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**COI QUERY**

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Main subject	IDPs in Darfur and the Two Areas
Question(s)	Information on the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Darfur and the Two Areas in the period of August 2019 - May 2020: - overview of numbers of IDPs and returnees: Darfur, The Two Areas, - living conditions and personal safety: Darfur, The Two Areas, - treatment by the Sovereign Council government: Darfur, The Two Areas.
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The target audience is caseworkers, COI researchers, policymakers, and decision making authorities. The answer was finalised on 1 July 2020. Any event taking place after this date is not included in this answer.



COI QUERY RESPONSE

Information on the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Darfur and the Two Areas in the period of August 2019 - May 2020

Overview of numbers of IDPs and returnees

In January 2020, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) noted that '[o]ver the past five years, the numbers of people displaced [in Sudan] due to conflict have progressively reduced. [...] Following political developments in 2019, several non-state armed groups in Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan agreed to a cessation of hostilities (CoH).'¹ The same source added that '[a]t the same time, the root causes of the conflict remain largely unaddressed and long-standing grievances and competition for resources between communities continue.'² The source further noted that 'there are still pockets of conflict and localized displacement in South Darfur, Central Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan.'³

Figures provided by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) reveal that the total number of the IDPs in Sudan was 2 134 000 at the end of 2019⁴ and almost 2 million in February 2020, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).⁵ A March 2020 United Nations Security Council (UNSC) report stated that some 1,8 million IDPs lived in the IDP camps.⁶

In 2019, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) recorded movement of 186 813 people in the five states of Darfur and in South Kordofan [the source does not cover Blue Nile]. Out of this number, 31 696 were IDPs and 155 117 returnees. Out of the returnee number, 83 % were returnees from Sudan and 17 % from abroad.⁷ According to the IDMC, there were 84 000 new conflict-related displacements, and 272 000 new displacements caused by flooding in Sudan in 2019.⁸ Examples of bigger conflict displacements in Sudan in 2019 include clashes in East and Central Darfur and White Nile states in May and June that displaced some 10 000 people⁹, and clashes in December in West Darfur that displaced over 40 000 people.¹⁰

The United States Department of State (USDOS), referring to various sources, reported that some 8 000 persons were newly displaced in the Two Areas (Blue Nile and South Kordofan) in 2019 and some 19 000 in Jebel Marra (West Darfur).¹¹

¹ UNOCHA, Sudan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, 8 January 2020, [url](#), p. 28

² UNOCHA, Sudan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, 8 January 2020, [url](#), p. 28

³ UNOCHA, Sudan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, 8 January 2020, [url](#), p. 39

⁴ IDMC, Sudan, Country information, n.d., [url](#)

⁵ UNHCR, Sudan, Factsheet, 24 February 2020, [url](#), p. 1

⁶ UNSC, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and a follow-on presence, 12 March 2020, [url](#), para. 50

⁷ IOM, DTM, Sudan — 2019 Registration Factsheet, 10 March 2020, [url](#)

⁸ IDMC, Global Report on Internal Displacement 2020 - Sub-Saharan Africa, April 2020, [url](#), pp. 22, 28

⁹ IDMC, Global Report on Internal Displacement 2020 - Sub-Saharan Africa, April 2020, [url](#), p. 8

¹⁰ IDMC, Global Report on Internal Displacement 2020 - Sub-Saharan Africa, April 2020, [url](#), p. 8

¹¹ USDOS, Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2019 - Sudan, 11 March 2020, [url](#), p. 26



According to the IDMC, 484 000 IDPs made 'partial progress towards a durable solution', i.e. they were returned, resettled or locally integrated in Sudan in 2019.¹²

Darfur

In May 2020, the UNHCR reported that 1,6 million people remained internally displaced in the Darfur area of Sudan.¹³ According to the USDOS, some 19 000 people were displaced in Jebel Marra (West Darfur) in 2019.¹⁴ There are several UNHCR refugee and IDP camps established in West and Central Darfur states.¹⁵

