Humanitarian partners plan to visit Abu Karinka

Planning is underway for a rapid needs assessment mission to Abu Karinka in early June by humanitarian partners and the Government’s Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC). The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the World Food Programme (WFP), the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the American Refugee Committee (ARC) and the Government’s Water and Sanitation Department (WES) all plan to participate. The International NGO United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is also planning a separate mission to assess the emergency shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene needs in Abu Karinka. Although HAC has agreed to the missions, both still await approval from security authorities.

Relief items distributed in Abu Karinka, East Darfur

HAC and a committee of local community members distributed the relief items sent last week to Abu Karinka by HAC Federal and national aid organisations. The items distributed included 1,000 bags of cereal, 760 bags of lentils, 275 cartons of vegetable oil, 5 bags of onions, 2 metric tons (MT) of other assorted food, 300 tents, 200 plastic sheets, 1,500 plastic mats, 300 sets of utensils and 31 cartons of children’s clothing.

Assistance continues for East Darfur IDPs in North Darfur

A total of 7,090 unverified IDPs from East Darfur have arrived in El Lait (5,340 people), El Taweisha (1,750 people) and Kalimendo (700 people) localities in North Darfur. The local NGO Community Development Organization (CDO) continued providing treatment for the 50 cases of severe acute malnutrition and 136 cases of moderate acute malnutrition cases detected during the previous week’s middle upper arm circumference (MUAC) screening. The State Ministry of Health (SMoH) deployed a team to El Lait to assist CDO with further assessment of the health situation. The SMoH also provided emergency medicines sufficient for one month and a solar fridge to ensure the continuation of routine vaccinations. WHO provided further support for CDO with assorted medicines sufficient for 3,000 patients for 3 months, and is on standby to send a trauma kit sufficient for 120 surgical operations. UNICEF supported CDO with four Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) kits, which are sufficient for 10,000 children under five for one month. The hospital in El Lait has so far only received four surgery patients from among these new IDPs. WES provided a generator and submersible pump to rehabilitate the water yard in Jodat Village, El Lait locality, which is hosting many of the arrivals. Humanitarian partners are currently planning and seeking authorisation for an inter-agency mission to three localities to assess further needs.

IDPs to receive aid in Yassin town after unsuccessful return to Kweikai

An agreement was reached between OCHA and HAC East Darfur to provide assistance for the nearly 1,000 people from Kweikai village displaced in Yassin town. This week, Tearfund will distribute emergency shelters and household items to all 197 displaced people.
households. The IDPs were meant to return to Kweikai village (about 10 km NW of Yassin town) on three previous occasions, but security issues in East Darfur made these attempts unsuccessful.

### WFP voucher programme severely underfunded

Funding for WFP cash and voucher assistance is facing a severe shortfall, with a complete break in funding anticipated from July onwards. WFP estimates the extent of this funding shortfall at almost $24.8 million, including $18.4 million in transfer value for the next six months. In response, WFP has already halted a number of expansion plans and will likely cut rations in some locations for the month of June. If no urgent funds are mobilized however, WFP may have to further disrupt the voucher distribution cycle with more extensive ration cuts or even complete suspension of the programme. This puts almost 500,000 people, mostly IDPs, at risk of receiving no voucher assistance from September onwards. WFP is urgently requesting donors to make available any additional funds to prevent closure of the programme.

### Returnees from Chad in N. Darfur need assistance

A return verification mission to El Tina and Kornoi localities confirmed that since 2006 some 16,800 Sudanese refugees living in Chad have returned to their home villages in the two North Darfur localities. As these returns were spontaneous, the returnees did not receive assistance with their journey back. The main livelihood activities of the returnees are farming and animal rearing. Moreover, the return areas lack basic services, as no external assistance has been provided to date. The mission also found that some returnees still commute daily between El Tina locality and Chad, returning to the latter for shopping. Initial recommendations include immediate education interventions as well as implementation of WFP ‘Food Assistance for Assets’ and related programmes. UNHCR will facilitate a technical inter-sectoral needs assessment mission to the two localities to plan further response.

### Humanitarian response ongoing in Mellit Locality

The humanitarian response in Mellit Locality continued this week with SMoH and WHO vector control activities, including water quality tests. Of the 30 water samples collected for testing in each Mellit town and the Saiyah Administrative area, 14 and 18 were found to be contaminated with bacteria, respectively. In response, the SMoH conducted water quality and chlorination trainings for 25 well-owners in each of the two locations and distributed 2,800 chlorine tablets. The NGO Sustainable Action Group (SAG) distributed shelter materials to 400 IDP families residing in the Abbasi IDP camp in Mellit locality. WFP is planning distribution of two months’ worth of food assistance to the 23,062 IDPs newly registered in Saiyah Administrative Unit by IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) team. The team was unable to complete registration in Mellit town due to the sensitivity of the exercise, as the town hosts affected people from two rival tribes. Consequently, an interagency team of humanitarian partners visited the town from 31 May - 1 June to discuss with local authorities and tribal leaders a conflict-sensitive approach to the registration exercise that will ensure an impartial delivery of assistance.

