

Sudan

HUMANITARIAN

Overview



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Women in Mau, North Darfur, following an attack in October 2009

Nerris Markogiannis/UNAMID

Darfur: A Shifting Landscape

About 12,750 humanitarian workers provide assistance to communities in Darfur, representing 73 non-governmental organizations and 21 UN agencies. Aid workers deliver relief to roughly 4.7 million people in the three Darfur states, including a displaced population estimated as high as 2.7 million¹. In all, more than half of Darfur's estimated 7.5 million people receive some type of humanitarian assistance – among the highest proportions in the world. At the start of 2010, the operating environment in Darfur was characterized by insecurity, population movements, critical environmental issues and other challenges.

Insecurity and humanitarian access

Insecurity remains a primary cause of people's suffering and the most significant challenge to providing relief in Darfur. In the last quarter of 2009, violence and banditry continued to drive people from their homes and restricted the mobility of humanitarian organizations.

Attacks on the humanitarian community and peacekeepers

The international community is present in Darfur through NGOs, UN agencies and the African Union–United Nations hybrid mission in Darfur, UNAMID, whose humanitarian mandate centres on facilitation of aid delivery and access to

¹ Assistance and displacement figures are reported to OCHA by UN agencies and NGOs operating in Darfur. These represent calculations from reports received, not registered persons, and are for the sole purpose of estimating the potential scope and scale of humanitarian needs.

people in need. Attacks and banditry on peacekeepers and humanitarian workers destabilize the operating environment, in some cases leading to suspension of assistance. Major events in the last quarter of 2009 included:

- » Three attacks on UNAMID personnel, killing five peacekeepers
- » Kidnapping of an ICRC international staff member
- » Four raids on INGO assets
- » Raid on a World Food Programme compound

Two kidnapped NGO staff were released

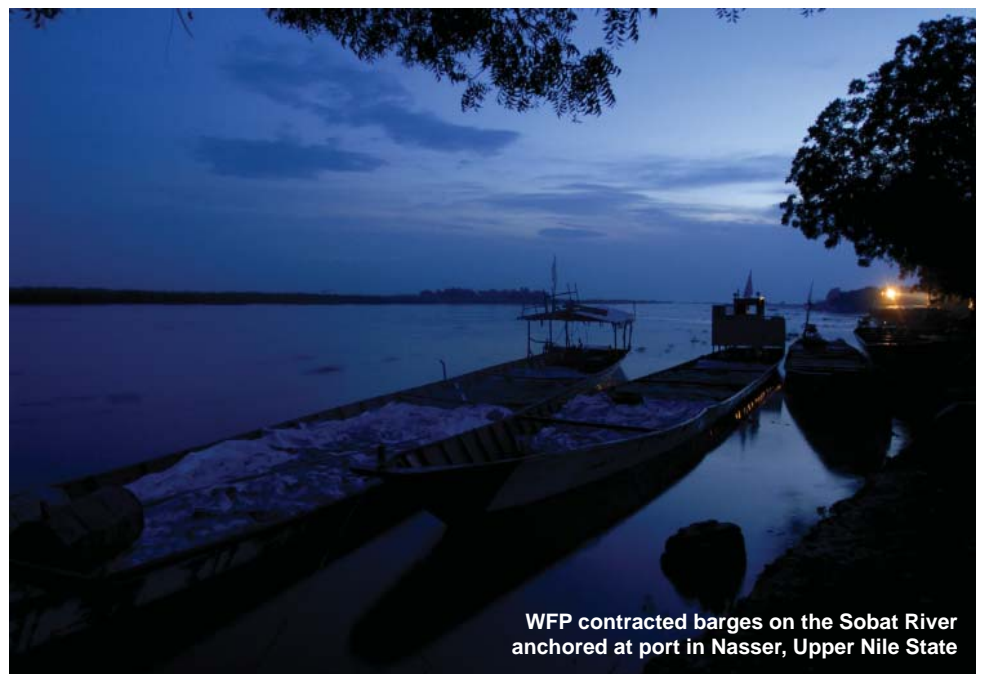
Southern Sudan: Food, Fear and Finances

Three factors made people more vulnerable in Southern Sudan in 2009: inter-tribal conflict and Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)–related violence; a critical food gap; and financial problems for the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) that reduced state capacity to deliver social services. Violence and fear of attack were the main drivers of displacement, with an estimated 2,500 people killed and more than 390,000 displaced by inter-tribal fighting and LRA violence – a sharp rise from 2008, when some 187,000 people were displaced by conflict. Armed clashes in several states created a need for simultaneous emergency response in multiple locations.

