

This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners covering the period 1-15 August 2011.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Fighting between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-North) continued in parts of South Kordofan in the absence of a ceasefire agreement.
- Access restrictions continue to remain the most important challenge to providing humanitarian assistance.
- Pre-positioned stocks have mostly been distributed and replenishment is urgently needed.

II. Situation Overview

The security situation in South Kordofan State remained tense and volatile during the reporting period. Intermittent fighting between Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-North), including air strikes, has been reported in different localities of the state. Most reported security incidents took place in the more densely populated south and central parts of the state.

Humanitarian access

International humanitarian organizations continued to face severe access restrictions throughout the state. Over 200,000 people are estimated to have been either displaced or severely affected by the fighting that erupted on 6 June. The security situation and access restrictions have led to a continued reduction in numbers of humanitarian staff. While humanitarian organizations have been able to continue some activities with national staff, severe restrictions have been placed on the movements of international staff. In the State capital, Kadugli, there were 29 international UN humanitarian staff before the fighting started. The UN then reduced this to a core group of 9 international staff as a result of the security situation. In addition to national staff, only 3 internationals from two UN agencies are currently present. Only one international staff was allowed to travel to Kadugli during reporting period. Other routine staff rotations have been blocked. In areas that are outside government control, humanitarian activities have been conducted mainly through the limited number of national and international staff who were present before the fighting began.

In the weeks that followed the outbreak of fighting, vulnerable civilian populations were able to benefit from the distribution of stocks that had been pre-positioned in the state as part of the humanitarian contingency planning efforts. More than 60 days into the conflict, most of these pre-positioned supplies have now been distributed. Food has been distributed to 129 000 people; more than half of this to people in areas outside of government control. The replenishment of stocks has not been possible in most areas affected by the fighting due to the continued restrictions of movements of supplies and staff. Meanwhile, with no commercial traffic into many parts of the state and with severe disruption to the agricultural cycle as a result of the fighting, individual household stocks of essential goods are running low. FAO reported very poor crop establishment in most localities due to late planting and is expecting a big reduction in the total area under cultivation in the state.

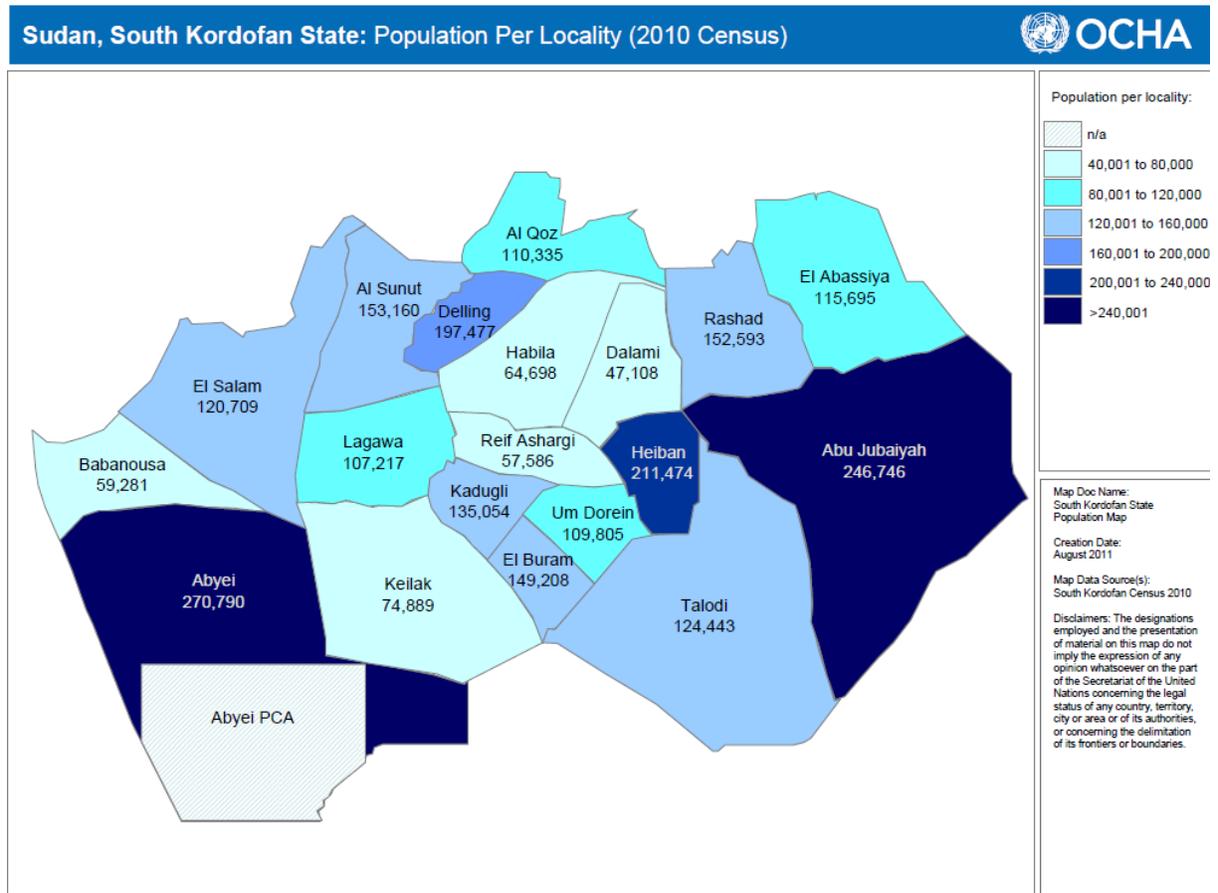
The humanitarian situation is therefore now entering a new phase in which the rapidly diminishing coping mechanisms of the affected population heighten vulnerability still further, and increasing needs for urgent assistance.

