

Please find below update on the situation in West Darfur:

Security situation in West Darfur:

The security situation in El Geneina remains predominantly calm but volatile, with high crime rate. Lately, three SAF soldiers were seriously injured in a clash in the "Sad Al-Ali" neighbourhood, south of El Geneina. The nomads living in the area accused the armed forces of targeting them. The Commander of the armed forces in West Darfur called on nomadic community leaders to a meeting scheduled for Sunday to discuss the matter, after visiting the site of the incident and listening to villagers. No further information is available yet on the results of the meeting.

After the killing of the Chadian President Idriss Deby on 20th April, the likelihood of influx of refugees is high. The Governor of West Darfur stated to the media that the Government is anticipating events and measures are taken to secure the borders. The Sudanese Security and Defence Council decided to deploy SAF and RSF at the border with Chad to ensure safety and security. The troops are expected to arrive on 26 April in El Geneina to close the border. Also, the Sudan/Chad joint forces are present at the border.

The assistant COR Commissioner stated that no influx of refugees from Chad has been recorded since the recent political developments in Chad. UNHCR conducted border monitoring 25 April also confirmed that no refugees have crossed. The mission observed markets activities between the two countries continuing, individuals crossing without hurdle to conduct business.

The IOM DTM EET continued to track displacement of individuals in El Geneina locality. Since the last update (16 April 2021), 11% increase (equal to 15,870 individuals) was recorded due to new households arriving from Moli and Kogar village, Um Dowin, Al Bohira, Abuzar camp and Al Jabal area.

Protection situation

UN agencies and NGO representatives met with the Wali on 22 April. The Wali briefed on the security situation and continued to request support for the IDPs to return back to their areas to avoid health hazards that could result from congestion and rains that are due, to provide services in areas of returns. He stated that going to take necessary measures for security of civilians, humanitarian workers as reinforcement is expected from other states.

On 21st April, UNHCR, with its partners World Relief (WR) and Child Development Foundation (CDF) conducted protection monitoring to Madrasa Ismaeil Elkhasa, a private school temporarily hosting 144 displaced households (850 individuals) from Al Jabal neighbourhood and others areas outside Geneina (Moli, Ardeiba, Goker, Atia, Habila Kanari, Kadaldol and Godata). Protection issues raised by the IDPs during the focus group discussion include lack of freedom of movement as they do not feel safe going out the gathering point; cases of sexual harassment reported by women when they returned to collect their belongings; lack of safety and security due to propaganda of a forthcoming attack creating fear in the community. The immediate needs in the gathering site include food, water, hygiene and sanitation, healthcare and NFIs. On 25th April, the community leaders from the site met with the head of UNHCR Office to discuss the protection concerns listed above.

Key figures

164,895 Internally Displaced in West Darfur since the outbreak of violence on 16 January 2021 (IOM DTM EET #14) 55,000+ Newly displaced in West Darfur since the outbreak of violence on 4 April 2021 (IOM DTM EET #14), 97 Gathering sites in El Geneina town (including 13 new ones), 51 Gathering sites assessed by interagency mission, 364 Individuals died in the clashes since January 2021, 703 Individuals injured in the clashes since January 2021

Protection monitoring findings:

Most of the displaced from Al Jabal neighbourhood had their houses and belongings burnt or destroyed. Most of them came to live in the area after having fled their villages in 2003 and the continuous displacement and insecurity have heavily affected their living conditions. UNHCR is planning an assessment mission to Al Jabal area on the 27th April to better understand the situation.

On 25th April, Protection Sector and partners World Relief (WR) and Child Development Foundation (CDF) conducted protection monitoring to Dr. Omer Building (a private house), Zeanib Tebin school, Resistance Committee Center and Ministry of Agriculture gathering sites hosting 1,467 displaced households (8,657 individuals) from different blocks of Al Jabal neighbourhood (Abuzar and Keinding 1 & 2). Protection issues raised by the IDPs during the focus group discussion include lack of access to basic services such as food, water and NFIs, and risk of eviction from the site, namely from Dr Omer building where the owner want to have the place cleared. Moreover, the displaced highlighted the limited freedom of movement as they do not feel safe going out the gathering point; cases of sexual harassment reported by women when they returned to collect their property; lack of safety and security due to propaganda of a forthcoming attack creating fear in the community.

