

SUDAN

Displacement resulting from conflict

CRISIS IMPACT OVERVIEW

- On 15 January, armed clashes broke out between members of Arab and Masalit tribes in and around Ag Geneina, West Darfur's state capital. Attacks on three Krinding IDP camps and other areas on the outskirts of Ag Geneina resulted in the displacement of 108,800 people to Ag Geneina town and surrounding villages. 65,800 displaced people are sheltering in 52 centres across Ag Geneina town. The violence has killed 400 people and injured over 470 (WFP 29/01/2021; DTM 01/02/2021; 03/02/2021). The overall security situation in Ag Geneina remains calm, but tensions are high and protests continue to cut off access and supply routes to the town (OCHA 03/02/2021).
- The intercommunal violence, which was sparked by the fatal stabbings of two men in a local market, escalated into widespread fighting involving armed militias and continued for three days (OCHA 20/01/2021; Al Jazeera 17/01/2021). Intercommunal tensions between Arab and non-Arab groups have resulted in violent clashes and population displacements in West Darfur since 2017, with incidents increasing towards the end of 2020 (Reuters 01/01/2020; OCHA 17/01/2021).
- Displaced people are sheltering in schools and other public buildings across Ag Geneina and in surrounding villages. Protection, shelter and non-food items (NFIs), WASH, food, and health are key priorities (OCHA 20/01/2021; DTM 20/01/2021; OCHA 28/01/2021). The majority of those affected by the violence were already living in contexts of protracted displacement as a result of the 2003–2009 Darfur conflict.
- On 18 January, violent clashes between Fallata and Rizeigat tribes displaced 19,300 people in South Darfur. The situation has stabilised since 25 January with the deployment of security forces in the area (OCHA 28/01/2021). Attacks by armed militia in Jebel Marra, North Darfur, between 24–31 January displaced a further 22,000 people (OCHA 04/02/2021). These separate incidents of violence in Darfur raise concerns about the imminent risk of further violence in the region (OHCHR 22/01/2021).

ANTICIPATED SCOPE AND SCALE

- Authorities have mobilised additional security forces to restore law and order, but tensions remain high and protests are ongoing (OCHA 20/01/2021; DTM 25/01/2021; OCHA 31/01/2021).
- The current security situation is too unstable for safe IDP returns. The destruction of 90% of homes in the Krinding camps during the violence also impedes returns (OCHA 31/01/2021; Save the Children 21/01/2021).
- Attacks on civilians in areas around Ag Geneina continue and protection is a key concern (UNFPA 30/01/2021). High tensions, impunity, and gaps in protection by state authorities present risks of further violence across Darfur, as witnessed in South Darfur (OHCHR 22/01/2021).

HUMANITARIAN CONSTRAINTS

- The violence has resulted in the deaths of three aid workers (OCHA 20/01/2021). Since 18 January the violence has subsided, improving security conditions for humanitarian actors. The situation is still volatile however, and some organisations are conducting needs assessments remotely because of security concerns (ABC News 18/01/2021; DTM 20/01/2021; UNFPA 19/01/2021).
- Access constraints are preventing actors from scaling up responses. Protestors have blocked main roads into Ag Geneina, and humanitarian flights remain suspended. 700,000 people in need have not been reached since 17 January. Organisations have negotiated access to areas outside Ag Geneina town, enabling them to provide assistance to 40,000 newly displaced people (OCHA 31/01/2021; OCHA 28/01/2021).



KEY PRIORITIES

+100,000
PEOPLE DISPLACED

+470
PEOPLE INJURED

90%
OF HOMES
DESTROYED IN
KRINDING CAMPS

NATIONAL RESPONSE CAPACITY

- Humanitarian Aid Commission
- Sudanese Red Crescent Society
- Sudanese Armed Forces

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE CAPACITY

- Several INGOs
 - UN agencies
- (FAO, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, WHO)

SECTORAL NEEDS

Protection

There are reports of continued attacks on civilians in areas around Ag Geneina. People in affected areas fear that local forces are not able to provide protection. Women and girls have reported cases of sexual and gender-based violence during and after displacement (UNFPA 30/01/2021).

