

JEBEL MARRA CRISIS

Fact Sheet

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IDP families newly arrived in Tawilla from Jebel Marra. February 2016 © OCHA

KEY FACTS

- Over 100,000 civilians have been displaced from the Jebel Marra area in Sudan's Darfur region since mid-January 2016 as a result of increased hostilities between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Abdul Wahid faction of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA/AW). Hostilities continue to be reported in the Jebel Marra and prospects for the newly displaced remain uncertain. Displacement could increase if hostilities continue.
- As of 21 February 2016 there are almost **85,000** displaced people into North Darfur State, the vast majority of whom are women and children. This is more than double the 38,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) that were reported on 14 February, indicating that people have been fleeing in vast numbers. Estimates for Central Darfur vary between **2,750** and **50,000**; confirmation of these numbers by the United Nations has not been possible due to lack of access.
- Aid organisations are scaling up the response in North Darfur and food, water, sanitation, emergency shelter, household supplies, protection, nutrition and health-related needs are being met, but significant gaps are reported (see table). The timely delivery of assistance to all of those in need is hampered by the rapidly rising numbers of displaced people and the relative isolation of the two main sites where displaced people are arriving which presents logistical challenges.
- Verification of the new IDPs is ongoing and by 18 February over 61,000 newly displaced people had been verified in North Darfur. This includes about 41,500 people in Sortony and another 19,500 people in Tawilla.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Civilians - especially women and children - continue to bear the brunt of conflict in Sudan. The United Nations calls upon all parties to ensure that civilians and civilian objects are protected in accordance with International Humanitarian Law.
2. The United Nations calls for immediate, safe and unfettered access to all people in need, wherever they may be located, so that affected people can receive the humanitarian assistance they require. In particular, the United Nations urges all parties to the conflict to allow the United Nations and its partners to reach displaced people in Central Darfur.
3. Emergency supplies have been delivered to many of the newly displaced people but more support will be required until they are able to return home.
4. The UN is calling for a cessation of hostilities so that humanitarian organisations can assess and respond to those most in need of humanitarian assistance.



85,000

people have been displaced to North Darfur



90%

of the newly displaced in Sortony are women and children



50,000

people may have been displaced around Boori and Wadi Boori villages in Central Darfur

BACKGROUND AND CURRENT SITUATION

The Jebel Marra massif, straddling Sudan's North Darfur, Central Darfur and South Darfur states, has since mid-January seen significant civilian displacement as a result of increased fighting between the SAF and the SLA/AW.

As a result almost **85,000** people have been displaced to three locations in North Darfur. Some **63,000** people have fled to the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) base in Sortony, a remote location that has no established humanitarian presence. Over 90 per cent of them are children and women. By 18 February, about 41,500 newly displaced people had been verified in Sortony. An additional **19,500** people had been verified in Rwanda IDP camp in Tawilla, east of Sortony, where assistance is ongoing.

Aid supplies including food, shelter, health, water, sanitation supplies and nutritional supplements have been delivered and distributed but the needs have increased sharply with the arrival of more than 47,000 people during the previous week. Child protection partners are also working on the ground. Conditions around the IDP site in Sortony remain precarious. UNAMID has taken specific measures to strengthen security, such as patrolling, and lighting of the site.

In Central Darfur, there are reports of continuing hostilities and humanitarian actors have been unable to verify reported displacement or ascertain and respond to humanitarian needs induced by conflict. The latest government figures indicate that approximately **2,750** people have been displaced into Central Darfur, however, indications are that the numbers of people displaced in the state may be significantly higher. Of particular concern are unconfirmed reports that up to **50,000** people who had reportedly been displaced around Boori and Wadi Boori villages moved deeper into the Jebel Marra area, with some going to Guldo town. Aid organisations have prepared a contingency plan for up to 70,000 newly displaced people in Central Darfur.

Since the outbreak of hostilities there have been conflicting reports about newly displaced people in South Darfur. Recently it was reported that about 1,000 people have reached the Kass area; humanitarian actors have asked for access to verify this.

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

Humanitarian access to large parts of the Jebel Marra massif has been cut off for many years. People fleeing to the Sortony UNAMID base in North Darfur received immediate, basic humanitarian assistance (water, food and some shelter and essential household supplies). An initial inter-agency mission was permitted to visit the area in the days after people began arriving, delivering further water and nutritional supplies. An inter-agency aid convoy containing food, medical supplies, nutritional supplies, shelter material and sanitation assistance reached Sortony on 10 February, and another is due to depart 23 February. There are issues with physical access to Sortony from El Fasher to deliver relief supplies as the location is remote, roads are poor, water supply is very limited and the hard ground makes building latrines difficult.

