



## Sudan

Nairobi, 18 November 2020

**SITUATION**

In the evening of Saturday the 7 November 2020, the region of Gedaref state in Sudan, reported to receive thousands of civilians who were fleeing from conflict in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. The Tigray regional special force attacked the northern command base. ACT Alliance-NCA (Norwegian Church Aid-Sudan) is extremely concerned about the worsening crisis in Gedaref/Kassala as the number of refugees continue to grow. As of 16 November, over 27,600 refugees had crossed the border since 7 November. The refugees are crossing over the border through the Hamdayet and Lugdi border crossings. The reports are that there are over 2000 refugees crossing the border every day. Most of the refugees are mainly women and children and they are arriving in bad physical and health condition. This number is expected to rise to potentially 200.000 in the immediate future. Tigray region is home to nearly 96,000 Eritrean refugees. When looking at the contingency plan, these refugees also might need to be taken into consideration. There is a shortage of housing, food, water, medicine and other equipment as well insecurity and lack of protection against GBV. The refugee camps in Kassala and Shagarab can help but are not equipped to cope with larger arrivals. The former Um Raquba camp in Gedaref/Kassala with a capacity of 20,000 people will be reopened. It has not been announced how long this will take.

**NEEDS**

The conflict has put the region in a state of crisis. The conflict affected persons find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet vital humanitarian needs such as access to:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	sufficient food
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	safe shelter and basic non-food items
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	basic health services and facilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure
<input type="checkbox"/>	livelihood activities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	protection services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	adequate nutrition

The dire situation is further compounded for the conflict affected people with vulnerabilities. Specifically, for woman and girls. The situation exacerbates an already harsh reality in Sudan, which is struggling under the strain of almost one million refugees and where flooding, locust outbreaks, poor economic conditions over several years and the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in 9.3 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. There is a pressing necessity to provide immediate assistance to minimize loss of life and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered first.

**STAKEHOLDERS**

The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National government	The Government Commission of Refugees (COR) is responsible for overall coordination. A Refugee Consultation Forum (RCF) at national level has been established. At the local level it will be coordinated through the Refugee Working Group
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UN Agencies	UNHCR has initiated a process to response to the influx in collaboration with COR. UNFPA is preparing a coordinated response to GBV.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INGOs	Several INGOs. ACT Alliance/NCA is in contact with these
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Red Cross Red Crescent Movement	Sudan Red Crescent Society
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military presence	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National NGOs	To be confirmed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Civil society groups	

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Faith based groups	Sudan Council of Churches member churches
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affected communities	Refugees and host communities

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the Commissioner of Refugees (COR) are currently coordinating the emergency response. To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, the ACT forum will take part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders. ACT Alliance/NCA does not have an office in the border area with Ethiopia (Kassala, Gedaref) at present, but we are collaborating closely with UNHCR, UNFPA and International NGO's in the areas of WASH and Protection/GBV/Psychosocial support. Soon we are also planning to share office space with another INGO in Gedaref. ACT Alliance/NCA is planning to travel to the Kassala/Gedaref starting the week of 23 November, accompanied by our GBV advisor and our veterinarian (many refugees are bringing their livestock) to assess the situation. An ACT Alliance Appeal will be formulated based on this assessment. ACT Alliance-NCA will communicate with ACT Regional Office in Nairobi to coordinate an Appeal

### **ACT Alliance**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance has been working in other regions of Sudan, specifically Darfur, South Kordofan/White Nile, and Khartoum since 1988 now helping/planning to help people affected by the conflict
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance works in areas affected by the conflict, and is assessing the impact of the disaster to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance is currently monitoring the situation and is preparing a rapid needs assessment to have an in-depth context analysis and better understanding of existing vulnerabilities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance is monitoring the situation and emergency teams are ready/preparing to respond according to the results of a contextual analysis and rapid needs assessment.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT forum has identified a gap in WASH and Protection/GBV/Psychosocial Support and has resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to properly bridge the identified gap.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The ACT Alliance/NCA is planning on submitting a funding proposal to provide WASH and Protection/GBV/Psychosocial Support to ensure that the conflict affected persons' basic needs are met with regards to Food, NFI, WASH and livelihood recovery.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance is ready to respond, providing WASH services and Protection/GBV/Psychosocial support affected persons in the coming months.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Furthermore, ACT Alliance will engage in advocacy on the national and international level to ensure that the voices of those affected by the conflict are amplified.

### **Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Humanitarian Response**

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