While insecurity disrupted agricultural activities and local trade networks, the late rains, rising food prices and poor management of stocks caused a massive food deficit that will spill over into 2010. With reduced grazing areas and water sources for cattle, pastoralist communities are now compelled to take herds out of community areas, increasing the risk of inter-tribal conflict over scarce resources.

Inter-tribal fighting

Violent attacks continued to be reported in the last quarter of 2009. During the first half of October alone, more than 16,000 people were displaced by tribal conflicts. Major incidents took >>>



WFP contracted barges on the Sobat River anchored at port in Nasser, Upper Nile State

Tim McKulka/UNMIS

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A boy hauls water in Zam Zam IDP camp, El Fasher, North Darfur

Nerris Markogiannis/UNAMID

(Darfur, cont.)

in October, and two UNAMID staff in December; all had been held for more than 90 days. Citing concerns over the >>> safety of its staff, the International Committee of the Red Cross announced a suspension of major operations in Darfur.

Military clashes

Down since their peak in previous years, clashes between Government forces and Darfur rebel groups still occur. More common have been confrontations among rebels and other loosely organized groups. One effect remains the same: increased vulnerability for Darfur's people, often leading to displacement. Major incidents in the last quarter of 2009 included:

- » October clashes between the official Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and rebel movement SLA-AW near Korma²
- » November fighting between SLA-AW and SLA-MM rebel groups, destroying three villages in South Darfur³
- » December clashes between the SLA-AW and loosely-organized Arab militias, causing the displacement of up to 10,000 people.

Inter-tribal violence and banditry

Confrontations between ethnic groups in Darfur – often driven by competition over resources such as agricultural land or water for grazing – can uproot communities and disrupt aid operations. Major clashes in the last quarter of 2009 occurred between the Zaghawa and Birgit tribes in North and South Darfur, and the Reizegat and Habania tribes in South Darfur.

Banditry and other violence against individuals and local government structures is also a feature of insecurity

in Darfur, with women and internally displaced people (IDPs) at particular risk.

Population movements

The movement of people in Darfur is often involuntary, as residents are forced to flee their homes in the wake of violent conflict. Up to 2.7 million people remain displaced across Darfur, and new displacements continued in the last quarter of 2009, mostly following skirmishes in North and South Darfur.

Displacement is not the only movement, however, as some people begin to return home or contemplate permanent settlement elsewhere. The question of returns emerged as a priority for the Government in 2009, which identified 56 return villages in the last quarter of the year. The humanitarian community works to ensure that returns are voluntary and appropriate, meaning that home communities have the necessary resources to welcome returning families. Insecurity and other access constraints have made verification of returns an ongoing challenge. The Joint Verification Mechanism for Returns, endorsed by the Government and international partners last October, is envisioned as a means to strengthen monitoring efforts, and assessment of reported return locations is underway.

In many cases, displaced people are likely to choose to settle elsewhere, often in urban areas around major IDP centres. This settlement could greatly accelerate a trend toward urbanization in Darfur, and will be a key feature of the humanitarian operating environment in 2010.

Environment and food security

Looming shortages in food and water in some areas of Darfur could potentially contribute to renewed tensions, as well as aggravate the needs of vulnerable people. Environmental degradation – the result of both man-made events and ongoing desertification – raised a number of serious concerns at the end of 2009, including the following issues:

- » Possible drought and food insecurity in parts of North Darfur following poor rainfall
- » Possible water shortages in North Darfur, where the water table has dropped significantly or water sources have dried up
- » Potential crop failure in parts of South Darfur, leading to food insecurity
- » Drop in availability of basic cereals in West Darfur, meeting only 30 percent of needs, with prices doubling

Operating environment

Relations between the humanitarian community, Government officials and rebel movements improved significantly in 2009. By the end of the year, the UN was working with the Government on outstanding issues and received important guarantees for humanitarian assistance from officials and rebel groups.

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Sudan: Humanitarian indicators	
Life expectancy (at birth)	57.9 years
Malnutrition (global acute)	14.7%
Southern Sudan	15.6%
Darfur	16.1%
HIV prevalence (15–49 years)	1.4%
Maternal mortality rate	1,107
Southern Sudan	2,054
Darfur	994
People without clean water	56%
Southern Sudan	48%
Darfur	44%
Children in primary school	53.7%
Southern Sudan	15.8%
Darfur	56.3%
Small arms in circulation	2.7 million

Sources: Sudan Household and Health Survey 2006; UNDP Human Development Report; Darfur Food Security and Nutrition Assessment 2007; UNAIDS; Small Arms Survey 2009

² Sudan Liberation Army – Abdel Wahid faction, one of the major rebel groups in Darfur.

³ Sudan Liberation Army – Minni Minnawi faction, another rebel organization.