In Central Darfur, access has been extremely limited, with humanitarian actors being excluded from all efforts to verify reported displacement. So far, no assessment missions have been permitted anywhere in the state. OCHA is engaged in ongoing discussions with authorities to undertake assessment in Nertiti, Thur and Boori/Wadi Boori.

In South Darfur, aid organisations on 11 February submitted a request to the authorities for a mission to the Kass area to verify reports of newly displaced people from Jebel Marra and assess their needs. No response has been received so far. On 17 February, a request for a mission to Deribat, East Jebel Marra locality was submitted.

Since 24 January, over 15 requests for aid delivery and needs assessments have been submitted to the North, Central and South Darfur state authorities. Of these, seven were approved (including the visit by the Humanitarian Coordinator to Tawilla on 22 February), five were rejected and three are still under the process. While in North Darfur access has not been an issue, Central and South Darfur accounted for the rejected and pending cases of access requests.



THE RESPONSE

Note: This table represents an aggregation of assistance provided in the three locations in Darfur: Sortony, Tawilla and Kebkabiya, as of 21 February 2016.

State	Sector	Target Response, as per 2015 Emergency Response Framework	Actual Response by the international humanitarian community, to date
NORTH DARFUR 85,000 displaced people	Food & Livelihoods	1 month emergency ration.	551 MT of food delivered for 47,500 people. This includes food aid for 32,000 people for one month in Sortony, 14,300 people in Tawilla and 1,227 people in Kebkabiya for two months.
	Shelter & household items	1 kit (jerry can, cooking set, plastic sheet, sleeping mats, blankets) per HH (5 people).	50 per cent of needs not covered: 14,688 families require NFI kits. Some 7,200 families have received NFI kits (some NFI supplies have been delayed by customs).
	Water & Sanitation	Water: 7.5 l/p/d (litres per person per day).	In Tawilla, water provision is almost adequate. In Sortony, very large gaps in water provision remain, with 14 per cent of total needs being met (1.14 l/p/d).
		Sanitation: 1 latrine for 50 people. Hygiene: 1 hygiene promoter per 500 people.	Significant gaps in pit latrine coverage: In Sortony, 500 latrines have been transported, but pits are still being dug. In Tawilla 390 latrines are required to meet minimum standards, however only 75 latrines have been completed.
	Health	10,000 persons for 1 health unit and 50,000 persons for 1 health center. Less than 50 consultations/day per clinician. Weekly morbidity and mortality bulletin. 1 BEmNOC / 125,000 population	Medicines to cover the needs of 20,000 out of 63,223 people in Sortony have been delivered. 3 health units are operational in the area covering 30,000 people. The gap is about 52%, gaps are reported in Tawilla and Kebkabiya. 2 out of 4 reports have been completed. Of the 625 emergency cases requiring referral, 37 have been referred. Basic emergency obstetric and newborn care target 13,000 people, out of 33,900 people in need.
	Nutrition	>70% eBSFP coverage of children under five and PLW. >90% of beneficiaries are accessing treatment.	Gaps in supplement coverage: About 13,300 children under five and PLW out of the total 23,700 are covered by emergency Blanket Supplementary Feeding (eBSFP) - or 56% of the target.
	Protection	Registration of UASCs & missing children and reunification of separated children. Reinforcement or establishment of Child friendly-spaces. Provision of assistance kits for most vulnerable children. Persons with special needs identified and supported. GBV survivors reached and referred to service providers. Personal hygiene kits provided.	588 unaccompanied/separated children identified (needs: 1,700 children); 132 missing children reported and tracing efforts ongoing; 13 partner staff and six social workers deployed as family tracing & verification teams; 57 recreational kits, 1,213 plastic sheets and 830 blankets distributed to households with vulnerable children; 5 child friendly spaces in construction, out of 15 planned; 3,100 women and girls (out of 23,000) received hygiene kits; 1 community kit delivered for 20,000 people (as of 23 February 2016).
IDP Tracking	Verification of registered data within 2 weeks after first registration, including disaggregation by age, sex and vulnerable groups.	Registration and verification of newly displaced people in Sortony ongoing. Registration and verification of almost all new arrivals in Tawilla.	
CENTRAL DARFUR	All	As above	No assistance provided to date due to lack of access. A contingency plan for up to 70,000 people has been prepared.

