

# SKBN Coordination Unit Humanitarian Update

September 2019

## FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

### *Jibraka harvest underway; moderate food insecurity high in Blue Nile*

The *jibraka* harvest - small farms close to the houses – started now, marking the end of the lean season. Although the food security is slightly better than the same period last year, the situation remains concerning both in Blue Nile and South Kordofan. With the *jibraka harvest*, families will be able now to have access to vegetables and some cereals. The main harvest, however, is still months away, starting in October/November (see seasonal calendar on the next page).

According to the [last FSMU quarterly report \(May-July\)](#), “Moderate food insecurity remained a major concern [in Southern Kurmuk County], however, exacerbated by flooding witnessed along the Yabus river, which may cause localized pockets of severe food insecurity as the season progresses”.

“In Wadaka, for example, the number of households without any food stocks increased from 46 per cent [last year] to 97 per cent [this year]. A possible reason why this was not reflected in the numbers of people that were severely food insecure was that households in Wadaka were able to fall back on income from mining (primarily gold). This is considered normal for this time of year and correlates with an increased dependence on cash to purchase food. Still, it is significant, given that the harvest is not due to start until October. The heavy rains and flooding registered in the region over the last months will likely affect farm harvests and could drive declining levels of food security through August and September”.

Migration of households into the monitored areas from the rest of Sudan and refugee camps in South Sudan, as well as internal displacements continues. Movements of people seems to be mostly correlating with severe food insecurity. Movements from Ethiopia and South Sudan continue across the border, with reports of people from Maban, South Sudan crossing into Ethiopia each week. These are mainly students and people affected by food shortages in Maban, and access to health & education services.

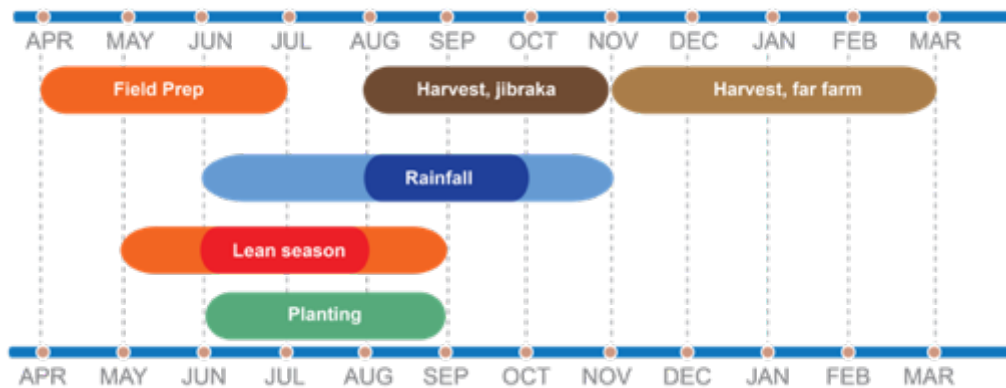


Cholera Awareness Session Blue Nile

### **Highlights:**

***Flooding in the Blue Nile and heavy rainfall in South Kordofan impedes on humanitarian aid delivery and will likely impact the main harvest***

***Cholera awareness and prevention activities ongoing in the Blue Nile***



*Seasonal calendar for South Kordofan and Blue Nile*

Market functionality in the Central and Western part of South Kordofan is reportedly good, while market prices seems to be stable, if not lower in some cases, than the same time last year. Some staples such as sorghum have been available on the market and will likely keep market prices lower than in the rest of Sudan, where shortages of fuel and the devaluation of the Sudanese Pound continue to impact the economy.

In Blue Nile, traders have been mostly unable to access markets mainly due to the heavy rains. According to the [FSMU monthly market brief](#) “In July, 89 per cent of the families, the highest percentage since July 2016, reported that their food stocks would not last more than a month. Food insecurity levels will likely increase over the coming months in Southern Kurmuk County due to an increased dependence on markets for staple foods and the probability of high market prices. Close monitoring of the situation is therefore recommended”.

## WASH

### *Awareness raising and preventative measures ongoing*

Cholera awareness raising and preventative measures are ongoing in the government SPLM-N controlled areas of Blue Nile.

## HEALTH

### *Funding gaps, cholera major risk for the communities in Blue Nile*

According to reports from medical staff, in the last month over 40 cases of impetigo have been recorded in the Blue Nile. This highly contagious skin infection is easily treated with antibiotics, if available. The health sector in the Blue Nile is under immense stress due to insufficient number of clinics, drug supplies to existing clinics and lack of support for complicated and emergency cases.

Cholera awareness raising and preventative measures are ongoing in the government SPLM-N controlled areas of Blue Nile. Yabus and Komo Ganza payam in Southern Kurmuk county are at risk due to its proximity to the neighbouring Ethiopia. Returnees from Blue Nile never cross directly into SPLM-N liberated area in Blue Nile. Rather they cross into Ethiopia through refugee camps, then diagonally cross into the liberated area of the region via Ethiopian route from Benishangul Gumuz region in Assosa. Humanitarian agencies continue to mobilize resources and extra handwashing stations have been built in the last month along with awareness raising campaigns in all four payams of Southern Kurmuk County. However, response to the crisis will be very difficult due to the fragile health sector and poor roads.

According to the [latest OCHA Sudan bulletin](#), an estimated 13,000 cholera cases are expected in the next 6 months in high-risk states of Sudan. The number of suspected cholera cases continues to rise, with 231 cases—including eight deaths—reported in Blue Nile and Sennar states as of 2 October 2019. WHO is planning to conduct a vaccination campaign for 1.6 million people in both states starting mid-October, which may not reach the people in the liberated areas of Blue Nile, leaving them at increased risk of infection. With lack of treatment services, high mortality can be anticipated.

