

Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Agency (SRRA)

Humanitarian and human rights situation of the IDPs and war affected civilians in the SPLM/A-North controlled area of South Kordofan and Blue Nile States

Second issue, six monthly report

January - June 2013

Introduction

South Kordofan (SK) and Blue Nile (BN) states, on the border between Sudan and South Sudan, occupy an area of approximately 150,000 Ksq and they are inhabited by over 3 million people, largely of indigenous and nomadic descent. The two states have rich, vast and fertile agricultural land. They are also major providers of oil and power to the whole country.

The two states were part and parcel of the 22 year conflict between the Government of Sudan (GoS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) that ended in 2005 with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The root causes of that conflict were a conflict of identities, political marginalization and misrepresentation, economic marginalization, lack of development, cultural marginalization, policies of assimilation, religious discrimination and land grabbing.

The CPA provided a framework for a comprehensive and sustainable peace in Sudan. Out of the six protocols signed, the Agreement provided a special protocol for South Kordofan and Blue Nile states that was considered as a model for resolving conflicts between the centre and the periphery. The two states were the smaller representation of Sudan as a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi religious nation. The protocol provided arrangements for power sharing, wealth sharing, social and cultural rights and security arrangements. It also stipulated a Popular Consultation process to ascertain the opinions of the people of the two states on the CPA's political, administrative, constitutional, economic and security arrangements of their protocols.

The implementation of the provisions of the protocols was meant to be done by the Parties in good faith in accordance to internationally accepted standards and free and fair elections. However the national government and states governments failed to implement the protocols. That resulted in the current conflict ongoing in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile between the Government of Sudan and the SPLM/A-North.

The conflict that started in SK on June 5th 2011 and in BN on September 2nd 2011 between the Government of Sudan (GoS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army-North

(SPLM/A-N) was triggered by two main factors: first of all the decision of GoS/SAF that all SPLA troops were to move to South Sudan or be disarmed by the end of May 2011; and second of all the disputed results of the state elections in South Kordofan that were manipulated to favor the NCP's candidate for state governorship, in addition to the manipulation of the popular consultation process in Blue Nile by the NCP. The SPLM-N was banned as a political party and it reconstituted itself as the SPLM/A-N.

In the last two years of conflict, as a result of ground fighting and SAF aerial bombardments, hundreds of thousands of civilians from the two areas have been internally displaced, living without food, medical supplies and shelter. Many more have crossed and taken refuge in South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia.

It is against this background that the Sudan relief and rehabilitation agency (SRRA) was established in June 2011 as the humanitarian wing of the SPLM-N, to lead all humanitarian interventions in SPLM/A-N controlled areas in Sudan and to address the emerging humanitarian and human rights situation timely and effectively. The objective of the agency is moreover to sensitize and stimulate the awareness of the international community to the plight of the war affected IDPs and refugees in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states and to mobilize material resources to support them. The SRRA works to ensure that the humanitarian access to the two areas is granted by the Government of Sudan. The overall objective of SRRA is ultimately to ensure the humanitarian assistance to alleviate the suffering of the vulnerable Sudanese citizens trapped in the conflict areas.

This second SRRA six monthly report covers the period of January - June 2013. It is intended to shed light over the conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States between the SPLM/A-N and the Government of Sudan and its humanitarian and human rights consequences. It brings regular and detailed information on the effect of the conflict for the IDPs and vulnerable citizens in the two areas. This report is based on assessments and observations collected from refugees and IDPs in the states. Notwithstanding the obvious difficulties involved in obtaining information from the conflict zones, the various teams of the SRRA monitors, including local NGOs who were trained and deployed throughout the controlled areas by SPLM-N, are working hard to bring accurate data and make visible the scale of atrocities and the suffering that civilians in SK and BN are facing. A lot of effort on capacity building is still needed in order to receive regular, efficient and more professional reports.

The security and human rights situation in the Two Areas

The conflict in South Kordofan and Blue Nile State became more intense in the last six months. Deliberate military attacks against the civilian populations have increased, including indiscriminate aerial bombardment of civilian targets by the Sudanese air force (SAF) and ground attacks by the regular army and the government-sponsored militia groups, the Popular Defense Forces (PDF) in typical scorched-earth military tactics. SAF largely depends on the PDF, an essentially rag-tag militia group composed of fanatic government followers and supported by unemployed youngsters, senior school and university students. Their main

objective is to loot properties and livestock and the destruction of villages. The deployment of such a large number of undisciplined armed militia groups in addition to the regular security forces continues to be a serious threat to the civilian population.

