

HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 25 October, the MoH reports 182 suspected cases of viral haemorrhagic fever in Darfur including 103 deaths.
- FAO recommends integrating resilience building in food security response.
- In Red Sea State, about 2,300 people have been affected by floods, according to the SRCS.
- In East Darfur, 5,400 IDPs taking refuge near UNAMID in Labado have returned home.
- In South Darfur, IDPs taking refuge near UNAMID in Khor Abeche need food aid.

FIGURES

Displaced people in Sudan (as of Dec 2014)	3.1 million
Displaced people in Darfur (as of Dec 2014)	2.5 million
(in 2015)	223,000
GAM burden	2 million
South Sudanese refugee arrivals in Sudan - since 15 Dec 2013 (UNHCR)	197,942
Refugees of other nationalities (UNHCR)	175,250

FUNDING

1.04 billion
requested in 2015 (US\$)

57%
reported funding



IDP shelters near the UNAMID team site in Khor Abeche (UNAMID, 2014)

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MoH reports 182 suspected viral haemorrhagic fever cases in Darfur

On 27 October, the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the World Health Organization (WHO) reported an outbreak of viral haemorrhagic fever (VHF) in Darfur. According to the MoH, from 29 August to 25 October a total of 182 suspected VHF cases, including 103 deaths, were reported in 12 localities in South, East, Central, West and North Darfur.

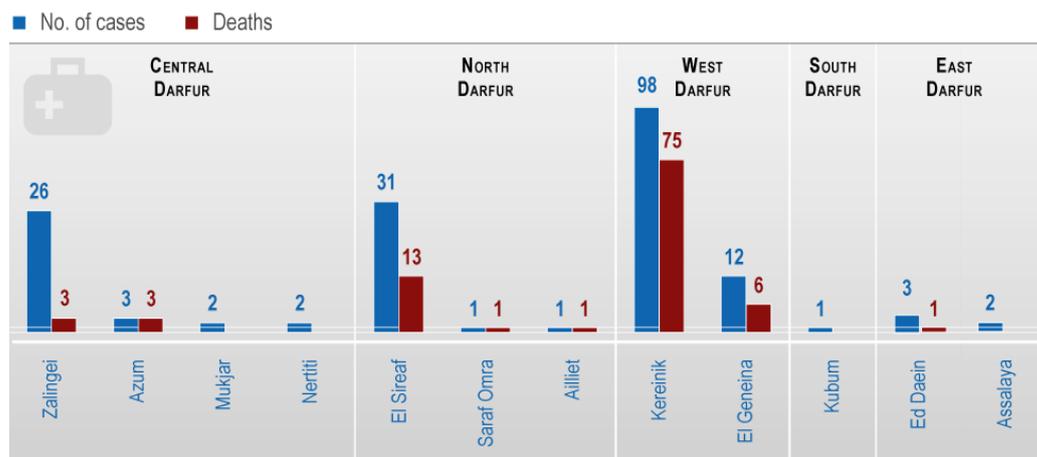
Of the 36 samples—taken from suspected cases and people who had contact with them—tested at the Central Public Health Laboratory in Khartoum, eight samples from Central, West and North Darfur tested positive for West Nile virus, while four samples from West and Central Darfur tested positive for Chikungunya virus. West Nile virus is a type of haemorrhagic fever, commonly found in Africa that can cause fatal neurological disease and is often transmitted by infected mosquitoes. Chikungunya is a viral disease that is also transmitted by infected mosquitoes and is characterized with an abrupt onset of fever accompanied by joint pains. None of the samples tested positive for Yellow fever, Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever, Dengue Fever or Rift Valley fever.

The state with the highest number of cases was West Darfur (110) followed by North and Central Darfur with 33 cases each, South Darfur (1) and finally East Darfur (5). West Darfur had the highest number of fatalities (81), followed by North Darfur (15), six in Central Darfur and one in East Darfur.

In response, joint MoH/WHO verification teams were deployed to the affected states. Vector control activities have started and infection control measures were initiated in the affected localities. Additional pumps, fogging machines and insecticides—provided by MoH and WHO—will be transported to the affected states. The Government, WHO and partners are effectively responding to the needs caused by the VHF outbreak.

