onto government-owned land.

Save the Children may close health programmes in West Darfur

The international NGO Save the Children Sweden (SCS) may be forced to close down its health programmes in West Darfur due to funding constraints. Previously SCS received funding from the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) and USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to provide health services in Mornei, Kerenik, Habila IDP camps and in Um Shalaya refugee camp. The international NGO provides an estimated 200,000 people from Mornei, Kerenik, and Habila IDP camps and surrounding host communities with health services. SCS also serves some 7,400 refugees in Um Shalaya refugee camps in addition to people from the surrounding villages.

In response, UNHCR is now supporting SCS to run the health facility in Um Shalaya refugee camp and has provided funding to run the facility until the end of 2013. However, SCS still needs additional funds to run health facilities in Mornei, Kerenik, and Habila IDP camps until the end of 2013.

Blue Nile: Some 51,000 people to get food aid

For the first time since fighting broke out in Blue Nile State in September 2011, WFP has started distributing food assistance to some 51,000 people affected by the conflict in Blue Nile. This first round of distributions consists of two-month food rations for some 12,000 people in Geissan locality and 39,000 in Kurmuk locality. WFP is currently conducting assessments in other localities to determine the number of people requiring food aid. WFP plans to assist people in need with food aid in the six localities in the state before the beginning of the rainy season in May. According to WFP, some 17,000 metric tons (MT) of food is required for this immediate response at a cost of \$20.5 million.

Marking International Landmine Victims Day

On 8 December 2005, the General Assembly declared that 4 April of each year shall be observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. In Sudan, the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) had registered 1,881 landmine /Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) casualties (556 killed and 1,325 injured) between 1964 and February 2013.

NMAC registered 103 landmine/ERW casualties in 2012



UNAMID troops in Zamzam IDP camp participate in "lend your leg"

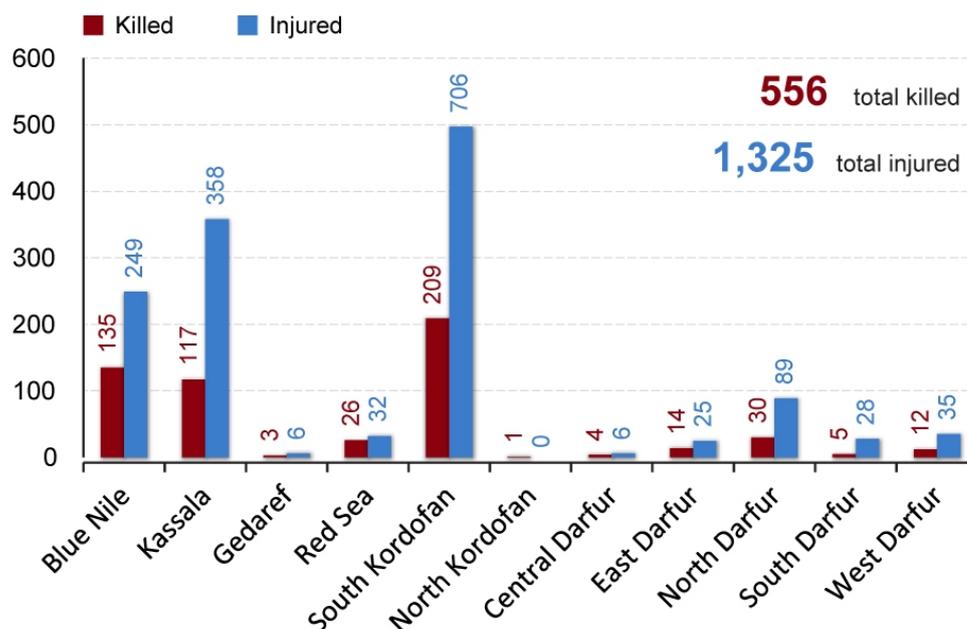
The National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) had registered 1,881 landmine/ERW casualties between 1964 and February 2013

and 122 casualties in 2011 – the highest number since 2005. In 2010, there were 76 casualties, according to NMAC.

According to the Landmine and Munition Monitor of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, part of the increase in reported casualties in 2011 was believed to have been influenced by improvements in Sudan's data collection system with the launch of a new national casualty database in September 2010 and the subsequent increase in available data. The Monitor reported that the increase was also related to the ongoing violence in South Kordofan, which contributed to an increased movement of people, both civilians and military, in a region that is heavily contaminated by landmines and ERW.

Landmines casualties by state as of February 2013

Source: NMAC



Desert locust control measures continue

Locust control operations against hoppers along a 1,000 km stretch of the Nile are ongoing in northern Sudan

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported on 3 April that the desert locust situation continues to remain serious in the Central Region, which includes Sudan, while control measures are continuing. According to FAO's desert locust situation update, hopper bands and swarms continued to form in the winter breeding areas along both sides of the Red Sea during March. Locust numbers declined after mid-March due to control operations, dry vegetation and migration to the Nile Valley in Sudan and Egypt. In northern Sudan, control operations are in progress against hoppers that are hatching and forming bands near crops along a 1,000km stretch of the Nile. Swarms could form in May and threaten crops, and a second generation of breeding could take place before the summer. FAO reported last week that almost \$1 million has been mobilised to assist the Government of Sudan in controlling the locust threat in Northern and River Nile states.