



# SUDAN: West Darfur Emergency

## Situation Report No. 4

As of 27 May 2021

This report is produced by OCHA Sudan in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It is issued by OCHA Sudan and covers the period from 12 to 27 May 2021.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 151,300 people in and around Ag Geneina remain displaced, who do not feel safe to return.
- Once the security is addressed, shelter rehabilitation and access to basic services in IDP camps are the next issues for people to return.
- The top needs of the IDPs are food, non-food items, water, shelter, protection, health, and education.
- The security situation in Ag Geneina town is calm but remains tense and unpredictable.
- Five people were killed and another eight injured on 18 May, following clashes in Geilo village, 37 km from Ag Geneina, near the Chadian border.
- Humanitarian organisations continue to scale up operations. As of 25 May, 124,900 people have been assisted.
- About US\$65 million is needed to further scale up and sustain the ongoing response to the urgent lifesaving needs of the IDPs in West Darfur.



# 124,900

People reached

# 151,300

Internally displaced people (January - April 2021)

# 65,000

Newly displaced people in April 2021

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

The security situation in and around Ag Geneina remains tense and unpredictable. No fighting has been reported in the past six weeks in the town. The displaced people remain predominantly in unsanitary and crowded gathering points although the situation is improving as people return. Humanitarian operations continue to scale up with the majority of displaced people in and around Ag Geneina town having received food. However, one in six people in West Darfur are severely food insecure and food continues to be cited as a priority especially outside of town. When asked internally displaced persons (IDPs) that have not returned say they are concerned about the lack of security. A significant increase in military and police presence together with a greater number of check-points has been reported.

On 18 May, unknown armed men attacked Geilo village, in Ag Geneina locality about 37 km northwest of Ag Geneina town, near the Chadian border. An inter-agency mission that visited Geilo on 24 May found out that five people were killed, and another eight injured, 40 farms burnt and about 1,850 people temporarily fled across the border into Chad. The conflict in Geilo started over a dispute between a group of nomads and a farming family in the area, which escalated into inter-communal fighting. The West Darfur State government deployed security forces to control the situation. The mission also found out that the generators used to irrigate the farms were looted during last week's violence. In addition, 30 farm owners who crossed to Chad lost their crops as they were left unattended. Access to water is a major issue after three boreholes in the wadi were destroyed during the fighting and the water yard is not functioning. Since the January violence, the local school has not reopened and many school-going children remain in Chad.

On 19 May, protection sector monitoring teams visited Abuzar camp and observed that an estimated 2,000 residents of the camp's 10,000 people were in the camp. The people displaced from the Abuzar camp have stated that they would like to return to Abuzar once security is restored. Water, food, shelter and non-food items (S/NFIs), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), hygienic kits, and health needs are the main needs of the affected people in the Abuzar camp. However, the water gap is most critical in the IDP gathering point in the Abuzar camp school. Each IDP household can access two jerricans of water, about 40 litres per day. This translates into an average of 8 litres per person per day (l/p/d), while the Sphere standards indicate that a minimum of 15 l/p/d is established practice. An estimated 9,360 people (1,872 households) reside at the gathering site.

Protection sector partners met with IDP community leaders representing people displaced from the Al Jabal area, currently sheltering at a gathering point near Abuzar camp. IDPs, originally from sector six in Al Jabal, expressed their unwillingness to return due to the security situation. However, 85 per cent of IDPs from sectors two and five have returned and are awaiting humanitarian support. There are 16 sectors in Al Jabal neighbourhood.

