

HIGHLIGHTS

- In Blue Nile, some 23,000 people in five locations in Ed Damazine, El Roseires, and Bau localities need aid, according to WFP.
- In Sudan, improved rains in August have increased agricultural areas planted to 65 per cent.
- In North Darfur, 323 suspected cases of whooping cough reported in El Sireaf locality.
- In North Darfur, a recent MUAC screening in IDP camps in Kutum locality records a GAM of 22.7%.
- In South Darfur, lack of water services in Mosey IDP camp are affecting the estimated 3,300 IDPs in the camp

FIGURES

Displaced people in Sudan (as of Dec 2014)	3.1 million
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Displaced people in Darfur (as of Dec 2014)	2.5 million
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(in 2015)	223,000
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GAM burden	2 million
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South Sudanese refugee arrivals in Sudan - since 15 Dec 2013 (UNHCR)	193,049
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Refugees of other nationalities (UNHCR)	175,250
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FUNDING

1.04 billion
requested in 2015 (US\$)

49%
reported funding



Women waiting for health assistance in Darfur (UNAMID, file photo)

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WFP: Some 23,000 IDPs need aid in Blue Nile's Ed Damazine, El Roseires and Bau localities

In late September, the World Food Programme (WFP) conducted a rapid food security assessment in five locations in Blue Nile State to determine the needs of people who arrived from Bau locality. According to the mission report—which was just released—about 23,000 people moved to five locations in Ed Damazine, El Roseires, and Bau localities. The mission included representatives from the Government's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS), the national NGOs Mobadiroon and El Shabaka Organization and the United Nation's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The mission only assessed the food security of these displaced people, however, other needs—such as emergency shelter and household supplies and access to schools—were observed.

In Ed Damazine locality, some 300 displaced people had arrived in Haroun al Mahata village from Midyam village in Bau locality in April. The displaced people—mostly farmers—were well received by the host community who provided them with water and local materials to build shelters. In El Roseires locality, some 3,500 people left their homes in Sheneisha village and settled in an open area nearby, close to the Blue Nile River. The host community shared with the displaced people water, food and shelter materials. An estimated 6,700 people from 13 villages in Geissan and Bau localities arrived in El Gerri in April and a further 9,300 people arrived in El Azaza village from seven villages in Bau locality. In Bau locality, some 3,100 people arrived from Derang village and settled in Shahid Afandi village. The host community provided them with water and they received some assistance from NGOs and local government authorities.

In all five locations, the displaced people were found living in temporary housing built of grass and bamboo, which does not provide adequate protection from the rains. Most of the displaced people do not have sufficient space to build more structures and families are living in cramped environments. The displaced people said they will remain in these areas until secure conditions and stability is established in their places of origin. Food was identified as the major need of the displaced people.

Food insecurity is a major concern in the assessed areas with displacement, loss of assets, limited livelihood opportunities and increased food prices. Some of the displaced people report having reduced the number of meals eaten per day and limiting portion sizes to save food for children and elderly people. Others said they started consuming less preferred foods and decreasing consumption of cereals, pulses and meat. Recommendations from the mission include WFP providing the displaced people with full food rations for three months until the September/November harvest is completed. Food distributions started this week. This food insecurity—combined with poor health and nutrition—may lead to a potential worsening nutritional status of vulnerable populations, mainly children under five and pregnant and nursing women. A nutrition assessment has also been recommended.

FEWS NET: improved rains have led to the planting of up to 65% of rain-fed areas in Sudan

In September, up to 65 per cent of agricultural areas have been planted—as opposed to only 40 per cent planted in August—due to improved rains

Improved rains since mid-August, has facilitated the continued planting in rain-fed areas of Sudan, according to latest Famine Early Warning Systems (FEWS NET) Food Security Outlook Update for September. By mid-September, up to 65 per cent of agricultural lands in rain-fed areas have been planted—as opposed to only 40 per cent planted in August. However, vegetation conditions are well below average in the surplus-producing sorghum belt in eastern and central Sudan. While sorghum production prospects have improved, the late start of season, low rainfall, and below-average planted area have reduced the seasonal agricultural labour demand, with daily wages reportedly down by one third, according to FEWS Net.