## EDUCATION

### *Primary schools will re-open in October & November*

Primary schools will re-open in October in South Kordofan and in November in Blue Nile after the three-month break taken for the cultivation season in the Areas.

More than 50 percent of teachers are untrained, and a survey conducted in 2017 found that on average there was one teacher to 54 students' ratio. Moreover, infrastructure in the Areas do not support the number of students with adequate teaching facilities and materials. Education is one of the top priorities for the people of the Two Areas and consistently one of the main reasons for leaving the areas for neighbouring countries. Not only does this separate child from their families for long periods of time but impacts the cultural exposure of these children.

## SECURITY, ACCESS AND PROTECTION

### *Relative calm continues*

No incidents of insecurity have been reported from the areas monitored. Free movement is reported in both Areas, with easier access for traders in Western Jebels than in the last few months.

Heavy rains and flooding in specific localities in both Areas have destroyed crops and houses. This has made thousands of households vulnerable in Thobo and Western Kadugli in South Kordofan; and across all four payams of Southern Kurmuk County of the Blue Nile. Flooding, muddy roads, and particularly flooded rivers due to heavy rains have impeded humanitarian aid deliveries in some areas, especially in Blue Nile. However, there has been unusually heavy rains for this time of year in South Kordofan as well and the rivers have cut off movements. Khor Galab, in particular, is still flooded, cutting off North-South transport in the area.

*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](mailto: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 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

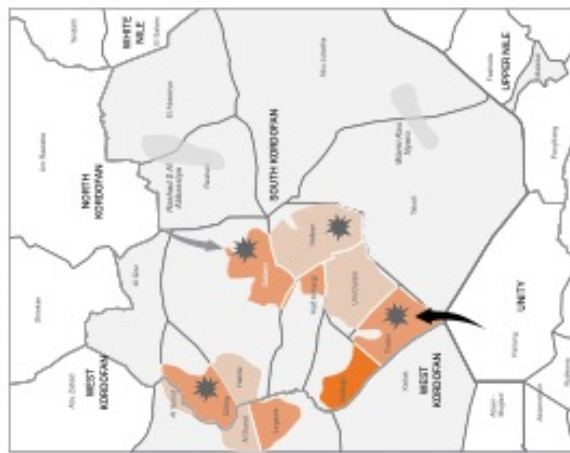
**1.2M**  
Total population

**46.3%**  
People in Need

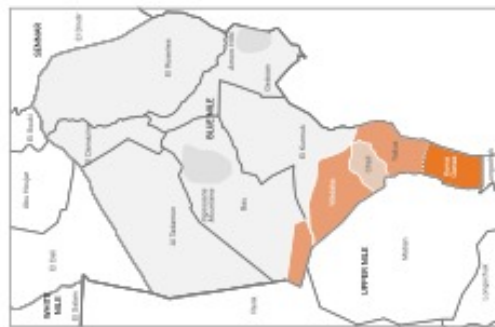
**550k**  
Severe and moderate food insecure population (Equivalent to IPC 3 and 4)

**165k** **65k**

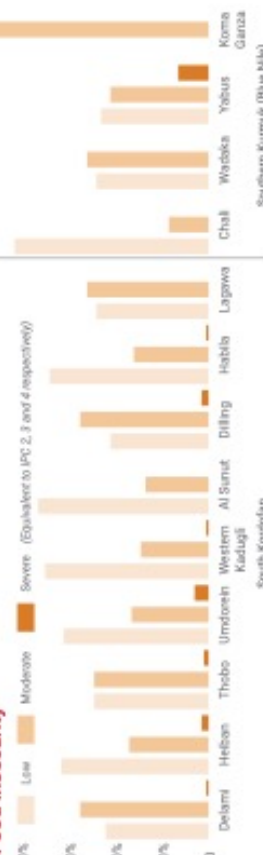
### South Kordofan State



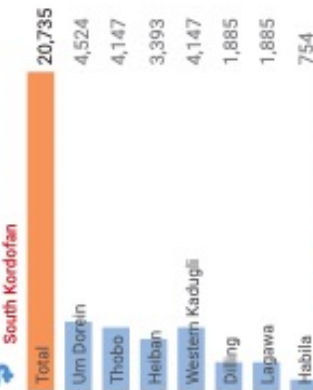
### Blue Nile State



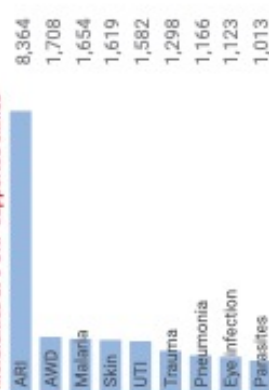
### Food insecurity



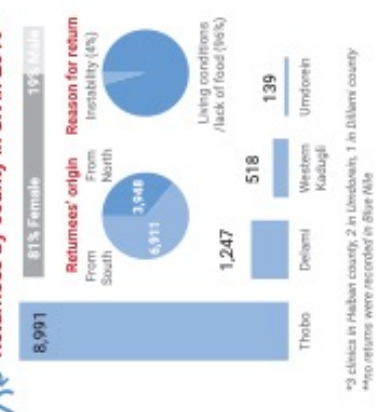
### Disease cases by county



### Morbidities at 6 ORP supported clinics\*



### Returnees by county in SK in 2019\*\*



\*3 clinics in Helban county, 2 in Umtoein, 1 in Dilling county  
\*\*No returns were recorded in Blue Nile

SKBN Coordination Unit

Created on 21 Aug 2019 Data Source: SKBN, FSMU