

Escalation of Conflict in El Fasher and Kordofan

Overview

- Since 26 October 2025, there have been grave reports of a dramatic escalation of violence in El Fasher, North Darfur State, which has been under siege for over 500 days forcing thousands of people to flee and leaving many trapped within the city limits. The security and humanitarian situation in El Fasher is critical with fighting severely restricting forcibly displaced and hosting communities' access to humanitarian assistance and essential services. This has created a dire situation, in the city without sufficient food, water and medical care for almost two years.
- With communication networks severely affected, it has been extremely challenging to obtain regular updates from people who remain in El Fasher.
- In North Kordofan State, displacement has also been reported from Bara, Sheikhan, Ar Rahad, Um Rawaba and Um Dam Haj Ahmed localities to various locations within the state as well and into to White Nile, Khartoum and Aj Jazirah States due to an escalation in conflict and fears of potential siege on El Obeid, the capital of North Kordofan.

Protection Concerns

- Despite communication challenges, UNHCR and its partners have received reports of gross protection violations within El Fasher and during flight to Tawila, some 50 Km Southwest of El Fasher including arrests and detention of youth and men, forced recruitment including of children, sexual violence against women and girls, extortion, killings and other forms of physical abuse, especially at numerous checkpoints. There is no safe passage for those wishing to flee and movement restrictions have been imposed preventing civilians to seek safety.
- Several cases of separated, unaccompanied, and orphaned children due to family separation during flight were documented at the reception sites in Tawila by UNHCR and partners during the week. Additionally, people with disabilities arriving in Tawila are facing heightened protection risks as impromptu gathering sites lack necessary infrastructure and services.
- Anecdotal reports indicate that people who are unable to pay transport fees to Tawila they may be compelled or coerced to return to El Fasher or are stranded en route. Furthermore, the volatile security situation also affects access of humanitarian partners to these locations to verify reports and/or provide life-saving assistance.
- In North Kordofan State, similar patterns of violence and human rights violations have been reported by survivors, following the recent change in control of Bara town.

Population Movements

- According to [IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\) Update 107](#), nearly 71,000 people have been displaced from locations in El Fasher town and surrounding villages and localities between 26 October and 2 November 2025, with over 8,600 arriving to Tawila and other localities in North Darfur between 1 and 2 November as fighting continues. While [IOM DTM Update 4 on North Kordofan](#) states that close to 37,000 individuals were displaced between 26 and 31 October.
- Local sources along the border areas with Chad have reported a notable increase in population movements toward the border, driven by the deteriorating security situation in Kornoi, Um Baru, and Tina localities in North Darfur. This indicates a possible outflow into Chad.
- Community networks in Sharia locality in East Darfur State, and Mershing and Kass in South Darfur State have also informed UNHCR about the arrival of newly displaced families from El Fasher.

UNHCR Response

- UNHCR and its partners are responding to the recent displacement of refugees and IDPs in Tawila by conducting in-person protection monitoring, aimed at identifying urgent needs and facilitating referrals to specialised service providers. At the same time, UNHCR is conducting remote protection monitoring by engaging community-based protection networks in other potential displacement areas in North Darfur, East Darfur, and South Darfur States to verify new arrivals and assess protection needs.



UNHCR and HOPE staff conducting protection monitoring at the reception site in Tawila where displaced people from El Fasher have arrived. ©UNHCR

- UNHCR's partner is providing individual and group psychosocial support services and targeted protection assistance to those newly displaced at reception sites and at the UNHCR-supported multi-purpose community centre in Tawila.
- During the week, UNHCR plans to distribute 1,400 plastic sheets and 35 family tents to those newly displaced.
- UNHCR is planning to send an additional some 750 non-food item kits comprising blankets, mosquito nets, cooking utensils, jerry cans, solar lamps and plastic sheets to Tawila via cross-border convoys from Chad. Another 3,500 kits are prepositioned in Nyala, South Darfur State which can also be redirected if needed.
- As many cases of sexual violence were reported, UNHCR has also prepositioned 50 post-exposure prophylaxis kits for survivors in Tawila, which are currently enroute. Over 9,000 NFI kits and 2,500 plastic sheets are currently in the pipeline for distribution to new IDPs in Darfur and Kordofan States.
- On 30 October 2025, a humanitarian convoy carrying supplies from UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, and Save the Children arrived in Kadugli, South Kordofan, and on 3 November, UNHCR's partner began distributing 750 non-food item kits to IDPs in the area.

Financial Information

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