

Number of civilians displaced by recent Darfur conflict increases to 73,000

Khartoum, 17 February 2016. The number of civilians displaced as a result of the recent conflict in Darfur's Jebel Marra area has increased from 38,000 to 73,000, according to the latest estimates by the United Nations.

Civilians have been fleeing the Jebel Marra since hostilities between the government and a faction of the Sudan Liberation Army escalated mid-January, and have been arriving in three main locations in North Darfur State. The recent increase is largely due to a massive influx of some 30,000 civilians in Sortony, where civilians have been gathering next to a base operated by the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) site. About 18,000 individuals in total have also arrived in Tawilla since mid-January, at an established camp for displaced people.

“The situation remains very fluid, and the United Nations and partners have teams on the ground working to assess the needs of those who have recently arrived in Sortony and Tawilla,” said the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, Ms. Marta Ruedas. “Identifying the needs of vulnerable people is a painstaking exercise, but one that is necessary in order to provide timely and targeted humanitarian relief.”

Food and other emergency relief including water, shelter, medical supplies and nutrition supplements were provided to the newly displaced earlier this week. The United Nations and partners are working to provide additional humanitarian assistance.

Thousands are also reported to have fled into Central Darfur but the UN has not yet been able to verify reported displacement or ascertain and respond to humanitarian needs, despite several requests to the authorities to access the relevant areas.

For further information, please contact Samantha Newport, Chief, Communication & Information Section, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Sudan, (newports@un.org / +249 912 174 454)