Overview of displacements in the reference period include:

- In December 2019, intercommunal clashes between Massalit and Arab tribes in El Geneina, West Darfur, displaced some 41 000 people, most of whom had already resided in IDP camps, according to UNHCR.¹⁶ The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) reported that some 45 000 were displaced.¹⁷ On 28 January 2020, UNHCR reported that some 11 000 people were forced to flee to Chad because of the clashes.¹⁸
- On 20 January 2020, armed men on camels attacked four villages in Jebel Marra and looted the property. Villagers have reportedly fled to the Sortony IDP camp. Another related attack on the villages of Gari, Kagaro, Dadi Togush and Roqa displaced 150 families.¹⁹
- On 3 March 2020, IOM reported on 5 495 individuals (both Sudanese and non-Sudanese) displaced from Chad to the town of El Tina in North Darfur.²⁰
- On 25 April 2020, 150 houses were burned down in the Um Hajaleej village in North Darfur, which affected 740 persons. It is unknown what caused the fire.²¹
- On 28 April 2020, 1 793 individuals were displaced after clashes in towns of Hejaar and Dwana to the Kalma IDP camp in South Darfur.²²

The Two Areas

Sources indicate that out of 1.86 mil. IDPs in Sudan in 2019, some 168 000 were in South Kordofan and 47 000 in Blue Nile.²³ According to the USDOS, the number of IDPs in South Kordofan is estimated

¹² IDMC, Sudan; Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence; Figure Analysis – GRID 2020, April 2020, [url](#), p. 1

¹³ UNHCR, Sudan's internally displaced yearn for real peace to go home, 4 May 2020, [url](#)

¹⁴ USDOS, Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2019 - Sudan, 11 March 2020, [url](#), p. 26

¹⁵ UNHCR, Sudan: West Darfur State; UNHCR presence and refugee & IDP locations; As of 18 Sep 2019, 19 September 2019, [url](#); UNHCR, Sudan: Central Darfur State; UNHCR presence and refugee & IDP locations; As of 18 Sep 2019, 18 September 2019, [url](#)

¹⁶ UNHCR, Sudan Factsheet as of 24 February 2020, February 2020, [url](#), p. 2

¹⁷ UNFPA, West Darfur Flash Report #1; 28 Dec - 6 Jan, January 2020, [url](#), p. 1

¹⁸ UNHCR, Violence in Sudan's Darfur forces thousands to flee, 28 January 2020, [url](#)

¹⁹ Darfur24, Gunmen attacks force hundreds to flee Jebel Mara villages, 20 January 2020, [url](#)

²⁰ IOM, DTM, Sudan — Emergency Event Tracking Report El Tina 1, 3 March 2020, [url](#)

²¹ IOM, DTM, Sudan — Emergency Event Tracking Flash Update Um Hajaleej Village, North Darfur, 11 May 2020, [url](#)

²² IOM, DTM, Sudan — Emergency Event Tracking Report Kalma Camp 1, 28 Apr 2020, [url](#)

²³ BPB, More than a Side Effect: Internal Displacement in Sudan, 21 April 2020, [url](#); UNOCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2019, February 2019, [url](#), p. 4

to be between 200 000 – 545 000 and the exact number is ‘difficult to verify’.²⁴ According to the same source, some 8 000 persons were newly displaced in the Two Areas (Blue Nile and South Kordofan) in 2019²⁵.

Overview of displacements in the reference period include:

- In May 2020, some 2 000 persons were displaced from a village of El Berdab near Kadugli in South Kordofan, reportedly after an attack by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).²⁶

No other information on the new displacements in the Two Areas could be found in the consulted and used sources in the time constraints of this query response.

