

## Escalation of Conflict in El Fasher and Kordofan



UNHCR Protection Staff in Tawila speaking with IDPs during the distribution of plastic sheets. ©UNHCR/Mohammed Jalal

### Overview

- UNHCR and partners continue to receive alarming reports of serious violations against civilians who fled from El Fasher, North Darfur and arrived in other locations within North Darfur, Northern and White Nile States ([see UNHCR's 14 November Media Briefing Note](#)) since the 26 October takeover of the city by the Rapid Support Forces. In North Darfur, civilians fleeing El Fasher face grave risks along their escape routes to Tawila and surrounding areas, and as they encounter checkpoints, including physical assaults, sexual violence, abductions for ransom, and killings. Movement restrictions, lack of transportation and the lack of any safe passages have left many stranded enroute.
- UNHCR has been informed by those who managed to reach safer locations that many civilians, including women, children, and other vulnerable groups, remain trapped inside El Fasher without access to food, water, medical care, and other essential services. With communications down inside El Fasher, reports have yet to be verified but suggest that some 50,000 people may still be inside the city, unable to leave.
- The security situation has also deteriorated significantly across North, South, and West Kordofan States, marked by intensified airstrikes, drone attacks, and heavy troop mobilization since early November. Localities such as Babanousa, Dilling, and Kadugli reportedly remain besieged, with access to food, water, and health services rapidly deteriorating. Civilian casualties are particularly high in Bara, Babanousa, Ghubeish, and Umm Kriediem, while families continue to be displaced both within Kordofan and across state borders to Khartoum, Northern, and White Nile States.
- Tensions have escalated in localities close to the Chad-Sudan border in North Darfur, including Tina, Kornoi, and Um Baru, where renewed targeting positions of armed groups have been reported. Drone attacks by parties to the conflict have also occurred in Central, South, and West Darfur.

### Population Movements

- According to the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), nearly 100,000 people have been displaced from locations in El Fasher town and surrounding villages in North Darfur as well as other states across Sudan including Central Darfur, East Darfur, South Darfur, Northern, West Darfur, West Kordofan and White Nile, since 26 October. Between 26 October and 13 November across North Kordofan alone, the IOM DTM estimates that over 39,000 individuals were displaced.
- The Humanitarian Aid Commission reported that over 300 IDP families (approximately 1,500 individuals), have arrived in Ad Dabbah locality, Northern State, from El Fasher since 26 October. Authorities anticipate additional arrivals in the coming days as displacement continues.

## UNHCR Response

- UNHCR and partners are scaling up [protection and assistance](#) in response to new displacement from El Fasher, North Darfur, and Kordofan States. In Tawila and Ad Dabbah, teams are conducting [in-person protection monitoring](#) to identify urgent needs and facilitate referrals for rape survivors, children who have become separated from their families, and others needing specialized services and support. In Ad Dabbah, UNHCR is working alongside the Government-led Emergency Committee to assess protection, shelter, and non-food items (NFI) needs. Immediate priorities for this highly traumatized population include psychosocial support, family tracing and reunification, food assistance, and NFIs, which generally include blankets, mosquito nets, cooking utensils, jerry cans, solar lamps, and plastic sheets. Helping with documentation is also a pressing need, as many individuals lost their identity documents during flight.
- Additional [Protection Desks](#) have been established in Tawila by UNHCR's partner HOPE in Daba Naira and Dali IDP camps, providing additional services for new arrivals. These vital resources have enabled the swift provision of psychological first aid; identified 185 unaccompanied and separated children and conducted family tracing and reunification for 10 children; and referred 10 survivors of gender-based violence to medical care. The Protection Desks complement other ongoing protection activities at the [multi-purpose community centre](#) in Tawila, such as individual and group psychosocial services and awareness-raising sessions.
- UNHCR also supported the Ministry of Health in Tawila with 50 post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) kits for [survivors of sexual violence](#).
- To meet urgent [shelter needs](#), UNHCR, through its partner Africa Humanitarian Action, distributed 1,240 plastic sheets to newly displaced families in Tawila on 11 November. In addition, resources are being reallocated within the country to respond to the growing needs in Tawila and other localities hosting IDPs.
- UNHCR continues to lead the [Protection Cluster](#) in Darfur and Kordofan, working with partners to gather inputs to guide emergency response planning and to identify underfunded priorities to address the needs of newly displaced and conflict-affected households. UNHCR is also reinforcing protection coordination of 30 partners at the locality level in Tawila through staff on the ground to support the locality's protection focal point and help address emergency needs.

## Financial Information

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- [UNHCR: Displaced civilians fleeing Sudan's Darfur, Kordofan regions navigate serious violations, deadly routes](#)
- [Joint UN convoy brings vital aid to besieged communities in Sudan's South Kordofan](#)
- [UNHCR: Escalating violence in Sudan's El Fasher forces thousands to flee](#)