

SKBN Coordination Unit

Humanitarian Update

August 2019

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

Better lean season, but flooding destroys new crops

While the lean season conditions are better than this time a year ago, moderate and severe hunger is still prominent in Dellami and Thobo localities in South Kordofan and in Yabus payam in Blue Nile. An estimated 550,000 people are severely and moderately food insecure (equivalent to IPC 3 and 4) in the monitored areas. The impending *jibraka* harvest may alleviate food security to a degree, but the main harvest is still months away.

Food security in August was also affected by a disruption of market activities. The inflation rate still hovers between 52 and 54% ([FEWSNET Food Security Outlook](#)). Prices in Western Jebels were higher than average on all commodities due to inflation, but also due to security incidents which occurred around markets in Lagawa (see security section). In a worrying development, taxes on markets in SPLM/A-N controlled areas of Blue Nile were increased by local authorities and this is impacting markets activities negatively.

Like in the rest of Sudan, flooding was especially widespread in Blue Nile. In the week of 11-25 August, heavy rain (also on Ethiopian highlands) brought flooding throughout Blue Nile, destroying crops in Chali and Yabus payams. Many donkeys of Ethiopian merchants drowned, disrupting supplies to markets. In South Kordofan, local authorities reported that over 800 houses were destroyed by floods in Heiban, Delami and Thobo (Boram) localities. With the main harvest still months away, the impact of flooding will most certainly impact crop performance.

Meanwhile, farming in new locations and on far farms were reported in Western Jebels and in the Central region, as people feel a new sense of security. That is expected to have a positive impact on food security in South Kordofan in the next year.



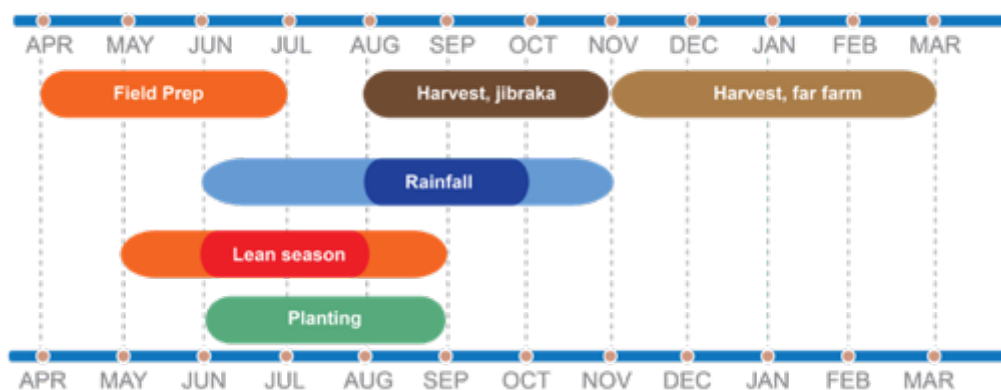
Widespread flooding Blue Nile, Aug 2019

Priorities:

Education: 165,000 children affected by lack of quality education.

Health: high malnutrition and morbidity rates.

Food security: estimated 550,000 people are severely and moderately food



Seasonal calendar for South Kordofan and Blue Nile

Migration of households into the monitored areas from the rest of Sudan and from the refugee camps in South Sudan continues, as well as internal displacements. Movements of people seems to be mostly correlating with severe food insecurity.

In September, food assistance will stop in Yida settlement in Unity state (South Sudan), after reducing progressively over the past months. According to the July [UNHCR Operational update](#), the total population of Yida is 46,203 people, that is almost 40% of the Sudanese population in Unity state (with around 39,076 in Ajuong Thok and 33,825 in Pamir refugee camps). While only few people who in 2019 have relocated from Yida to the official refugee camps, it remains to be seen what effect stopping of food assistance will have on the peoples' decision.