Living conditions and personal safety

According to a report on Sudan by the German independent foundation Bertelsmann Stiftung (BT), ‘[e]conomic inequality and poverty are widespread in Sudan, especially in outlying regions of conflict such as Darfur and the states of Kordofan and Blue Nile.’²⁷ In January 2020, UNOCHA reported that the cost of food in Sudan has doubled in the past year and almost 6 million people in the country are ‘food-insecure’.²⁸ In February 2020, the same source noted that prices of cereals ‘reached record highs’.²⁹ UNHCR noted that the economic situation ‘drastically affected livelihoods for the entire population’ of Sudan.³⁰

In January 2020, UNOCHA indicated that IDPs in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile continue to live ‘in dire conditions for years with limited basic services’.³¹ The same source found that ‘causes for violence and insecurity in conflict-affected areas are complex, and include the lack of a political settlement to ongoing conflict; impunity for the perpetrators of violence; insufficient oversight and accountability mechanisms within security forces and armed groups; lack or absence of law and order institutions; and the proliferation of weapons’, as well as disputes over natural resources and land ownership.³²

Darfur

In March 2020, a UNSC report assessed IDP camps in Sortony, Kalma, Menawashei, Nertiti and Golo localities in Darfur as ‘the most volatile’, naming violence by tribal militias as the reason causing

²⁴ USDOS, Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2019 - Sudan, 11 March 2020, [url](#), p. 26

²⁵ USDOS, Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2019 - Sudan, 11 March 2020, [url](#), p. 26

²⁶ HUDO Centre, Miserable conditions of the recently displaced people in Kadugli, [url](#); Radio Dabanga, Newly displaced in Sudan’s Nuba Mountains living rough, 21 May 2020, [url](#)

²⁷ BT, BTI 2020 Country Report Sudan, 29 April 2020, [url](#), p. 14

²⁸ UNOCHA, Sudan Situation Report, 9 January 2020, [url](#)

²⁹ UNOCHA, Sudan Situation Report, 5 March 2020, [url](#), p. 6

³⁰ UNHCR, Sudan Factsheet as of 24 February 2020, February 2020, [url](#), p. 2

³¹ UNOCHA, Sudan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, 8 January 2020, [url](#), p. 18

³² UNOCHA, Sudan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, 8 January 2020, [url](#), p. 51

displacements of communities.³³ The source noted that clashes in Jebel Marra continue and that violence against civilians, including by the security forces, has been committed.³⁴

In 2019, results of a study about the durable solutions for the IDPs in Abu Shouk and El Salam IDP camps was released by the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS), a Geneva-based body providing information and analysis on displacements to the governments and international organisations.³⁵ The study found that:

‘IDPs have a worse standard of living compared to nondisplaced households in El Fasher with the exception of access to water. IDPs living in the camps face barriers to accessing education, health and electricity that are related to financial expense and distance to services. IDPs face greater challenges, but these are also shared challenges with parts of the non-displaced population, the households that live on the margins of the city close to the camps. These barriers are, therefore, not directly linked to the IDPs’ displacement.’³⁶

Other challenges for the IDPs found by the study include access to services, crime, unemployment, poverty, access to documentation and land ownership.³⁷ According to the UNSC, issues preventing returns of the IDPs to their places of origin include security threats, lack of infrastructure and basic services including access to food, medicine and drinking water.³⁸ Sources indicate that disputes over land ownership³⁹ and security concerns are factors preventing the returns of the IDPs⁴⁰. An October 2019 Forced Migration Review article assessed progress towards durable solutions in Darfur as ‘limited’, especially because of the security situation.⁴¹ In February 2020, the committee of Krinding IDP Camp in El-Geneina, West Darfur, described the conditions of the displaced people in the temporary shelters as ‘disastrous’.⁴² According to Eric Reeves, a Darfur analyst covering developments in Sudan for 20 years, ‘[d]isplaced farmers seeking to return to or work their farms are constantly subject to extreme violence, including murder, rape, and kidnapping.’⁴³ Similarly, UNSC reported that IDPs were targets of sexual and physical violence.⁴⁴

³³ UNSC, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and a follow-on presence, 12 March 2020, [url](#), para. 54