Cases of viral haemorrhagic fever (VHF) in Darfur

Source: Ministry of Health (MoH)



Reduced rainfall and delayed planting may lead to a 30-50 per cent loss in crops, FAO

Reduced rainfall and delayed planting may lead to a 30-50 per cent crop loss in areas of North, South and Central Darfur, as well as Hamashkoreeb in Kassala

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) conducted a rapid assessment of crop performance and livestock health in traditional rain-fed agricultural regions in order to gain a more complete understanding of the impact of El Niño and rainfall variability in Sudan.

According to FAO, the 25-80 per cent reduction in rainfall over the rainy season coupled with a delayed planting period may lead to a 30-50 per cent crop loss in affected localities, thus increasing the risk of low harvests from November 2015 – January 2016. The full impact of a low harvest will be felt most acutely between March – June 2016 during an intensified lean season. This could increase food insecurity in affected localities, especially among small-scale farmers and pastoralists who make up the bulk of Sudan's rural poor. The localities most at risk of poor harvests are concentrated in North Darfur, South Darfur and Central Darfur, as well as Hamashkoreeb locality in Kassala State. The data used in FAO's assessment was collected up to 10 September. FAO is working with partners to update the data and assess the rainfall situation through to October in the coming weeks.

In Sudan, food security is heavily dependent on rainfall. The rainy season—June to October—is the main cultivation period for most of Sudan's main cereal, oil, and vegetable crops. These crops comprise the main sources of food for the majority of Sudanese families living in rural areas, and sesame is a viable cash crop that provides important income generation opportunities. Post-harvest vegetation is also used as fodder to feed livestock during the dry season. Therefore, good yields and surplus supply are very important for food security of rural families and play an important role in reducing acute hunger associated with prolonged lean seasons.

Food insecurity and nutrition risks produced by El Niño

It is essential for food security and nutrition concerns across Sudan to tackle the risks triggered by El Niño as soon as possible. According to FAO, the current situation shows the importance of combining humanitarian response with initiatives that enhance resilience and ultimately food security of vulnerable communities.

A taskforce including representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, FAO, the World Food Programme (WFP), and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) was established to deal with the potential impacts of El Niño in Sudan. The task force will look into monitoring the situation by updating and consolidating food security information; strengthening ongoing immediate life-saving and livelihood response; and preparing a strong food security and livelihood plan for the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) in anticipation of a most-likely scenario of a below-average harvest.

Localities at highest risk of poor crop growth and low harvests due to El Niño

Source: FAO

State	Locality	Food insecurity status as per IPC, August 2015
North Darfur	Dar El Salam, Mellit, Kutum, North Umm Keddada	Stressed (IPC phase 2)
	El Fasher, El Kuma, El Malha	Crisis (IPC phase 3)
South Darfur	Um Dafug	minimal
	Katayla, Kubum, Nyala, Tullus, El Salam, and Elmalum area	Stressed (IPC phase 2)
Central Darfur	Gereida, Kass, Shataya, Marshang, Bielel	Crisis (IPC phase 3)
	Wadi Salih	Stressed (IPC phase 2)
Kassala	Zalingei, Nertiti, Mukjar, Um Dukhun	Crisis (IPC phase 3)
	Hamashkoreeb	Crisis (IPC phase 3)

Integrating resilience building in food security response is necessary to reduce risks of food insecurity among vulnerable families in Sudan

In addition, the government is building a strategic cereal reserve, which as of early August was estimated at about one million tons. In El Gezira scheme, the government has expanded sorghum cultivation from 400,000 feddans (about 168,000 hectares) to more than 700,000 feddans (about 294,000 hectares).

Importance of integrating resilience building in food security response

A key component of this resilience building is to integrate improved natural resource management and climate-smart agricultural techniques with food security response in the country. Such techniques include, the use of effective water harvesting, improved terracing, and using soil preservation techniques to sustain the productive capacity of the land. In addition, efforts to reduce post-harvest losses are needed to maximize yields at harvest time. Training on food preservation techniques for farming families is also necessary.

The Government of Sudan has recently formed a national platform for the coordination of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRISI) framework, which focuses on a multi-sector and complete approach to climatic shocks, such as rainfall shortages. Support for four of the priority intervention areas outlined by the IDDRISI framework should form the focus in Sudan's El Niño response strategy mainly, natural resource and environment management; market access and trade and financial services; livelihood support and basic social services; and disaster risk management, preparedness and effective response. FAO has recently appealed for US\$6 million—as part of the 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)—to assist 125,000 rural families in Sudan who are facing increased risk of food insecurity and malnutrition due to rainfall shortages.

