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Sudan Monthly Protection Update (July 2021)

Context update/overview:

The overall security situation in Darfur, Eastern region, South Kordofan and Blue Nile States remained relatively calm though unpredictable and volatile in several localities. In **South Kordofan**, tribal conflicts and presence of armed individuals in military uniform around the displacement sites have increased compared to previous month. In **South Darfur**, security situation in Gereida and surrounding areas remains tense due to intercommunal violence and retaliation connected to the previous incidents. Tension in some parts of **North Darfur**, particularly Sortony and Galab areas was recorded. Armed hostility between SLAW and SAF "Al-Fouka" continued to be reported in Jabal Mara area (around Sortony). As result of fighting in Sortony, unknown number of IDPs were displaced within North Darfur and approx. 190 IDP HHs displaced into Central Darfur, seeking safety, assistance and protection services. The exact number of IDPs displaced from Sortony remains unknown due to access restriction. In **West Darfur**, intercommunal violence over land ownership between main Tama and Gimeir and Ora subtribes occurred in Kafani village of Serba locality. The violence expanded and involved members of the same tribes in Krenik locality and Salea town of Jabal Moon locality and caused displacement of 1,000 families to Azirni area of Krenik locality. The situation was also not stable in **Central Darfur**. While majority of the IDPs from Sortony fled to Rokero, Bulei, Dongala, and Sabanga areas, male youth from villages between Rokero and Sortony also fled to Kebkabiya and Rokero due to accusation of supporting SLA/AW by Al Fuka, after his forces reportedly launched patrols in Kurmey, Dongala, and Targei villages in North Jebel Mara locality to profile and arrest male youth IDP. The area also witnessed clashes between different factions of SLA/AW. During this rainy season, **Blue Nile state** has also witnessed intercommunal violence over access to land involving Arab and non-Arab tribes in Tadamon and Rosaries localities. During the reporting month, criminality has also increased, and isolated incidents affecting civilian population including IDPs, returnees, humanitarian workers, law enforcement officials reported throughout Darfur states.

Despite increase in the number of violence particularly in Darfur, the full formation and deployment of Joint Security Forces for protection of civilians is still pending. In locations where they are deployed, lack of organizational coherence between armed forces of JPA signatories and SAF/RSF reported. For instance, in Tawilla and neighboring localities when armed Arabs attacked farmers SAF troops did not react. Most of the IDPs would like to see Al Fuka stationed elsewhere or brought to justice. However, despite some efforts, he is controlling the situation in Sortony and continues mistreatment of displaced population.

Emerging protection trends/reported incidents and related analysis:

South Kordofan: On 23 July, in Kadugli Um-Battah market, conflict erupted between Arab and Nuba Angolo tribes over personal dispute and resulted in killing of one Angolo tribesman. On 25 July, in West of Abu Jubaiha – Awlad Simaih farming area, unidentified perpetrators (suspected to be Hawazma) shot 3 Kenana farmers, killing one and seriously injuring 2, who were admitted to Abu Jubaiha hospital. On 27 July, Hawazma herders escorted by GoS security forces were intercepted by 4 Kenana perpetrators in West of Abu Jubaiha. After exchanges of fire, the perpetrators were arrested and taken to Abu Jubaiha police custody.

Blue Nile: Intercommunal conflict broke out between Arab and non-Arab tribes (Al-Agaleein vs. Tama farmers) in Roro of Tadamon, which later involved Massalit and Zagawa tribe members. Informal reports indicate that at least 2 people were killed. On 23 July, in Tarfa, north of Roseries locality, another tribal clashes erupted between Hawsa and Kamateer tribes and spreaded to Karori, Tarfa and Shanfor areas. The conflict triggered by fighting between 2 young men from Kamateer and Hawsa and escalated further resulting in the deaths of 10 people and injuries of 16. Joint security forces (Police, SAF, and RSF) were deployed to contain the situation, but the tension remains high between these groups and may lead to further escalation.

South Darfur: On 15 July, a group of unidentified armed men launched an attack on Habuba village (9 km west of Gereida). As result 2 IDP returnees were killed, 2 others injured, more than 45 orchards destroyed, seeds, horses, donkeys, and other properties looted. On 16 July, in Dagama, unidentified armed men attacked a Toktok carrying five passengers. As a result, a 25-years old IDP man was killed.