³⁴ UNSC, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and a follow-on presence, 12 March 2020, [url](#), para. 50

³⁵ JIPS, Progress Towards Durable Solutions In Abu Shouk And El Salam IDP Camps, North Darfur, Sudan, 2019, [url](#). See also the interactive web site: dswgsudan.org

³⁶ JIPS, Progress Towards Durable Solutions In Abu Shouk And El Salam IDP Camps, North Darfur, Sudan, 2019, [url](#), p. 6

³⁷ JIPS, Progress Towards Durable Solutions In Abu Shouk And El Salam IDP Camps, North Darfur, Sudan, 2019, [url](#), pp. 6-7

³⁸ UNSC, Letter dated 10 January 2019 from the Panel of Experts on the Sudan established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) addressed to the President of the Security Council, 14 January 2020, [url](#), para. 137

³⁹ Elzarov, Z., Return voluntary, safe, dignified and durable?, In: FMR, October 2019, [url](#), p. 56; New Humanitarian (The), Sudan’s revolution runs aground in Darfur, 8 January 2020, [url](#); UNSC, Letter dated 10 January 2019 from the Panel of Experts on the Sudan established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) addressed to the President of the Security Council, 14 January 2020, [url](#), paras. 127, 137

⁴⁰ Elzarov, Z., Return voluntary, safe, dignified and durable?, In: FMR, October 2019, [url](#), p. 55; UNOCHA, Sudan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, 8 January 2020, [url](#), p. 20; UNSC, Letter dated 10 January 2019 from the Panel of Experts on the Sudan established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) addressed to the President of the Security Council, 14 January 2020, [url](#), para. 137

⁴¹ Elzarov, Z., Return voluntary, safe, dignified and durable?, In: FMR, October 2019, [url](#), p. 55

⁴² Darfur24, El-Geneina IDPs suffer miserable living conditions, 27 January 2020, [url](#)

⁴³ Reeves, E., What Will Be Remembered? History and the Darfur Genocide, 31 December 2019, [url](#)

⁴⁴ UNSC, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and a follow-on presence, 12 March 2020, [url](#), para. 15

A report by the Small Arms Survey released in June 2020 suggested that RSF recruit from non-Arab Darfuris as well, predominantly from the Zaghawa group. According to a local source, 'since Bashir's removal, non-Arabs were even keener to join the RSF', especially because of financial motivation.⁴⁵

Overview of violent incidents:

- The Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD) published an overview of conflict-related incidents in the fourth quarter of 2019, which recorded 5 such incidents in Central Darfur, 5 in East Darfur, 13 in North Darfur, 10 in South Darfur, and 14 in West Darfur. The source does not provide further details on the victims or the perpetrators.⁴⁶
- In October 2019, Darfur Network for Monitoring and Documentation (DNMD) recorded several attacks on farmers in IDP camps, including a killing and assaults near El Faster in North Darfur, and attacks on villages in South Darfur.⁴⁷ The source indicates that armed pastoralists intentionally destroy farmland by releasing animal on it.⁴⁸
- In October 2019, Insecurity Insight recorded various incidents involving IDPs, including attacks on 2 October, rapes on 5 October, an attack and theft on 21 October, a rape on 27 October and an armed robbery with a killing of one IDP on 28 October.
- Between 15 to 22 October 2019, peace talks in Juba between Sudan Liberation Army Abdul Wahid (SLA-AW) and the Sudanese armed forces triggered clashes in various IDP camps across Darfur.⁴⁹
- Between 15 October 2019 and 31 January 2020, the United Nations–African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) recorded 5 intercommunal clashes that resulted in 70 deaths.⁵⁰
- On 3 December, three IDPs were reportedly severely attacked on their farms in Tawila, near village Bobaye Sigli. Following the attacks on farmers, a local source reported that the government called for a reinforcement of security 'in the agricultural production areas in Darfur'.⁵¹
- On 29 December 2019, Arab militias supported by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) attacked an IDP camp in Krinding.⁵² Over 20 people were confirmed to be killed shortly after the attack⁵³, while UNSC reported later that the attack resulted in 65 persons dead and 54 injured. On 30 and 31 December, RSF reportedly looted a hospital in El Geneina and attacked 21 villages near

