Humanitarian supplies arrive in Northern Jebel Marra’s Fanga Suk area

On 5 December, a convoy carrying humanitarian relief supplies—donated by the World Food Programme (WFP), the UN Children’s Agency (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO)—arrived in Fanga Suk in Central Darfur’s Northern Jebel Marra locality. Accompanying the convoy was a verification team from the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The supplies included 487 metric tons of food—enough for 18,000 people for three months—emergency shelter and household supplies for 1,575 families (about 6,300 people), and water and sanitation supplies. Health supplies were also sent including one primary health care kit (enough for the needs of 10,000 people for three months), one integrated management of childhood illness (IMCI) kit (enough for the needs of 10,000 children under five for one month), one IMCI equipment kit, vaccine kits, and educational materials. The supplies will be stored in the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) warehouse until IOM completes the verification and registration exercise, after which distributions will begin. The humanitarian needs of people in Fanga Suk were identified on 11 November during the first inter-agency mission to the area since 2011.

North Darfur’s Kokai village is safe for returns

An estimated 200 families (800 people) would like to return to their home areas in and around Kokai village from Saraf Omra town, according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). Kokai village is about 25km from the African Union – United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) team site in Saraf Omra. Findings from a mission—which was requested by the Government’s Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) in North Darfur and the Commissioner of Saraf Omra locality—found the security situation in the Kokai area to be calm and suitable for returns. The host community expressed an openness to the return of the displaced people and confirmed that they were originally from the area. Not all of the displaced people from this area taking refuge in Saraf Omra want to return to the village. About 400 families (1,600 people) said they would integrate with the community in the town. According to the mission findings, the return villages are in need of water points, schools, latrines and health centres. Aid agencies will meet to discuss an appropriate assistance plan.

West Kordofan: assessment of refugees in Kharasana reception centre and Et Tibbun village

From 24 to 30 November, aid organizations conducted an inter-agency assessment in West Kordofan upon the request of HAC. The team visited the Kharasana refugee centre in Keilak locality, which hosts South Sudanese refugees and Et Tibbun village in
Babanousa locality, which hosts both South Sudan refugees and displaced people who fled inter-tribal conflict from other parts of the state and from East Darfur in May. According to local authorities, these people are in need of food, water, health as well as sanitation and education services.

The Kharasana reception centre is congested with 8,000 people having built shelters around it. The team observed that there was no space for expanding the site as the land around the camp is owned by the community. Local authorities, however, assured the mission that the refugees will not be relocated. The health centre in the area is overwhelmed with the influx of refugees and both the refugees and health staff face communication problems as some of the refugees do not speak Arabic. According to the mission findings, there are medical personnel among the refugee population who could support a health centre for the refugees. Water for the refugees is currently being trucked to the site. As this is not a sustainable option, IOM and UNICEF will drill a borehole at the site. The World Health Organization (WHO) will build a permanent health clinic inside the camp while UNHCR will build a reception centre.

In Et Tibbun village, the displaced people and refugees have partially integrated into the community and have good access to land for agriculture. Out of the 3,700 displaced people in Babanusa locality, 2,350 have taken refuge in Et Tibbun village. The village also hosts an additional 3,900 refugees. There is no government sponsored health clinic in the area. Existing water facilities require rehabilitation as only one of the four water yards serving the vulnerable population in the area is working. For education, it was found that only six out of 500 school-aged children attend school, mainly due to their inability to pay the school fees or buy the school uniform. Aid organizations are currently meeting to develop a response plan.

Dengue fever spreads into Kassala and Kordofan

According to the Ministry of Health (MoH), a total of 557 suspected dengue fever cases, including 130 deaths, were reported in Sudan between 29 August (when the outbreak started) and 4 December. The outbreak had initially affected Darfur but has now spread to Kassala and Kordofan states. According to the MoH, 53 per cent of all reported cases are male and the age group 5 to 14 years has the highest number of cases (45 per cent).

In Darfur, 512 suspected cases—including 125 deaths—were reported in 27 states between 29 August and 4 December. In Kordofan, 40 suspected cases—including four deaths—were reported in the six localities of Abyei, Keilak (West Kordofan), Reif Ashargi, Kadugli, Habila (South Kordofan and Shiekan (North Kordofan) between 17 October and 4 December. In Kassala state, five suspected cases—including one death—were reported in the state capital Kassala town between 23 and 26 November.

In response, the WHO has sent an epidemiologist to support the MoH in investigation and outbreak response. WHO and the MoH are also preparing to deploy a mini-lab from the Institut Pasteur, Dakar, together with a team of laboratory experts to support field diagnosis and strengthen the capacity of the central public health laboratory in Khartoum. In West Darfur, the international NGO World Relief ran five mobile clinics and received mosquito nets—to protect from the combined effect of malaria—from the SMoH for distribution in four clinics in Kereinik locality. Also in the state, WHO and the international NGO Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) - Switzerland supported a treatment centre in El...
Geneina. In East Darfur, UNICEF released three primary health care (PHC) kits—enough for the needs of 30,000 people for three months WHO continued to support MoH in integrated vector control activities covering all affected localities in Darfur, Kassala and Kordofan states.

MoH/WHO recommendations include engaging more families and communities in prevention activities such as the elimination of adult mosquitoes by indoor spraying, searching and destroying larva-breeding sites in and around homes to prevent mosquitoes laying egg, sleeping under mosquito nets, wearing protective clothing and using mosquito repellents. WHO also recommends strengthening surveillance systems by adding more sentinel sites in Kereinik locality—which is the most affected area—and deploying a team to operate the clinic there.

Suspected dengue fever cases by state (29 August – 4 December 2015)

Source: Ministry of Health

Annual CFSAM assessment arrives in South Darfur

On 1 December, the annual Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) started their assessment of the 2015 crop production as well as food availability and livestock conditions in South Darfur, after which it will move on to East Darfur.

The mission includes representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Ministry of Animal Resources (MoAR), HAC and WFP. Aid organizations are concerned that people in these areas may not have reliable access to food due to the poor rains and the long dry spell from late August into late September, caused by El Niño. As a result, a number of localities are likely to face a 30 to 40 per cent decline in their harvest yields compared to the 2014 harvest. These localities include Kass, El Salam and the northern localities of Marshang, Niteage, Alwehda, Bielel and Nyala North.

Increase in conflict between pastoralists and farmers in South Darfur

According to aid organizations, there has been a recent increase in the number of incidents between pastoralists and farmers, mainly over the grazing of animals on farmland. Between February and June, northern localities in South Darfur State are traditionally areas for livestock grazing, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Due to the low rains this year and subsequent poor pasture for grazing, pastoralists have started moving their herds southwards for grazing in November—which is earlier than usual—leading to conflict with farmers when livestock graze on crops. Additionally, pastures in areas in the south of the state will likely be depleted and will not sustain livestock up to the next rainy season, according to FAO. Furthermore, pastoralist migration exposes livestock to disease and so FAO and the MoAR are planning to procure 100,000 animal vaccines (enough for 500,000 livestock). This, however, this is not enough to cover the livestock population in the area which is estimated to be in the millions.