Population movements

On 6 August, the Government's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), the Sudan Red Crescent Society (SRCS) and local NGO Mubadiroon conducted a rapid needs assessment of 432 newly displaced people arrived from Kega, Abu Sunun and Lima villages to Al Mashaesh near Kadugli town. UN agencies could not participate as the local authority did not provide security clearance for UN staff. A preliminary assessment identified emergency food assistance as the most immediate need.

During the reporting period, approximately 400 people are reported to have returned from Khartoum to Kadugli town on commercial buses. There have been reports of continued returns to Kadugli from different areas of South Kordofan and North Kordofan.

As reported by humanitarian partners in South Sudan, some 2,800 people fleeing the fighting in South Kordofan have arrived in Pariang County in Unity State, and are being assisted there.



III. Humanitarian Response

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOOD

During the reporting period an additional 3,348 displaced people have received food aid in Heiban and Delami localities. The distribution of one month food ration for 3,335 most vulnerable displaced people in five locations in the outskirts of Kadugli town was also completed during the reporting period. WFP released 54 metric tons of assorted food items from WFP Kadugli warehouse to SRCS to cover for 30 days food allocation. To date, WFP and partners have assisted some 129,000 conflict-affected people in South Kordofan with over 1,260 metric tons of emergency food rations.

Yet, with the exception of the continuing distributions in Kadugli, it is expected that the people who have received food assistance so far have by now exhausted most of their stocks. Save the Children has reported that it is predicting a food gap as of mid August should access restrictions not be lifted. Most distributions consisted of 15 day rations.

In the absence of replenishment of stocks, Save the Children has reported purchasing and distributing 16 metric tons of local food commodities in the Abu Jubaiyah locality.

On 14 August, FAO reported that with the ongoing conflict impacting on migration routes, the rainy season’s normal migration of livestock to their normal northward pasture destinations has not happened. FAO and national partners (Ministry of Agriculture, SRCS and local NGOs NIDAA and Mobadiroon) confirmed the distribution of agricultural assistance to 21,815 conflict affected farmers in Rashad, El Goz, Al Abassieya, Abu Jubayha, Delling, Habila, Lagawa and Eastner Rural (Al Reif Al Shargi).

NON-FOOD ITEMS AND EMERGENCY SHELTER

Continued NFI distributions are vital during the wet and cold rainy season. In particular, shortages of mosquito nets reported by UNHCR in some locations could lead to higher than usual malaria cases.

