People flee to Chad following fighting in Um Dukhun, Central Darfur - MSF

On 27 June, the international NGO Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Chad reported that the fighting that erupted in the Um Dukhun area of Central Darfur on 19 June resulted in the death or injury of more than 100 people. MSF says that this violence caused many people to flee their homes and cross into Chad. Following the clashes, MSF teams treated 15 patients with gunshot wounds at the MSF health centre on the Chadian side of the Um Dukhun border area. Of the two patients who died, one was a pregnant woman who went into labour after she was shot and gave birth to stillborn twins before herself dying of complications. Rain has delayed the transfer of the three remaining patients to Abéché in Chad. A lack of blood donors for surgical operations has also complicated relief efforts.

According to MSF, whenever violence erupts in the western areas of Darfur, affected people flee across the border into Chad in search of safety. Continual displacement exacerbates existing health conditions and escalates already dire needs for shelter, clean water, sanitation, and access to health care in the region, MSF said. Moreover, the rainy season, which has just started, is likely to make people’s already poor living conditions significantly worse, it said.

Humanitarian agencies and local leaders reported that armed people were gathering in Um Dukhun, Kubar and Mukjar areas. On 26 June, the UN received reports that Government security forces arrested community leaders linked to the fighting in Zalingei, Wadi Salih, Mukjar, Bendisi and Um Dukhun. The leaders were arrested to deescalate tensions between the warring factions. The Governor of Central Darfur State has also dismissed the supreme leaders (Amirs) of the Misseriya and Salamat tribes, saying that that they have not done enough to promote a peace agreement signed on 3 July 2013.

Clashes in El Sireaf, North Darfur, result in 39 casualties

On 26 June, humanitarian agencies on the ground reported that following fighting in El Sireaf town, North Darfur, at least 10 people were killed and another 29 injured. Fighting reportedly erupted at Jihair village (17km west of El Sireaf) due to an alleged incident of attempted cattle theft.

There have been no reports of new civilian displacement following the fighting. Nine people with serious injuries were evacuated from El Sireaf hospital to El Fasher hospital on 30 June by the African Union – UN Mission in Darfur (UNAMID).

Since April 2014, tensions in the El Sireaf area of North Darfur have increased. Pastoralists in the area have blocked the main supply roads from Saraf Omra to El Sireaf.
and from Kebkebyia to El Sireaf. Since the beginning of June, El Sireaf locality has seen frequent cattle raiding incidents. These incidents have resulted in localised clashes among the livestock owners from both sides. Warring parties in the area do not appear to be respecting a recently signed peace agreement.

In 2013, fighting in El Sireaf area, primarily over the control of local gold mines, resulted in dozens of civilian casualties and up to 100,000 people displaced. The recent incidents and rising tensions in the area suggest that the underlying causes of conflict between communities in the El Sireaf area are yet to be resolved.

Water and sanitation challenges in Darfur camps

Water and sanitation services for new IDPs in Zamzam camp, North Darfur

A recent monitoring mission by OCHA to a number of internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in North Darfur has identified a major shortfall of safe drinking water and sanitation facilities for newly displaced people in Zamzam camp.

As the newly displaced people are yet to be allocated land plots in the camps some 6,500 people are living in the bed of a nearby seasonal river (wadi). The wadi is currently dry, but will soon be flooded as the rainy season starts. As they lack sanitation facilities, these people will need to be relocated to reduce the risk of any water borne disease outbreaks during the rainy season. Moreover, ground water provisions in the current location are scarce, it is technically difficult to provide sustainable services in situ.

This week, the international NGO Plan Sudan reports that it will take the lead of water trucking to some 28,000 newly displaced people in Zamzam IDP camp on a daily basis effective 1 July 2014.

Currently, over 30,000 newly displaced people in Zamzam camp are receiving 6.6 litres per capita per day through water trucking and sharing of hand pumps with long-term displaced people, according to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sector. To improve the quantity of water supplied, the options are to either increase water trucking from further distances (25 km) where sufficient quantity of water is available and/or drill and develop a piped water network (an option which can be considered as a mid to a long-term solution). The best solution, however, would be to relocate the displaced people to areas where water availability is better.