HEALTH

The most basic health supplies absent in Western Jebels

Malaria, AWD (Acute Watery Diarrhoea) and upper respiratory infections were widely reported in the Two Areas in the month of August. Acute Watery Diarrhoea is very closely monitored and verified for possible cholera cases where possible. The surveillance mechanisms, especially in Blue Nile, is not functioning properly and there is no capacity in terms of human resources or stock to respond to a sudden disease outbreak. This makes whole communities very vulnerable to sudden onset diseases.

According to a recent analysis, the highest count of diseases in South Kordofan was in Um Dorein, Western Kadugli and Thobo (Boram) (see humanitarian snapshot at the end of this update).

Limited vaccine coverage in both areas remains a priority. A fatal case of Rabies was confirmed in South Kordofan, and 21 more suspected cases of rabies were treated, and vaccinations administered.

In the Western Jebels of South Kordofan, the only hospital operating lacks mosquito nets and bedding. The laboratory is in urgent need of the most basic equipment.

The health sector is extremely fragile in both areas, and that requires both emergency and long-term development interventions. Malnutrition and maternal morbidity rates remain at emergency levels. The list of needs is long and includes limited cold chain facilities, limited vaccine coverage, referral system challenges in South Kordofan and absence of referral system in Blue Nile. Blue Nile has no primary health care centers and the health services are limited to underserved health clinics.

EDUCATION

Schools will re-open in October

Most schools are now out of session, closing from late June until October for children to participate in cultivation. Coaching is underway in South Kordofan for the primary leaving exam in November.

In Blue Nile, communities struggle to keep schools functioning and that should be a priority intervention. Overall the education sector needs massive long-term and quality support to sustain current communities' effort.

An estimated 165,000 children are affected by the lack of qualified teachers and school material in the monitored areas.

SECURITY AND PROTECTION

Relative calm continues, flooding kills at least three in Blue Nile



On August 10, in an incident between Misseriya and Kamda community in South Kordofan, one person was killed and movements in Lagawa temporarily stopped.

During the flooding in Blue Nile in the week of 11-25 August, a child drowned in the Benamayo river on 17 August. At least two more deaths were reported in August when people got swept away in the floods. No movement was possible between Blue Nile and Maban in the last week of August, hampering any effort to assist the victims.

The SKBN CU reports security incidents according to the information received from a variety of sources. This information does not include a comprehensive verification of perpetrators or damages.

This monthly update on humanitarian issues in the Blue Nile and South Kordofan states is compiled by the SKBN Coordination Unit. With three main functions of information, coordination and advocacy, the SKBNCU strives to put out regular and accurate information on the humanitarian situation of people affected by the conflict since 2011. Please send your comments to coordination@skbncu.org

SUDAN: South Kordofan and Blue Nile (SPLM/A-N controlled areas) Snapshot (July 2019)

Humanitarian needs remain high within the Two Areas of South Kordofan (SK) and Blue Nile (BN) controlled by the SPLM-N (highlighted in the map). The poor macro-economic conditions in the rest of Sudan have exacerbated the protracted humanitarian crisis that has affected the 1.2 million people living in the Two Areas since 2011. A severe lean season, Sudan-wide economic crisis, and limited trader supply to markets has led to over 550,000 people food insecure in need of assistance (equivalent to IPC 3 and 4).

Food insecurity is worse in Blue Nile than in South Kordofan due to the underdevelopment of the area and widespread flooding that destroyed crops. In the two states, 165,000 school-age children need education, and at least 65,000 people are in need of shelter support. In Blue Nile, with no health facilities able to handle emergencies, people have to travel to South Sudan for care. Some 10,800 individuals have returned to the SPLM-N controlled areas of South Kordofan from the rest of Sudan and from the refugee camps in South Sudan mainly due to difficult living conditions and lack of food.

While the operational challenges continue, the funding gaps have increased considerably since 2016. Despite the challenges and very limited access into the Two Areas, a limited group of humanitarian partners continue to reach over a 1.2 million people in an area of over 21,000 square km, mainly with emergency food, health and WASH assistance.

