

El Fasher and Kordofan Situation Update

Overview

- The security situation in Kordofan has deteriorated since 1 December, when, after a week of heavy fighting, the RSF reportedly seized control of the SAF's 22nd Division Base in Babanusa, West Kordofan. In South Kordofan, civilians remain trapped in besieged cities such as Kadugli and Dilling, and as women, children, and the elderly find ways to escape, men and youth are often left behind due to specific high risks they face along flight routes such as detention by armed groups for perceived affiliation with parties to the conflict. More than 40,000 are displaced from North Kordofan as of 18 November. UNHCR, through partners on the ground, is responding to the urgent needs of those displaced, but access remains challenging, and resources are critically low.
- Interviews with newly displaced families in Ad Dabbah, Northern State, confirm that some civilians are still trapped in El Fasher, North Darfur. Many cannot leave because of exorbitant transportation costs, ransom demands, and the absence of safe passage. Conditions in El Fasher are dire, with famine confirmed and families unable to afford what little food is available. According to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), more than 106,000 people were displaced from El Fasher town and surrounding villages to other Darfur states, Northern, West Kordofan and White Nile as of late November.
- An inter-agency assessment in Tendalti, White Nile State, revealed severe overcrowding in two pre-existing IDP camps, which already hosted 2,975 households and have now received 368 additional families from Darfur and Kordofan. Up to six households are sharing a single shelter, and critical shortages persist in food, shelter, non-food items (NFI) like sleeping mats and cooking utensils, and health services. Without food assistance, women – who make up about 70% of the population – have been forced into dangerous and exploitative work to provide for their families, leaving children alone and increasing other protection risks such family separation. According to OCHA over 13,000 have fled conflict in North Kordofan and North Darfur to White Nile State, primarily taking refuge in Ad Dwaim, Kosti, Rabak, and Tendalti.



UNHCR partner SRCS distributed relief items in Kosti, White Nile State, to new arrivals from El Fasher ©UNHCR/Antonia Vadala

UNHCR's Response

UNHCR and partners are scaling up emergency response across Darfur, Kordofan, Northern, and White Nile States. Teams on the ground are delivering relief items, providing psychological first aid to traumatized families, and coordinating with other organizations to ensure assistance is timely and meets urgent needs. UNHCR and partners are present in Ad Dabbah (Northern State), Tawila and Mellit (North Darfur), Khazan Jadeed (East Darfur), and several locations in White Nile State where IDPs have newly arrived. To reinforce operations, UNHCR deployed additional emergency staff to Northern and Darfur States. Despite access challenges caused by insecurity and logistical constraints, UNHCR is prepositioning 7,500 NFI kits from its global pipeline and European Union-donated relief items in Farchana, Chad, to enable timely delivery to more displaced families in need across Darfur.

Darfur

- Since November, UNHCR and partners have reached more than 4,500 families displaced from El Fasher in East and North Darfur with NFI kits that include blankets, mosquito nets, cooking utensils, jerry cans, solar lamps, and plastic sheets.
- Most recently, in Mellit, North Darfur, UNHCR's partner Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) distributed 1,000 NFI kits to IDPs from El Fasher. In Khazan Jadeed, East Darfur, UNHCR's partner World Vision delivered 760 NFI kits transported through cross-border operations from Chad, along with 1,500 plastic sheets for newly displaced families. More supplies are en route but have been delayed. These include 2,500 NFI kits, 2,500 plastic sheets and 2,000 tents to Tawila, and 542 tents to Golo, Central Darfur State.
- In Tawila, UNHCR's partner HOPE received new IDPs (mainly men and youth) at the Protection Desks. Many arrived deeply traumatized after being detained for several days while fleeing El Fasher. HOPE provided urgent psychological first aid and referred them to the MSF clinic for medical care.
- As Protection Cluster lead, UNHCR raised partners' concerns on humanitarian access in Korma (an area in North Darfur's El Fasher locality hosting new arrivals from El Fasher town) during the Area-Based Inter-Cluster Coordination Group meeting and is escalating these issues to the Humanitarian Access Working Group (HAWG) to advocate for improved access and timely assistance to affected populations.

Ad Dabbah

- UNHCR's partner ADD, in coordination with the Ad Dabbah locality Emergency Committee, distributed 1,000 partial NFI kits to displaced families from El Fasher in Ad Dabbah. These kits included blankets, mosquito nets, and cooking utensils. Additional items such as plastic sheets, jerrycans, and solar lamps are en route from Port Sudan and will be provided as soon as they arrive.
- UNHCR conducted a one-day training on case management and referrals for 25 participants from protection partners, service providers, local authorities, and line ministries, including the State Ministry of Social Development. The training aimed to improve coordination and ensure timely, effective support for individuals requiring emergency protection services such as psychological first aid, linking survivors to healthcare and psychosocial support, family tracing and reunification, rapid assessment and follow-up for individuals at risk.
- UNHCR is working closely with UN agencies in Ad Dabbah to address critical gaps in protection services and water, sanitation and hygiene services (WASH). UNHCR has advocated with UNICEF and WHO for urgent WASH interventions to prevent disease outbreaks, since open defecation at the gathering site has become widespread. UNHCR is also coordinating with OHCHR (sharing information for investigation and follow-up) on sensitive protection cases.

White Nile

- UNHCR and its partner Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) distributed NFI kits and tents to 1,071 newly arrived internally displaced families in Ad Dweim, Tendalti and Kosti localities. Additional assistance is planned for 116 displaced households in Rabak, who will soon receive the same support through UNHCR's partner JASMAR.
- Support for newly displaced people in White Nile State is still very limited. Some basic items such as soap, hygiene supplies, and dignity kits containing menstrual supplies and underwear, have reached certain areas, along with some water and sanitation, all provided by UNHCR's operational partners like SOS Sahel, CAFOD and Norwegian Refugee Council. Local communities are doing what they can, sharing food baskets, though each of these usually last only about a week, and typically provides for about seven people. Access to healthcare is a major challenge, and many families cannot afford treatment. One father who recently arrived from North Kordofan shared that he spent 300,000 SDG in just 15 days for his child's medical care, an amount far beyond the reach of most displaced families.

Kordofan

- 500 NFI kits have arrived in Sheikan locality, North Kordofan, and will be distributed as soon as verification of beneficiaries has been completed.
- UNHCR's new partner CAFA is now operational in North Kordofan, actively working to strengthen protection monitoring and identify risks and urgent needs among newly displaced families in the state.



UNHCR's partner Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) distributed NFI kits in Mellit, North Darfur State, to new arrivals from El Fasher ©AHA

Financial Information

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- [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](#)

Flash Updates: [Flash Update #1](#) (3 November); [Flash Update #2](#) (17 November); and [Flash Update #3](#) (1 December)