Darfur and Kordofan Situation

15 -31 January 2026

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

- The protection environment in the Darfur and Kordofan States is precarious with armed clashes, air and drone strikes, and heightened insecurity persisting.
- Overall access constraints because of ongoing hostilities, insecurity and bureaucratic delays are hampering the delivery of humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected people in the region.
- In North Darfur, the security situation in parts of the Dar Zaghawa area, including Tine locality, remains precarious following a series of armed attacks that have forced civilians to flee their homes and damaged critical infrastructure.
- Despite reports that the sieges in Kadugli and Dilling ended in the first week of February, the security situation in North and South Kordofan is still unstable with regular reports of fighting in various locations in the states. As a result, civilians face protection risks including loss of life and injury, family separation, heightened food insecurity, and an increased risk of conflict-related sexual violence.
- On 6 February, a WFP convoy traveling from Kosti, White Nile State to deliver food assistance to displaced families near El Obeid, North Kordofan was attacked resulting in several casualties. Targeting humanitarian convoys in violation of International Humanitarian Law poses risks to civilians and humanitarian workers, critically limits humanitarian access and disrupts the delivery of life-saving assistance to those most in need.
- Priority needs for displaced people and hosting communities in affected areas range from food to access to water and sanitation facilities, health care services, and mental health and psychosocial support, all of which increase protection risks, particularly for women, children, and persons with disabilities. In the Kordofan region, men and boys additionally face protection risks such as restricted freedom of movement, arrest or detention, forced recruitment, and family separation.

Population Movements

- According to IOM DTM, an estimated 88,300 people were displaced from South and North Kordofan between 25 October 2025 and 15 January 2026. These displaced people were subsequently recorded across 13 states, including the Kordofans, Northern, White Nile, Blue Nile, and Khartoum States, with displacement driven by increased insecurity and clashes between parties to the conflict.
- In North Darfur State, according to the IOM DTM Focused Flash Update on El Fasher between 26 October 2025 and 13 January 2026, an estimated 127,160 people (approx.. 28,044 households) were displaced from El Fasher locality and surrounding villages. The majority of those displaced remained within North Darfur State, particularly in locations around El Fasher locality.
- In White Nile State, some 725 households (approx 3,650 people) arrived between end of January and beginning of February. Since October 2025, 4,218 households (approx. 21,200 people) have arrived in the state, with the majority settling at the Goz Al-Salam IDP site in Kosti. The state continues to receive newly displaced people most of whom are seeking refuge in Kosti, Rabak, and Ad Dweim localities.

- In Northern State, according to the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) the Al Afadh IDP gathering site has reached full capacity preventing newly arriving displaced people from accessing it. As a result, some 7,000 households are residing in 19 other smaller gathering sites in Ad Dabbah locality. Additionally, HAC reports that approximately 300 households (1,300 people) arrived in January from West Kordofan, specifically from Barah, An Nuhud, and Babanusa localities.
- According to humanitarian partners, approximately 77 households (around 335 individuals) arrived in Tawila in the first weeks of February from Garni and Donkey Shatta, Dar Es Salam, and other areas in El Fasher locality as well as from Khazan Jadeed locality North Darfur and East Darfur State respectively. UNHCR interviewed newly arrived families who cited insecurity linked to the presence of armed actors, lack of basic services, looting, and poor harvests as key drivers of their displacement.

The Goz Al-Salam IDP site in Kosti, White Nile State continues to receive forcibly displaced people from South and West Kordofan States. White Nile State now hosts over 21,000 internally displaced people. © UNHCR / A. Vadala.

UNHCR Response

Darfur States

- UNHCR and its partners conducted remote and in-person protection monitoring in displacement locations and are working closely with community-based protection networks to gather information on displacement and protection concerns to inform advocacy and response planning.
- Some 440 internally displaced households in Golo, Central Darfur State received emergency shelter assistance from UNHCR's partner addressing urgent shelter needs people displaced from El Fasher since October 2025.
- UNHCR, as Protection Cluster lead, convened partners in Tawila who raised concerns about increasing gender-based violence and child protection risks within IDP sites among displaced communities. UNHCR's partner in Tawila, North Darfur State conducted awareness-raising sessions on sexual and gender-based violence at the Rwanda multi-purpose community centre (MPCC) and at protection desks reaching more than 300 IDPs. In addition, more than 50 women and girls including

survivors of sexual violence received psychosocial support at the protection desks in Tawila, addressing trauma and mental health counselling.