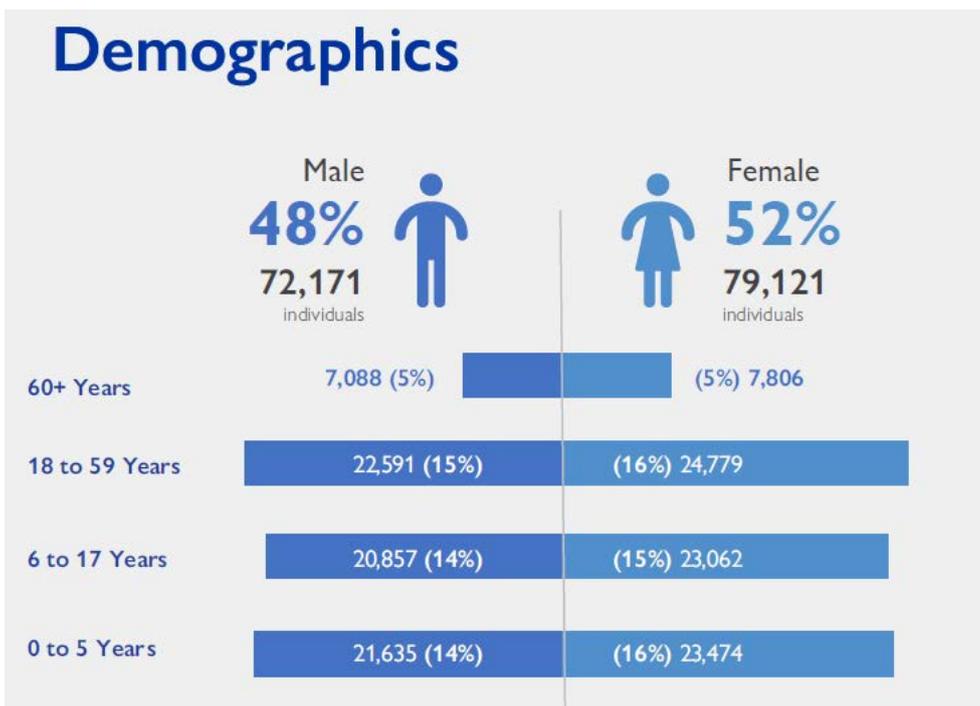
The local authorities in West Darfur have requested additional humanitarian and shelter assistance to facilitate the return of IDPs before the rainy season starts. During a tour of the conflict-affected parts of the town, humanitarian partners have observed that some IDPs have returned following the deployment of the Central Reserve Police. The findings of the visits indicate that shelter support is required urgently.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), there are about 151,300 people (an estimated 30,300 families) seeking shelter in Ag Geneina town and surrounding villages. Since the previous update, the number of IDPs decreased slightly as some displaced people returned home. Women and children are exposed to sexual, gender-based violence (SGBV) and other protection risks. There are also many female-headed households amongst the IDPs in Ag Geneina, with associated vulnerability and related protection and livelihoods needs.

#### Displaced people in 2021 in West Darfur (by place of origin)

Place of origin	Number of IDPs	Per cent of total
Krinding 1 and 2 IDP camps	54,019	36%
Al Jabal neighbourhood	40,485	27%
Other locations outside Ag Geneina town	21,845	14%
Other locations in Ag Geneina town	19,780	13%
Sultan House IDP camp	15,163	10%
	<b>151,292</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: IOM



The priority needs for the displaced people in town are 1) WASH, 2) food and 3) emergency shelter. The three main priority needs for the displaced people in the villages surrounding Ag Geneina town are 1) food, 2) non-food items and 3) WASH, according to IOM.

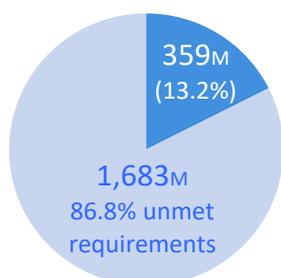
Humanitarians are responding to the urgent needs in and around Ag Geneina, using the stocks and supplies they currently have. These stocks will need to be replenished in time for the rainy season. With the rainy season expected to start in June, the continuation of humanitarian activities will be a major challenge.