The situation in the Nuba Mountains deteriorated in the recent months due to the ongoing massive military operations. Fighting between SAF and the SPLM/A-N escalated during January-June 2013 since the SPLA-N took more initiative. On 15 April 2013 the SPLA/N attacked and captured Dandor, east of Kadugli; in a retaliatory attack SAF intensified aerial bombing in the location using Antinov planes, Mig fighters and gunships forcing the SPLA/N forces to withdraw. The town was recaptured by the joint Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) forces. On 26-27 April 2013 SRF forces of SPLA/N, JEM and SLA attacked and captured Abukarshola in the Eastern Nuba Mountains and proceeded and captured Umrowaba in Northern Kordofan state. As a result of the fighting 12 SAF soldiers were killed and an estimated 6,000 people were displaced to the southern areas of Rashad and Um Dorain counties. A considerably larger number of IDPs moved to northern SAF-held areas. Throughout the fighting aerial bombing was intensified.



Families who have fled to caves in the Nuba Mountains

People in the Nuba Mountains have been victims of the continuous aerial bombardment from SAF planes since the beginning of the conflict, provoking the disruption of their life style, leaving them in fear and hiding in the hills. In particular, SAF conducted 208 air strikes during January-June 2013 using high altitude Antinov planes and jet fighters. 20 people were killed, mainly women and children, and around 59 innocent civilians were injured. Most of the areal strikes focused on the main towns of Umdoren , Buram, Haiban, Rashad, Talodi ,Delami, Dilling and Lagawa counties. The attacks destroyed schools, markets, mosques, churches and civilian houses. Large numbers of civilians, including women and children, are thus deliberately deprived of life-saving daily necessities such as food, medicine and shelter.

GoS continues to deny independent international humanitarian organizations and United Nations relief agencies access to the war-affected areas. As such thousands of IDPs and war-affected communities live in precarious humanitarian conditions and their situation could deteriorate further in the absence of any external assistance, especially food, medicine and shelter.



Displaced civilians from their village by Aerial bombing

Furthermore, unknown number of perceived political opponents, especially intellectuals, human rights and pro-democracy activists from the Nuba Mountains are held in government custody for prolonged periods and without judicial preview. The security forces in particular target individuals suspected of being members or sympathizers of the SPLM-N. Abductions and house to house searches on ethnic and political basis had been conducted in several villages and arbitrary arrests and detentions of SPLM-N members are repeatedly conducted in South Kordofan. Ill-treatment, torture, inhumane and degrading punishment of political detainees are reportedly widespread in the security facilities that are operational in the major towns. Many cases of extra-judicial killings and enforced disappearances of ethnic Nuba men and women are recorded in the major towns of SK such as Kadugli, Dilling, Abu Gibeha, Taludi and Rashad. Mass graves have been identified inside Kadugli. To date the Sudanese security forces have arrested and have not released 18 Nuba women in Elobeid prisons and around 119 men are kept in the various prisons of the country accused by the security authorities to be collaborators of the SPLM-N.

In Blue Nile state, like in SK, military confrontations between SPLA/N and SAF intensified in the last semester. On January 1st 2013 President Omer Al- Bashier visited Damazin, the capital of the state, for the launching of the completion of the Rosairis dam heightening. On his speech

to the public gathering he called for SAF and the allied militias to begin a military campaign to capture rebels' territories ending in Yabus, the stronghold of SPLM/A-N in the southern part of the state. As a result, from the second week of January simultaneous shelling was launched on the towns of Ora, Baldogo, Wadaka, Mayak and Surkum. SAF troops and the allied militias moved towards the south of Kurmuk on three directions accompanied with heavy artillery machine guns, tanks, gunships and Antonov airplanes for the biggest attack since the war outbreak in September 2011.

On 12 January a ground fighting took place in Mofu area, 20 km west of Kurmuk, but the several attempts of SAF to capture the area were contained by the SPLA-N troops that advanced up to Kurmuk airstrip, 7 km away from the town. On 23 January SPLA-N repulsed another attempt of SAF to move into the areas of Ora, Surkum and Ulu. The parties to the conflict have since then maintained their positions. The humanitarian effects on the population of the Government campaign have been devastating.

Human rights violations of government allied militias have also been reported. On 19 January 2013, an Arab militia under the control of Ahmed Abass, the Governor of Sinar State, killed Abdulrasul Adam Bali in Roro town in Tadamon County south west of Damazine. The militia, supported by a southern rebellion group under Kamal Loma and James Bogo, has actively participated in the attacks and the killing of SPLM-N members in the locality.

On 22 February 2013, 22 members of Ismail Kora's militia - a Fellata group based in Damazin and armed by SAF, with positions around Mosfa and Sinja Nabag villages, west of Baw locality famous for its indiscriminate raping and looting of properties – raped 10 women and killed 9 of them in Baw locality. Their names are Mam, Jamaaie, YabitJamil, Agar Hamid, Hawa Hamid, MaliesKaklo, SomialTelian, AminaTelian, NayielaSabit, GienaJakim and Haima Omar). All the victims are from the Ingessana tribe, confirming a path of ethnic violence from the side of the Government evident from the beginning of the conflict.