Key Figures

1.2M
Total population

People in Need

46.3%

550k

Severe and moderate food insecure population (Equivalent to IPC 3 and 4)

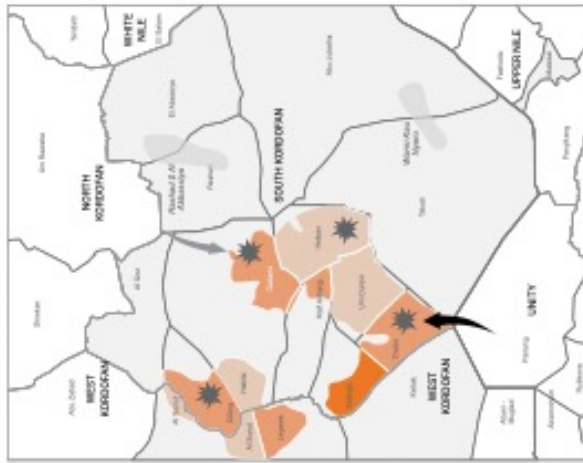
165k

65k

Created on 21 Aug 2019

Data Source: SKBN, FSMU

South Kordofan State



Percentage of moderately food insecure population

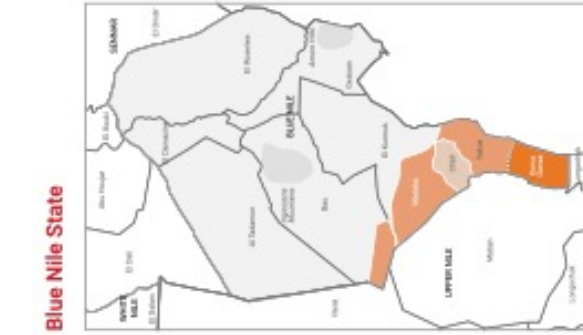
- Severe (66 - 100%)
- Moderate (31 - 65%)
- Low (0 - 30%)

Security hotspot areas

Refugees returnees

IDPs' returnees

Blue Nile State



Percentage of moderately food insecure population

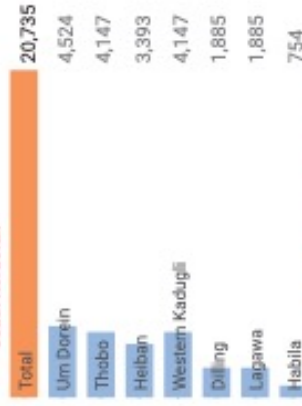
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Security hotspot areas

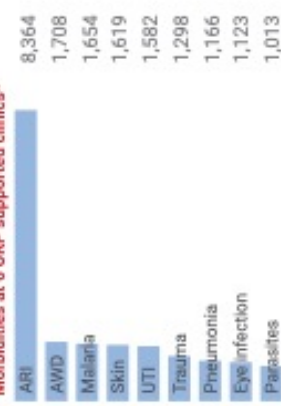
Refugees returnees

IDPs' returnees

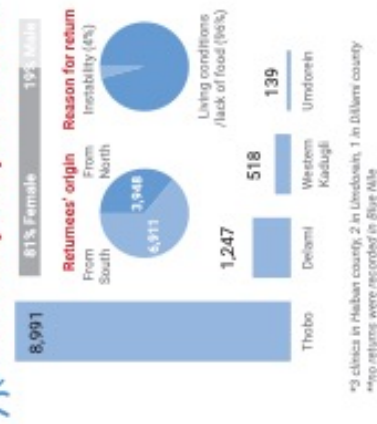
Disease cases by county
South Kordofan



Morbidities at 6 ORP supported clinics*



Returnees by county in SK in 2019**



*3 clinics in Helban county, 2 in UmDorkin, 1 in Dillim county
**No returns were recorded in Blue Nile

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