

This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners covering the period 7 September – 12 September 2011.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- *Fighting continues in Blue Nile and South Kordofan states*
- *The security situation in Ed Damazine is normalizing although there are reports of continuing military activity in other parts of Blue Nile State*
- *Some 8,000 newly displaced people in South Kordofan were assisted with non-food items and essential drugs*

II. Situation Overview

Blue Nile State

The fighting that broke out on September 1 between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) continued throughout the reporting period. There were reports of fighting in the areas south, southeast and southwest of Ed Damazine town (Dindero, Ulu, Kurmuk, Geissan, Menza, Yabus, Um Darafa and Abu Gerang) as well as in parts of Ed Damazine locality. On 12 September, four bombs were reportedly dropped near Kurmuk town.

On 10 September, the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) reported that the situation in the state capital Ed Damazine was normalizing and that people were returning to the city. Public offices and schools reportedly re-opened on 12 September. Very little information is available about the situation in the rest of the state, particularly in the SPLM-N controlled areas, due to lack of access.

Government-imposed movement restrictions for UN agency staff remain in place in Sennar and in Blue Nile States. On 8 September, the government stated that the assessment of humanitarian needs as well as the distribution of aid in Blue Nile State will be coordinated by state authorities and that any humanitarian activities that are needed will be carried out by local humanitarian organizations such as the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS).

According to the federal Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) and local authorities in Blue Nile State, new procedures relating to the work of UN agencies and INGOs will be announced before the end of this week.

Local police in Ed Damazine continue to provide protection for the main UN offices and warehouses and this has prevented looting of these premises. However, three INGOs have reportedly had their compounds looted in Ed Damazine. Meanwhile, there are reports that one UN compound and two INGO compounds have been looted in Kurmuk since the fighting began.

There are also worrying reports about the presence of new land-mines in certain areas.

Population movement

SRCS has reported that in the days following the outbreak of fighting in Blue Nile State, some 115,000 people fled their homes in the Ed Damazine area, while some 20,000 more people were displaced in the west of the state. Due to access restrictions, it has not been possible to verify these figures independently. On 12 September, HAC reported that about 80 per cent of the people that fled from Ed Damazine in the first few days have now returned to their homes.

An additional 250 people from Blue Nile State wanting to travel to Juba arrived in Kosti (White Nile State) on 6 September, while another 438 individuals have been registered arriving in Renk, Upper Nile State in South Sudan.

UNHCR reports that some 4,000 individuals have been registered on the Ethiopian side of the border near Kurmuk, and another 5,000 individuals have been registered on the Ethiopian side of the border near

Geissan. Many others have not yet been registered and UNHCR estimates that some 20,000 people in total have crossed from Blue Nile State into Ethiopia. This number is expected to rise further, as people are still crossing into Ethiopia as a result of the continued fighting.

South Kordofan State

Information coming from South Kordofan over the last week has been limited. There have been reports of continued fighting in various parts of the state, but no detailed information has been provided to OCHA.

With UNMIS troops continuing their withdrawal from the UNMIS compound in Kadugli, the safety and security of humanitarian staff and their remaining assets in the compound has been a concern. Several thefts from the compound took place during the reporting period.

Heavy rains are compounding an already difficult situation in South Kordofan, with flooding resulting in the closure of many roads.

There are currently only two UN international staff in Kadugli (one from UNICEF and one from UNHCR), and 48 national staff.

Population Movement

According to HAC in Kadugli, some 8,000 people have been newly displaced in South Kordofan. This includes some 3,000 people who came from Morong to Arregebat in Talodi locality, and another 5,000 who came from Tayomi, Abu Alhassan and Alusha Abdalla to Al Fashaia, Al Faid, Abu Karshola and Tarawa in Rashad locality.

Meanwhile, according to UNHCR, some 3,400 individuals have crossed into South Sudan (Warrap State), mainly from Lira, Abujibeiha, Kulogi, Kadugli, Dilling and Buram.

III. Humanitarian Response

Blue Nile State

Food

WFP has received official requests from SRCS and Zakat Chambers for food assistance to communities displaced from Blue Nile. WFP is seeking permission to travel into Sennar and Blue Nile state to further assess the situation.

Due to government-imposed restrictions on pre-positioning of food stocks in Blue Nile State since July, WFP has limited stocks of pre-positioned food in only three warehouses in Blue Nile State (Chali, Kurmuk and Ed Damazine). In total there is currently 140 MT of pre-positioned in Blue Nile State, which is sufficient to feed 20,000 people for approximately two weeks.

On 8 September, the Zakat Chambers reported that they were providing food to the displaced population returning to Ed Damazine.

The Federal HAC informed the humanitarian community on 12 September that food stocks enough to provide for the needs of 127,000 displaced people have been made available by the government. Additional lifesaving items were reported to have been provided by authorities of neighboring state in support of the affected populations.

Health

According to the Federal Ministry of Health (MoH), displaced populations from Ed Damazine and surroundings were initially identified in 19 locations (16 in Blue Nile State and 3 in Sennar State). Assessments have been conducted in 14 of them. Based on consultations conducted in health facilities in Blue Nile, the leading diseases were malaria, acute respiratory infection, conjunctivitis, and diarrhea. From the 96 health facilities (hospitals to basic health units) in Blue Nile, 38 facilities or 40% are functioning. While in the locality of Ed Damazine alone, from the 22 health facilities 15 facilities or 68% are reported functional.

It is reported that in Kurmuk essential medicines prepositioned in health facilities are sufficient for the next 3 months if facilities have normal caseloads. Mobile clinics may be established as the need arises. However, currently it seems impractical to setup mobile clinics with heavy rains in the area.

South Kordofan

During the reporting period, about 8,000 newly displaced people in the eastern areas of South Kordofan State (Rashad and Talodi localities) have been provided with essential non-food items. The assistance was made available by UN agencies in partnership with SRCS, the state Humanitarian Aid Commission, and the local non-governmental organisation Nimad. UNICEF has also provided the displaced populations with essential drugs through the Ministry of Health.

Efforts to address needs of people displaced to Kadugli town continue. Some 80 households have been reported arriving in the city. An inter-sector Committee is assessing their needs. Initial findings identified needs of access to safe water and improved hygiene and sanitation facilities.

UNICEF and partners continue compiling information and intensifying efforts for the reunification of separated and unaccompanied children. 21 children were reportedly reunified with primary caregivers, while at least 67 children have been reported missing. UNICEF has received worrying reports about large numbers of children separated from their families that moved towards the South and whose families need to be traced.

WASH activities continued with the rehabilitation of two hand pumps in Kadugli town (15 hand pumps have so far been rehabilitated in the Kadugli town since the outbreak of conflict).

UNICEF in North Kordofan visited four IDP locations in Al Gableen neighborhood with a population of about 3,000 people, accessing one school and one health facility and provided essential drugs (1 PHC and 1 IMCI kit).

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