Key Highlights

The security situation in Darfur remained unpredictable, with occasional clashes between armed groups, killings, violent robberies, farm and crop destruction, GBV and intercommunal clashes. North Jabal Marrah in Central Darfur was the most affected due to fighting between armed factions, which adversely affected UN missions to critical areas. Continuing conflict risks significant displacement among local populations.

The operation hosted two high-profile missions, i.e., – BPRM’s mission to South Darfur and a PBF donor mission led by DSRSG/RC/HC and accompanied by the Ambassadors of Sweden and the Netherlands and senior UN officials to Central Darfur. Both missions engaged with UNHCR project beneficiaries, including South Sudanese refugees and IDP youth peace ambassadors.

Refugee Protection

Refugees, host community, and government representatives participated in several events to mark 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence in North, East, South, and Central Darfur States. The activities included street march, drama, traditional dance and drawing competitions which highlighted common forms of GBV, including child marriage and domestic violence, and requested collaborative efforts to prevent these in line with the theme "Unite! Activism To End Violence Against Women & Girls".

UNHCR observed an increasing number of children with malnutrition in Al Lait, North Darfur, during the ongoing refugee verification and registration exercise linked to inadequate food and nutrition assistance and limited livelihood opportunities for families to complement their rations. At least five children were referred to the nutrition centre for further support. In East Darfur, mid-upper arm circumference screening shows that 1,418 i.e. 321 with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), 1,097 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) children are malnourished. As a result, UNHCR is considering providing one-time multi-purpose cash assistance to these families and others with multiple vulnerabilities.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and IDP Returnee Protection

UNHCR trained Community-Based Protection Networks (CBPNs) in East, West and South Darfur to enhance members’ knowledge on protection, concepts of GBV, vulnerability, and persons with specific needs (PSN) identification in addition to the roles and responsibilities of the CBPN members. So far, there are 146 community-based structures across Darfur, 88 of which are supported by UNHCR, including those handed over by UNAMID. These committees include community-based protection networks, youth committees, durable solutions committees, and peacebuilding and reconciliation committees.

Destruction of farms and crops and disputes between farmers and herders remain a crucial concern for IDPs and returnees as the harvest season continues. According to security reports, there is a serious risk of violent incidents related to the agricultural activities escalating into major intercommunal conflict, especially in West Darfur, and in areas of Central, North and South Darfur. While crop protection committees have been active in many areas, many of them supported by FAO, and security forces follow up on
some cases of crop destruction, the lack of security personnel, equipment, and vehicles, as well as the absence of an overall Government strategy combatting violent incidents seriously impede effective response. The incidents linked to the agriculture season highlight the urgent need for the crop protection committees and the joint Government of Sudan (GoS) forces to more actively respond to and contain tensions between farmers and herders. In North Darfur, however, there has been a marked reduction in violent incidents due in part to a stronger emerging partnership between FAO, UNHCR, the State Government, and committees.

UNHCR Flood Response

Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) for the flood response is ongoing. At the same time, 6,904 refugees, IDPs and host community households affected by floods received NFIs distributed by UNHCR & partners in November.

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