Shelter and NFIs

65,800 IDPs are sheltering in 52 public buildings, including schools, while the remaining 43,000 are staying in open areas (DTM 01/02/2021). They are in urgent need of NFIs including sleeping mats, blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen equipment, and dignity kits for women and girls. Humanitarian actors are advocating for funds to fill gaps and meet basic NFI needs (DTM 20/01/2021; OCHA 20/01/2021; OCHA 18/01/2021).

IDPs will require materials and support to facilitate returns when the security situation allows, as there are reports of widespread property destruction in camps (ABC News 18/01/2021; UNFPA 19/01/2021; Save the Children 21/01/2021).

WASH

The Humanitarian Aid Commission and UN agencies previously identified WASH as a priority need for IDPs in Ag Geneina. Newly displaced people lack access to WASH facilities in the temporary shelters (OCHA 20/01/2021; UNFPA 30/01/2021).

Food security

Displaced people require emergency food assistance, which the WFP has said it can provide. Prices of fresh food have increased because of a lack of availability caused by shop closures and blocked supply routes (OCHA 20/01/2021; OCHA 28/01/2021).

Over 212,000 people were already facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and above levels of food insecurity in Ag Geneina before the conflict, with IDPs among the most vulnerable (FEWS NET 12/2020; OCHA 31/01/2021). Disruptions to winter harvesting and planting activities and the loss of livestock caused by the conflict-induced displacement are likely to have long-lasting impacts on people's livelihoods and food security situations (WFP 29/01/2021).

Health

Two primary healthcare centres are functioning with reduced capacity in Ag Geneina. Health facilities are struggling to attend to patients with limited medical supplies and personnel (OCHA 20/01/2021; UNFPA 19/01/2021).

Conditions in the communal shelters are overcrowded and unsanitary, increasing the risk of COVID-19 transmission and other communicable diseases (UNFPA 30/01/2021). West Darfur experienced outbreaks of malaria and chikungunya in October 2020 and a lack of mosquito nets in shelters presents risks of further outbreaks (Radio Dabanga 07/10/2020).

EDUCATION

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AGGRAVATING FACTORS

Recurring intercommunal violence

Though West Darfur has been mostly calm since 2010, tensions between Masalit and Arab tribes have increased since 2017 – although the reasons behind this increase are unclear (Reuters 01/01/2020). During the second half of 2020, West Darfur saw a significant increase in violent clashes (OCHA 17/01/2021). Last year, attacks also targeted the Krinding IDP camps, leading to repeated displacements and damaging limited camp infrastructure. These recurring incidences of violence obstruct recovery and increase the humanitarian needs of affected people (Reuters 18/01/2021; UNHCR 28/01/2020; OCHA 27/07/2020).

Withdrawal of UN peacekeeping mission

In December 2020, the UN African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) formally ended its operations in Darfur (Al Jazeera 17/01/2021). The Government of Sudan will now assume full responsibility for protecting civilians, facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance and supporting the mediation of intercommunal conflicts (OCHA 17/01/2021). This has coincided with an increase in violence and civil unrest in the region, prompting concerns that violent actors are taking advantage of security and protection gaps left by the withdrawal to launch attacks (HRW 23/01/2021; Reuters 18/01/2021).

