

SNFI Cluster Coordination Meeting | Jul. 01, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Location: MS Teams

Time: 13:00 – 14:30 Sudan time

Attendance:

Agenda:

- General Updates
- Famine Prevention
- Basic Advice on Disaster Risk Reduction
- Schools Evictions in Gedaref
- Internews Presentation
- Roundtable on Achievements and Operational Plans
- AOB

General Updates:

- To date, 7,720,119 individuals have been displaced internally since April 15 bringing the displacement figure to 10,540,215 including pre-April 15 displacement. Additionally, An estimated 2,196,355 individuals have sought refuge in neighbouring countries.
- Approximately 51% of IDP households sought shelter with host families and communities. Others reportedly stayed in camps (23%), schools or other public buildings (9%), informal settlements or open areas (10%), and private rented accommodation (5%). Significant decrease is the proportion of IDPs in host communities and increase in IDPs in camps. A significant reduction in proportion of IDPs in host communities/families has been noted over the past month from 64% to 51%.
- Thousands of residents of Sinja, the capital of Sennar State, have fled to various areas after the RSF attempted to take control of the city. There have been reports of looting homes and markets as well as violations against residents. Mount Moya has also been affected, with 327 households reported to have fled to safer areas. There are concerns that the takeover of Sinja and ongoing conflict could lead to severe humanitarian consequences, including disrupting agricultural programs in the Blue Nile, White Nile, and Gezira regions.
- In North Darfur, dozens of people were killed and many wounded by shelling in the Abu Shouk camp for the displaced, north of El Fasher, over the past two weeks. As fighting continues between the RSF and SAF, food has become scarce, prompting many camp residents to flee towards the south. Many have moved to the Zamzam camp, south of El Fasher, but conditions there are also dire. Some families, unable to afford relocation or seeing no improvement in conditions elsewhere, and hence have chosen to remain in the camp.
- Also, on Sunday, unknown armed men looted three aid trucks en route to Central Darfur. Such incidents exacerbate the dire situation in Sudan, where the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) recently reported that 25.6 million people are facing hunger, including 755,000 in famine stages. This crisis affects 14 areas in Kordofan, Darfur, Al Jazirah, and Sennar.
- The situation in Kordofan is also deteriorating. Conflict is spreading across the region, with fighting breaking out in El Fula city in As Salam locality of West Kordofan. Reports indicate that at least 14 civilians, including four IDPs and one refugee, were killed. This has led to primary, secondary, and tertiary displacement to nearby localities, including Al Odaya, El Nuhud, Muglad, and villages in As Salaam locality.

Famine Prevention

-
- Fourteen months into Sudan's conflict, the country is experiencing its worst food insecurity crisis ever recorded. Over half the population, around 25.6 million people, are enduring Crisis or worse conditions (IPC Phase 3 or above) between June and September 2024, during the lean season. This includes 755,000 people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) across ten states and 8.5 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). There is a significant risk of famine in 14 areas, including clusters of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees, especially if the conflict intensifies. Increased violence and restricted humanitarian access would severely hinder farming and labor activities during the agricultural season, worsening the situation.
 - The latest analysis shows a rapid deterioration in food security since December 2023. The number of people in acute food insecurity rose by 45%, from 17.7 million to 25.6 million, with a 74% increase in IPC Phase 4 cases and 755,000 people now in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5). Compared to June 2023, those in IPC Phase 3 or above increased by over 50%. During the harvest season (October 2024 – February 2025), some improvement is expected due to local food production, but 21.1 million people will still face high acute food insecurity, including 6.4 million in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and nearly 109,000 in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5). Seven areas remain at risk of famine.
 - The conflict has caused mass displacement, disrupted supply routes and markets, and severely limited humanitarian aid, worsening health services, water quality, and sanitation. This has led to increased morbidity from water-borne diseases and heightened acute malnutrition, especially with the impending rainy season likely to spread pests and diseases. Populations in conflict zones, particularly in Greater Darfur, Greater Kordofan, Khartoum, and Al Jazirah, are in dire straits. IDPs and refugees are particularly vulnerable, with 534,000 expected to face critical or catastrophic food insecurity between June and September. In areas with restricted humanitarian access, informal safety nets, remittances, and local response systems have temporarily mitigated further deterioration, but their sustainability is uncertain as food stocks deplete and supplies dwindle.
 - During the meeting, a question was posed about the role of the Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) cluster in famine prevention. The response highlighted the immediate actions taken by the Cluster, which include the deployment of essential NFI assistance for immediate relief. This involves distributing basic NFI items such as cooking sets, jerry cans, plastic sheets, mosquito nets, and blankets. Additionally, the cluster provides essential shelter assistance to ensure access to safe shelter for people in IDP situations. The meeting also noted the current crisis where IDPs living in schools are being forced to vacate as schools reopen, leading to an urgent need to identify and adapt new shelter spaces.
 - The Cluster Coordinator further elaborated on the shelter and NFI cluster's efforts, stating that they are targeting 856,000 people as part of the Famine Prevention Plan. The cluster's activities include both cash and in-kind NFI distributions, emergency shelter kits, tents, and communal shelters. It was also emphasized that all planned activities are aligned with the Famine Prevention Plan shared by OCHA, which contains more detailed information on the cluster's contributions.

