

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	787
Land:	Sudan
Kilde:	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Titel:	Escalation of conflict in Sennar State. Flash Update #1
Udgivet:	9. juli 2024
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	29. oktober 2024

Escalation of Conflict Sennar State

Overview

- Since end-June 2024, clashes between the parties to the conflict in Sennar State and Sinja town have forcibly displaced over 136,000 people (IOM DTM) to neighbouring localities and States like Kassala, Gedaref and Blue Nile States, but also further.
- This shift in conflict dynamics comes at a time when the conflict has intensified in El Fasher, North Darfur since April 2024 resulting in the displacement of close to 330,000 people within Sudan (IOM DTM), some 50,000 people into neighbouring Chad (UNHCR), along with the repeated destruction of civilian infrastructure such as hospitals and civilian deaths.

Access and Security Update

- In the eastern states of Sudan, security forces have intensified checks for individuals engaged in the conflict and are increasingly targeting foreigners increasingly including potential refugees or asylum-seekers.
- Due to the recent escalation in conflict in Sennar State and reported increased armed presence in Abu Rakham village near the border with Sennar and 7km away from Tunaydbah refugees camp, refugees have raised concerns about their safety and security. The Commissioner for Refugees (COR) met with refugee leaders with an update on the security developments and reassured refugees that it will continue maintaining protection in the camp and coordinating assistance of services for refugees. All four refugee camps in Gedaref are accessible to UNHCR and partners.



Internally displaced people recently displaced from Sennar State at Port Land Reception Centre, Gedaref State. UNHCR / M. Ojabna

Displacement

- According to [IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\)](#), over 136,000 people have moved out of Sinja Town, Sennar State to neighbouring localities and States in search of safety.
- Prior to this outflow, Sennar State hosted close to 570,000 internally displaced people (ca. 110,000 households), most of whom were displaced from Khartoum and Al Jazirah States. In addition, it is estimated some 10,000 refugees and asylum-seekers were hosted in the State. Thus, this latest displacement is likely to be the second- or third-time people have been forced to flee since the start of the conflict in April 2023.
- The Humanitarian Aid Commission in Gedaref State anticipates a daily arrival rate of ca. 500 people from Sennar, the majority of whom are expected to remain in the town with others choosing to other localities or States as their means permit.
- In Kassala State, authorities have reported that some 3,000 IDP households arrived from Sennar State in the last days.
- UNHCR is aware of 328 Eritreans (73 households) without refugee documentation who arrived in Um Gargour refugee camp in Al Fashaga locality, Gedaref State from Sennar seeking asylum. UNHCR and the COR started registration and will determine if refugee status determination procedures are required. Another 99 Sudanese internally displaced people (19 households) have also reached the refugee camp and will be relocated by local authorities to Showak, Al Fashaga locality.

UNHCR Response

GEDAREF STATE

- UNHCR conducted a rapid needs assessment in Port Land (Mina Berih) reception centre and Mahjoub Awlad gathering site, where close to 600 households arrived over the weekend immediately following the clashes in Sinja, Sennar State. More than 80% of those who are at these two sites are women and children. Many of them have very few belongings and are traumatised. There are anecdotal reports of family separation, loss of civil documentation, looting of personal belongings and extortion during flight. Local authorities, humanitarian and civil society organisations quickly mobilized to support the forcibly displaced providing them with hot meals, water and soap.
- The needs assessment revealed an urgent need for psychosocial support and basic assistance like core relief items such as plastic sheets and solar lamps. Water facilities at the sites are inadequate for the number of people hosted and sanitation and hygiene facilities need to be urgently set up.
- UNHCR convened an inter-cluster meeting of the sub-national Protection, Site Management and Shelter/NFI clusters to share the results of the assessment to coordinate the response in these sectors. UNHCR is coordinating with the Humanitarian Aid Commission, local authorities' IDP units, Ministry of Social Welfare and State Council for Child Welfare in IDP enrolment and overall coordination of the response.
- To support the identification of people with specific needs and vulnerabilities, community volunteers were trained enabling them to make referrals to specialised service providers and share information for distribution of basic assistance such as food and non-food items, by other partners for example WFP for food assistance.

- Also, UNHCR and the COR started registering the Eritrean asylum-seekers who arrived in Um Gargour refugee camp and will undertake further protection assessments to determine if refugee status determination procedures are required.
- Upon arrival in the camp, UNHCR's partner provides three-day food ration, while WFP should provide further food support.
- Registered refugees and asylum-seekers will receive shelter and non-food items assistance in the camp from UNHCR and its partners and plots are being demarcated for the 73 households.

KASSALA STATE

- In Kassala State the authorities have identified two reception centres to accommodate newly arriving forcibly displaced people. At Alsinaya Reception Centre, UNHCR's partner has deployed a team of social workers to quickly identify people with specific needs and are setting up a protection desk. The partner is also establishing a community-based network at the reception centre to support protection activities at the centre.
- UNHCR has provided four Rubb Halls at the Alsinaya Reception Centre to accommodate vulnerable people like women and children and is setting up another four communal shelters to expand the available shelters as most displaced are still living in the open. WFP has also provided two Rubb Halls to accommodate women and children at the site.
- UNHCR and its partners distributed non-food items in various gathering sites and the reception centre in Kassala, Girba and New Halfa towns to 580 IDP families, who had recently arrived. The kits contain basic items such as sleeping mats, kitchen sets, plastic sheets and solar lamps which will support forcibly displaced in the initial days of displacement.
- At the Omar Alhaj Musa Gathering Site, 19 extremely vulnerable households who were sleeping in the open were prioritized to receive tents, while an unfinished building which is accommodating some 130 households is being rehabilitated and partitions added to improve living conditions. A help desk has been set up at the Omer Al haj Musa gathering site to provide information to the displaced.
- NGO East Organization for Community, a local NGO, which is providing psychosocial support to forcibly displaced people received tents to enable their work at the gathering sites.

WHITE NILE STATE

- UNHCR and its partner are conducting assessments on the needs of forcibly displaced people who have arrived from Sennar State. The outcomes will be shared with the authorities and other partners for a coordinated response.

**Updated as at 10:00 Central African Time, 11 July 2024*

CONTACT

UNHCR Sudan External Relations Unit | Email: sudkhextrel@unhcr.org

LINKS

www.unhcr.org/africa

UNHCR Sudan (@UNHCRinSudan) | [Twitter](#)

UNHCR Sudan | [Facebook](#)

[Operational Data Portal](#)