Aerial bombardment on non-military targets has been continuous and with disastrous effects, both humanitarian and long term over the lives of the civilians. The bombardments targeted mostly the villages of Gesis, Marmaton, Mayak, Mofu, Samari in Wadaka payam, Bei, Panamayo, Borfa, Aljundi, Chali in Chali Payam and Moguf, Ora, Abengaro, Belatoma Udoc, Yabus Alkobori in Yabus payam. On the first week of January 2013 SAF launched a massive military operation with the support of allied militias targeting Ora, Baldogo, Wadaka, Mayak and Surkum starting with heavy artillery shelling and aerial bombardments by Antonov air planes, gunships and jet fighters. On 12 January ground fighting erupted in Mofu, 20 km west of Kurmuk, whereby SAF overrun the town temporarily but the government forces retreated under pressure of the SPLA/N forces. On 23 January SPLA/N contained another attempt of SAF to capture the areas of Ora, Surkum and Ulu. On 24 April 2013 SAF attacked Tagga in Ingassana Hills and Khor Adar, but they were blocked by the SPLA/N forces. During the fighting Wadaka on 18 and 19 April 2013, 11 bombs were dropped resulting in further internal displacements southwards to Gufa in South Sudan.



A household burnt down by aerial bombing in Wadaqa



Yabus market shop destroyed by the bombs

The aerial bombardments were tracked by SRRA agents and reported in the tables below. The data cannot be considered exhaustive given the difficult task of collecting regular information on the ground. However there are visible patterns such as the intensification of the bombing in relation to ground attacks from SAF and around farming areas, with major long term effects on the life style of the people. The number of people killed by the bombing remains low given that the population developed good coping mechanism in the past year.

Southern Kordofan aerial bombardments January – June 2013

Date	Perpetrator	Location County/village	Method	No. of bombs/Shells		Victims/Causalities		
				Bombs	Shells	Killed	Injured	Damaged
3/1/2013	SAF	Buram/Buram town	Antinov	10	0	0	0	Houses destroyed
12/1/2013	SAF	Heiban/Dabi	Antinov	8	0	1	0	0
12-13/1/2013	SAF	Buram/Teis	Antinov	5	0	0	4	Houses destroyed
13/1/2013	SAF	Umdorein/Alnugra	Antinov	15	0	0	15	Cows killed
15/1/2013	SAF	Burma/Buram town	Antinov	7	0	0	0	Cows killed
16/1/2013	SAF	Umdorein/Achron	Antinov	2	0	0	0	Houses destroyed
16-17/1/2013	SAF	Umdorein/umdomrein town	Antinov	5	0	0	0	Houses burnt
17/2/2013	SAF	Heiban/heiban town	Antinov	8	0	3	3	0
3/3/2013	SAF	Buram/Buram town	Antinov	8	0	0	0	0
28/3/2013	SAF	Delami/umheitan	Antinov	5	0	2	13	0
31/3/2013	SAF	Buram/toroje	Antinov	1	0	1	0	0
1/4/2013	SAF	Buram/Alganaya	Antinov	2	0	0	0	0
1/4/2013	SAF	Buram/Fama	Antinov	2	0	0	0	0
1/4/2013	SAF	Buram/Angolo	Antinov	1	0	0	0	0
1/4/2013	SAF	Buram/Aldar	Antinov	1	0	0	0	0
2/4/2013	SAF	Buram/toroje	Antinov	5	0	0	0	0
2/4/2013	SAF	Kadugli/togodo	Antinov	4	0	1	0	0
18/4/2013	SAF	Umdorein /dabkar	Antinov	5	0	0	0	0
19/4/2013	SAF	Buram/Aldar	Antinov	4	0	0	0	0
25/4/2013	SAF	Buram/Teis	Antinov	4	0	0	0	0
25/4/2013	SAF	Buram/Buram	MiG	0	2	0	0	0
2/5/2013	SAF	Heiban/kauda	Antinov	1	0	0	1	0
13/5/2013	SAF	Rashad/karshola	Antinov	12	0	3	7	0