⁴⁵ Small Arms Survey, *Diaspora in Despair: Darfuran Mobility at a Time of International Disengagement*, June 2020, [url](#), p. 32

⁴⁶ ACCORD, *Sudan, fourth quarter 2019: Update on incidents according to the ACLED*, 23 June 2020, [url](#), p. 4

⁴⁷ DNMD, *Human rights violations against farmers and civilian by armed militias in the Darfur region*, 21 November 2019, [url](#)

⁴⁸ DNMD, *Human rights violations against farmers and civilian by armed militias in the Darfur region*, 21 November 2019, [url](#)

⁴⁹ UNSC, *Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and a follow-on presence*, 12 March 2020, [url](#), para. 10

⁵⁰ UNSC, *Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and a follow-on presence*, 12 March 2020, [url](#), para. 11

⁵¹ Darfur24, *Following series of killing incidents... directives have been issued to ensure the security of farmers in Darfur*, 3 December 2019, [url](#)

⁵² UNSC, *Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and a follow-on presence*, 12 March 2020, [url](#), para. 11

⁵³ Al Jazeera, *Dozens killed in violence in Sudan's West Darfur state*, 2 January 2020, [url](#); *Globe and mail (The)*, *At least 24 dead after attack on camp for internally displaced people in Sudan's West Darfur*, 1 January 2020, [url](#); *VOA News*, *More Than 20 Dead, Many Displaced After Violence in Sudan's West Darfur*, 1 January 2020, [url](#)

the city, including 18 villages with returnees.⁵⁴ ACIPS noted that a raid was done by Arab Rezaigat men and that the majority of the victims belonged to the Masalit tribe.⁵⁵ According to the source, 72 people were killed and 109 wounded.⁵⁶

- On 12 January 2020, an IDP farmer was killed near Saraf Omra in Central Darfur. On 14 January 2020, an IDP was seriously attacked in the Hasahisa camp in Central Darfur.⁵⁷
- On 07 February 2020, a girl was raped by four armed men on camels near the Kass IDP camp in South Darfur. Her three brothers were beaten.⁵⁸
- On 9 February 2020, three girls were raped in the Krinding IDP camp in Al Geneina. According to a social worker working on the cases, victims and their families were afraid to report the incident to the authorities.⁵⁹
- On 23 March 2020, IDPs in Esheraya village in East Darfur were attacked by herdsmen. A woman was killed and the village was burned.⁶⁰
- In March 2020, UNSC reported on an increase of attacks on IDPs, returnees and farmers during the harvest season, with 102 recorded incidents and 23 recorded deaths, mostly in North Darfur.⁶¹
- On 7 April 2020, armed men arriving on vehicles attacked 47 IDPs from the Nertati camp in Central Darfur. Nine IDPs were taken to a hospital because of the injuries.⁶²
- On 13 April 2020, four displaced women were beaten while collecting wood in Bir Seleiba, West Darfur, by 'government militiamen'.⁶³
- On 16 – 17 May 2020, two villages in West Darfur were attacked by Raziqat Arab militias, killing four villagers, injuring a number of others and abducting 17 of them.⁶⁴

The Two Areas

In January 2020, the Sovereign Council government signed a preliminary peace deal with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N), a rebel group active in the Blue Nile and South Kordofan states.⁶⁵

In a January 2020 report, UNOCHA indicated that 'localized armed clashes' continue in the Two Areas.⁶⁶ The source also reported that '[t]he highest severity of acute food insecurity' was recorded in

⁵⁴ UNSC, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and a follow-on presence, 12 March 2020, [url](#), para. 11

