Republic of the Sudan

Facts & Figures

Number of dead

Since 2003, over 300,000 people have lost their life during the Darfur conflict.

Number of Refugees (UNCHR): 140,000

Number of IDPs (UNCHR): 2,422,000

Humanitarian Assistance from ECHO: around €64 million for 2012/13

Humanitarian situation and needs

Key messages

- 10 years since the Darfur conflict broke out, violence and insecurity continue to cause displacement and inhibit returns, despite the Doha Peace Agreement.

- Since early 2013 due to the fighting among Arab tribes in Darfur an estimated 300,000 people were newly displaced causing an increase in insecurity and lack of access.

- Fighting in the transitional areas has affected over 900,000 people, including over 220,000 who have taken refuge in Ethiopia and South Sudan;

- Heavy rains in early August 2013 resulted in floods which affected an estimated 340,000 people, mostly in Khartoum, El Gezira and Blue Nile;

- Better access is needed to all vulnerable and conflict-affected populations in order to conduct assessments and provide humanitarian assistance according to needs.
Humanitarian situation

The humanitarian situation in Sudan is still critical following years of conflict, natural disasters and underdevelopment in the periphery. The country has over 2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), high levels of malnutrition in some regions and a lack of infrastructure and basic services. When the Republic of South Sudan became independent on 9 July 2011, tensions and conflicts escalated on both sides of the border.

Major needs and related problems

In Darfur, after ten years of conflict, over 3.2 million people still receive some form of humanitarian assistance. These are some 1.2 million people living in IDP camps, 40 000 refugees from Chad, and more than 1.8 million residents and nomads. Due to conflict, insecurity and administrative impediments, humanitarian personnel and operations have been reduced. This has prevented much-needed comprehensive assessments of needs or in-depth analyses of the impact of humanitarian operations. Tribal fighting and presence of uncontrolled militia resulted in increased security in the region since beginning of 2013, including in capital cities of the states. Such fighting resulted in the displacement of an estimated 300 000 throughout Darfur and would have forced an estimated 30 000 Sudanese to cross the border to Chad. In addition, thousands of people were killed during the various clashes.

Tensions remain high in the Transitional Areas (Abyei, South Kordofan and Blue Nile), along the North-South border. The lack of access and first-hand information makes it impossible to know the extent and severity of the crisis. According to estimates, over 1 million people have been affected since May 2011, including local communities, IDPs and refugees fleeing to South Sudan and to Ethiopia. South Sudan currently hosts 193 000 refugees from South Kordofan and Blue Nile while an estimated 32 000 have found refuge in Ethiopia.

The East has some of the worst malnutrition indicators in Sudan among children under five. Though it would be desirable to link humanitarian and development activities, there are limited opportunities for international organisations to work in the region. The region also hosts more than 88 000 Eritrean refugees.

North-South return:
The return process of people of South Sudanese origin has slowed down during 2013. In the first half of the year, only 50 000 people returned from Sudan. An estimated 350 000 South Sudanese remain in Sudan, living in very precarious conditions. More than 40 000 South Sudanese are still stranded in open areas in and around Khartoum, and 3 500 in the Kosti railway station, awaiting transfer to the south. A joint call by Mr Toby Lanzer, UN Humanitarian Coordinator for South Sudan and Mr Ali Al-Za'tari, UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan to fully implement the Agreement on the Status of Nationals of the Other State, signed on 27 September 2012 has just been issued.

The European Union’s Humanitarian Response

Funding

The European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) supports the provision of assistance to stabilise the living conditions of IDPs and of Chadian refugees who fled conflict in their country. ECHO provides emergency aid for people recently displaced or affected by natural disasters.

The European Commission's humanitarian aid budget for Sudan and South Sudan was €140 million in 2011 (of which about half was spent on Sudan and half on South Sudan). In 2012 €157 million was allocated (approximately €47 million for Sudan and €110 million for South Sudan). In 2013, ECHO has allocated €86 million so far for both, Sudan and South Sudan.

Projects

The European Commission is intervening in several sectors including health and nutrition, water and sanitation, food security and livelihoods as well as catering for the needs of the conflict affected. The targeted areas are Darfur, the transitional areas of South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Abyei, and the East.
Access to basic services such as health, clean water and sanitation for conflict affected populations is a priority for ECHO. Lack of clean water and inadequate sanitation has a huge impact on health and contributes substantially to children’s vulnerability to malnutrition. ECHO funded actions are improving access to safe water and sanitation and are promoting hygiene for those displaced by conflict, returning home or affected by natural disasters.

The nutritional status of children under five is of concern in much of the country, due to not only poor access to healthcare and clean water, but also food insecurity. ECHO funds contribute to providing better coverage for the treatment of acute malnutrition in some of the most critical areas in Sudan. Unfortunately International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO) partners that were providing assistance for nutrition in the eastern states of Sudan had their projects suspended by the authorities in June 2012.

Food aid and emergency food security activities account for the bulk of ECHO’s funding in Sudan (€25 million in 2012).

Examples of Humanitarian Projects in Sudan

ECHO has teamed up with Merlin and UNICEF to treat children suffering from malnutrition in Kalma camp for the displaced people in South Darfur. Overall in Sudan, UNICEF has treated 100 000 malnourished children, while Merlin has reached over 15 000 children. With funding from ECHO, Merlin is providing primary health care to the displaced population in Kalma IDP camp, while also treating malnutrition through the community management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) approach with UNICEF support. Severely malnourished children are given therapeutic food while the most severe cases with medical complications are referred to health facilities. Merlin has received €1.8 million while UNICEF received €1.5 million for the projects which run from June 2012 to July 2013.

ECHO is giving almost 200 000 IDPs access to safe water and sanitation facilities in three camps located in Zalingei, Central Darfur. Together with its partners Danish Church Aid (DCA) and Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), the Commission is providing access to latrines, waste management, and health education to the most vulnerable among the displaced people, including over 35 000 beneficiaries from the host communities. DCA has also used part of the funds from the Commission to intervene during the recent Yellow Fever outbreak which originated in Central Darfur. DCA conducted extensive prevention activities in the camps, including vector control, and community sensitisation. ECHO has given €600 000 in 2012 to support these WASH-related activities.