15/5/2013	SAF	Heiban/kauda	Antinov	12	0	0	1	0
15/5/2013	SAF	Umdorein/umsirdiba	Antinov	4	0	1	0	0
15/5/2013	SAF	Buram/tagodo	Antinov	5	0	0	0	25 cows killed
15/5/2013	SAF	Heiban/kauda	Jet fighter	0	4	0	2	0
17/5/2013	SAF	Buram/Buram	Antinov	5	0	0	0	0
18/5/2013	SAF	Buram/burma	Antinov	5	0	0	0	0
20/5/2013	SAF	Rashad/Alfeid	Antinov	6	0	5	3	0
21/5/2013	SAF	Umdorein/tangal	Jet fighter	2	0	0	0	0
22/5/2013	SAF	Heiban /Kauda	Jet fighter	0	2	1	0	0
24/5/2013	SAF	Heiban/kauda	Antinov	13	0	1	7	0
6/6/2013	SAF	Burma/teis	Antinov	3	0	0	0	0
7/6/2013	SAF	Delami/Abri	Jet fighter	0	4	0	3	0
9/6/2013	SAF	Heiban/Kauda	Jet fighter	8	0	0	0	0
16/6/2013	SAF	Umdorein/umdoerein	Antinov	3	0	0	0	0
17/6/2013	SAF	Kadugli/atmor-Daldako umsirdiba	Antinov	15	0	0	0	Houses destroyed
18/6/2013	SAF	Kadugli/lima	Antinov	4	0	0	0	Houses destroyed
30/6/2013	SAF	Heiban/kauda	Antinov	4	0	1	0	0
30/6/2013	SAF	Heiban/Heiban	Antinov	4	0	0	0	0
Total				208	12	20	59	

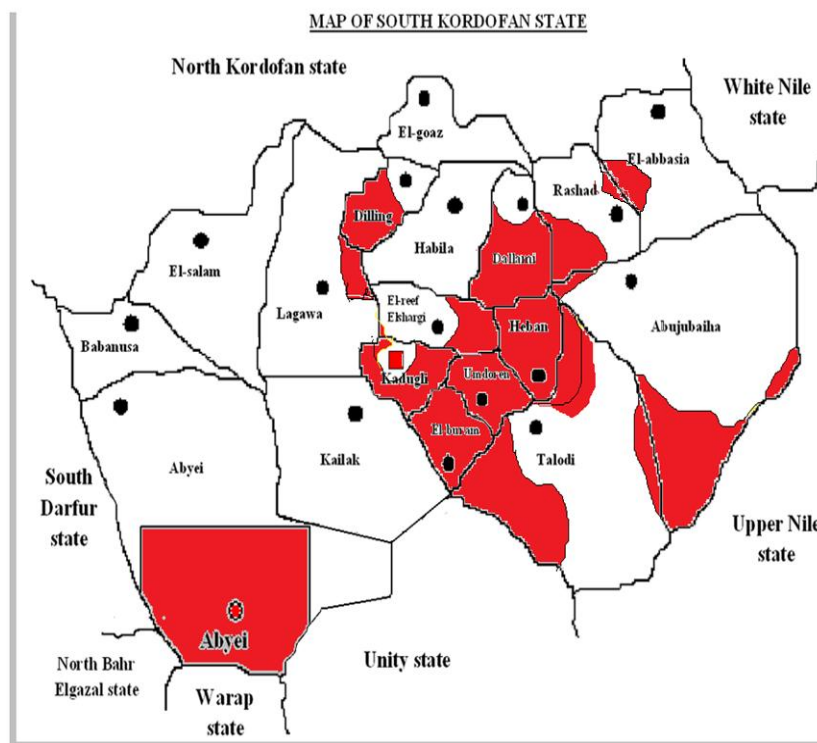
Blue Nile aerial bombardments January – June 2013

Date	perpetrator	Location County/village	Method	Bombs	shells	killed	injured	damaged
2/1/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/Goz Doban Wadaka	Antinov	3	0	0	0	0
2/1/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/Mayak	Antinov	3	0	1	4	10 houses destroyed
2/1/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/Baldogo	Antinov	3	0	28 goats	0	10 houses destroyed
21/1/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/Yabus	Antinov	3	0	2	0	0
23/1/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/Ora	Antinov	3	0	0	0	Farms burnt
23/1/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/Gildang	Antinov	2	0	0	0	0
23/1/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/Khor albodi	Antinov	2	0	0	0	0
4/3/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/yabus	Antinov	8	0	4	0	0
13/3/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/bani mayo	Antinov	3	0	0	0	Houses destroyed
23/3/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/samri	Antinov	4	0	0	0	Houses destroyed
9/4/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/gerdan-ura-shali	Antinov	16	0	4	0	0
18/4/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/Wadaka	Antinov	6	0	0	0	0
19/4/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/Wadaka	Antinov	5	0	0	0	0
19/4/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/jerdan	Antinov	7	0	2	0	0
19/4/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/mufo	Antinov	1	0	1	0	0
19/4/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/mayak	Antinov	1	0	0	0	Houses destroyed
19/4/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/khor hassan	Antinov	4	0	0	0	0
9/5/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/Olu	Antinov	3	0	0	0	0
9/5/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/Ora	Antinov	3	0	0	0	0
9/5/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/Yabus	Antinov	3	0	0	0	0
2/6/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/ulu-ura-balatona	Antinov	16	0	1	3	Houses destroyed
8/6/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/jardan-ulu	Antinov	4	0	0	0	0
24/6/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/Mafu	Antinov	4	0	0	0	0
24/6/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/Mayak	Antinov	4	0	0	0	0
24/6/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/Ora	Antinov	4	0	0	0	0
25/6/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/Samari	Antinov	2	0	0	0	0
25/6/2013	SAF	Kurmuk/Ulu	Antinov	3	0	0	0	0
Total				120		15	7	

