

## Escalation of Conflict Sennar State

### Overview

- Since end-June 2024, clashes between the parties to the conflict in Sennar State and Sinja town have forcibly displaced over 151,000 people (IOM DTM) to neighbouring localities and States like Kassala, Gedaref and Blue Nile States, but also further.

### Access and Security Update

- The establishment of a frontline in Abu Rakham village about 7 km from Tunaydbah refugee camp is posing significant challenges and protection risks to both the refugee community in Tunaydbah camp and the surrounding host community. As a result, some households from Abu Rakham and Tunaydbah villages have reportedly move to other locations farther away.
- In the previous week, armed individuals entered Tunaydbah camp without prior authorisation to conduct security searches. The Commissioner for Refugees (COR) and UNHCR agreed to strengthen access procedures and are engaging the security forces and Governor of Gedaref to strongly advocate for the civilian character of the camp.
- All four refugee camps in Gedaref State are accessible to UNHCR and partners.



UNHCR registers displaced refugees and asylum-seekers from Sennar State in Um Gargour refugee camp, Gedaref State. ©UNHCR / H. Hussein



## Displacement

- In the last week, 148 Eritrean households (686 people) who were displaced from Sennar State arrived in Um Gargour refugee camp. Protection assessments will be undertaken to determine whether they wish to seek asylum in Sudan. Everyone received a three-day food ration from UNHCR's partner with WFP committing to provide further food assistance in the coming week. The refugee youth community assisted in the preparation of meals.
- According to Sudanese immigration authorities in Gallabat, 117 Ethiopian refugees of various ethnicities who were recognised refugees in Sudan spontaneously returned to Ethiopia through the Gallabat border crossing point during the previous week.
- According to local authorities, 1,552 new IDP households arrived in Kassala fleeing conflict in Sennar State and are accommodated in four gathering sites.



*In Al Tadamon school, Gedaref State, forcibly displaced people are staying in the school yard since the school buildings are already fully occupied. ©HAC Gedaref State IDP unit*



## UNHCR Response

### GEDAREF STATE

- In the last week, UNHCR and the Commissioner for Refugees (COR) registered 240 secondarily displaced Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees and asylum-seekers from Sennar State who arrived in Um Gargour and Um Rakuba refugee camps in Gedaref State. A large number were previously living in Khartoum and Al Jazirah States before fleeing to Sennar State. Following protection assessments, 31 people were registered as refugees and 209 as asylum-seekers. All individuals received a photo slip as identification documents. The refugees and asylum-seekers are staying in communal shelters in the camps pending allocation of plots and distribution of emergency shelter kits.
- UNHCR and its partner provided core relief items like sleeping mats, blankets, jerry cans, and buckets to 69 refugee households who were secondarily displaced from Sennar State comprising 431 people in Um Gargour refugee camp.
- UNHCR is supporting the authorities to gather demographic information of IDPs accommodated in seven newly formed gathering sites across the State which will enable access to other protection services and basic assistance. Initial findings show that the majority of those who were recently displaced are female and a few unaccompanied and separated children have been identified.
- The number of IDPs arriving in Gedaref State continues to rise and as a result three empty community facilities close to the reception centre are now occupied by IDPs. According to IOM DTM, there are now close to 350 gathering/informal sites hosting IDPs in the state. The new influx from Sennar State comes at a time when schools in Gedaref were to re-open in July. Some schools which had been previously vacated to prepare for school re-opening are once again being used by IDPs. There are anecdotal reports of teachers conducting classes outside the
- According to the State Ministry of Health and Social Development (MOHSD), 113 IDP households were relocated from the reception centre to Alhourri gathering site by the Humanitarian Aid Commission and MOHSD while NGOs provided transport support.



- UNHCR monitoring at the Port Land reception centre highlights the urgent need for core relief items. The authorities have discouraged partners from providing individual assistance in the reception centres, preferring that such assistance is provided once IDPs have been relocated to gathering sites. As the duration of stay at the reception centres is not yet known, UNHCR and partner are discussing with the authorities how to provide life-saving assistance to the forcibly displaced in reception centres.
- Some communal facilities like latrines are available at the reception centre, but are insufficient to meet the needs of all IDPs, with more families arriving each day. A few members of the surrounding host community are providing meals to the IDPs.occupied classrooms.



COR and UNHCR meet with refugee leaders in Tunaydbah refugee camp, Gedaref State. ©UNHCR

### KASSALA STATE

- UNHCR and its partners visited Alounda Ahmadi gathering site in New Halfa to assess the needs of the recently arrived IDP households from Sennar State. It is estimated that some 200 IDP households are accommodated there and are in urgent need of drinking water, sanitation facilities and core relief items.
- UNHCR conducted an assessment of gathering sites in Girba hosting IDPs who have recently fled Sennar State. The assessment showed the need for shelter solutions, WASH facilities and core relief items. UNHCR's partner also identified close to 600 families, who have also been recently displaced and are living in the suburbs of Girba town.





A UNHCR-trained volunteer from the local authorities' IDP unit gathers data of IDPs newly arriving in Port Land reception centre, Gedaref State. © HAC Gedaref State IDP unit

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