⁵⁵ FIDH, West Darfur: Investigation Into Krinding Camp Massacre Is Urgently Needed, 3 February 2020, [url](#)

⁵⁶ FIDH, West Darfur: Investigation Into Krinding Camp Massacre Is Urgently Needed, 3 February 2020, [url](#)

⁵⁷ Insecurity Insight, Protection in Danger, Monthly News Brief, January 2020, [url](#)

⁵⁸ Insecurity Insight, Protection in Danger, Monthly News Brief, February 2020, [url](#)

⁵⁹ Insecurity Insight, Protection in Danger, Monthly News Brief, February 2020, [url](#); UNSC, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and a follow-on presence, 12 March 2020, [url](#), para. 10

⁶⁰ Radio Dabanga, Woman killed, baby injured in attack against returnees in East Darfur, 23 March 2020, [url](#)

⁶¹ UNSC, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and a follow-on presence, 12 March 2020, [url](#), para. 12

⁶² Darfur24, Amilitant group assaults 47 displaced persons in Jebel Marra, 7 April 2020, [url](#)

⁶³ Radio Dabanga, Displaced women in Darfur badly beaten by militiamen, 13 April 2020, [url](#)

⁶⁴ DNMD, Abductions, Killings, Looting and Burning of villages and displacement of civilians near Al -Geneina in West Darfur, n.d., [url](#)

⁶⁵ Al Jazeera, Sudan's government signs initial peace deal with rebel group, 25 January 2020, [url](#); France24, Sudan rebel groups ink key deal on security, land, power sharing, 24 January 2020, [url](#)

⁶⁶ UNOCHA, Sudan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, 8 January 2020, [url](#), p. 49

localities in the Two Areas.⁶⁷ In 2019, security threats prevented farmers to work in parts of South Kordofan, which lead to 'near-famine conditions', according to the USDOS.⁶⁸ On 8 September 2019, a cholera outbreak was reported from the Blue Nile state.⁶⁹

On 17 May 2020, a peace agreement between the Forces for Freedom and Change (FFC) and local leaders was signed.⁷⁰

Overview of violent incidents:

In January 2020, Human Rights and Development Organisation (HUDO) Centre, a Sudanese NGO dedicated to promotion of human rights, released a report on the human rights in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, which recorded several examples of rights violations against IDPs from the Two Areas in Khartoum in 2019, including arrests and unlawful killings. The report has not recorded any such cases directly in the Two Areas.⁷¹ The ACCORD overview of conflict-related incidents in the fourth quarter of 2019 recorded five incidents in South Kordofan and none in Blue Nile. The source does not provide further details on the victims or the perpetrators.⁷² Radio Dabanga reported on several violent incidents in South Kordofan in the reference period, without mentioning whether the victims were IDPs.⁷³

On 13 May 2020, men reportedly belonging to the RSF attacked a village near Kadugli in South Kordofan. Villagers were asked about their ethnic origin and those belonging to Nuba were killed or beaten. Some 200 houses were burned down and some 2 000 persons displaced.⁷⁴

Treatment by the Sovereign Council government

The Constitutional Charter of Sudan signed on 4 August 2019 states in relation to the IDPs:

'Art. 67. During the transitional period, state agencies shall work on performing the following duties:

[...] j. Adhere to the relevant international standards for compensation and return of properties to displaced persons and refugees, and ensure and guarantee the human rights of

⁶⁷ UNOCHA, Sudan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, 8 January 2020, [url](#), p. 41

⁶⁸ IOM, DTM, Sudan — Site Profile — South Kordofan (June 2018 - November 2019), 5 December 2019, [url](#)

⁶⁹ UNOCHA, Sudan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, 8 January 2020, [url](#), p. 46; WHO, Cholera – Republic of the Sudan, 15 October 2019, [url](#)

⁷⁰ Radio Dabanga, Accord signed to end violence in South Kordofan, 17 May 2020, [url](#)

⁷¹ HUDO Centre, Report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states of Sudan, January - December 2019, 27 January 2020, [url](#), pp. 18, 19, 24