North Darfur: On 20 July, a large group of local population including IDPs protested in front of the North Darfur Governor's residence in El Fasher, denouncing the recent violent events and increased criminality in Sortony and Galab where the security situation remains fragile. Increased security incidents including armed robbery targeting commercial vehicles and IDPs was reported in Kutum locality. CBPNs in Kutum informed that the perpetrators were armed Arabs. On 12 July, in Kutum locality, a group of IDP farmers were shot and their belongings looted by three armed Arabs in motorbikes at in



Sih-jani area. Three IDPs were seriously injured, 2 of them were referred to Kutum rural hospital and one to El Fasher hospital. The local security committee discussed this trend and imposed restrictions on truck movements. Furthermore, on 15 July, fighting erupted between SAF/Al Fuka troops against SLA/AW in and around Sortony IDP gathering site and intensified on 17 July. Casualties and injuries were reported among IDPs/civilians, SAF/Al Fuka and SLA/AW fighters. People were displaced in and around the mountains and to Central Darfur. Situation in Sortony is still tense despite reinforcement of Joint Security Forces on 29 July, reportedly Al Fuka is exercising control over the area and profiling male IDP youth to identify those who are associated to SAL/AW.

West Darfur: As result of intercommunal violence between Tama and Gimeir in Krenik locality over access to land, 11 people reported to have been killed and 10 others injured, while incidents in Selea town resulted in the death of one person and the injury of 5 others. Community leaders reported some cases of GBV in El Riad IDP camp, El Geneina. The perpetrators of the violence are reportedly in police custody.

Central Darfur: The situation was tense in the North and West Jabal Mara localities as violent attacks between Al Fuka and SLA/AW forces escalated. On 26 July, SLA/AW ambushed Al Fuka's convoys on the way between Kaguro and Sortony (23 KM north-west of Rokero town) resulting in killing of 4 Al Fuka's soldiers. On 24 July, heavy clashes erupted between SLA/AW Gadoura and SLA/AW Waldouk in Fara village (15 KM south-west of Rokero, and 6 KM north-east of Golo). The incident reportedly resulted in the arrest of some SLA/AW Gadoura fighters, including 4 high-ranking and the base Commander who were taken to SLA/AW Waldouk's HQs. Furthermore, around 300 households fled Fara and Kome villages to the Sabanga IDP gathering site (12 KM north-east of Golo town, Central Jebel Marra). Local sources reported that four children (between 13-17 years old) were killed by UXO in Aro village (8 KM north-west of Rokero). On 25-26 July, in Dalong-Dolo farming area (1.5 Km south-east of Fanga), a 13-year-old girl was abducted by 3 armed nomads riding camels. The girl was taken to a Damrat in North Darfur and the suspect was detained by the military police in a local market and taken to the police at Tawila locality in North Darfur, after being identified by the girl's mother. While the suspect is going to be transferred to Zalingei for a trial, authorities of North Darfur have established a task force (Police/RSF/Army) to return the girl to her family.

Criminality is reported to have been increased on the main road from Zalingei to Nertiti-El Geneina – Nyala due to the increased presence of armed personnel. Reportedly: on 7 July, unidentified armed elements robbed the driver and staff and carjacked a 4x4 Land Cruiser vehicle of TDO NGO, which was found the day after by joint forces in the Wadi (8 KM south-east of Morni town). On 12 July, 2 unidentified armed perpetrators on a motorbike stopped SCI INGO rented vehicle at Khor Bora area (85 KM north-west of Zalingei) and robbed 2 INGO national staff. On 20th July, a detective policeman was murdered, and his body was thrown close to Hasa Hisa IDP camp (3 KM north-west of Zalinei town). On 21 July, an unidentified person murdered a female tea maker and thrown her body in the El Jabalain area (2 KM south of Zalingei).

Government of Sudan response:

Overall, the GoS has taken specific actions to address and de-escalate the situation in the affected areas. In **South Kordofan**, authorities closely monitored the situation of IDPs and continued deployment of SAF. Furthermore, to improve the security environment in Kadugli, the new Military Division Commander implemented military night foot patrols, effective 28 July, covering the whole town. In addition, curfew will be imposed from 2200hrs to 0500hrs and security forces will take serious measures against violators.

