

Issue No. 4 – as of 30 June 2019

- While the situation has remained unpredictable throughout the country, UNHCR and partners are continuing operations and managed to carry on response activities in Khartoum and all field offices. UNHCR has a business contingency plan in place to ensure implementation of critical functions and activities through alternative work modalities, in order to continue implement critical activities and provide protection and assistance to persons of concern.
- On 30 June, UN staff in Khartoum worked from home and the scheduled UNHAS flight between Khartoum and North Darfur was cancelled, due to the ongoing demonstrations in Khartoum. All other field offices followed regular working modality.
- Communication challenges however continue to be experienced due to the internet blackout. While some locations have reported a slight improvement, shortage of available cash, fuel and diesel persists.

REFUGEE PROTECTION

Khartoum

- Some 7,000 South Sudanese refugees (SSR) have relocated from various locations of Khartoum to other areas in Khartoum and White Nile State, following security incidents targeting them on 6 and 7 June in Khartoum. Of these, a total of 2,500 SSR moved to Bantiu and Dar al Salam 7 and 8 “open areas” settlements in Khartoum.
- A distribution of non-food items (NFIs) by UNHCR and COR to South Sudanese refugees in Bantiu, and Dar al Salam ‘open areas’ started on 23 June and is still ongoing, targeting over 13,500 refugees, and 1,300 host community members. Existing refugees in these areas received rainy season replenishment (plastic sheets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats) while refugees recently relocated following attacks and tensions in other areas of Khartoum, received the full NFI package. The exercise was conducted using the Biometric Identification Management System (BIMS) data to verify beneficiaries’ identity. The distribution has encountered problems on 26 June and had to be stopped, when a number of community members complained about not being registered and disrupted the process.
- In mid-June, UNHCR Khartoum encouraged refugees to use the UNHCR Protection Hotline instead of coming in person to UNHCR reception centre for counselling, in order to minimize security risks due to the travel. UNHCR had therefore announced to refugees that its reception facilities would remain temporarily closed for reasons of physical security of refugees. In this period however services continued to be provided to the 282 persons who approached the Khartoum counselling window in the period of 19-30 June for the regular issues including photo slips or refugee IDs, education grant, medical referral, family reunification cases, resettlement follow-up, among others.
- Refugees, especially Eritrean and Ethiopian, have reported increased cases of robbery on the streets of Khartoum.

White Nile

- As of 3 July, some 5,866 South Sudanese refugees (1,523 households) arrived in White Nile camps after 3 June. Of these, 4,550 travelled from Khartoum State, after security incidents targeted at refugees in June. Arrivals have also been reported from other locations within Sudan. Meanwhile, new arrivals from South Sudan through border crossing points remained low (70 individuals in the last two weeks).
- As refugees' self-relocation from Khartoum continues, land and accommodations have increasingly become contentious issues with the host community. Discussions on additional space to accommodate new arrivals are ongoing, but demands for compensation and additional services by host community remain a stumbling block.
- Theft of electrical equipment from White Nile camps continued, with three solar street lights stolen from Khor al Waral camp last week, making a total of 43 lights stolen in June.

East Sudan

- On 19 June, 94 Ethiopians were repatriated through Gallabat/Matema border crossing point from Shagarab Camp, by COR and UNHCR. The group requested the assistance of UNHCR for voluntary repatriation to Ethiopia, expressing their willingness to return. During the transportation the Ethiopian refugee returnees – majority of them from the Oromo and Amhara ethnic group – were supported with meals and medical assistance.
- On 25 June the Governor of Kassala held an emergency preparedness meeting, where HAC reaffirmed its support to humanitarian organizations and UN AFPs in the East, with regard to cash and fuel access.

Kordofans

- The security situation has remained calm in West and South Kordofan States, with no significant security incidents reported. UNHCR and partners have continued implementation of activities. In West Kordofan, due to the poor quality of the mobile coverage, UNHCR and partners are experiencing challenges to monitor the protection of refugees and persons of concern even remotely.
- South Sudanese refugees in El Sirajiya settlement (Eastern Corridor of South Kordofan) expressed repeated concerns about growing insecurity in their settlement where some 5,682 refugees are hosted; with reported incidents of looting, robbery and sexual harassment towards refugees at night. In response, refugees proposed the establishment of a police post inside the settlement for prevention and timely interventions in case of incidents.