(Southern Sudan, cont.)

place in Gemmaiza payam, Terekeka county, and Ndolo payam, Juba county, Central Equatoria state. According to the Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC), 41 people were killed, 28 wounded and 10,000 displaced in November when Dinka and Mundari tribesmen clashed at Kalthok village in Awerial country (Lakes).

Since 31 December, several major attacks have been reported. Shilluk attacked Dinka on 31 December in Atar in Jonglei, leaving four people dead and 150 tukuls destroyed, including a local church. This attack once more uprooted 1,000 individuals who fled fighting in Atar in November 2009. The host community of approximately 5,000 people accommodating these IDPs was also affected. In Akot in Lakes state, the SPLA battalion and the civilian population clashed between 28 December and 1 January. Half the town was set ablaze, and widespread looting was reported. A brutal attack also took place in Wun Chuei on the border between Warrap and Unity, where Nuer targeted a Dinka cattle camp and the civilian population. An UNMIS long-range patrol on 6 January reported more than a hundred killed, 56 wounded and thousands of cattle raided. On 11 January, Nuer and Dinka tribesmen clashed along the Warrap-Unity border between Gogrial East and Tonj North County and Mayom County. Initial reports suggested around 90 people killed from both sides and a dozen injured. The number of displaced could not be immediately determined.

Arab Misseriya pastoralists started migrating southwards in November into Unity State in search of pasture for cattle. On 25 November, the Misseriya and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) exchanged fire in Abiemnom Payam after the Misseriya refused to disarm. Three casualties were reported. The two sides were reinforcing and the possibility of further clashes remained high. Increased tension was also expected between Misseriya and Dinka tribes in connection with the Misseriya migration. Migration traditionally takes place over four corridors, of which only one is covered by security and disarmament agreements.

LRA attacks

Attacks by Ugandan rebel group LRA in 2009 destabilized Western and Central Equatoria states, displacing thousands and creating instability along the border with Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Western Equatoria was once among Southern Sudan's self-sufficient states. The presence of LRA has disrupted agricultural life, and the state has become food insecure and will register a food deficit in 2010. No attacks by the LRA have been reported in the area since mid-November, but in view of the terror inflicted on the local population, a few months without attacks is unlikely to encourage people to return and cultivate their fields. Two LRA

attacks were reported in Western Bahr el Ghazal in December 2009, suggesting LRA groups have moved further north.

Food crisis

In response to the emerging food deficit, an Emergency Action Plan was launched last August. At the end of October, WFP began air drops of food assistance for 155,600 highly food-insecure people. The food drops, the first by WFP in Southern Sudan since 2007, provided 4,000 MT of food in Jonglei, Upper Nile and Warrap. In October and November, the Food and Agriculture Organization and WFP conducted the 2009/2010 Southern Sudan Annual Food Security and Livelihood Assessment (ANLA). Preliminary reports indicated a massive food deficit in 2010. The situation is fuelled by drought and insecurity, which have pushed cereal prices up and livestock prices down.

A total of 4.3 million people will need food assistance at some point during 2010. The number of severely food insecure people has increased from around 1 million last year to 1.5 million this year.



Villagers in Duk Padiet, Jonglei state, after tribal fighting in September 2009

Tim McKulka/UNMIS

An additional 1.8 million people will be moderately food insecure at some point. On top of this, a further 1.1 million people will receive food assistance during 2010 through specific food support programmes. The most food insecure states are Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria. Upper Nile and Northern Bahr el Ghazal are more food insecure compared to last year, attributable to a failure of the first agricultural season, below-average performance of the second season and insecurity caused by conflicts.

Access constraints

Violent attacks and insecurity in significant parts of eight of the ten states of Southern Sudan restricted humanitarian access in 2009. In areas with a higher concentration of people in need, most access required armed escort. Only Northern and Western Bahr el Ghazal remained relatively calm. Equally restrictive were the poor road conditions and infrastructure, especially during the rainy season from May to November. Barges transporting WFP food aid on the Sobat River, a major supply

route to Upper Nile and Jonglei states, were detained for over a week in November as a result of tribal conflict related to cattle raiding. The incident raised fears of a repeat of the June clash in which 735 MT of food aid destined for Akobo were lost when 27 barges were attacked on the Sobat south-east of Nassir.

Strengthening humanitarian coordination

Southern Sudan authorities as well as humanitarian actors believe the security situation in Southern Sudan will continue to deteriorate in the period leading up to elections in April 2010. This scenario could result in loss of life and large displacements similar to or higher than in 2009, although not all displacements would last long. In response, humanitarians have progressively refocused programmes on emergency response and increased preparedness at state level. UN agencies are working to strengthen coordination and contingency planning. As a first step, a establishment of the Humanitarian Country Team in Juba, including UN agencies, NGOs and donors, will guide the overall

humanitarian operation in Southern Sudan to ensure, where appropriate, linkages with recovery and development planning. A system to strengthen sector and inter-sector coordination is also underway.