⁷² ACCORD, Sudan, fourth quarter 2019: Update on incidents according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), 23 June 2020, [url](#), p. 4

⁷³ Radio Dabanga, South Kordofan tribal tension escalates as two killed, seven injured, 14 April 2020, [url](#); Radio Dabanga, Sudan soldier kills two in South Kordofan, 6 May 2020, [url](#); Radio Dabanga, Two killed in southern Sudan shooting, 25 May 2020, [url](#)

⁷⁴ HUDO Centre, Miserable conditions of the recently displaced people in Kadugli, [url](#); Radio Dabanga, Newly displaced in Sudan's Nuba Mountains living rough, 21 May 2020, [url](#)



displaced persons and refugees set forth in international agreements and national laws within the voluntary return process and after.

k. Ensure the right of displaced persons and refugees to participate in general elections and the Constitutional Conference.

68. The essential issues for peace negotiations include the following:

[...] c. Voluntary return and sustainable solutions for the issues of displaced persons and refugees [...].⁷⁵

Darfur

According to a January 2020 article by The New Humanitarian, the transitional government ‘insists that this time IDPs will be able to go home for good’.⁷⁶ During a visit in Darfur in November 2019, Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdok promised to ‘voluntarily repatriate displaced people and refugees’.⁷⁷ PM Hamdok spoke with the leaders of the IDP camps who presented demands including security in the region, disarmament of the Janjaweed, restoration of land, reconstruction of destroyed villages, compensation for losses, submission of former president al-Bashir to the International Criminal Court,⁷⁸ access to basic services and creation of training centers.⁷⁹

A report by the UNSC covering March to December 2019 found that ‘delays in the formation of a new Government had an impact on the implementation of numerous policies in Darfur, including on the return of internally displaced persons and refugees as part of ongoing initiatives to find durable solutions, the exercise of which is now stalled.’⁸⁰

The same report noted that the Sudanese government ‘has not implemented durable solutions that would allow returns in safety and dignity. The alarming rate of security incidents, most of which have not been investigated, propelled internally displaced persons to repeat calls for the enhancement of security measures.’⁸¹ Describing the situation in Sudan in 2019, the USDOS stated that ‘[t]he government provided little assistance or protection to IDPs in Darfur. Most IDP camps had no functioning police force. International observers noted criminal gangs aligned with rebel groups operated openly in several IDP camps.’⁸²

In December 2019, Eric Reeves noted that ‘[t]here is still little evidence that the dynamic new Prime Minister of Sudan, Abdallah Hamdok, will be able to rein in the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Darfur

⁷⁵ Sudan, Draft Constitutional Charter for the 2019 Transitional Period, 4 August 2019, available at: [url](#)

⁷⁶ New Humanitarian (The), Sudan’s revolution runs aground in Darfur, 8 January 2020, [url](#)

⁷⁷ Sudan Tribune, Sudan’s PM pledges to address Darfur IDPs plight, 5 November 2019, [url](#)

⁷⁸ Radio Dabanga, PM Hamdok hears five key demands from Darfur displaced, 7 November 2019, [url](#)

⁷⁹ Sudan Tribune, Sudan’s PM pledges to address Darfur IDPs plight, 5 November 2019, [url](#)

⁸⁰ UNSC, Letter dated 10 January 2019 from the Panel of Experts on the Sudan established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) addressed to the President of the Security Council, 14 January 2020, [url](#), para. 109

⁸¹ UNSC, Letter dated 10 January 2019 from the Panel of Experts on the Sudan established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) addressed to the President of the Security Council, 14 January 2020, [url](#), para. 110

