

Subject: Dindir famine/Sudan

By Dr Mansour Elagab, 23 September 2009

Dindir is now facing real famine. The **rainfall** this year has been exceptionally very low in the area leading to **serious crop failures and famine.**

Dindir is a remote and marginalised rural area in South East Sudan; east of the Blue Nile in the Sennar State. Sennar State, is adjacent to Southern Blue Nile State. The Governor of the Sennar State, is a member of the National Congress Party. The ruling Party.

Dindir area took it's name from River Dindir and which is also having very low flow this year due to shortages of rains in the Ethiopian high lands.

It is composed of 150 villages with a total population of 200,000 inhabitants (about 40,000 households). 80% of its population, if not more, are small peasants and nomads. It is about 400 kilometers south east of Khartoum and spreads over 150 kilometers from the Ethiopian borders to near Sennar town.

Dindir has recieved many internally displaced people from all over the Sudan. It's rich agriculture in previous seasons, social and political tolerance of its people and leadership attracted many people to Dindir. We now have Falata, people of western African origin, Southerners (mainly Shiluk), Nuba Mountains, Westerners (Fur, Massaleet, and Zagawa etc..living amicably among us.

The small peasants live from hand to mouth depending solely for their livelihood on their small agricultural holdings. The nomads rear their livestock in the pastoral areas which are now becoming very limited due to the failing rainy season.

I have been contacted on daily basis by the people of Dindir including the **Nazir** to seek help for them as their situation is getting very worse. **Unfortunately, the government has not made any move as they do not want to recognise failure.**

Dindir is in more than great **need** for food to rescue its population.

As you know famines destroy the societal harmony, invites fighting over limited resources, lead to conflicts between nomads and farmers, create a climate for banditry and violations of human rights. We need to avoid this.

We know that relief which is highly needed at present to salvage the population and their livestock from imminent death is a short term solution. It has to be coupled with a long term remedy in terms of an integrated rural development project to balance the stake holders interests in area.

Dindir now needs immediate relief interms of food and not hard cash.