



KEY PRIORITIES

+31,000

PEOPLE DISPLACED

At least 90

INDIVIDUALS KILLED

+300

INJURED

High risk

DISEASE OUTBREAK

CRISIS IMPACT OVERVIEW

- The latest intercommunal violence in Blue Nile state began on 13 July 2022, between members of the Hausa tribe on one side and the Hamaj and Berta tribes on the other, in Gabal Hamad and Village 7, Wad Al Mahi locality. Clashes broke out following the death of two individuals from the Hamaj tribe (IOM 22/07/2022).
- On 14 July, intercommunal violence continued between Berta and Hausa tribesmen across Ganis town and other parts of Ar Rusayris locality, Blue Nile state. On 15–16 July, the violence spread to Ed Damazine town within Blue Nile state (The Guardian 17/07/2022; Al Bawaba 21/07/2022; TWP 19/07/2022).
- On 16 July, the Sudanese Government deployed the military and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces to bring stability to the region. It also banned gatherings in the towns of Ar Rusayris and Ed Damazine. The local governor had previously banned gatherings and marches for one month on 15 July (The Guardian 17/07/2022; Al Jazeera 17/07/2022). The Sudanese Government also imposed a one-month nightly curfew starting on 19 July (OCHA 25/07/2022). Despite these measures, clashes broke out again on 20 July in Ganis and Ar Rusayris towns over a robbery attempt but did not cause displacement (IOM 25/07/2022; OCHA 21/07/2022).
- As at 25 July, the violence had killed at least 90 individuals and injured more than 300 (IOM 25/07/2022). It had also led to the displacement of 31,000 people from Ganis (Ar Rusayris locality) to other areas within Blue Nile state and to neighbouring Aj Jazira, Sennar, and White Nile states. Among the 31,000 displaced, 12,600 are in Blue Nile state (within or outside Ed Damazine locality), around 12,800 have sought refuge in Sennar state, 4,500 are in White Nile state, and over 1,200 are in Aj Jazira state (OCHA 25/07/2022). People are sheltering in schools and other public facilities or are hosted by family and friends. Among the IDPs, there are more than 3,400 people with disabilities (IOM 25/07/2022). Priority needs for the displaced include food, WASH, health assistance, and NFIs, including mattresses and blankets (IOM 22/07/2022; OCHA 21/07/2022).
- As at June, there were no incidents of displacement resulting from the violence in Blue Nile state (OCHA 15/07/2022).

ANTICIPATED SCALE AND SCOPE

- The likelihood of more violence is significant. The military coup in October 2021 created a security vacuum that has since increased the frequency of violent clashes resulting from disputes over land, livestock, access to water, and grazing (Al Jazeera 22/07/2022).
- Intercommunal violence is likely to increase during the harvest season (November–January) because of increasing competition over access to farming lands and disputes over scarce natural resources between pastoralists and farmers (FEWS NET 16/07/2022). An increase in violence is likely to result in further displacement and reduce the likelihood of IDPs being able to return.
- Blue Nile state borders Benishangul Gumuz region in Ethiopia. Because the Berta tribe lives on both sides of the border, violence has the potential to spread into this region (Al Jazeera 22/07/2022 and 19/07/2022).
- The number of IDPs in the various displacement sites is likely to change since the IDPs remain highly mobile and many have reported intending to move to another location, which will result in additional movements (IOM 25/07/2022). IDPs from Blue Nile normally go to Sennar or White Nile or cross the border into Ethiopia and South Sudan. Because of the logistical and security challenges associated with travelling long distances, most of the recent IDPs from Blue Nile remain displaced within the state (IOM 12/08/2021).

HUMANITARIAN CONSTRAINTS

The roads leading to Ed Damazine town are open, and security forces have removed all unauthorised checkpoints along the streets. Security concerns continue to restrict movements to Ganis town, affecting the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the affected population (OCHA 25/07/2022; Al Jazeera 22/07/2022).

As at 26 July 2022, electric outages persisted in Blue Nile state after an explosion in the local power plant, also affecting the delivery of humanitarian services to the affected population (Radio Dabanga 25/07/2022; OCHA 25/07/2022).

The presence of explosive ordnance in Blue Nile state poses a risk to the lives and restricts the movement of IDPs and aid workers. The situation limits the ability of displaced people to access humanitarian services and restricts aid workers from delivering humanitarian assistance to the affected population (OCHA 02/12/2021).

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Food security

Food is among the immediate needs of the displaced population (IOM 25/07/2022; OCHA 21/07/2022 and 25/07/2022). The looting of local markets has resulted in a shortage of food supplies (Radio Dabanga 20/07/2022).

The continuation of violence during the planting season (June–August) is likely to disrupt farming activities. The clashes have led to IDPs losing access to farming lands, which is likely to have an adverse effect on the harvest season (November–January) and on people's food security (FEWS NET 16/07/2022; Geneva Solutions 22/07/2022).

Between June–September 2022, around 30% of people in Ar Rusayris and Ed Damazine towns were projected to experience Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse levels of food insecurity (IPC accessed 24/07/2022). In Sudan, IDPs have a higher vulnerability to food insecurity because of poverty and eroded coping capacities (OCHA 02/12/2021).

Health

IDPs in areas where insecurity has led to access limitations are in need of medical services and medicine (Al Jazeera 22/07/2022).

People displaced within Blue Nile state are unable to access adequate health services given the scarcity of equipment and life-saving medicine in hospitals (The Guardian 17/07/2022). As at 20 July, the clashes had seriously injured over 30 people, of whom 20 had been transferred to Khartoum for treatment while the rest remained in Ed Damazine hospital, which did not have the capacity to treat them (Radio Dabanga 20/07/2022). The hospital urgently needs surgeons and orthopaedics, as well as medicine, tents, outpatient treatment capacity, and surgical supplies (OCHA/UN RC/HC Sudan 19/07/2022; Radio Dabanga 20/07/2022).

WASH

IDPs in temporary shelters have no access to clean drinking water and are in need of water tanks and water purification tablets (OCHA 21/07/2022). Electric outages are affecting people's access to clean drinking water, forcing them to rely on untreated water sources (Radio Dabanga 25/07/2022). The situation poses a health risk and increases the likelihood of disease outbreaks.

Shelter

Among the displaced people, more than 13,000 are seeking shelter in schools and public buildings, nearly 3,200 are hosted by relatives and friends, and the rest are taking shelter in abandoned buildings (IOM 22/07/2022).

IDPs have left their homes without taking personal belongings and are in need of essential NFIs, including mattresses, sleeping nets, and cooking utensils (OCHA 21/07/2022; Al Jazeera 22/07/2022).

Protection

IDPs taking shelter in schools or with relatives and friends are living in crowded spaces that do not have enough WASH facilities and do not provide enough personal space for IDPs. There is also a lack of privacy in overcrowded schools where men, women, and children are cramped in small spaces (Radio Dabanga 20/07/2022).

There are more than 3,400 people with disabilities among the displaced population (IOM 25/07/2022). These people are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence, especially in IDP settings. People with disabilities have limited access to services in Blue Nile state (OCHA 02/12/2021).

AGGRAVATING FACTORS

Rainy season and disease outbreak

The recent clashes have coincided with the rainy season (June–September) (OCHA 21/07/2022 and 29/09/2021). Floods cause significant damage to houses and public facilities and affect farmlands and public infrastructure facilities. Blue Nile state is one of the states affected by floods (OCHA 02/12/2021).

Flooding peaks between August–September (OCHA 17/07/2022). The 2022 rainy season is forecasted to be wetter than normal, increasing the risk of flash floods (OCHA 07/06/2022). The 2022 flooding season is expected to affect more than 460,000 people across Sudan (OCHA 15/07/2022). Floods are likely to decrease the displaced population's access to services and worsen their humanitarian needs.

Flooding further disrupts access to WASH services and clean water, which is already hampered by displacement. This disruption increases the risk of poor environmental health and sanitation-related diseases common in Sudan, including vector-borne diseases like dengue fever, Rift Valley fever, and chikungunya (OCHA 21/07/2022 and 02/12/2021).

Political instability

Political tensions since the military coup in October 2021 have created a security vacuum, which has increased the frequency of intercommunal violence in several parts of the country, including Blue Nile state (France 24 17/07/2022; Al Jazeera 17/07/2022). Security forces have responded to mass protests and civil unrest throughout the country, which has contributed to increasing levels of insecurity (UNSC 02/03/2022).

Economic crisis

In June 2022, the value of the Sudanese pound against the US dollar was more than 20% lower than the June 2021 value and nearly 290% lower than the five-year average (FEWS NET 16/07/2022). Because of the liquidity crisis, the Sudanese Government has opted to float the value of the local currency, leaving markets to establish the value of the currency based on supply and demand (AP News 07/03/2022).

In May 2022, inflation rates in Sudan were over 190%. High inflation rates are causing higher commodity prices, affecting people's ability to afford basic goods (FEWS NET 16/07/2022).

Economic hardship has increased competition over resources, creating further communal tensions over land access and ownership (OCHA 02/12/2021).

Landmines and explosive remnants of war

Blue Nile is the state with the second-highest contamination of landmines and explosive ordnance in Sudan (OCHA 02/12/2021). The lack of information for IDPs on areas contaminated with landmines and explosive remnants of war increases security risks for the newly displaced (UNHCR 31/01/2022; OCHA 02/12/2021).

Displacement caused by conflict in Blue Nile state as at 21 July



Source: OCHA (25/07/2022)

Sudanese borders with Ethiopia



Source: Rift Valley Institute (March 2020)