## FUNDING

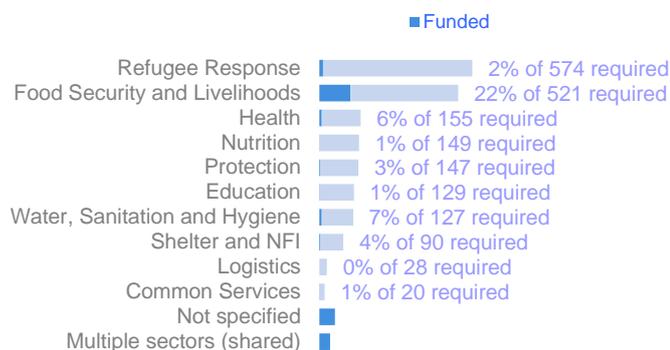
As of 27 May, humanitarian funding is US\$359 million, including \$256 million for the HRP.

### Funding received for the Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan 2021

US\$1.9 billion requested



### Funding by sector (in million US\$)



All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: [fts@un.org](mailto:fts@un.org)

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

### Education

#### Needs

- More temporary learning spaces in Al Tadamon and Elsheikh Musa gathering sites.
- Classroom rehabilitation in Al Jabal.
- School latrines in all IDP gathering schools.
- Water sources for all schools.
- School feeding for schools.

**60**

Temporary learning spaces

#### Response

- 12 more temporary learning spaces are in the pipeline for the Al Tadamon gathering site.

#### Gaps & Constraints

- Land for establishing new temporary learning spaces near the IDP settlements.
- Lack of privacy of school latrines used by the local community.

### Food Security

As of 25 May, food security sector partners finalised the April-May distribution of food assistance for 124,900 people in and around Ag Geneina.

**124,900**

People provided with food in and around Ag Geneina

#### Needs

- According to the latest analysis, 161,000 of the 645,000 people in West Darfur are severely food insecure.
- Income generation activities such as vocational training, food processing and milling.
- Livestock treatment to prevent disease and the provision of animal feed and mineral licks.

#### Response

- The sector continues with emergency food assistance and as of 24 May, 124,900 people - three-quarters of the people in need - were reached with one-month food rations.
- Food distributions are underway and so far in May 15,090 people received emergency food in eight Ag Geneina gathering sites and 470 people from Muli village outside the town. Distribution both inside and outside Ag Geneina will continue for all severely food-insecure families. The food assistance package consists of sorghum, pulses, oil, salt, and high-energy biscuits.
- Four metric tonnes of livestock mineral lick were distributed to nomadic communities in areas surrounding Ag Geneina town (Um Shijeira 1 and 2, and Rigil Alkubri).
- A rapid needs assessment of the livestock in the IDPs gathering sites was carried out in April. The report will be published in May.

#### Gaps & Constraints

- Livelihood opportunities and durable solutions are necessary to enable a phase-out of emergency food interventions.
- Fluctuations in caseloads due to IDP movements are making it hard to have stable distribution lists and there are delays in receiving verified IDP lists in the gathering sites both inside and outside Ag Geneina.

Funding to support animal feed, vaccines, income generation activities and skills training for youths in gathering sites.<sup>1</sup>

## Health

### Needs

- All gathering sites are overcrowded and the key health concern is the possible large-scale disease outbreaks, especially when the rains start.
- Acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea and malaria are the main diseases being reported. Suspected cases of measles were reported from Kereneik, Ag Geneina, Forobaranga and Kulbus.
- The State Ministry of Health (SMoH) reported three confirmed COVID-19 cases during the reporting period, bringing the cumulative number of COVID-19 cases to 65, including 10 associated deaths. Zero cases were reported among the IDPs at the gathering sites in and outside Ag Geneina town.

# 51,373

People reached with basic medical services

### Response

- All IDP gathering sites are being covered by health services – fixed/mobile health facilities.
- One health facility in Abuzar, run by SMoH and handed over to an NGO, will resume operations after the renovation and rehabilitation work to improve security is completed.
- Cases of suspected measles are being verified by SMoH and discussions continue to conduct a vaccination campaign in the affected area.

### Gaps & Constraints

- A national NGO is working at three health facilities is facing a funding shortfall and urgently needs support to continue providing services.

## Nutrition

### Needs

- Scale-up of nutrition services in the new gathering sites in the town and areas outside Ag Geneina is needed.
- Mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screening to cover pregnant and lactating people and children aged 6-59 months is needed in gathering sites.
- Strengthening of infant and young child feeding services in the gathering sites.