Remote protection monitoring for localities outside El Geneina was conducted. According to key informants, after the incidents in El Geneina, on 5th April 2021 nomads attacked Kodomi village (3 Km from Moli) burning farms and crops and looting property. Other eight villages (Ardiba, Hashaba, Kukta, Kolmini, Enjelta, Hila Zaghawa, Ber Tanjo and Ghalnghashi) were burnt down, although six of them were already empty since the incidents of January 2021. As a result, around 150 households were displaced from Ber Tanjo to Moli and other 100 households from Hashaba to Moli (both secondary displacement). After the attacks, RSF were withdrawn from the area and now only six policemen are present. Security incidents such as harassment and looting are still reported.

Please find below update on the situation and developments in West Darfur:

The security situation in Geneina is gradually improving. Security checkpoints outside the town have been operational. City Water supplies and electricity are back in most of the area. The UN Area Security Management Team recommended resumption of work from offices and phase approach on return of relocated staff to scale up humanitarian response.

While the HAC highlighted the urgency of the humanitarian intervention, humanitarian actors reiterated that there is a need for support from the government side to allow humanitarian partners and other entities to resume work in secured environment. The HAC shared the list of 57 additional to 87 already existing gathering points.

After the visits of General Burhan, Chairman of the Sovereignty Council of Sudan to El Geneina, part of the delegation remained on the ground to develop a new security plan for the West Darfur State with a focus on security and military, judiciary, humanitarian and social aspects. Before his departure General Burhan, the Minister of Interior, and the Deputy Wali of West Darfur held a meeting with Masalit community leaders presided by Sultan Taj Eldeen to discuss some decisions formulated during the high-level delegation's visit. Sultan Taj Eldeen declared his community's readiness to support all initiatives aimed at

restoring peace and establishment of rule of law including disarmament. The Sultan also called for urgent humanitarian intervention for the affected population.

Agencies and organizations that have presence and operating in El Geneina include UNHCR, UNDP, IOM, UNICEF, WFP, MSF, OCHA, UNFPA, IAS, WHO, SCI, WR, SRCS, TGH, CWW, Concern Worldwide, CRS, CDF and ADRA.

Please find below a summary of the latest developments and situation in West Darfur:

The security situation in Geneina town is improving but remains extremely unpredictable. Main markets have begun to open and supplies of water, fuel and food improved. Electricity has not yet been re-established in the entire town but reportedly it is gradually returning. Commercial flights resumed on 12th April. According to local sources, looting is still ongoing in Al Jabal area (blocks 5 - 7) including the property of one of the INGOs and some locations outside El Geneina.

On 10 April representatives of UN agencies and INGOs met with the Federal Minister of labor and Social Development (MoLSD), its Undersecretary, HAC Commissioner General and PoC/Gender focal point for the ministry and other officials of the ministry to discuss the situation and protection of civilians in West Darfur.

From his side, the Minister of LSD mentioned that the federal authorities discussed the situation in El Geneina on 9 April. He added that separately, the Higher Security Committee, led by the Prime Minister, also discussed the situation in El Geneina. The humanitarian situation in El Geneina is getting critical, with 132 deaths and 209 injured were reported. UNAMID supported the evacuation of the injured. In terms of affected people, the minister noted that 95,000 households have been displaced in El Geneina town, and additional 4,000 households displaced outside of the town (a total of 720,000 people). More people are expected to be displaced.

In this meeting and on behalf of DSRSG/RC/HC, Mr Axel Bisschop, UNHCR representative stated that 1) safety and security of aid workers need to be ensured by the government and only then, can humanitarian operations continue, 2) needs assessment and verification exercise need to be done as soon as possible, and 3) safe and secured access to the affected communities needs to be ensured. Some non-essential staff members have temporarily relocated to Zalingei; however, many staff members remain in El Geneina to deliver assistance once the situation improves. The safety of the road between Al Geneina and Zalingei also needs to be ensured. UNHCR Chad reported that 1,800 people have fled to Chad. Furthermore, representatives of UN agencies and NGOs expressed their readiness to respond to humanitarian needs once the safety and security of aid workers and access to the affected communities are ensured. They mentioned that in the meantime staff will be deployed to Zalingei ready to move in as the situation allows. WFP noted that it has sufficient food stocks and an enabling environment is needed to deliver assistance. On UNHAS operation, the safety of the road between the airport and El Geneina town mentioned essential to resume the flights. WHO noted they delivered two surgical kits (for 200 people) and 200 IV fluids. UNFPA noted that it has stocks of dignity kits in El Geneina waiting for distribution.