The distribution of essential NFIs for the most vulnerable displaced people in the outskirts of Kadugli town took place simultaneously with the above mentioned WFP food distribution by SRCS. UNHCR/WFP monitored the distribution organized by HAC at the Youth Center in Kadugli town.

At the request of HAC, Save the Children is undertaking distribution of NFIs to an estimated 28,000 displaced people in Talodi, Delling, Abu Jubaiyah, Kadugli and Habila localities. The NFIs were released from El Obeid, North Kordofan at the beginning of last week. Some items have reached as far south as Talodi on lorries and tractors and have been distributed.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

WES with the support of UNICEF are chlorinating 41 Water Yards across the state to ensure safe access to water for more than 200 000 displaced people and host communities. Distribution of soap and jerry cans to most vulnerable people has taken place in limited number (up to 20,000 people reached) due to lack of access – both for assessing needs and for distribution.

HEALTH

According to UNFPA, additional clean delivery kits, reproductive health care and medical treatment are available to cater for the potential need of 100.000 patients in seven conflict-affected localities to address issues of maternal mortality, miscarriages and other protection issues including GBV

NUTRITION

A total of 2,292 children in only four of the conflict-affected areas have been assisted with supplementary food (BP5) and other nutritional supplements.

UNICEF reactivated five Out-Patients Centers to treat severely and acute malnourished children in Kadugli town. Due to lack of access and challenging communications lines, the nutrition status (situation) is not yet known. However, there is great concerns as food rations are known to have run out.

PROTECTION

With the support of UNICEF, SRCS are establishing 11 Child Friendly Spaces in Kadugli, Talodi, Rashad and Habila localities to provide recreation, education and protection related services to about 3,300 vulnerable children or roughly 300 per site.

Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) activities continue with the involvement of UNICEF, SRCS, Save the Children, and the Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW). Actors are currently working on data consolidation. So far, 39 separated children, 3 unaccompanied and 3 missing were identified. Of these, 36 are under tracing, 4 have been successfully traced, and 5 are under reunification.

EDUCATION

Since the beginning of the conflict, Save the Children has assisted 7,100 children with emergency education support through improved and additional classrooms and distribution of basic education equipment to teachers and students.

According to UNHCR in Kadugli, the State Ministry of Education indicated that 683 displaced students have been enrolled in two schools in Delling while 610 others have joined four schools in Kadugli town. The State Ministry of Education requested the provision of tents for the temporary classrooms in Delling as well as school kits and furniture, the provision of school feeding programmes and the construction of additional hand pumps and latrines. The ministry is also planning to register displaced teachers in Kadugli and to request assistance from the humanitarian community for the provision of food and NFIs as well as accommodation for the teachers.

MINE ACTION

The need for mine clearance and removal of unexploded ordnance (UXO) remains critical. A number of key roads to areas affected by the conflict are reportedly mined, severely limiting commercial traffic. There are still no available updates on the mine and UXOs clearance process.

On 14 August, UNMAO reported that 127 persons received Mine Risk Education in Kadugli town through SRCS.

IV. Coordination

Following intense negotiations, the RC/HC received approval from the State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs for three missions to SKS: (1) a joint assessment by WFP and the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) of food and non-food needs, including a focus on logistics/supply routes; (2) a UNDSS mission to carry out a security risk assessment for humanitarian staff; and (3) a high level mission to review the humanitarian situation in SKS.

V. Contact

New York

Rosa Malango: Section Chief a.i. Africa II Section
Coordination Response Division
Tel: +1 212 963 2380 E-mail: malango@un.org

Aida Mengistu: Humanitarian Affairs Officer
Coordination Response Division
Tel: +1 212 963 5145 Email: mengistua@un.org

Geneva

Elisabeth Byrs: Spokesperson and Public
Information Officer
Communications and Information Services
Tel: +41 22 917 2653 Email: byrs@un.org

Stephanie Bunker: Spokesperson and Public
Information Officer
Communications and Information Services
Tel: +1 917 367 5126 E-mail: bunker@un.org

To be added or deleted from this sit rep mailing list, please e-mail: ochareporting@un.org