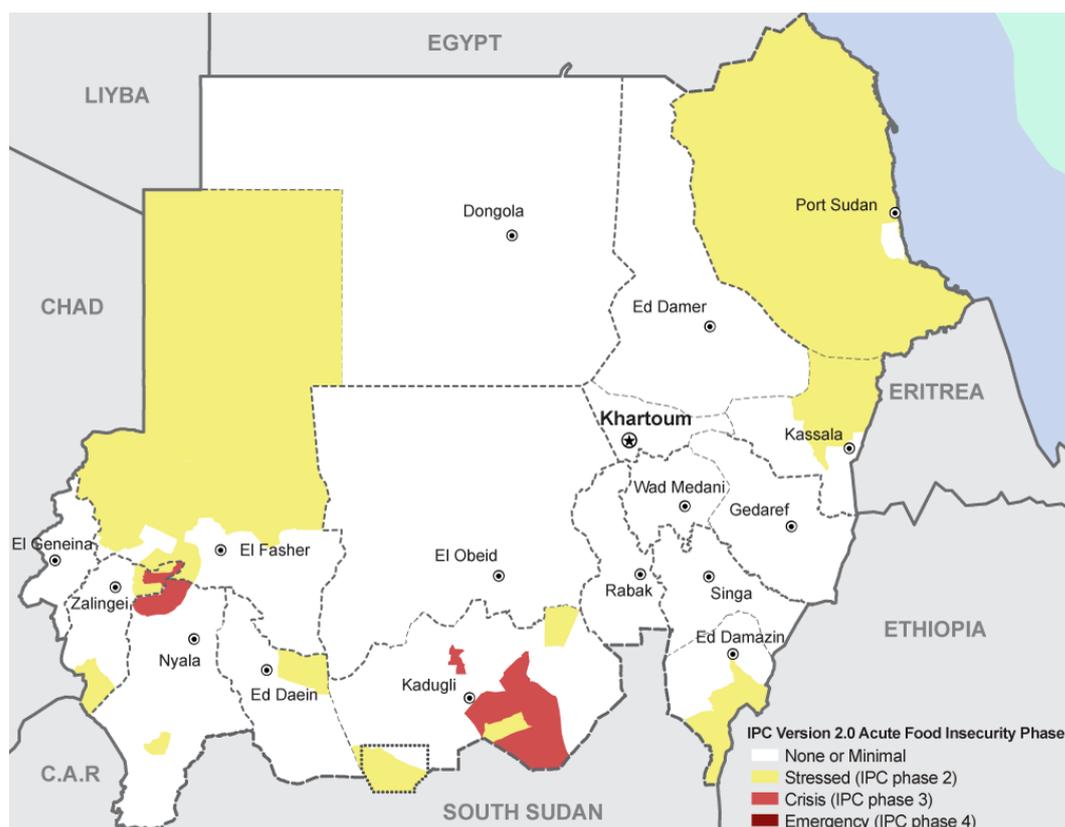
The most food insecure people in Sudan continue to be in the conflict-affected areas of Darfur, South Kordofan, West Kordofan, and Blue Nile states. The majority of the population in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) are in Darfur, especially among the recently displaced, but families in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) can also be found among displaced people in areas controlled by the Sudan People Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) in South Kordofan.

There is also less and poorer quality pastureland available than usual this year and as a result, livestock are already being migrated southward towards agricultural land in Gedaref, El Gezira, Kassala, and Sennar states, a migration that usually takes place only in December/January, with livestock typically arriving during or just after the harvest period. As crops are in an earlier stage of development, there is a higher risk of crops being accidentally destroyed or consumed by livestock giving rise to possible risks of conflict between farmers and pastoralists.

According to FEWS NET, the delayed rainfall, rainfall shortage and intermittent dry spells that have characterized the current rainy season in Sudan have all been driven by El Niño warming. The strength of the current El Niño is comparable to the strongest El Niño events in recorded history. Sudan's food security is heavily dependent on rainfall with at least 70 per cent of the population relying on traditional rain-fed agriculture and livestock

Sudan Food Security Outlook (October-December 2015)

Source: FEWS NET



production for their food and income. According to a recent Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) food security rapid assessment, the impact of El Nino in Sudan is so far in line with regional forecasts. The delayed and inconsistent rainfall has also delayed crop planting in many key production areas increasing the risk of crop failures and poor yields at harvest time in December/January

Whooping cough outbreak in North Darfur

As of 7 October, 323 suspected cases of Whooping cough were reported in El Sireaf locality, North Darfur

The State Ministry of Health (SMoH) in North Darfur has reported the outbreak of whooping cough in El Sireaf locality in early September. As of 7 October, 323 suspected cases were reported in the locality. The SMoH and the World Health Organization (WHO) are coordinating the response with partners to ensure that daily reporting, proper case management and effective community mobilization campaigns take place. A three-month action plan has been prepared to deal with this outbreak.