Basic Advice on Disaster Risk Reduction

- During the meeting, the team discussed the completion and distribution plan for a flyer designed to provide prevention messages for various disasters. The flyer includes comprehensive recommendations on how to prepare for and respond to flooding, fires, and storms. The front of the flyer outlines the importance of the document and preparation steps, while the back contains detailed recommendations for specific disasters.
- The Cluster Coordinator mentioned that the flyer is ready for printing and distribution to schools and partners. However, request for from participating organizations to be included on the flyer to acknowledge their contributions was made. These logos should be sent promptly to finalize the document before printing. Comments and final edits are welcome by next Thursday, after which the printing process will commence.
- A question was raised about whether the document includes considerations for recent incidents, such as the latest Sennar event, and scenarios that might arise and it was clarified that the flyer

contains general guidelines and recommendations for actions before, during, and after disasters, including specific advice to prevent electrocution during floods and safety measures during sandstorms.

- The discussion concluded with an invitation for further comments and questions. The meeting emphasized the importance of distributing the flyer widely in communities and schools, especially with the approaching rainy season, to ensure that preventive measures are well understood and implemented.

Schools Evictions in Gedaref

- The meeting continued with a discussion on the risk of evictions for more than 30,000 people currently sheltering in schools. A table was shared with different solutions for this issue, including cost estimates. The solutions presented included the construction of durable shelters using local materials, a cash-for-rent scheme, and collective spaces. The meeting noted that the basic cost estimation for housing 30,000 people is around \$7 million, and emphasized that additional costs such as transportation, land preparation, and administrative expenses would increase this figure.
- The Cluster Coordinator also explained that camps are considered a last resort due to their high resource demands, mentioning that the current estimates only include costs for latrines, tents, and some solar streetlamps, excluding drainage and land preparation costs. Another proposed solution involved recycling materials and repurposing spaces, such as converting train wagons into shelters. This method was exemplified by a project in Port Sudan. The Cluster Coordinator highlighted the importance of considering the longevity of materials to avoid frequent replacements, which would increase overall costs.
- The meeting also raised a question about the preparedness of the cluster and the availability of resources for shelter and NFI responses, should the evictions proceed. It stressed the need for partners to assess their capabilities and resources to respond effectively to the potential relocations of IDPs from schools. Adriana invited partners to share their experiences and challenges in providing support in this area.
- UNHCR provided an update on interventions in Gedaref, where the sub-office conducted assessments and collaborated with local authorities to expand site plans and construct sample shelters. This initiative aims to decongest schools by finding new plots for IDPs. Suggestions were made that UNHCR present this pilot project in the next cluster coordination meeting to explore its scalability.
- UNHCR also updated the group on similar efforts in South Kordofan, where authorities are working to identify new locations for IDPs currently in schools. In West Kordofan, IDPs have been relocated to university premises due to ongoing conflicts. Discussions are still ongoing in North Kordofan regarding school reopening and relocation plans for IDPs. The meeting concluded with an emphasis on the need for coordination and timely updates from partners to ensure effective planning and resource allocation.