HAC commissioner noted that the government needs to have a structured policy on the protection of civilians and need to take a new approach to move out of the vicious cycle. He asked for the UN's financial support for it. The PoC/Gender focal point noted that the national PoC plan needs to be implemented, and the root causes, including underdevelopment, need to be addressed.

On 11 April, Sudan Security and Defence Council met to discuss the security situation in the country and the latest developments in Darfur. It was decided to form a joint peacekeeping force capable for rapid intervention and deployment in areas of potential conflict and tension to maintain security. A decision was also made to activate procedures for collecting weapons and control borders to prevent flow of weapons. In the same context, on 12 April the Sovereign Council made a separate statement confirming the start of the formation of the joint security forces. The statement added that the government is now taking steps to bring all those involved in the current violence in El Geneina to justice.

On 13 April, the President of the Sovereignty Council, Lieutenant General Abdel Fattah Al- Burhan traveled to El Geneina. He is accompanied by a high-ranking delegation that included the Minister of Interior, Director of the General Intelligence Service and the Chief of Staff, Director of Military Intelligence and General Coordinator of Rapid Support Forces. The delegation was received by Mr. Mohamed Zakaria Mohamed, the acting governor of West Darfur and other state officials, including military and police commanders. The visit aims to get acquainted with the overall security and humanitarian situation in the state, namely considering the recent events occurred in El Geneina and their repercussions on the security and humanitarian situation. No information has so far been shared on the meetings and activities of the delegation.

Humanitarian actors resumed sector meetings and while waiting for the security situation to allow need assessments on the ground. Some NGOs informed that they have started working but at minimal level, assessment on security situation is being planned to inform the return of all agencies. In order to advise on the delivery of humanitarian assistance and protection response under program critically 1 (PC1), on 13 April the UN agencies security staff, led by UNHCR conducted security assessment in El Geneina and outside El Geneina town. HAC and the newly established Service Commission officials have been active in discussing emergency preparedness responses with the UN and aid agencies. The Government expressed its readiness to support humanitarians with security escort access and assist affected population inside Geneina. The road from Zalingei to Geneina was said to have been cleared and security checkpoints have been installed. Electricity is expected to be fully re-connected in the coming days.

Please find below the following update on the situation in Darfur:

West Darfur

Overall security situation remains unpredictable. While there is no accurate figures on the number of persons killed, it has been reported that 322 Individuals injured so far. The estimated number of newly displaced households is 95,000, in addition to the 25,000 households displaced last January, making the total number 120,000 households (approx. 720,000 Ind.) Moreover, 1,860 individuals, mainly women, children and elderly reported to have crossed the border into Chad (around Adré town) as of 9th April. Evacuation of the injured to Khartoum begun on

9th April and the government is asking food and accommodation support for patients and those who are accompanying them.

On 10 April a meeting was organized by OCHA Khartoum, attended by West Darfur HAC, members of Service Commission and City Water (newly established), UNHCR, WFP, WHO, MSF and Concern Worldwide. In order to assess the situation and decide on humanitarian assistance it was agreed to call the meeting every day. In this meeting HAC reported that situation started to improve, markets are gradually opening, and security forces are deployed in some parts of the town. However, access to basic services, namely water remains a challenge.

The HAC agreed to present a list of affected sites, with priority areas and needs to enable assessments when security situation allows. It was also agreed to engage with the local authorities for facilitation of humanitarian access within and outside El Geneina town. In the meeting, the humanitarians referred to security, lack of information and assessment activities are the prerequisite for their intervention.

North Darfur:

- UNAMID has handed over its Sortoni team site to the Government of Sudan on 7 April. The Wali, other North Darfur State officials and Al Sadig Al Fuka attended the handover ceremony. During the handover, the Wali stated that the team site will be used as school, health clinic and office for native administration. Offers to accommodate aid workers on mission inside the team site were also made.