Lack of peace dividends

Rising violence and insecurity raise urgent protection needs and concerns. Despite major efforts, authorities have been unable to meet the protection needs of newly displaced people and refugees. The GoSS has been unable to take over delivery of social services due to financial problems created by the global financial crisis. Humanitarian organizations currently provide more than 85 percent of all health services in the south and deliver virtually all other key elements of the safety net, including education and water services. Agencies are under enormous pressure, as many had planned to hand over key services to the GoSS last year. As a result, the south's safety net is extremely frail one year before the historic referendum due to take place in early 2011.

Three Protocol Areas – Abyei Update

Nomadic migrations and the return of displaced people can strain community relations in the Three Protocol Areas. Humanitarian partners are working to pre-empt tension around these population movement issues, particularly in Abyei, where both factors have serious implications.

The annual migration of Misseriya Arabs through majority Dinka areas in Abyei is underway, with Misseriya setting up camps as far south as Rummamier/Marial Achak (30 km south-east of Abyei town). This year's migration, the first since the Permanent Court of Arbitration redrew Abyei's boundaries last July, is a crucial opportunity to demonstrate the Court's guarantee of free passage for Misseriya nomads through the area – a major concern of the Misseriya community.

The UN Mission in Sudan has designed an integrated strategy for the 2009-10 migration, organizing efforts to counter misinformation, encourage dialogue and support provision of key services. Difficulties persist – particularly given the shortage of humanitarian partners in the area. Local disputes, especially over nomads carrying weapons through certain areas, can further complicate this agenda. Despite the challenges, efforts are underway to reconcile the right of passage with the need for security for all.

Amid this migration, people displaced from Abyei by past conflicts are returning home. Organized returns currently number just under 5,000 people, and projections of spontaneous returns vary widely. Many observers expect an acceleration in coming months, with some local officials predicting up to 60,000 by June. Assessments indicate that Abyei can only absorb 10,000 without precipitating a humanitarian crisis. As a result, humanitarian partners are working to ensure that all returns are voluntary and appropriate. A key aspect of the strategy is support to returnees and host communities, mainly in the food security, livelihoods, water, health, education and NFI sectors.

Eastern Sudan

Despite grinding poverty and a protracted refugee crisis, the situation in eastern Sudan receives little attention relative to other parts of the country. Yet an average of 1,800 refugees arrived in the region monthly during 2009, an increase of 30 percent over the previous year. These new arrivals added to an estimated 100,000 refugees already living in eastern Sudan, mostly in twelve UNHCR-assisted camps, where residents depend on humanitarian assistance for most basic services.

Recent refugees come overwhelmingly from Eritrea, and unlike earlier groups, they are mostly urban, educated and young. Many new arrivals quickly “disappear” from the camps, often with the help of smugglers who promise transport to Khartoum and beyond. In these situations, protection risks – including arrest, deportation, exploitation and other potential abuse – are a particular concern.

Longer-term refugees also face significant challenges, as camps offer poverty, poor living conditions and few opportunities to pursue livelihoods. Outside the camps, humanitarian indicators are also alarming: water, nutrition and education levels are often well below national averages, with Kassala state frequently faring worse than higher-profile humanitarian crisis zones in Sudan. Despite the 2006 peace agreement that ended an 11-year insurgency in the region, a legacy of political upheaval and poverty have created what amounts to a silent crisis – for refugees and natives alike.

In 2010, humanitarian partners are scaling up their response to the needs of eastern Sudan, requesting \$93.5 million – more than twice the 2009 amount – for projects focusing primarily on food security, education, water and protection. Project details can be found in the 2010 Humanitarian Work Plan, which is available for download at <http://workplan.unsudanig.org>.

CONSOLIDATED APPEAL FOR 2010 - GROUPED BY SECTOR

SECTOR	ORIGINAL REQUIREMENTS (USD)
Agriculture	133,335,894
Coordination & Support Services	97,130,154
Economic Recovery and Infrastructure	101,771,576
Education	180,744,110
Food	731,140,052
Health	206,479,691
Mine Action	77,756,100
Multi-Sector	90,406,921
Protection/Human Rights/Rule of Law	83,455,035
Shelter & Non-Food Items	41,651,208
Water & Sanitation	134,494,248
TOTAL	1,878,364,989

List of projects and figures for funding requirements are a snapshot as of 12 November 2009. For continuously updated information on projects, funding requirements, and contributions to date, visit the Financial Tracking Service (www.reliefweb.int/fts)

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