

Appalled by fighting in the Sudan, NGOs in South Sudan calls for support preparing humanitarian response

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As the conflict in Sudan enters its sixth day, the humanitarian community in South Sudan is calling on regional and international stakeholders; to spare no effort in pushing for an immediate cessation of hostilities, safeguarding of human rights, the establishment of humanitarian corridors out of the worst-affected areas. In addition, NGOs are calling for support in preparing for the humanitarian response in Sudan as well as in neighbouring countries, including South Sudan.

“Appalled by the state of affairs in Sudan, as humanitarian actors in South Sudan - a refugee hosting country - we call upon all parties to the conflict to immediately cease fighting and establish safe humanitarian corridors so those at risk and vulnerable populations can leave the worst-affected areas if they so wish. Regional stakeholders must also keep borders open to allow vulnerable communities to seek protection should they wish to do so,” Cissy Kagaba, South Sudan NGO Forum Secretariat Director says. The population fleeing conflict have the right to protection,” she says.

Donors should quickly pull together a plan for supporting humanitarian partners to be able to respond through flexible funding targeting both the refugees and returnees since Sudan is hosting many South Sudanese refugees.

The promotion of a dynamic response needs flexible funding not tied to a specific target group; humanitarian partners foresee both refugees and returnees affected the same. The support should also extend to host populations that have been affected by various shocks in the two countries. As humanitarian agencies are preparing for a potential response, donors should be proactive in making support available to enable efficient and timely responses to the needs of the affected populations.

The UNSC and the international community more broadly should ramp up their call for a diplomatic solution to the problems prevailing in Sudan and give priority to the protection of the vulnerable population.

In South Sudan, all actors should understand and respect the international convention on the protection of refugees and support the government in facilitating the reception of any refugee populations likely to arrive in South Sudan seeking protection.

The implications of the conflict in Sudan are wide-reaching across the region and will certainly, be felt here in South Sudan. Every stakeholder has a role to play in ensuring the meeting of humanitarian needs and that civilians, alongside our humanitarian colleagues, are protected from harm on both sides of the border.

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