- UNHCR's partner identified three separated children among newly arrived IDPs in Tawila and referred them for family tracing. At the Rwanda MPCC recreational activities reached 17 children and four children received psychosocial support.
- The Rwanda MPCC in Tawila continued to serve as a centre for partners to provide essential services to displaced families. ALIMA provided medical treatment, nutrition services, and vaccinations to 388 people, including newly arrived IDPs from El Fasher, contributing to improved access to primary healthcare for displaced families.
- Key informant interviews undertaken by UNHCR and its partners highlighted reports of a high number of house occupations and restrictions on civilian movement in El Fasher. This is preventing displaced families from accessing or checking on their properties and will likely generate Housing, Land and Property concerns and/or hinder potential returns.

UNHCR conducted protection assessments in Golo,Jebel Marrah, Central Darfur State. Provision of shelter is an urgent priority for many displaced affected families. © UNHCR/SORR

Kordofan States

- UNHCR's partner distributed 500 non-food items kits containing blankets, mosquito nets, cooking utensils, jerry cans and solar lamps to internally displaced families in Ar Rahad, North Kordofan State.

Northern State

- UNHCR protection teams provided counselling and made referrals for over 40 vulnerable people during the reporting period at Al Afadh gathering site. This number includes about 20 people who were referred to specialised health services provided by partners. Protection desks supported survivors of gender-based violence, people with urgent medical conditions, and households lacking adequate shelter. Demand for psychosocial support continues to exceed the available capacity due to high levels of trauma among forcibly displaced people.
- UNHCR delivered protection sessions for members of the newly established Community Based Protection Network (CBPN) at Al Afadh gathering site covering roles and responsibilities, GBV principles, referral pathways, and PSEA. UNHCR encourages inclusive community representation in these networks including that of men and people with disabilities.
- UNHCR and OCHA conducted a joint assessment at Al Afadh and other gathering sites and initiated follow-up actions with HAC and partners to address the urgent gaps affecting newly arrived families. UNHCR is advocating for expedited land allocation, service access, and partner engagement particularly for the most vulnerable like new mothers, people with serious medical conditions and conflict-related disabilities.
- During a focus group discussion at the CDF Women Centre in Al Afadh UNHCR identified and referred approximately 90 women who experienced sexual violence and require specialised support to available health and GBV partners for follow-up assistance.
- UNHCR raised critical WASH-related protection risks with HAC and relevant partners after identifying contamination hazards caused by unsafe waste disposal near water points and communal kitchens, as well as widespread open defecation. UNHCR continues to advocate with partners to mobilise resources to reduce health and protection risks for displaced families.

Blue Nile State

- According to HAC, some 114 new internally displaced people from South Kordofan arrived in the last week of January and are currently accommodated at Al-Karama 1 gathering site.

Coordination

- UNHCR is coordinating the humanitarian protection response in the Darfur and the Kordofan region. During the recent Protection Cluster meeting covering the Kordofan area UNHCR raised concerns about food shortages, limited access to basic services, and heightened insecurity in Babanusa, where people have started to spontaneously return. To address identified information gaps and strengthen analysis, UNHCR is supporting partners in North and South Kordofan and West Darfur States in the ongoing rollout of the Cluster-endorsed Key Informant Interview (KII) tools. The rollout is improving the consistency and quality of protection information enabling more informed and timely response planning.
- UNHCR is working with partners to strengthen coordination mechanisms on site management in the Darfur and Kordofan States by supporting partners to develop site profiles which capture needs, available services, and existing gaps, enabling a more targeted and efficient response. UNHCR is also coordinating the shelter and NFI response to underserved communities in Darfur and the Kordofan States.

Financial Information

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Flash Updates: Flash Update #1 (3 November); Flash Update #2 (17 November); Flash Update #3 (1 December) Flash Update #4 (11 December); and Flash Update #5 (15 January)