The humanitarian consequences of the conflict in the Two Areas

The conflict in SK and BN has provoked in the last two years a growing humanitarian crisis. The laws of war require all parties to the conflict to allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded passage of impartial humanitarian relief for civilians in need, conducted without any adverse distinction. While the Sudanese authorities do have a right to assist its citizens, they must allow access to humanitarian organizations which provide relief on an impartial and non-discriminatory basis if the survival of the population is threatened. Nevertheless, the Government of Sudan is adamantly denying access to aid organizations and as a result there is no assistance to populations affected by conflict in the two states.

Out of an estimated population of 995,200 people in SPLM/A-N controlled areas in South Kordofan, at least 371,157 people are internally displaced because of the conflict. In addition, to date over 73,000 refugees have arrived in Yida and 2,430 in Ajuang across the border in South Sudan. A total of 5,067 are registered with UNHCR as urban refugees in Juba.



Presence of IDPs in the SPLM/N held areas of South Kordofan state, marked in red

The humanitarian conditions of the IDPs continue to deteriorate, with most IDPs currently living in extremely poor conditions, many hiding in caves in the Nuba Mountains without sufficient access to food, water, shelter and medicine. As a result of these living conditions, there are high incidences of diseases such as pneumonia,

diarrhea, skin infections, malaria, and typhoid. The IDPs who moved to host communities are putting enormous strain on already scarce resources, given that farms were heavily bombed. Some households are hosting over 20 IDPs, with little or no shelter, food or water to share. The aerial bombardment has destroyed crops and has killed livestock, goats, donkeys and cows. Traditional coping mechanisms of selling food and other commodities from savings, employment, remittances, sale of animals are not available due to the disruption of markets by the conflict and high prices of food. Food stocks are already low given poor harvests in 2012 and have been further affected by the break down in the community established peace markets locally known as Suk Sumbuk because of SAF's ground attacks. By April, sorghum prices had already risen sharply, from 2 Sudanese Pounds per 3kg of sorghum in a good harvest, to 10 SDG in Heiban county indicating an upshot in the prices.

The growing number of IDPs and the disruption of seasonal cultivation and of markets by the conflict has resulted in a significant deterioration in food security for both IDPs and the host population, with deaths from malnutrition already recorded. Indicative of this, a previous Middle Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) assessment of children under five in Heiban county found Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) rates of 2-9%, and a Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) of 20-27%. Similar rates are being recorded amongst refugees arriving in Yida. There are growing concerns regarding increasing food insecurity and increasing risk of malnutrition as IDPs are eating wild fruits and leaves.

Other basic services such as education, health and water have also been disrupted, partly by aerial bombing and partly by lack of supplies. Most of the schools have closed due to lack of materials and trained teachers. Some health facilities are also not operational due to lack of drugs and health trained cadres. Water in some areas is a vital problem whereby people have to walk in some cases more than five hours to fetch it. Nearly 370 boreholes are broken down and need repair.

The following table and map demonstrate concentration of the IDPs in South Kordofan/Nuba Mountains, based on the most recent SRRA assessment.

