Child Protection AoR Global Protection Cluster | Gender Based Violence AoR Global Protection Cluster | Global Protection Cluster | Housing land and Property AoR Global Protection Cluster | Mine Action AoR Global Protection Cluster

**Sudan Protection Situation Updates**
**December 2021**

## Context update/overview:

In the month of December, conflict incidents occurred across Darfur. With insecurity in the Darfur, an increase in GBV cases remains a significant risk, several incidents were reported in December. According to OHCHR, 13 allegations of rape and gang rape have been reported during on-going protests in Khartoum.

In December, locally produced staple food prices continued to increase through the harvest season. Some regions such as Central and South Darfur note due to insecurity and displacement many farmers missed their planting and/or harvesting season. Food insecurity will likely increase going forward into 2022, which could push persons towards adverse coping mechanism.

Noting the marked increase in inter-communal violence, deaths, injuries and GBV across Darfur in 2021, SLA/AW stated these have only increased since the 25 October coup and are a return to the atrocities in 2003. The group said the Juba Peace Agreement (JPA) does not address root causes of conflict in Darfur and the withdrawal of UNAMID has created a security vacuum. SLA/AW called for the UNSC to establish an international peacekeeping by invoking Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

## Emerging protection trends/reported incidents and related analysis:

**Jebel Moon**

On 1st December, an unknown armed group attacked five officials Jebel Moon officials while on an official mission in Ginet village near Selea town. Reportedly, the officials were asked their ethnicity – they all claimed not to be Misseriya Jabal. They were visiting a water-melon project when they were abducted and taken an hour's drive away. The attack resulted in two murders; the victims were allegedly known to the attackers. The three that were released walked to Selea – over six hours walk, and arrived in Selea the morning of Thursday, 2nd Dec. Following this attack, the situation became tense in Selea with shops and markets closed.

**North Darfur**

On 06 December, an unknown armed group attacked a group of pastoralists at Hashaba village (near Zamzam camp, resulting in four deaths and three injured. On 18 December, the Joint Forces deployed to the Zamzam IDP camp, relocated to El Fasher town. IDPs expressed concern for their safety since the Joint Forces' departure. The presence of armed nomads outside the camp makes it difficult for IDPs to access farms or collect firewood.

On 15 December, nomads on camels and motorcycles arrived at the edge of Fata Barno IDP camp in Fata Barno administrative unit (15 KM west of Kutum town). Nomads accused IDPs of looting livestock, which IDPs denied. Nomads phoned residents of the camp throughout the day threatening to attack. IDPs expressed concerns that SAF and police presence in Kutum town would not be sufficient enough to deter an attack and requested further support from security forces to secure the camp.

On 19 December, a group of pastoralists reportedly stole goats from Dibaneyra village (about 6 km northwest of Zamzam IDP camp) and from Abu Zerega village (15 km south of Zamzam IDP camp). During the last week of November and the first week of December, armed nomads on motorcycles entered Kutum town, including the market, raising concerns of an attack. On 13 December, joint forces confiscated at least 10 motorcycles and a meeting was held between nomads and security forces in Goba Alrebat (25 KM east of Kutum town). The outcomes of the meeting are not known.

**West Darfur**

Kreinik town was the site of many conflicts between Arabs and the Massalit after a fight broke out in the town between the two groups on 04 December. The fight resulted in four injured and six deaths according

to OCHA. The next day, a group of armed Arab men attacked the town by burning houses and looting livestock. In total, 44 persons were killed, 45 injured, and about 10,551 people were displaced from these areas to schools and government institutions inside Kreinik town.

**Central Darfur**

On 30th December four unidentified armed men attacked Omda house (belong to Salamat tribe) in Um Dukhun town. Reportedly, a man living near to the Omda house was killed and two others seriously injured and referred to Um Dukhun Hospital. The Omda family traced the perpetrators the next day who allegedly came from an area located to the north of Um Dukhun where Tama and Mima tribes reside. The Omda mobilized some people in Abo Jaradil (28 Km south of Um Dukhun town) and Um Dukhun town who surrounded the area of these two tribes and started random shootings and looted some livestock. On 31 December, the Reconciliation Committee and local administration in Um Dukhun identified the perpetrators and the police arrested them. Later both the victim families and the preparators agreed to settle this matter through blood money payments.

On 18 December, an unidentified armed group attacked a meeting in Hameedia IDP camp where the Sheikh (traditional leader) of the camp and a team from the previous Wali's office were discussing the IDPs representation. No major causalities were reported. The situation has calmed down, but the issue of who represents the IDPs has not been resolved.

**East Darfur**

Conflict between farmers and pastoralists has resulted in the destruction of 50 farms along migratory routes in East Darfur.