In Darfur states, apart from the activation of crops protection committees and "track forces", the GoS has deployed Joint Security Forces to protect IDPs and to de-escalate the situation in Sortony, its surrounding areas, Tawila, Kutum of North Darfur, Greida of South Darfur and affected areas of Central Darfur. Following the intercommunal violence between Fallata and Taaisha in Maramosa and Manduwa, a government delegation met with the State authorities and the leaders of conflicting parties. Similar initiative was reported to have taken place by GoS in Serba, Jabal Moon and Habila localities. In South Darfur, the State Protection of Civilian Committee established its sub committees at the locality level where all security organs are represented. For protection of farming season, these committees liaised with all communities, alerted their members and civilian authorities to observe the mandate for mitigating risks of farms destruction and migration routes to prevent potential conflicts.

The Protection of Civilian Committee (POC) of Central Darfur State was established during the reporting period by the Governor. Protection Sector Requested to be a member or observer in the POC and the Governor promised to consider this request.

Protection sector response:

Sudan Protection Sector and partners monitored the situation in all the above-mentioned localities by presence and remotely, identified protection concerns and most vulnerable families/individuals for follow up and assistance through



ongoing programs and projects. Also, intervened to the extent possible at the locality and state level on issues related to Protection of Civilians, issued and widely shared Protection of Civilians Advisory Briefs. These activities conducted in concerned localities of North (Kutum, Sortony and Shangli Tobaya, Tawilla), South (Kass and Greida), Central Darfur (Jabal Mara localities), West Darfur (El Geneina town and surrounding localities) as well as conflict affected localities of South Kordofan and Blue Nile states. The protection sector partners also participated in the interagency assessment missions organized by OCHA.

UNHCR and ALIGHT conducted primary survey on data collection related to durable solutions in Kass locality. UNHCR and National Planning Organization conducted consultations with local authorities in Um Laouta in Kutum locality, identified key informants, updated population figures and drawn maps related to durable solutions. In Al-Bahrain village of Kass, protection sector partners and locality authorities verified and assessed the situation of 750 households that have been displaced from El Geneina due to inter-communal violence in West Darfur. The village considered to be a return village, inhabited by Arabs who returned from Kailaik and surrounding areas since 2012 due to improved security situation. The Protection Sector also interacted with Civil Registry offices in advocated for quick action regarding issuance of birth certificates for vulnerable IDP children in Tawilla and some localities of South Darfur and distributed sanitary kits to 891 women and girls of reproductive age in Abu Shouk IDP camp, El Fasher.

On 7-8 July, protection sector partners conducted protection monitoring in the IDP gathering sites In El Geneina town, with a view to assess their situation and to examine the impediments to their possible relocation to other places or return to their places of origin. Majority of the IDPs stated that they prefer to stay in the gathering sites as they feel more secure/safe and reluctant to be relocated to other places or return to their previous places of displacement. They mentioned to have lost their trust with the government entities, including Public Prosecutors' office as they failed to provide security and take actions against the perpetrators of crimes and violence. Furthermore, they stated that it is not feasible to return to Krinding camps as their shelters are destroyed and proper security arrangements is not in place. Some IDPs stated that if they are to be relocated, they would like to have similar facilities within the town. On 6 July, protection sector together with IOM conducted a visit to Krinding camps, Duroti and El Naeem areas to verify the return of the reported families. The mission found 14 families returned to Krinding-2 while 11 to Krinding-1 recently in addition to 186 families who have returned earlier. During the discussions, members of some families stated that congested living conditions at the gathering sites, lack of hygiene promotion activities, shortage of food and NFIs are the main reasons for their return.

Gaps, recommendations, and key advocacy points:

Full formation and deployment of Joint Security Forces as per the provisions of Juba Peace Agreement and NPPOC that could perform in coordinated and united manner as one army is the main requirement and urgent need.

Operationalization of the state level POC committees in all Darfur states to prevent potential conflict and secure protection of civilians. Establishment of such committee is also required in South Kordofan and Blue Nile state that could establish early warning networks, prevent potential intercommunal violence including during the rainy season. Like in Darfur, such committee can be composed of security and civilian authorities, judiciary, representatives of concerned communities and UN agencies and SCOs.

State level and National level authorities' intervention is urgently required for the situation in Sortony in order to enable provision of life saving assistance and protection services by humanitarian agencies and organizations.

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