⁸² USDOS, Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2019 – Sudan, 11 March 2020, [url](#), p. 26

or halt the predations of armed Arab groups targeting non-Arab/African farmers and internally displaced persons.’⁸³ Reeves further notes that ‘[t]he “development” projects touted by the al-Bashir regime don’t begin to address the issues raised here, and IDP camps seem destined either to be dismantled or turned into giant, slum-like ghettos if they lie near major towns (Nyala, el-Fasher, el-Geneina, two or three of the larger towns in Jebel Marra).’⁸⁴ A 2018 government programme for the return, resettlement or integration of the IDPs in Darfur was not implemented, as noted by the UNSC.⁸⁵

An article published by the Forced Migration Review in October 2019 indicated that the policy of durable solutions for the IDPs in Darfur was concentrated on specific areas, namely Abu Shouk and Al Salam camps in North Darfur and Um Dukhun camp in Central Darfur. The government previously allocated land to the IDPs near Nyala, including to some 1 600 households from the Al Serif camp. They also built houses for returnees in ‘model return villages’, including in Fasha Beliel and Baba Beliel in South Darfur, in Karti and Aru in Central Darfur, and in Habila Kanari and Borta in West Darfur.⁸⁶

In 2019, results of a study about the durable solutions for the IDPs in Abu Shouk and El Salam camps was released. The report found that approximately half of the residents were intending to stay living in the camps. Main reasons to leave include lack of safety, employment and access to home.⁸⁷

In March 2020, an UNSC report on the situation in Darfur noted that in the area of justice, two courts were open in West Darfur, 177 judges were trained and 1 130 ‘justice and corrections stakeholder’ benefited from the activities. Furthermore, new prisons and justice and corrections centres were opened.⁸⁸ UNHCR provides protection to the IDPs in Sudan as well.⁸⁹ In the part on ‘the durable solutions pillar’, the UNSC report mentioned various activities in the area, including distribution of seeds to farmers in North Darfur, a conference on land tenure, missions to the IDP camps and constructions of police offices and community centres in South Darfur.⁹⁰

The Two Areas

There are no official IDP camps in the Two Areas, according to the USDOS.⁹¹ Describing the situation in Sudan 2019, the same source noted that the authorities denied access of humanitarian aid to the

⁸³ Reeves, E., What Will Be Remembered? History and the Darfur Genocide, 31 December 2019, [url](#)

⁸⁴ Reeves, E., What Will Be Remembered? History and the Darfur Genocide, 31 December 2019, [url](#)

⁸⁵ UNSC, Letter dated 10 January 2019 from the Panel of Experts on the Sudan established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) addressed to the President of the Security Council, 14 January 2020, [url](#), para. 136

⁸⁶ Elzarov, Z., Return voluntary, safe, dignified and durable?, In: FMR (Forced Migration Review), October 2019, [url](#), pp. 56-57

⁸⁷ JIPS, Progress Towards Durable Solutions In Abu Shouk And El Salam IDP Camps, North Darfur, Sudan, 2019, [url](#), p. 32

⁸⁸ UNSC, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and a follow-on presence, 12 March 2020, [url](#), para. 32

⁸⁹ UNHCR, Sudan Factsheet as of 24 February 2020, February 2020, [url](#), p. 2

⁹⁰ UNSC, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and a follow-on presence, 12 March 2020, [url](#), para. 32

⁹¹ USDOS, Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2019 - Sudan, 11 March 2020, [url](#), p. 26



areas under the control of the SPLM-N.⁹² In February 2020, Radio Dabanga reported that access restrictions on humanitarian aid were lifted in South Kordofan.⁹³ In the March 2020 report, the UNSC stated that '[t]he Two Areas and other conflict-affected regions are also likely to face significant peacebuilding challenges.'⁹⁴

No other information on the treatment of the IDPs in the Two Areas by the Sovereign Council government could be found in the consulted and used sources in the time constraints of this query response.

⁹² USDOS, Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2019 - Sudan, 11 March 2020, [url](#), p. 26

⁹³ Radio Dabanga, Humanitarian routes to open in South Kordofan 6 February 2020, [url](#)

⁹⁴ UNSC, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and a follow-on presence, 12 March 2020, [url](#), para. 50



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