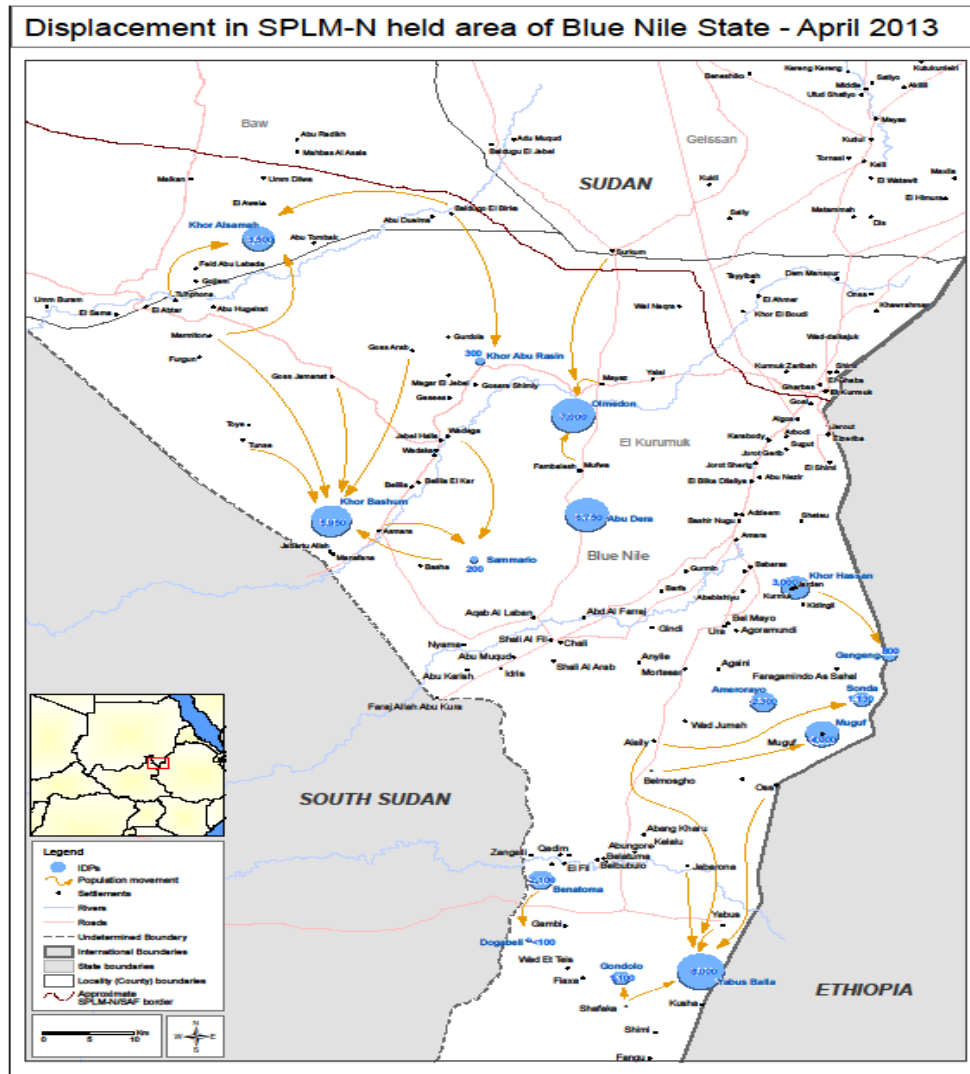
Population and internally displaced persons (IDPS) in South Kordofan state

S/N	County/Locality	Payam/Admin Unit	Subtotal	Total Population	IDPs
1-	Dilling	Almandal Alfarashaya Sallara Julud	21562 21446 32360 56632	132000	64121
2-	Heiban	Alazreg Heiban Kauda Umdurdu Dabi	32016 32370 54839 51055 28720		

				199000	44327
3-	Lagawa	Alshua Alarak Tima/Tulushi	21859 8141 20000	32000	3452
4-	Umdorein	Umsirdiba Umdulu Umdorien Saraf Jamous Kaba	56000 33000 25500 41500 23000	179000	35564
5-	Dellami	Derre Tunguli Umheitan	9000 37000 4000	50000	48557
6-	Habila	Hajar Juad Kurgul	13000 4000	17000	7000
7-	Talodi	Umdeheleib Werni Alliri	11000 25000 14000	50000	6113
8-	Abujubeiha	Fungur Kao nyaro	13000 22000	35000	27321
9-	Rashad	Tome Umbrambeita	20000 14000	34000	28000
10-	Abassieya	Moreib Jabal	13000 19000	32000	25000
11-	Buram	Shat damam Katcha Farandalla Shatt saffia Alreika Alburam Toroje Alabiet	8500 11400 21600 8500 19500 34500 37000 7000	148000	51234
12-	Kadugli	Western kadugli	59000	59000	28268
13-	Eastern rural	Alkiweik Damik Abu safifa Tesse	1200 3500 800 2500	8000	5000
14-	Alsonot	Alsonot Aldabkar	600 400	1000	1000
15-	Keilak	Alharazayie Keilak	200 400	600	600
16-	Almujled	Ameiram Aldebab	300 300	600	600
	Total			995200	371157

Source: SRRA assessment of population in South Kordofan SPLM/N held areas

The humanitarian situation in Blue Nile is deteriorating due to intensive aerial offensives in addition to heavy shelling witnessed since January 2013. The majority of civilians in the state SPLM/N held areas abandoned their home villages and escaped to the bushes and the nearby small rivers seeking security and protection. Essential human basic needs like shelter, cover, food and clean water for drinking and cooking are lacking. Education stopped altogether in Kurmuk locality.



More than 20,000 new IDPs were reported in Wadaka payam by monitors during May – early June 2013, escaping from the fighting in the eastern part of the locality. Of those, 1,079 new arrivals sought assistance in South Sudan refugee camps. Water and food remains a challenge for those IDPs living in Khor Bashum, Goz abu rassin and Tunja.

According to SRRA food monitors, more than 45 civilians died in Jirdan, south east of Wadaka in the last semester.