# 693

severely acute malnourished children were admitted in the exiting OTP sites in the last two months

### Response

- As of 25 May, 27 outpatient therapeutic programme and therapeutic supplementary feeding sites have been established.
- Mass MUAC screening covered 12,150 children aged 6-59 month at the gathering sites. The screening identified 107 severely acute malnourished (SAM) children and 642 moderately malnourished (MAM) children. They were referred to and admitted at the community-managed acute malnutrition (CMAM) sites.
- Nutrition supplies were delivered to support the existing CMAM services.

<sup>1</sup> The Central Emergency Response Fund is supporting the procurement of tools and seeds as well as vaccination and restocking of livestock. Distributions will start mid-June once the procurement processes have been finalized.

- The SMOH was supported to strengthen the quality services of stabilization in Ag Geneina hospital to enable the treatment of SAM children with medical complications.

### Gaps & Constraints

- The transportation of supplies outside Ag Geneina remains a challenge due to security concerns. Security issues affected the transportation of nutrition supplies to the Beida locality and surrounding areas (about 70km southwest of Ag Geneina town).

## General Protection

Protection sector partners met with IDP community leaders representing people displaced from Al Jabal area, currently sheltering at a gathering site near Abuzar camp. IDPs originally from sector six in Al Jabal expressed their unwillingness to return due to the security situation. However, 85 per cent of IDPs from sectors two and five have returned and are awaiting humanitarian support. According to the Governor's office, the state government has established 12 police posts in Al Jabal.

# 50

Social workers deployed  
to gathering sites by  
MoSA

### Needs

- Safety and security remain priority concerns at the gathering sites and in the camps and villages that people were displaced from. The unpredictable security situation in the villages of origin is due to the lack of permanent established police/security posts that can provide security to the returning population. Limited freedom of movement of the IDPs to go and farm or search for their livelihoods remains a challenge making the IDPs dependent on humanitarian assistance.
- Congestion is a major concern as it increases gender-based violence (GBV) risks and makes it challenging to deliver protection services that require privacy and confidentiality.
- Many IDPs have lost their documentation during the conflict and some children born in the gathering sites have not yet been issued with birth certificates.

### Response

- The sector partners have visited 90 gathering sites in Ag Geneina town to map the services available, assess protection needs and provide timely solutions and referrals. In total, 1,520 community management structures were assessed, including leadership and sector-based committees.
- Consultations with existing IDP community leaders were held to better understand the general concerns of the displaced people regarding safety and security.
- About 3,500 people with specific needs were registered across 61 gathering sites; they include persons with disabilities, single parents, persons with critical medical conditions, unaccompanied and separated children, single elderly persons, survivors of SGBV, female-headed households, as well as pregnant and nursing women.
- The Ministry of Social Affairs deployed over 50 social workers in the gathering sites. The main protection concern raised by the communities is a lack of safety and security at the gathering sites and areas of origin (camps and villages), with IDPs fearing attacks. This is aggravated by a lack of security forces providing physical protection around the sites and distrust towards security personnel.
- Many women reported incidents of rape/harassment and require psychosocial support. Women and girls attempting to go back to Krinding and Abuzar IDP camps to collect the rest of their belongings are subjected to verbal and physical assaults. In some instances, armed men harass and block their entry into the camps.
- Lack of privacy due to severe congestion aggravate the protection situation of the displaced, particularly of women, girls and persons with specific needs (PSNs).
- Many families are experiencing the recurrence of trauma, due to continued insecurity near their gathering sites and the ongoing physical and verbal assaults.

## Gaps & Constraints

- There is a need for urgent solutions to the situation in the gathering sites, including efforts to strengthen security and rule of law in areas of displacement and areas of origin. There is also a need to increase support to law enforcement, and access to justice (rural courts, legal aid); and measures to address the mistrust of security forces. Humanitarian partners call for increased support to peace-building initiatives to foster inter-communal reconciliation and peaceful coexistence.



## Protection – Child Protection

### Needs

- Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) and the provision of psychosocial support (PSS) and other referral services.
- Family tracing and reunification for unaccompanied/separated children.
- The provision of clothes for IDPs.
- Awareness-raising amongst children and families of child protection (CP) issues and services that are available.
- Food – Despite the ongoing food distributions, children are resorting to negative coping strategies such as begging, which exposes them to protection issues.
- Clearance of unexploded ordnances (UXOs) and provision of mine-awareness sessions.
- Some gathering sites have not received food, which is also leading to negative coping strategies such as child labour and increased risk of GBV.

# 4,608

Children reached by child protection partners

### Response

- The child protection sub-sector has carried out monitoring visits at 15 gathering sites in Ag Geneina town last week to assess child protection needs and to identify suitable locations for CFS. CFS will be established in eight gathering sites.
- Awareness sessions on child protection issues, coordination and CFS management have been done in Alsalam and MoSA gathering sites.



## Protection – Gender-based violence

### Needs

- The GBV subsector and its partners have identified 87,000 people in need.
- The inter-agency needs assessment identified protection, including GBV, sexual harassment, and physical assault, as a top concern in the gathering sites and surrounding areas.
- High psychological distress levels among IDP women and girls, overcrowding, and a lack of essential services were observed.

# 5,689

Women and girls reached with dignity kits, key GBV messages and psychosocial services

### Response

- About 1,700 vulnerable women and girls received dignity kits in Elhenina, Algaba, Ag Geneina high school for girls, Ag Geneina teaching hospital, and Alsalam school gathering sites. The distribution was combined with GBV awareness-raising sessions and psychological first aid services.
- 20 community-based protection networks were established in nine gathering sites and Kereinik. 37 members of the network received training on GBV core concepts and the GBV referral system.

- 255 women and girls from gathering sites in the locality office and Ag Geneina University were reached with GBV awareness sessions focused on forms of GBV, information on existing services and the referral systems.

### Gaps & Constraints

- The limited number of partners providing GBV services and awareness-raising sessions.
- Underreporting of GBV incidents due to a fear of stigma and discrimination.
- Congestion in gathering sites puts women and girls at risk of GBV.

## Shelter/NFI

### Needs

- In 2021, the S/NFI sector is planning to target about 234,000 people (46,750 families) with NFI assistance in the gathering points in Ag Geneina and surrounding villages.

# 15,506

People reached with NFIs

### Response

- The S/NFI Sector has so far distributed NFI kits to 88,600 people (17,720 families) in 64 gathering points in Ag Geneina out of the 234,000 people (46,750 families) to be targeted in 2021.
- 3,000 emergency shelter kits are being transported to Ag Geneina.
- About 10,000 people (2,000 families) will receive cash for emergency shelter (\$200 in two instalments).
- The currently available stock for the sector is 13,316 NFI kits (for 13,316 families or 66,580 people) in Ag Geneina, with an additional 7,000 to 10,000 NFI kits in the pipeline.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

### Needs

- Water provision of a minimum of 10 litres/person/day.
- Building of emergency latrines and rehabilitation of fixed latrines.
- Solid waste disposal and identifying disposal areas within the gathering sites.
- Provision of hygiene kits.
- Scaling up response outside of Ag Geneina.
- Rehabilitation of broken hand pumps in Al Jabal area; water storage and tap dispensing for at least 10,000-15,000 litres and installing new hand pumps.

# 91,600

People reached

### Response

- 73 IDP gathering sites are receiving WASH services.
- Support to vector control, medical waste, and water quality monitoring.
- The WASH sector plans to have an in-depth assessment of Al Jabal area and Krinding IDP camp next week.

### Gaps & Constraints

- The WASH response outside of Al Geneina, including sending WASH supplies to Masteri and Beida, remains critical. The response is being hampered by a lack of security.
- Chlorination of urban water remains a gap however this is being addressed in the coming weeks.
- Water supply is also becoming an issue as water trucking to such a large population is not sustainable.
- Critical WASH gaps persist in 15 gathering sites.