Up to 17,000 new IDPs face water shortages in Kalma camp, South Darfur

Similar issues with slow land allocation and newly displaced people sheltering in seasonal flood plains have been reported at Kalma and Al Salam camps in South Darfur. According to the WASH Sector in South Darfur, close to 17,000 newly displaced people face acute water shortages in Kalma IDP camp. Currently, the international NGO American Refugee Committee (ARC) is providing 44 cubic meters of water per day in Kalma IDP camp. This translates into 2.5 litres per day per person, which is far below the SPHERE guidelines of between 7.5 and 15 litres per person per day. This means that there is a 220 cubic meter shortage of safe drinking water.

Constraints preventing the WASH sector from meeting the water needs of these displaced people include funding shortfalls, bureaucratic transportation impediments, and the depletion of groundwater supplies.

Concerns for WASH services in Al Salam camp, South Darfur

In partnership with the UN Children’s Agency (UNICEF), the Governmental Water and Environmental Sanitation Department (WES) is currently trucking 110 cubic meters of
water per day to about 12,500 new arrivals in sector 8 of Al Salam IDP camp in South Darfur. The displaced population in Al Salam IDP camp continues to rise. According to an update from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), more than 47,812 newly displaced people have arrived at Al Salam IDP camp since February 2014. Given the limited groundwater supply, it is becoming increasingly challenging to establish new high yield boreholes for these arrivals. The initial two boreholes drilled in response to new arrivals in Al Salam were in low yielding sites. Efforts are underway to negotiate land for new boreholes.

### Inadequate funding affect WASH services for 800,000 displaced people

Limited funding and other constraints are affecting the quality and quantity of WASH services for more than 700,000 displaced people in South Darfur and more than 100,000 displaced people in East Darfur IDP camps. Around the Nyala camps, water provision has been calculated by the WASH sector as follows: Bileil (7 litres per person per day); Dereige (9.1 litres per person per day); Al Salam (9.2 litres per person per day); Elserief (10.2 litres per person per day); Otash (9.2 litres per person per day). The scarcity of ground water sources in camps is leading to greater use of expensive water trucking. The sanitation situation in these camps is also a concern, as the ratio of people per latrine for the Nyala camps is as follows: Kalma (118), Dereige (104), Otash (44) and Al Salam (196). The SPHERE standard is 20 people per latrine in living areas.

The challenges and gaps in WASH services have been reported in other parts of Darfur as well. For instance, recent monitoring of services in a number of IDP camps around El Geneina in West Darfur revealed that a considerable number of hand pumps in the camps are not working. A lack of funding is seen as the primary contributing factor preventing the maintenance and development of camp WASH services. Newly displaced people arriving in camps that already have strained water and sanitation services exacerbate this situation.

The latest statistics from the OCHA-managed Financial Tracking System (FTS) indicate that while the Sudan Work Plan was 43.4 per cent funded as of 29 June, the WASH sector has received only 7.6 per cent of requested funds. This is a significant reduction on previous years. In 2013, the WASH sector was 52 per cent funded, while between 2013 and 2008 it was funded at approximately 41 per cent.
**FEWS NET: 5 - 5.3 million food insecure people**

The USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) estimates that between 5 and 5.3 million people are likely to face varied levels of acute food insecurity until September. In its June report, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity is likely to persist among 40 per cent of displaced people and poor host communities in areas controlled by the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) in South Kordofan. While in SPLM-N controlled areas of Blue Nile State, at least 25 per cent of displaced people are likely to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3). FEWS NET predicts that most households in Government controlled areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile states are likely to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels of food insecurity until September 2014.

In Darfur, despite continued humanitarian food assistance to displaced people and seasonal support to vulnerable resident communities, Stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels of food insecurity are likely to persist among at least 30 per cent of long-term displaced people and host communities, according to FEWS NET. This is mainly due to the impact of last year’s drought and the steady increase of food prices. If rains are poor this year, food security conditions are likely to worsen. Poor rains will reduce access to seasonal agricultural labour, reduce income from sale of cash crops and reduce access to green harvest in September, FEWS NET reports.