Food security is also critical in Chali alfil payam, the land of the Uduk tribe, since the harvesting seasons in the past two years were lost. No income generating activity that could support buying food in the markets is possible. Some of the Uduk refugees in Doro camp have decided to return to their home villages in the payam to cultivate during this season, and complaining of the difficult life conditions in the camps in South Sudan.

Yabus payam in the south of Blue Nile was severely affected by aerial offensives that caused massive displacements, mainly from Moguf, Yabus Kobori, Belatoma Udoc and Abingaro. Mufo village experienced intensive fighting and aerial bombardments that forced its civilians to flee to the bushes of Balela and Dawala, south-west of Kurmuk, without any food and medical supplies.

The IDPs trapped inside the Ingessana hills near Damazin are the most vulnerable and resilient groups. They are exposed to human rights violations, lack of food and constant insecurity. The IDPs have been kept in isolation in the hills by government forces and militias since the offensive of last year. The few people escaped from the hills reported major abuses; women were raped in the day light in Kuldamool, Madiyam and Majaba, by Omer Kura's militia members supported by SAF.

Generally the condition of the IDPs trapped in the state remains critical, with high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. People live of roots collected from the forests and wild fruits. The water remains scarce and the health situation is critical with several reported cases of malaria, diarrhea and skin diseases. No clinic is functioning in Kurmuk locality.

The weekly markets in Yabus and Moguf ensure some support, with basic commodities such as salt, sugar, cooking oil and dura coming from the neighboring Ethiopia and South Sudan assisted much some IDPs communities. Yet those activities are constantly threatened by aerial bombardments.



IDPs in Kurmuk locality

IDPs have continued to arrive in the refugee camps of South Sudan and Ethiopia during the last semester until the beginning of the rainy season. According to the SRRA's assessment there are approximately 119,220 IDPs in Blue Nile (the table below show their distribution) with a higher mortality rate of malnutrition, hunger, lack of medicine and education. There are moreover 45,318 refugees in Doro, 37,686 in Yusif Batil, 15,638 in Jamam and 15,638 in Gendrassa camps in South Sudan, and 48,000 more are registered in two camps in Ethiopia. Out of a population of 800,000 people in BN censused in 2008, around 300,000 (35%) are today directly affected by the conflict.

While humanitarian efforts led to positive improvements in the situation of the refugees in the camps a recent outbreak of hepatitis E put many lives at risk mainly in Jamam, Yusif Batil and Gendrassa camps in Upper Nile, South Sudan. The infection appeared last December in Jamam camp and continued to increase. In Yusif Batil camp alone, the infection caused 1,908 reported cases and 39 refugees dead. Emergency measures are taken to contain the infection, including construction of latrines, digging additional boreholes and more regular soap distributions and awareness campaigns.

The situation of the refugees in Ethiopia is more difficult than in South Sudan. This is due to the less effective assistance and the attempts from Government security forces, mainly in Surgale and Tango camps, to force the people to return to Government held areas. Yet education in the Ethiopian camps seems better than in south Sudan for two major reasons: on the one hand the education infrastructures in Surgale, Tango and Bamase camps are better developed; on the other hand refugee's camps are far from the border and that make it conducive for the people to stabilize and begin an education cycle.

Despite the desperate humanitarian situation and the pressure exerted by international actors, access to all humanitarian organizations has been arbitrarily denied to the war affected areas of Blue Nile by the Government of Sudan. Given the food shortages, the situation in the state is expected to deteriorate further in the coming months, from July to September, if no assistance is given to the affected population.

Internally displaced population in Blue Nile

S/N	County/locality	Payam/admin unit	Village	Internally displaced(IDPS)
1-	Baw	kurkur	Fufi	2316
2-	Baw	kurkur	Mandarsol	2600
3-	Baw	Soda	Jaam	4100
4-	Baw	Soda	Soda	3150
5-	Baw	Soda	Mogum	3000
6-	Baw	Soda	Mayfol	4370
7-	Baw	Soda	Taga	900
8-	Baw	Gabanet	Gabanet	1502
9-	Baw	kukur	Fosa	900