Darfur

- In El Fasher, UNHCR office in North Darfur received a delegation composed of Deputy Director of El Tina locality together with members of the native administration, who jointly advocated for enhanced reintegration activities for refugee returnees, as basic services like water, shelter, education and health are sorely lacking for the returnees as well as the host community.
- In Beliel in South Darfur, following looting incidents against humanitarian partners in the previous weeks, there are currently no operational community services facilities on ground such as a registration centre, women centre, or food distribution centre. These are now on course to be reactivated in temporary facilities during this week.

- In South Darfur, continuing the reported trend of heightened criminality, there was a break-in at the UNAMID Nyala Super Camp on 24 June during night hours, with theft of petty items. There was another incident of theft of an unconfirmed quantity of non-food items from UNHCR's partner SRCS' warehouse.
- UNHCR in East Darfur has suspended the medical referral of 18 patients for over two months now to Khartoum, as advised by COR, as there is no available accommodation in Khartoum. The El Daein office also halted missions to the refugee settlements as part of precautionary security measures coupled with the challenge of securing GoS police escort, who are on standby to respond to public reactions in East Darfur State. Protection monitoring is being done through community-based protection networks.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDP) PROTECTION

Darfur

- In **North Darfur**, increased tension between farmers and herders was reported in Tina, Kornoi, and Um Buru localities. On 20 June UNAMID reported that an armed group forcefully confiscated farming tools during daytime from three female IDPs in Kutum locality, chasing them away from the area and threatening them against farming; no injuries were reported and the police was informed.
- In North Darfur Tawila area, in response to the floods earlier this month, UNHCR completed distribution of NFIs to 485 flood-affected families in four IDP camps on 15 June.
- On 20 June in North Darfur, a man was reportedly shot and killed near Zam Zam IDP camp. **Correction:** there is no movement restriction in Zam Zam IDP camp, as reported in issue n. 3: IDPs are able to access their farm lands.
- In **West Darfur**, on 24 June armed men attacked villagers in Sirba locality, setting fire to five houses and causing most villagers to flee to Sirba IDP camp. Separately, an interagency rapid assessment mission in Kreinik and Umtajouk was interrupted during a planned discussion with IDPs and host community. The mission found that security of IDPs and host community was tenuous, with cultivation of farmlands at a minimum due to fear of attacks by militias, which likely poses threats to food security this year.

Following reports of insecurity and difficulty by Habila IDPs to reach their farm lands, UNHCR received confirmation from HAC and the IDP community that joint forces of Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), police and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) were deployed to protect farms in and around Habila.

- High tension is prevailing in areas south of El Geneina, with reports that farmers have deserting their farms and villages due to harassment and occupation of their farms by Arabs tribes. In areas north of El Geneina, sporadic tribal conflicts have flashed up at individual and at the community levels, with one man reportedly shot on 18 June over farmland disputes. Although women's protection networks acknowledged IDP community leaders were mobilising their community for cultivating their lands, farmers have retreated, sensing insecurity around the farms.
- In **Central Darfur**, all areas of Zalingei town have seen an increase in armed forces' deployment, while the security situation in Jebel Marra area is reportedly deteriorating as

SLA/AW elements attacked a SAF position, killing two soldiers and injuring three on 19 June. SAF responded on the next day, killing four members of SLA/AW and injuring one. It is notable that infighting incidents within SLA/AW is diminishing while incidents with the SAF are increasing.

- Following the 9 June incidents of attacks and resulting conflicts in Deleig village in Central Darfur, UNHCR participated in inter-agency assessment mission to Deleig and surrounding villages on 27 June. The assessment revealed significant damages to property and created immediate humanitarian needs – there were 15 deaths, and injuries of 24 people under treatment, 60 shops were looted, two of which were completely burnt, some 176 households were completely burnt down along with all belongings, while more than 1,500 households were looted during the incident. Additionally another 14 villages around Deleig experienced looting and therefore villagers are now paying protection money to tribes to guard their villages from further incidents.

For more information:

Raffaella Vicentini, Snr External Relations Officer vicentin@unhcr.org