Women and children seeking health aid in Kutum, North Darfur (UNAMID, file photo)

In mid-September, the SMoH—with WHO support—sent an investigation team to the locality. The team collected 13 samples that were sent to the National Public Health laboratory for analysis, four of which tested positive for whooping cough. The international NGO Médecins Sans Frontières Spain (MSF-E) initiated case management and a community awareness-raising exercise has been conducted. Preparations are underway to conduct a vaccination campaign for children under five in the locality. According to the investigation team, further actions are needed to contain the problem including house-to-house health education; active searching for additional cases; and routine vaccinations.

Whooping cough is a highly contagious bacterial disease of the respiratory tract. It occurs mainly in infants and young children, and is easily transmitted from person to person, mainly through droplets. The first symptoms generally appear 7 to 10 days after infection, and include mild fever, runny nose, and cough, which in typical cases gradually develops into a cough followed by whooping. In the youngest infants, the paroxysms may be followed by periods of difficulties in breathing. Pneumonia is a relatively common complication of whooping cough while seizures occur more rarely. Untreated patients may be contagious for three weeks or more following the onset of the cough. Whooping can be prevented by immunization and is part of Sudan's national immunization programme.

MUAC screening in North Darfur's Kutum and Kalimendo localities

The international NGO GOAL conducted a Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening of children between 6 to 59 months of age in Kutum locality (Kutum town as well as Kassab and Fata Borno internally displaced persons (IDP) camps) from 8-22 September. Of the 1,636 children screened, 55 children were identified with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 316 with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) resulting in a global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate of 22.7 per cent, which is considerably above the emergency threshold of 15 per cent. All malnourished children were referred to nutrition centres for treatment. According to the 2013 Sudan Simple Spatial Survey Methodology

A recent MUAC screening in three locations in Kutum locality report a GAM rate of 22.7 per cent

(S3M) survey, the GAM in all of Kutum locality is much higher at 36.7 per cent. This indicates that other parts of the locality have high malnutrition rates.

Similarly, the international NGO Save the Children Sweden (SCS) conducted a MUAC screening in Kalimendo locality (Gusa Jamat, Wad Kota and Sani Karaw villages) from 15-29 September. Of the 3,128 children under five screened 96 were identified with SAM and 241 with MAM resulting in a GAM rate of 10.8 per cent which is less than the S3M GAM rate of 21 per cent for the whole locality. The affected children were provided with the required treatment. SCS started its nutrition programme in Kalimendo locality in August of this year.

GAM is the total number of children aged between six months and 5 years in a given population who have MAM and SAM. According to WHO, in emergencies, the nutritional status of children between six months and 5 years is used as an estimation of the health of the whole population so when GAM is equal to or greater than 15 per cent then the nutrition level for the population is defined as 'critical'.

South Darfur humanitarian response update

Aid organizations in South Darfur continue to provide IDPs in the state with much needed assistance

Aid organizations in South Darfur continue to provide displaced people in the state with much needed assistance. According to aid organizations, there are an estimated 840,000 displaced people in South Darfur—which is about 34 per cent of the displaced population in Sudan—taking refuge in eight IDP camps, 13 gatherings and amongst 40 host communities.

Over 300 IDPs in Dereige camp receive food and shelter/household aid

On 08 October, the international NGO World Vision International (WVI) distributed one-month food rations of WFP food to over 300 newly displaced people in Dereige IDP camp. These displaced people fled their home in Sergeila village in Tulus locality following inter-tribal fighting between the Salamat and Falata tribes in May. The displaced people also received emergency shelter and household supplies including plastic sheet, a jerry can, blankets, sleeping mats and cooking sets. They also access existing water, sanitation and hygiene, and health assistance in the camp.

Nutrition programmes operating well in South Darfur

The UN children's Agency (UNICEF), reports that all nutrition programs in South Darfur are operating well with no reports of supply shortages. Since the beginning of the year, the total number of children under five years treated for SAM in the state reached 18,953—which is 42 per cent of the 45,175 children targeted for SAM treatment in the state.

Water, sanitation and hygiene gaps in Mosey IDP camp

UNICEF and the Government's Water and Sanitation Department (WES) reported that since August there has been a serious lack of water services in Mosey IDP camp in Nyala affecting the estimated 3,300 displaced people living in the camp. In response, UNICEF will follow up with WES to operate the motorised pump in the camp and will work with the displaced community to rehabilitate five hand pumps that are not working. In addition, WES plans to reactivate the water management committee and engage community participation in water management.



Displaced people collecting water in a camp in South Darfur (UNAMID, file