Poverty and food insecurity

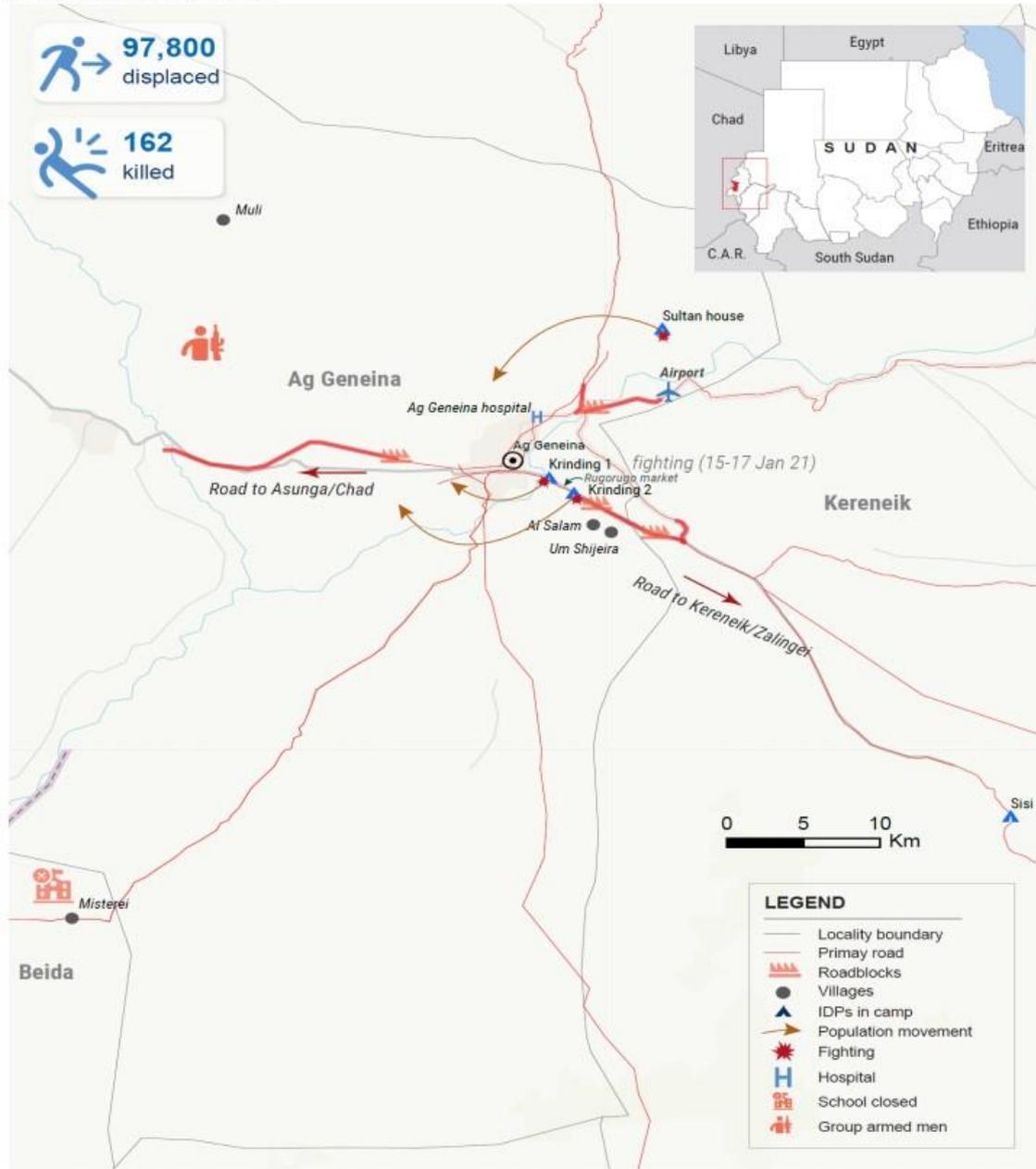
Darfur is one of the poorest regions in Sudan, with poverty rates as high as 67% in some areas (UN 18/01/2021). High food prices and reduced household purchasing power are projected to drive increased levels of food insecurity in the first half of 2021 in Darfur and across Sudan. Displaced and conflict-affected households are most likely to face acute food insecurity and require emergency assistance (FEWS NET 12/2020; OCHA 17/01/2021).

COVID-19

Sudan's health system was already under extreme stress before the pandemic, and over 80% of the population had no access to a health centre within two hours of their home. In 2018, Darfur closed 25% of its health facilities because of a lack of funds and staff (OCHA 17/01/2021). Injuries and disease outbreaks caused by the recent violence risk generating health needs that cannot be met.

DISPLACEMENT IN AG GENEINA

Situation map of Aq Geneina



Source: OCHA 31/01/2021