**South Darfur**

On 12 December, HAC in South Darfur reported that 3,134 IDPs (656 families) vacated Manawashi IDP camp and returned home to Amar Jadeed and surrounding villages. Their displacement was short-lived having fled their homes in early December after the escalation of violence and the killing of three farmers.

On 23rd of December a group of camel herders purposely released their cattle into several farms in Bornoga village and damaged crops. The source added that the incident was solved amicably through the traditional conflict resolution; the local reconciliation members forced the herders to pay money to the farmers to compensate for the damaged crops. Elsewhere on 23 December two armed men in RSF uniforms attacked an IDP at Alya IDP camp in Kass and looted from him an unidentified amount of money and a mobile phone.

On 24th December, three armed men in RSF uniforms assaulted three girls in Boronga village, about 40 km to the west of Kass town. The girls were fetching water in the nearby valley. According to the source, the perpetrators attempted to rape the girls. During the assault, one of the girls sustained serious injuries in her head and is currently under medical treatment in Boronga village Medical Center. The incident was reported to Boronga police post. Protection Sector followed up the incident and was informed that one of the perpetrators was arrested by Kass police.

On 25th of December a Protection Sector partner staff based in Kass town informed the Sector that six returnees from Kass IDPs camps were attacked while they were tending to their farms by three armed men in RSF uniforms in Karandi Guba returnee village about 13 km to the south of Kass town. As a result, two of the attacked returnees sustained injuries. They received first aid at a medical center in Boronga village about and were then referred to Nyala for further medical treatment. The perpetrators also snatched from the victims of their 6 mobile phones and an unstated amount of money. The motive of the attack is unknown and the incident was not reported to police.

**South Kordofan**:
On 10 December, an attack on farmers from Nuba tribe triggered the displacement of 2000 persons from Kadbar to Dalami. Humanitarian organizations visited Dalami to access the needs of individuals.

## Protection response:

- UNFPA held three **PSEA** awareness sessions in Abu Shouck and AlSalam IDP camps, with 25 participants in each session. Mobile PSEA sessions will be rolled out to South Sudanese refugees in Dagagi.
- CP WG and UNICEF participated in inter-agency mission to Sortony and Kebkabiya. CP reports there are almost no resources for child survivors of GBV in Sortony and personnel in Kebkabiya responding to GBV are not fully capacitated to handle cases of child survivors. In Sortony, CP is working with Child Protection Networks to conduct community outreach to identify CP cases and refer them if possible.
- **Central Darfur:** Following the conflict on 10 December in Bendasi locality, humanitarian partners were planning to carry out a needs assessment in 10 villages affected by the conflict. However, the planned assessment was delayed due to security concerns. Partners are monitoring the situation and once the security situation allows, needs assessment will be conducted. It is estimated that 11,000 people fled to Wadi Saleh and Bendasi town and some crossed the border to Chad.
- **North Darfur:** DAID organization assessed 350 HH people who were reportedly displaced to El Fasher from Kuwaim village in El Fasher Rural. The organization said that 1700 persons were displaced from Kuwaim to Shagra, Tawilla and Zamzam IDP camps.

## Government response:

- **North Darfur:** Joint forces were deployed from Khartoum over the weekend of the 10-12 December. These included RSF, SAF as well as signatories from the Juba Mountains. It is not clear whether these joint forces are also related to the deployment of the 3,300 joint forces recently deployed to North Darfur that will cover South, North and West Darfur States.

## Gaps, recommendations, and key advocacy points:

- **Central Darfur:** Going forward into 2022, the poor agricultural season will lead to a fragile food security situation for all, especially economically vulnerable families whose main source of food was crops harvested. According to the leaders, only 1 % of crops compared to the last year's season were harvested in 2021. In this regard, the communities are requesting UNHCR to advocate with WFP for reconsidering the existing classification of 4 groups and expansion of group 4 to receive monthly food assistance.
- **South Darfur:** Protection Sector partners should advocate with state authorities, Kass Locality Committee for the Protection of Farming Season, and provision of protection patrols in returnee areas during the harvest season to protect the returnees from attacks. As attacks on returnees are increasing UNITAMS will coordinate with Kass executive Director to identify protection gaps in Kass locality and hold joint capacity building workshops for police.
- **North Darfur:** Reported GBV and rape cases need provision of (CMR) services and reporting to police. Cases have been referred to UNFPA and UNICEF. Approximately 800-1200 households from six villages across Kebkabiya locality were displaced to Central Darfur seek urgent humanitarian needs. The three main priority needs are Food, Non-Food Items, and Health (Medical Needs).
- **West Darfur:** Threats against humanitarian premises in West Darfur can lead to restrictions on movement of humanitarian staff, which could impact the response to affected population, who are in dire needs to assistance.