### 6,073 South Sudanese arrived in Sudan last week

In response to the continued insecurity in Unity and Upper Nile States in South Sudan, over 6,000 South Sudanese fled to Sudan between 21 and 27 May, according to UNHCR. Some 4,007 refugees entered into White Nile State, another 1,838 refugees arrived in the eastern part of South Kordofan State, and just fewer than 300 refugees fled to Khartoum State. These recent arrivals bring the total number of South Sudanese refugees who have arrived in Sudan since December 2013 to 149,436 people. To date,
43 per cent of these arrivals have undergone household registration and 6 per cent have undergone individual registration. This leaves 50 per cent still unregistered, which includes all refugees in South and West Kordofan States and those residing at the Joda border crossing and in urban centres and host communities in White Nile State.

**New potential refugee sites identified and allocated in White Nile State**

The Government of Sudan identified and allocated three additional sites, with a combined capacity of approximately 14,000 people, to accommodate the influx of refugees. Two of the sites are in El Jabalian locality and the third is in Al Salam locality, next to El Redis and Al Kashafa sites. The possible extension of Al Alagaya site is still under discussion.

**Nutrition partners work to treat and prevent malnutrition among refugees**

UNICEF and WFP, in partnership with SMoH and local aid agencies, continued to provide therapeutic and preventative nutrition services for South Sudanese refugees living in White Nile camps. Since January 2015, 531 children under five with severe acute malnutrition have been admitted to the therapeutic feeding programme and 924 children with moderate acute malnutrition have received treatment. An additional 8,444 children under five and pregnant or lactating mothers have received preventive blanket supplementary feeding. At the Joda and Al Kuek reception centres, 1,367 children and mothers have received ready-to-use supplementary food to last them until they reach the settlements. Partners have also begun prepositioning food and nutrition supplies ahead of the rainy season. Ready-to-use therapeutic food sufficient for 925 cases of SAM is already in place, and an additional 400 MT of super cereal from WFP is on the way, which is sufficient for over 14,000 children under five and mothers for four months.

**Water and sanitation needs persist in White Nile camps**

The water supply and sanitation situation still falls below standards for most of the refugee sites in White Nile State, as persistent population increases continue to overstretch already limited resources. Only Dabat Basin, the smallest of the seven sites, meets both the SPHERE emergency standard of 15 litres of water per person per day, and the UNHCR standard of 20 people per latrine. In comparison, the latrine coverage for Um Sangor camp is 572 people per latrine.

**Water supply and latrine coverage in White Nile refugee sites**

Since January, 531 refugee children under five with severe acute malnutrition have been admitted to the therapeutic feeding programme

![A malnourished child in a therapeutic feeding clinic in White Nile State (UNICEF)](image-url)
Construction of ferry crossing underway in White Nile State

The international NGO Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA), in partnership with UNHCR, continued work on the ferry crossing between Al Salam and El Jebelain localities in White Nile State. The ferry crossing will facilitate access to the five sites on the west side of the river Nile that are otherwise inaccessible by road during the rainy season. Humanitarian partners are still able to access the eastern side of the river during the rainy season by way of a tarmacked road.

Agencies prioritize most vulnerable IDPs in Darfur

UNHCR distributed emergency shelter and household item kits to the 1,150 most vulnerable households residing in the IDP camps in Zalingei, Central Darfur (Hasahisa, Hameedia, El Salam, Khamsa Digaig, Teyiba). The households were identified during an interagency assessment conducted the previous week by humanitarian partners, which was aimed at identifying People with Special Needs (PSN) in the community. PSNs include the elderly people, people with disabilities, woman- and child-headed households, and unaccompanied children.

WFP food distributions target most vulnerable IDPs in East Darfur

Following the recent camp profiling exercise by WFP in El Neem camp in East Darfur, the number of IDPs receiving general food distributions in the camp has reduced from 51,082 people to 40,228 people. The profiling exercise assessed the needs of each household and categorized the IDPs into one of four vulnerability categories (high, medium, low and none) in an effort to better target food assistance based on vulnerability rather than IDP status. The Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) began distribution of the WFP food rations to the still eligible 40,228 IDPs. The 10,854 IDPs who will no longer receive food assistance will benefit from other programmes including food for work and food for training programs. These programs, run by the national NGO Social Specialist Organization in partnership with WFP, target an overall 13,535 IDPs in the camp with training on fuel-efficient stoves and provision of tree seedlings.

Government endorses Anti-Trafficking Strategy

On 27 May, the Government of Sudan hosted a launch ceremony for the 2015-2017 Joint Strategy to Address Human Trafficking, Kidnappings and Smuggling of Persons in Sudan. The ceremony showcased the Government’s endorsement of the Strategy and continued cooperation with UNHCR and IOM in combatting people trafficking and smuggling in Sudan. The joint strategy builds on previous accomplishments of the Government’s collaboration with UNHCR and IOM, and lays out further measures to address the protection risks faced by vulnerable asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants in Sudan. These measures include strengthening security structures and providing assistance to victims of trafficking. UNICEF, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) are also co-signatories of the Strategy.

USAID food contribution arrives in Port Sudan

On 27 May, 47,500 MT of sorghum arrived in Port Sudan. The food shipment is part of the United States Agency for International Development’s (USAID) overall contribution of $135 million to WFP for 2015, and is enough to feed 1.8 million people for three months. The food, destined for conflict-affected and other food insecure and vulnerable groups across the country, arrives at a critical time as the lean season in Sudan typically begins in May and stretches until October. A portion of the food supply will be pre-positioned in remote areas of South Kordofan and White Nile states, where vulnerable populations face ongoing conflict and displacement.