



Flash Update No.1

Armed Violence in Aj Jazirah

Country:	Sudan ▾
Emergency type:	Conflict ▾
Start Date of Crisis:	Oct 20, 2024
Date Issued:	Nov 5, 2024
Covering Period:	Oct 20, 2024 to Nov 4, 2024
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Key Figures



135,400

Total people affected by displacement



32,500+

Women of reproductive age affected by displacement



3,200+

Estimated pregnant women affected by displacement



30,000

People from IDP and host communities targeted with SRH services



30,000

People from IDP and host communities targeted with GBV programmes

Situation Overview

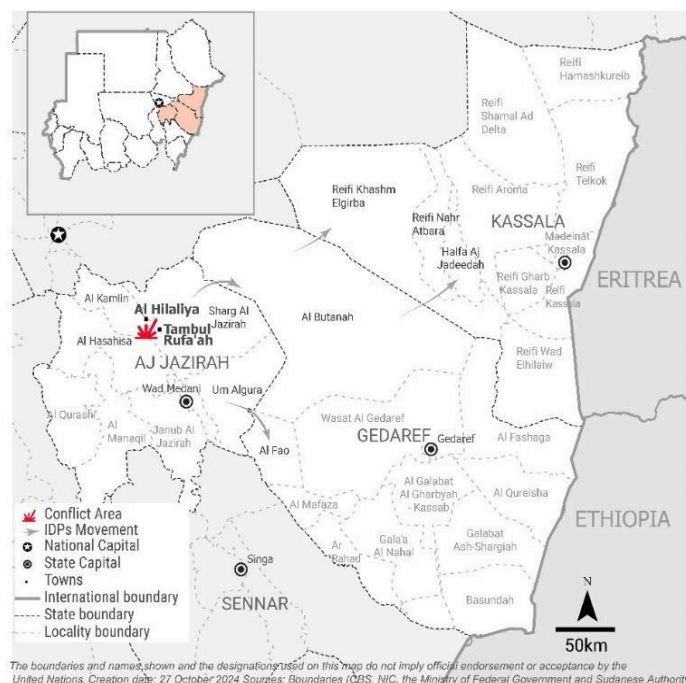
- Since 20 October, the escalating conflict in eastern Aj Jazirah, and a wave of armed violence and attacks, have led to the deaths of at least 124 civilians. Dozens of people have been injured and an estimated 135,400 [have been displaced](#) from parts of Aj Jazirah State to Kassala, Gedaref and River Nile states.
- [Reports](#) indicate severe human rights violations, with at least 27 women and girls from the ages of 6 to 60 subjected to rape and sexual assault, according to the Aj Jazirah State Ministry of Health.
- During a UNFPA, WHO and OCHA focus group discussion with young women and girls in one of the internal displacement (IDP) camps in Kassala, some participants shared with the UNFPA team what their families told them while they were still in Aj Jazira: “If we see armed fighters come to the village and attempt to rape you, we will kill you to protect you before this happens.” Additionally, some girls reported that their male relatives – brothers, uncles and fathers – had given them knives and instructed them to take their own lives should they be threatened with rape by armed fighters. An in-depth field assessment is planned this week to further investigate the situation in affected areas of Aj Jazirah State. A mobile gender-based violence (GBV) response team is ready to provide GBV case management, referral services and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) during these assessments.
- At least six health facilities have been attacked, resulting in the deaths of two health workers, severely disrupting healthcare services. Patients are being transferred to other facilities, although these are operating at limited capacity. Less than 25 percent of health facilities remain operational in the worst-affected areas of Aj Jazirah state.

UNFPA Response

Sexual and Reproductive Health

Deployment of Healthcare Providers & Mobile Clinics: Since 20 October, 1,200 consultations have been provided through five mobile medical teams deployed to Harira, Elfao and Baladiat Elgdarif, Gedaref State. An additional medical team will be deployed to Al Butana, pending access approval. An MHPSS team is ready to be deployed to Elfao Hospital.

Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care (EmONC) Support: Essential reproductive health supplies have been distributed to health facilities across Kassala, Gedaref and Al Jazirah states to support safe births for 1,700 women. Supplies to support safe deliveries, the management of obstetric complications, including caesarian sections, blood transfusions, post-abortion care, the clinical management of rape and management of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) for at least 50,000 reproductive health cases are in the pipeline from the UNFPA Hub in Port Sudan. UNFPA is supporting Eltahely Hospital in Gedaref, the primary referral point for displaced persons in need of health care, with a solar power system to maintain essential healthcare services. New Halfa, and Khashm El Girba hospitals, Kassala – key referral points – that provide comprehensive EmONC services are being supported by UNFPA with supplies, rehabilitation and medical staff training.



Clinical Management of Rape: In Gedaref, supplies for the clinical management of rape are available at Elfao Hospital, covering the needs of approximately 50 survivors, with additional supplies available for 30 survivors at Eltahely Hospital. At New Halfa and Khashm El Girba hospitals, Kassala, three trained doctors at each facility are equipped with essential kits for the clinical management of rape.

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC): Gederaf and Kassala States are some of the hardest-hit by the current cholera outbreak. Infection prevention and control supplies will be provided to Eltahely and Elfao hospitals in Gedaref State. New Halfa hospital in Kassala State will benefit from on-the-job training to strengthen IPC practices among hospital staff.



Gender-based Violence

Psychosocial Support (PSS): A team of psychologists will be deployed to IDP reception centers in Gedaref and Kassala to provide psychological first aid (PFA) and PSS services, along with information on available GBV services and referral mechanisms.

Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSSs): Two WGSSs will be established along the Elfao displacement route, with four additional temporary WGSSs set up in New Halfa, Algirba and Nahr Atbra localities to be used as an entry point for assistance, information and basic services from the mobile team. These spaces will offer basic PFA, PSS, and referrals to health services, GBV case management and MHPSS for specialized care.

Dignity Kits: A total of 3,140 dignity kits are being distributed through community-based protection networks in Gedaref, Village 6 Arab and New Halfa locality in Kassala. Youth volunteers from Y-PEER are supporting the distribution of kits and conducting community awareness activities, including home visits.

Cash Voucher Assistance (CVA): Cash assistance is being expanded for GBV survivors to facilitate access to comprehensive case management and clinical management of rape services at static health facilities and WGSSs. In addition, women and girls at high risk of GBV will be provided with one-off emergency cash assistance to address their immediate needs and mitigate the risks of GBV. Vulnerable women and girls will receive vouchers to purchase hygiene items, including soap and sanitary pads.

Safety Audit and Interagency Assessment: An interagency assessment is planned in AISobag and Albutana to effectively address the needs of GBV survivors. A targeted response plan will be developed based on identified gaps. In Kassala, an inter-agency assessment is on-going (5 - 6 November) in Elgirba, New Halfa and Nahr Atbara localities, which are most affected by the influx of new IDPs. UNFPA's response will be further guided and refined by the findings from the assessment, in addition to focus groups discussions, key informant interviews and service audits, to ensure the response aligns with the priorities and needs of affected women and girls.