2,300 people affected by floods in Red Sea State

According to the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS), floods in Red Sea State destroyed 350 homes and damaged a further 215 affecting an estimated 2,300 people. From 20-22 October, the Government's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), SRCS, the Ministry of Health, WHO and Civil Defence conducted a mission to assess the needs of these people. The major needs identified were emergency shelter and food aid.

In response, SRCS distributed 100 cartons of food (rice, milk, sugar, lentils, peanuts, cooking oil) and local authorities distributed 20 sacks each of sorghum and wheat flour. Civil Defence distributed emergency shelter and household supplies including 400 plastic sheets and 200 empty jerry cans provided by the SRCS. Other needs include repairing water sources and latrines; insecticide spraying; and emergency medicine—additional funds are needed for these response activities.

A high emergency committee in Red Sea State is currently mobilising resources to be able to meet the needs of up to 750 families (about 3,000 people). Port Sudan, Suakin, Sinkat, Haya, Dordeb, Tokar and Agig localities in Red Sea State are all prone to flood during winter season.

The government has previously indicated that each state should have a sufficient stockpile of emergency supplies in order to provide timely and effective response in times of crisis for 2,000 people. No significant flooding took place in 2014, but in 2013 of the 500,000 people affected by floods in Sudan 20,000 were in Red Sea State.

East Darfur: 13,500 IDPs start returning to their homes in Labado village

According to the African Union – United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), displaced people who had been taking refuge near the UNAMID team site in East Darfur's Labado area have started to return to their home village, which is located about 2.5 kilometres from the team site. People started the return process in September of this year due to the improved security in the village—after the establishment of a police station in the village—and so far, about 5,400 displaced people have reportedly returned. The move has been

To date, about 5,400 of the IDPs taking refuge near the UNAMID team site in Labado have returned home

voluntary and gradual with displaced people moving between the village and the team site while preparing their homes for their return. The returnees continue to access the water and health services near the UNAMID team site. According to the community leaders, they have agreed on a deadline with authorities to complete the move by 9 November 2015. Aid organizations have yet to verify and assess the needs of the returnees.

The displaced people moved to the Labado area in early April 2013 when fighting broke out between government forces and Sudan Liberation Army-Minni Minawi faction (SLA-MM) in Labado and Muhajeriya towns.

South Darfur: 4,350 IDPs in Khor Abeche need food aid, according to community leaders

From 20 to 22 October, a rapid needs assessment was conducted in South Darfur's Khor Abeche village following reports from community leaders that the 4,350 displaced people taking refuge near the UNAMID team site are in urgent need of food assistance. The mission included staff from OCHA, WFP and the international NGO World Vision International (WVI).



IDPs at the UNAMID team site in Khor Abeche collecting water (UNICEF, file photo 2014)

These displaced people fled their homes in Khor Abeche village and took refuge near the UNAMID team site in May 2014, following an attack on the village by an armed group.

The people of Khor Abeche rely entirely on farming for their livelihood, planting millet for their staple food source and groundnut and sesame as cash crops. The failure of the farming season could result in limited household access to food. The mission found that food stocks have been depleted and the nearest market is in Manwashi. There is a mobile market—which takes place twice a week—however, the mission observed that there were no cereals available and traders attributed this to high cereal prices. According to the community, food prices are so high that the majority of families cannot afford even basic food supplies.

The prolonged dry spell hit the farms badly and the mission observed signs of crop wilting in the millet and the groundnut farms. According to the State Ministry of Agriculture, the northern localities of South Darfur received poor rains in comparison to other parts of the state.

In response to the needs of the people, the mission recommended distributing a two-month supply of food for seasonal support, which will be done by WFP in November. The mission also recommended introducing a school feeding programme at the primary school and a nutrition program in the village. Livelihood-based interventions were also recommended to support people's livelihoods in the area, with a special focus on women who are already engaged in income generating activities to support their families.

4,350 IDPs taking refuge near the UNAMID team site in Khor Abeche are in need of food assistance