IMC health and nutrition activities in Jebel Marra

The international NGO International Medical Corps (IMC) has received approval from the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) and the State Ministry of Health (SMoH) of Central Darfur State to start health and nutrition activities in Golo, Boori and Jokosti in the Jebel Marra area. In November 2016, IMC assessed healthcare facilities in these three areas. IMC has been providing health and nutrition services in Guldo clinic and Nertiti hospital, also in Central Darfur, since June 2016.

Upon IMC’s request, the SMoH approved the deployment of 27 health staff to support health and nutrition activities in Golo hospital and in health facilities in Boori and Jokosti. IMC is also recruiting two doctors (one health and one nutrition project officer) to be based in Golo, Central Jebal Marra locality. In addition, the international NGO is shipping medical and nutrition supplies to Golo and plans to start rehabilitating Golo hospital (nutrition centre including the outpatient therapeutic programme, the stabilisation ward, kitchen and food store) and the health facilities in Boori and Jokosti. The activities in Golo, Boori and Jokosti are funded by the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).

Meanwhile, IMC obtained permission to start health and nutrition activities in Katti and Kurifal in Western Jebel Mara locality. At least 19 medical staff seconded from the SMoH will be trained and deployed in the two locations thanks to funding provided by the Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and the Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF). IMC will deliver drugs, nutrition supplies and will start rehabilitating the two clinics this month. Both clinics have not been operational since the closure of the international NGO Tearfund operations across Sudan in December 2015.

IMC is a global, humanitarian, non-profit organisation dedicated to saving lives and relieving suffering through health care training and relief and development programmes.
Continued support for Jebel Marra IDPs, North Darfur

The number of people who fled Jebel Marra in 2016 and took refuge in North Darfur remains unchanged at 53,000 in Sortony (21,553), Tawilla, (25,283), Kebkabiya town (2,909) and Shadad camp (3,184). These people fled their homes in the Jebel Marra area following fighting in 2016 between government forces and the Sudan Liberation Movement – Abdul Wahid (SLA-AW).

In Sortony, the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) distributed January and February food rations—from the World Food Programme (WFP)—to the 21,500 Jebel Marra IDPs taking refuge in the area. A total of 245,000 litres of water is provided to the IDPs every day. This includes 125,000 litres trucked in by the international NGO Oxfam – America and 120,000 litres supplied by the Government’s Water and Sanitation Department (WES) through the pipeline from Tui village. This brings the daily ration of water to 11.4 litres per person per day. Oxfam chlorinates water supplies at the trucks and bladders. In addition, Oxfam and the national NGO Kebkabiya Small Holders Charitable Society (KSCS) conduct sanitation activities, including home visits and hygiene promotion sessions.

In Tawilla, the international NGO Médecins Sans Frontières-España (MSF-E) started an Outpatient Feeding Therapeutic Programme (OTP) in Rwanda IDP camp—where some of the Jebel Marra IDPs are taking refuge—and rehabilitated the OTP in Tawilla hospital, according to the UN’s Children’s Fund (UNICEF). MSF-E also trained 16 nutritionists on community-based-management of acute malnutrition (CMAM). In addition, the national NGO Balsam, will start three nutrition centres in the Dali and Thabit areas of Tawilla locality.

In Kebkabiya, the national NGO KSCS distributed emergency household supplies—including plastic sheets, jerry cans, blankets and sleeping mats—to 509 people with special needs. Distributions took place from 9 to 17 January.

In Shangil Tobaya, from 10 to 17 January, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) distributed 235 emergency shelters to 235 vulnerable families (about 1,175 people) who arrived in the area from Jebel Marra.

CIS assists 89,000 people in East Darfur access clean water

The international NGO CARE international-Switzerland (CIS) is supporting access to clean water for the refugees, IDPs and the host communities in four localities in East Darfur State, benefiting up to 89,000 people. CIS—with funding from ECHO, OFDA and the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)—is rehabilitating 11 water yards in Assalaya, Yassin and Bahr El Arab localities.

In Assalaya locality, six water yards will cater for the needs of about 46,000 people living in Umgraigo, Alijam, Umsaeeda, Eshairaya and Al Nimr refugee camp. El Nimr refugee camp will eventually host South Sudanese refugees currently residing in Raja old camp (Ed Daein locality) and El Ferdous town (El Ferdous locality). The rehabilitated water
In Kario refugee camp, 13,000 refugees and host community members will benefit from the rehabilitation of water yards.

Pumps will benefit both the refugee and host community. Since September 2016, CIS has been trucking water to Raja old camp serving an estimated 4,000 South Sudanese refugees. The organisation will continue trucking in water to Raja old camp until mid-February, when the refugees will be relocated to El Nimir refugee camp.

In Yassin locality, four water yards have been rehabilitated one in Um Biom, one in Selaia'a and three in Kilakil benefitting 30,000 people from the IDP and host communities.

In Kario refugee camp in Bahr El Arab locality, 13,000 refugees and host community members will benefit from the rehabilitation of water yards. Currently, water is trucked daily to Kario by WES. WES—with support from UNICEF—will also drill two boreholes in Kario.

According to the Sudan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2014, 45.1 per cent of households in East Darfur State have access to improved water sources, comparing with 68.1 per cent of households overall in Sudan.

Over 131,000 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Sudan in 2016

Over 131,000 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Sudan in 2016—44 per cent of the 297,000 who have arrived in Sudan since mid-December 2013, the highest number of registered new arrivals in a single year, according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

This remains a children’s emergency with children making up over 67 per cent of the refugee population. The refugees have primarily settled in areas where there are few aid organisations and resources are extremely limited. Humanitarian organisations are concerned about the protection of refugee children and assisting unaccompanied and separated children remains a key priority in the response to the South Sudanese influx.

Biometric registration of refugees in Kario (East Darfur) continues

In East Darfur, biometric registration of refugees living at the Kario refugee site began in early December 2016. This process will facilitate the rapid registration of all new arrivals, support the verification of refugees and improve the tracking of refugee movements within the country. So far, 2,797 refugees out of an estimated 13,500 people currently living at the site have been biometrically registered.

According to UNHCR, over 131,000 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Sudan in 2016, the highest number of arrivals per year.

South Sudanese refugees in Khor Omer, East Darfur (UNAMID)