Internews Presentation

- The meeting continued with a presentation from Internews, who shared insights gathered through social media listening. Internews emphasized the importance of this method for ensuring accountability to affected populations and aligning humanitarian programs with their priorities and concerns. She focused on data related to shelter, movement, displacement, and non-food items (NFI), explaining that while the data is not representative of all social media posts by Sudanese online, it highlights key issues impacting people's lives.
- Asya reported on the recent attacks on the Saudi Hospital and the Kidney Dialysis Hospital in Al Fasher, which were widely discussed on social media. Internews also mentioned the mixed reactions to the UAE's \$70 million contribution to the UN in Sudan, with some people rejecting the aid due to accusations that the UAE is supporting one of the conflict parties, thereby exacerbating civilian suffering. Protests in Western capitals against the UAE's involvement were also noted.

-
- Highlighting the situation in Sinja, the presentation described the mass displacement of civilians fleeing for safety. Posts were also shared showing images of people, including those with mobility challenges, fleeing with minimal belongings. Reports of missing children and elderly people, looting, and violence against civilians were also mentioned. Internews highlighted appeals for evacuation support and safe routes out of Sinja, noting that over 55,000 people have been displaced according to the IOM.
 - The presentation then shifted to the challenges faced by displaced people in shelter centers. Internews shared reports of forced evictions from schools in the El Matamah locality of River Nile State, where displaced people had sought refuge. She highlighted appeals for emergency support from various regions, emphasizing the dire need for shelter materials, food, water, health services, and protection services. Posts from different emergency rooms, such as Abu Shouk in North Darfur and Dar es Salaam in North Darfur, underscored the severe malnutrition, hunger, and lack of essential services faced by displaced people.
 - Internews also shared individual appeals for shelter and financial support, illustrating the widespread and urgent needs of displaced families. There was mention of families in need of temporary housing while awaiting visa procedures, as well as those seeking shelter due to inability to afford rent. The continuous movement of displaced people in search of safer and better living conditions was highlighted, along with the challenges of living in shelter centers that often lack necessities.

Roundtable on Achievements and Operational Plans

- UNHCR provided updates on the distribution of Non-Food Items (NFIs) to IDPs in various regions, mentioning successful distributions in Gedaref and Wadi Halfa. Despite connectivity issues, UNHCR noted that 651 households received aid in Doka, and 250 in Wadi Halfa during June. UNHCR also discussed the shift from in-kind assistance to cash distribution due to logistical challenges in Kordofan. Despite the transition, market assessments confirmed that local markets could support cash-based assistance without significant inflation concerns. Questions were raised about the viability of using cash instead of in-kind assistance, with emphasis on market conditions and inflation. This led to a broader discussion about market functionality in different regions, supported by assessments from the cash working groups and studies by REACH.
- NRC highlighted updates in White Nile and Sennar, mentioning the provision of shelter solutions and challenges faced due to the recent situation in Sennar, which suspended activities temporarily.
- ADD provided an update on their ongoing projects, including successful NFI distributions in several states and the upcoming distribution plans for July. They highlighted the challenge of stockpiling items in certain areas due to security concerns and sought coordination with other partners for effective distribution.
- IOM presented the common pipeline activities, emphasizing achievements in cross-line distributions in June and plans for July. Notable distributions included 5,000 NFI kits in Khartoum Bahari, Omdurman, and 3,400 in Dungula. Plans also included pre-positioning and coordination for distributions in various states, with a focus on addressing logistical challenges and ensuring timely aid delivery.

AOB

- An announcement regarding a training course provided by UNMAS on detecting explosives. The facilitator thanked all organizations that had sent their nominees for this training, which began the previous day and would continue for the next two days.
- The Cluster Coordinator also mentioned an upcoming PSEA course training, aimed at colleagues from the Cluster. Organizations were encouraged to nominate focal points for this training.
- There was also an update on the Global Shelter meeting where various organizations and donors participated. Plans were being made to organize a follow-up meeting with these donors, during which they would address previously shared questions and any new ones that might arise. The date for

this meeting was still to be determined, but attendees were assured that they would be informed in advance to ensure their participation.

End.

Attendance Sheet: