Overview of the Humanitarian Situation in Sudan

In 2014 varied migratory phenomena occurred in Sudan. Approximately 457,000 persons were displaced in Darfur and 160,000 in South Kordofan (OCHA report). The conflict in South Sudan caused 119,709 South Sudanese to flee to Sudan (UNHCR). IOM’s Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration program aided Sudanese in their return from Europe (Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, Netherlands), Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea), Africa (Niger, Djibouti), and neighboring countries such as Egypt and Libya, providing most migrants with pre-return counseling. Sudanese returnees fled Chad for North and West Darfur following clashes in the Tibesti gold mines, whilst others fled Libya for Khartoum and South Darfur. Sudanese returnees also traveled through Khartoum escaping emergencies in the Central Africa Republic and Syria.

Meanwhile, internally displaced persons continued attempting returning to their places of origin, particularly in Darfur. Humanitarian agencies faced large numbers of returnees, some of whom were displaced only for days or weeks, particularly in North Darfur. Some returned temporarily to cultivate their land while others maintained their return was final. An estimated 235,288 IDPs returned to their areas of origin in 2014.

The nature of internal displacement in South Kordofan State differs from that of Darfur. In South Kordofan, the majority of the displaced and affected population lives in schools and mosques, or resides with host families or affected population sites. Return is precarious, as some returning IDPs are forced back into secondary displacement due to sheer lack of livelihoods and basic services.

Abyei PCA Area has had an equally high level of protracted displacement since the conflict in 2011 with severely low humanitarian response capacity. In total, 80,000 Ngok Dinka IDPs remain displaced in the Abyei Area, on top of approximately 6,000 South Sudanese displaced from Unity State (Abyei Strategy 2014, OCHA).
Activities by beneficiary

During 2014, IOM implemented DTM needs assessments, Health, WASH, Livelihood, and ES/NFI activities as a humanitarian response strategy to the crises in Darfur, South Kordofan, and Abyei, in addition to assisting those returning to Sudan from emergencies abroad. IOM Sudan also carried out humanitarian activities for vulnerable and affected populations in West Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Khartoum. A summary of those activities is outlined below by sector.

*WASH and Emergency Health include both direct and indirect beneficiaries

IOM co-leads the CCS Sector in Sudan with OCHA.
In 2014, IOM received reports of 140,814 families (681,751 individuals) displaced or affected persons in North, South and Central Darfur states. Out of the total reported caseload, IOM identified only 74,931 families (310,641 individuals) in these three states. Therefore, IOM found that 54% of the reported caseload was duplicated or mixed with host communities, indicating some IDPs may have left the displacement site for other areas or pointing to inaccuracy in the initial reported data.

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a system composed of a variety of tools and processes designed and developed to track and monitor population displacement during crises. DTM registration and (re)verification activities in 2014 provided accurate numbers of IDPs and affected population requiring assistance, enabling partners such as UNICEF to deliver lifesaving aid to malnourished children. IOM’s re-verification system in Darfur uses biometric equipment, enhancing accuracy in identification processes and in reporting new arrivals’ needs to agencies and humanitarian partners.

IOM also maintained mobile tracking hubs in displacement and return areas, expanding monitoring of population movement trends and conducting registration and verification exercises where necessary. In addition, assessments in areas of high mobility continue to provide early warning systems for mass movements and initial indications of the needs within camps/settlements.

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IDPs/ Affected Population

DTM results are analyzed and reported into the coordination structure of OCHA, other sectors/clusters, and local authorities on a regular basis thus ensuring the utmost efficiency in delivering humanitarian aid.
South Sudanese Fleeing to Sudan
In 2014, a total of 119,709 South Sudanese fleeing the conflict in South Sudan crossed the borders into Sudan (UNHCR, 9 January 2015). IOM assisted a total of 52,196 people, through the DTM tracking hub at Jabal Awlia, who were mostly registered in South and West Kordofan. The divergence between IOM and UNHCR numbers is due to the large number of South Sudanese present in White Nile State (67,513), which the IOM DTM project does not cover. IOM’s hub in Jabal Awlia helped to track the movements of 32,309 South Sudanese. IOM also assisted a total of 15,822 South Sudanese in South Kordofan, and 1,405 in West Kordofan. A further 164 people and 2,496 people were registered in East Darfur and in Abyei respectively.

Population Tracking and Village Assessments
In 2014, through the Population Tracking and Village Assessment Project (PTVAP), a total of 6,279 villages were assessed in Darfur. 1,028 village assessments were conducted in 8 localities in West Darfur and approximately 5,251 villages were assessed in North Darfur. The aim of the project was to support humanitarian actors as well as local authorities with planning and effective distribution of humanitarian assistance during emergency and early recovery phases. The PTVAP project provided comprehensive baseline population data, ongoing monitoring of population movements, and assessments of access to basic services in the rural areas and areas with the greatest displacement. IOM can now share this information with partners, aiding their humanitarian assistance projects. The data from the PTVAP also provides key information for the design of early recovery and reintegration interventions.

RECOVERY, RETURN AND REINTEGRATION (RRR)
IOM co-leads the RRR Sector in Sudan with UNDP and CRS. In 2014, there were a total of 11,009 returnees in South Kordofan, 13,497 in West Kordofan, 23,970 in North Darfur, and 11,107 returnees in West Darfur. The RRR and CCS sectors shared and used the information from the DTM, Return Tracking, and PTVAP projects to ensure that target beneficiaries (IDPs, returnees, and host communities) had access to basic services and early recovery/reintegration assistance.

In 2014, RRR sector partners used CHF funding and the IOM tracking and assessment information in Habila, West Darfur, to provide basic services and rehabilitate critical infrastructure (such as crossing points) to help communities access services/places such as hospitals and local markets. The rehabilitation of crossing points also assisted other humanitarian actors to provide basic services for target beneficiaries. In addition, the RRR sector also liaised with the Protection sector to get information on areas of safe returns – this information was shared with returnees. IOM also provided return assistance: medical screenings, onward transportation, food, and water, for Sudanese returnees; and small reintegration grants (in cash/in kind) to some returnees through Assisted Voluntary Returns and Reintegration (AVRR) program.
Assisted Voluntary Return Program (AVR)

In 2014, a total of 288 Sudanese returned to Sudan from 17 countries under IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return program, with the majority leaving from Libya, Norway, Egypt, and Indonesia. All the returnees except those from Norway and Greece received arrival and reception assistance and onward transportation assistance. 148 of the 288 returnees received reintegration assistance, whilst 140 developed, with IOM's support, a reintegration activity to generate income. The amount of the reintegration grant varied depending on the fund approved by the donor, which usually originates from the government of the country of return.

Emergency Return

In 2014, IOM assisted a total of 1,950 Sudanese returnees fleeing emergencies overseas and, in the case of Chad, due to expulsion following clashes in the Tibesti gold mines. The expelled Sudanese migrants returning from Chad were 1,554; 110 Sudanese returned due to the emergency in Central African Republic (CAR), and 54 Sudanese fled the conflict in Syria. For the latter, IOM used cross-border land transportation from Syria to Lebanon followed by transportation on commercial flights to Sudan. IOM also aided 170 Sudanese fleeing Libya due to unrest, who arrived to Sudan following several paths: 50 reached Saloum in Egypt, and from there were escorted overland on foot to Khartoum, whilst 120 traveled through Niger and Chad and reached Nyala by truck. An additional 72 Sudanese returned from Libya to Khartoum on commercial airlines.

RAPID RESPONSE FUND (RRF)

IOM Sudan launched the Rapid Response Fund (RRF) in February 2014, funded by the United States Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). The RRF is a preparedness and pre-positioning response funding mechanism, which can be activated rapidly to meet critical needs in the event of man-made or natural disasters, with a projected one week turnaround from proposal submission to approval. The geographical areas covered by this rapid funding mechanism are Abyei, Blue Nile, Darfur, South and West Kordofan. The RRF projects offer short-term, emergency support (maximum 3 months) in six sectors: (i) Shelter...
and Settlement; (ii) Non-Food Items; (iii) Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management; (iv) Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); (v) Health; (vi) Protection. Thus far in the first year of IOM’s administration of the RRF 2013/2014 the program has provided assistance to 156,325 beneficiaries, through 354,203.79 USD granted to four different implementing partners: United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Organization for Voluntary Humanitarian Assistance (ASSIST), Care International Switzerland (CIS), and Mercy Corps Scotland (MCS).

EMERGENCY SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (ES & NFI)
IOM’s ES/NFI projects include the delivery of lifesaving emergency shelter and non-food items to IDPs and returnees. In 2014, IOM shelter and NFI distribution teams reached an estimated 7,755 beneficiaries in South Kordofan, South Darfur, and North Darfur. Despite funding challenges, IOM and partners reached shelter and NFI assistance targets for the most vulnerable people in line with the sector’s vulnerability criteria. For each location the distribution of materials was based on assessed needs of the population, followed by a distribution mission including training and capacity building for beneficiaries on the construction of resilient emergency shelter structures. Each distribution mission was followed by a post distribution monitoring mission to verify the correct assembly and usage of materials.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS (FSL)
Vocational Trainings
Vocational trainings aim to break the cycle of aid dependency and address beneficiaries’ limited variety of income sources. IOM provided 4 separate courses at the Technical School in North Darfur in collaboration with the State Ministry of Education: construction and welding for men, and sewing and construction of handicrafts for women. In 2014, IOM trained approximately 160 students including IDPs and urban youths in El Fasher and in Zamzam, Abu Shouk, and El Salam camps. All the trained students received starter kits to help them start small businesses.

Agricultural and Pastoral Activities and Income Generating Activities (IGA)
IOM’s project in South Kordofan, West Kordofan, and Blue Nile provides livelihood assistance and support to IDPs and returnees, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Animal Resources, the Ministry of Social Welfare, and the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC).
In South Kordofan, the distribution of seeds and tools reached 500 households; in West Kordofan, the distribution covered 1,104 households. The agriculture component reached a total of 10,264 individuals - 5,203 women, and 5,061 men, of whom 277 were vulnerable people. These beneficiaries were trained by the Ministry of Agriculture, hence decreasing their dependence on humanitarian aid. Agricultural income generating activities also reached 70 households in Blue Nile. IOM trained 210 beneficiaries on business planning, finance, book keeping and business plan proposal writing, 50 of whom were selected in South and West Kordofan, with their training due to begin at end of January 2015.

**HEALTH**

On 27 April 2014, IOM began managing a Primary Health Care Clinic (PHC) at Elseraif Camp in South Darfur, built to serve the primary health care needs of 25,247 IDPs. Approximately 19,920 IDPs were treated at the clinic, and 54 cases were referred to secondary facilities for further medical care. 75 infants were delivered, 11,930 antenatal care visits completed, and 10,235 children under 5 were assisted.

IOM trained over 100 IDPs from Elseraif and Kalma camps in South Darfur to conduct waste management, health education, and promotion campaigns, benefiting 740,000 people. 31,709 house-to-house/shelter-to-shelter visits were conducted for health promotion purposes, and approximately 17,833 Information Education Communication materials on hygiene and solid waste management were distributed, as well as 2000 hygiene kits.

In El Fasher, North Darfur, IOM trained 100 IDPs on basic health issues. The trained health promoters then carried out home health promotion visits. In Zamzam, MUAC screening was performed for 846 children to assess their risk of malnutrition, and peer education sessions were conducted for 30 IDPs from Zamzam, Alsalam, and Abu Shouk camps. 30 midwives were trained on the prevention of mother to child HIV transmission, and 30 IDPS were trained on Psychological First Aid.
In 2014, IOM provided lifesaving WASH assistance for conflict affected people in several crisis affected states: Blue Nile, South and West Kordofan, South Darfur, North Darfur and Abyei. IOM used DTM data to assess the most pressing WASH needs and put necessary infrastructures in place to maintain the minimum standard of dignity for affected populations. Newly displaced people required both emergency responses as well as enhancement of limited WASH infrastructures. In addition, IOM remained the sole provider of vital WASH services in the northern part of Abyei Area, where the population has increased needs.

Overall, IOM provided WASH services to 277,370 conflict affected people including 1,500 South Sudanese in South Kordofan and 1,900 South Sudanese in Abyei. IOM WASH activities also benefited 14,200 non-displaced but severely affected beneficiaries.

Challenges faced by IOM in 2014 include limited access due to insecurity, and delays in securing approval for some of the activities related to the DTM projects. This challenge has taught IOM that more information campaigns and workshops must be conducted with local authorities at both federal and state level in order to increase understanding of the project activities.
Continuously changing emergencies led to dramatic alterations in priorities which were overcome through strict coordination with the relevant sector in order to deliver effective assistance. Other challenges included poor road infrastructure during the rainy season, and technical issues such as the lack of availability of ground water in some of the IDPs’ chosen settlement areas, thus aggravating difficulties in supplying them with water. IOM and humanitarian partners have had to adapt to the situations on the ground in order to effectively respond to emergencies and provide the best possible aid to the beneficiaries most in need.

CONCLUSION
There is an ongoing need for humanitarian assistance in Darfur, South Kordofan, West Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Abyei in 2015. Developing a long-term solution for voluntary return and/or local integration of IDPs will necessitate improving basic services and livelihoods of IDPs and affected populations, as well as developing a sustainable durable solutions strategy. However, conflicts in Darfur and South Kordofan continue to create displacements, and the situation in South Sudan remains a source of sustained influx of refugees into Sudan. IOM, despite challenges faced in 2014, has succeeded in reaching hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries with humanitarian aid, and aims, with the help of its donors, to continue providing the needed assistance throughout the coming year.