- On 9 April, in Khara Zawya area (about 8 kms west of Kebkabiya town), a group of armed Arabs attacked some IDPs in their farms. As a result, 4 IDPs were killed and 4 others injured. The injured referred to Saraf Umra hospital. (Source: CBPN)

South Darfur:

Early morning of 11 April a huge fire outbreak reported in Babanosa area of Gereida locality, affecting seven IDP camps, causing loss of life of two male IDPs and destruction of property (estimated 2,000 houses). The assessment of the impact of the fire outbreak is still ongoing at the field level. The affected families are currently in open spaces and in need of food, NFIs and shelter assistance.

Please find below link for the SRSB statement made in relation to the situation in West Darfur:

<https://sudan.un.org/en/124104-statement-un-special-representative-secretary-general-sudan-outbreak-violence-el-geneina>

In addition, please find below update on the overall situation in West Darfur: In a press conference today, the Governor of West Darfur stated that a total of 132 persons killed, and 155 persons injured as a result of ongoing violence in El Geneina. Allegedly, armed Arabs are mobilizing themselves in villages close to Krinding camps and some other locations outside El Geneina town in order to re-attack Abuzar, Hujaj, Al-Qaba and Al-Geneina Market. On the other side, Masalit tribe members mobilizing and equipping their men with weapons.

The situation outside El Geneina, Masteri town and Nyoro village in Beida locality, Gokar and Moli villages in El Geneina locality remain worrisome for their residents in case of further escalation of the violence.

The violence has unfortunately also targeted women, children, people with disabilities and elderly and resulted in internal and external displacement of thousands of people.

Main concerns include:

Protection of civilians and aid workers.

Lack of water, electricity, difficulties in accessing health services and markets.

Congestion in places of displacement particularly in Al-Madaris, Alqadeema and Al Tejaria school gathering points and many private houses and compounds. Some IDPs are also reported to be staying in open areas.

Please find below on the subject reported by different sources:

West Darfur:

On the evening of 3 April, unknown men shot at Masalit tribesmen who were towing their car into Al Geneina Town. Two people were killed and two were injured. Tensions between the Masalit and Arab tribes increased and both groups are mobilizing forces. Since 4 April, gunfire has been reported in Al Jabal and Al Jamarik neighbourhoods. The Government's Humanitarian Aid Commission reports that 40 people have been killed and 58 injured, while the actual numbers might be bigger. Since the shooting began, local markets have closed, UN staff have been instructed to stay at home and humanitarian flights have been cancelled. According to partners on the ground, all roads around the southern part of Al Geneina are blocked and all humanitarian activities have been suspended. IDPs displaced recently from Krinding camp to Abuzar, Al Gama (previous El Geneina university compound) and some other temporary gathering points like to those from Al Jabal and Al Jamarik areas have fled and taking refuge in nearby mosques and other premises including private houses.

According to the media, the Federal Security and Defense Council in Khartoum had a meeting on 5 April and made following decisions:

Declare the state of emergency for west Darfur and authorizes government security forces to stop the violence.

Formation of a high committee with full delegated authority from the council to deal with the breaches to the terms of Juba Peace Agreement.

Government military and security troops are the only entities authorized to use military force in dealing with all acts of lawlessness and they will continue with campaigns to forcefully confiscate illegally possessed weapons.

North Darfur:

Between 31 March and 2 April 2021, violent clashes erupted in Al Serief town, North Darfur. Field teams indicate that multiple individuals have been killed and injured, and around ten villages surrounding Al Serief have been looted and burnt down. As a result, large numbers of people have been displaced to Kebkabiya and its surrounding areas. Displacement figures are yet to be confirmed due to limited phone network. Armed forces have been deployed to contain the situation, which remains tense and unpredictable.

According to local sources, Borgo village in Tawila locality, close to East Jabal Mara locality was attacked by SLA/AW armed men on midnight 3rd April. Borgo, located in 17 km east of Sortony IDP gathering site is known as the military base of ALfuka's forces, who defected from SAL/AW in 2016. Reportedly, as a result of attack, 8 persons killed and 11 injured including Alfuka's wife. Sources did not report any major displacement but the deployment of government security forces are to the area.

In his meeting with the Prime Minister and discussions with other Sudanese officials yesterday and today, the SRSB raised concerns over the failure of the government to provide protection to civilians and called for prompt actions to bring calm to El-Geneina and other parts of Darfur where similar violence has been reported.

The Protection Sector is closely monitoring the situation and keeping the SRSB and other senior UN officials for possible intervention at the higher level.