10-	Baw	Soda	Mamal	4000
11-	Baw	Wadabuk	Malakan	1800
12-	Baw	Wadabuk	Tormeleh	3247
13-	Baw	Wadabuk	Kamer	3000
14-	Baw	Wadabuk	Gos Degen	1800
15-	Baw	Baw	Baw	822
16-	Baw	Baw	Romelig	450
17-	Baw	Wadabuk	Algalla	3002
18-	Baw	Wadabuk	Gos tilim	4100
19-	Baw	Soda	Jangon	3960
20-	Baw	Wadabuk	Baladogo	5100
21-	Tadamon	Bot	Ungan	2898
22-	Tadamon	Bot	Yakan	4140
23-	Tadamon	Bot	Tibilab	5210
24-	Kurmuk	Wadaga	Mayak	6668
25-	Kurmuk	Wadaga	Jurun	2910
26-	Kurmuk	Wadaga	Mofo	3500
27-	Kurmuk	Wadaga	Wadaga	1700
28-	Kurmuk	Wadaga	Balela	2680
29-	Kurmuk	Wadaga	Assama	6902
30-	Kurmuk	Yabus	Yabus	5472
31-	Kurmuk	Yabus	Ous	1500
32-	Kumuk	Yabus	Sunda	3601
33-	Kurmuk	Yabus	Dogobela	1340
34-	Kurmuk	Yabus	Ishkob	980
35-	Kurmuk	Chali	Fodom	1133
36-	Kurmuk	Chali	Pash	1570
37-	Kurmuk	Bong	Abogaya	276
38-	Kurmuk	Yabus	Banbilan	1100
39-	Kurmuk	Chali	balafuna	1235
40-	Kurmuk	Chali	Soda	1833
41-	Kurmuk	Chali	Panamayo	300
42-	Kurmuk	Chali	Chali	2301
43-	Kurmuk	Chali	Barfa	380
44-	Kurmuk	Chali	Elgundi	1410
45-	Kurmuk	Jamam	Foje	405
46-	Kurmuk	Bonj	Khor tumbak	2045
Total				119220

Source: SRRA assessment of population in Blue Nile SPLM/N held Areas

The political negotiations between GOS and SPLM-N

Any attempt of negotiation between the Parties has so far failed to bring an end to the conflict and/or to allow for a cessation of hostilities for humanitarian assistance to reach the war affected population in the two areas.

A renewed round of talks began in the period 23-27 April 2013 between GoS and the SPLM-N under the African Union High Implementation Panel (AUHIP) chaired by President Thabo Mbeki. The agenda was divided in three parts: 1) humanitarian access 2) security arrangement 3) political issues. Each party presented its own position. While GoS proposed new political, security and humanitarian arrangements to be discussed by the committees concurrently, the SPLM-N presented a position based on the humanitarian access and cessation of hostilities. The mediation found the two positions divergent and irreconcilable and asked the parties to sit a find a common position without mediation. The initiative failed and the parties agreed to reconvene in the earliest possible time. To date no meeting has been called.

In the same occasion the United Nations proposed a moratorium of 7days to allow polio vaccination in the SPLM/A-N held areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile. On 27-29 June 2013, SRRA representatives met UNICEF and WHO in Addis Ababa and formulated a phased action to conduct first national immunization for vaccination against polio and provision of vitamin A supplementation and to conduct MUAC screening by the end of October. They agreed to a phase two to provide routine immunization services according to the national immunization schedule BCG, Penta, OPV,PCV and measles by the end of December. And a phase three for the provision of primary care services by the end of March 2014. Due to the disagreement between SPLM-N and GOS on the source of supplies, the UN would order the vaccines to be flown to an airport acceptable to both parties. A cessation of hostilities will be an essential element for this operation and UNICEF and WHO representatives will meet GoS for that end.

In her last visit to Sudan on May 20-23 2013, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos, looking at humanitarian operations in Government-controlled areas of Sudan, she repeated the UN call for the Parties to agree to a one week cessation of hostilities to allow for the polio vaccination campaign in SPLM-N-held areas. Ms Amos also encouraged the resumption of direct talks between GoS and SPLM-N to resolve the conflict.

Appeal to the international community

The human rights and humanitarian crisis in the two areas requires immediate attention and response by national and international humanitarian actors to alleviate the suffering of its population. The SRRA appeals to the UN Security Council, the Chairman of IGAD, the chair of AUHIP, the United Nations, the African Union and the international community at large to take the following urgent immediate actions.

1. That the UN declares Blue Nile and South Kordofan states war affected areas as a humanitarian emergency that requires urgent response.
2. To press the Government of Sudan to lift restrictions on delivery of food and allow UN agencies and independent international organizations immediate free and unhindered access to the needy civilians in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States to stave off mass starvation.
3. The Government of Sudan should heed the call by SPLM-N for cessation of hostilities to allow delivery of humanitarian assistance to the populations in South Kordofan and Blue Nile. SAF and the SPLA-N would allow access to international humanitarian agencies to assist affected populations, protect civilians under their respective control, and provide safe corridors for the passage of civilians and goods.
4. To consider the most effective means including urgent airdrops to access civilians trapped by ground attacks and lack of roads.
5. That SAF immediately halts its aerial bombardments and air strikes against civilian targets in South Kordofan and Blue Nile.
6. To conduct independent investigations on the mass graves, summary executions and persons put in custody on ethnic and political affiliations in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states.
7. That the parties respect international human rights and humanitarian law in the course of their operations, refrain from deliberate extra judicial killings, detentions and indiscriminate arrests on political and ethnic basis.

