

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

DARFUR CRISIS: AFFECTED CHILDREN IN CHAD

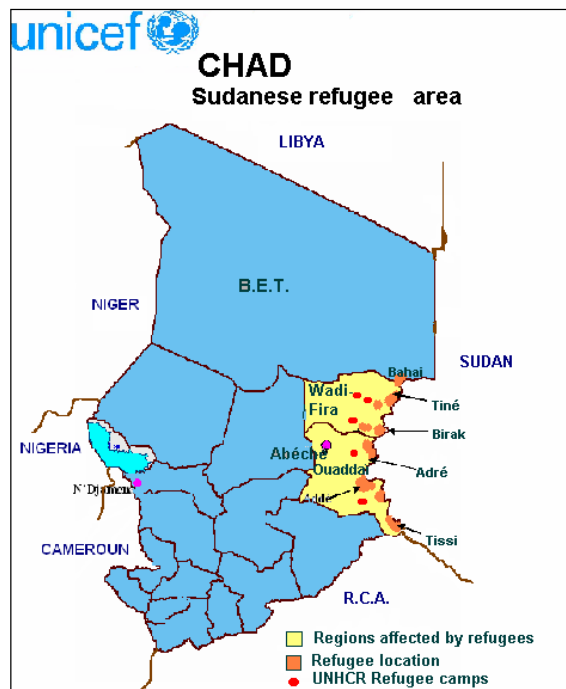
DONOR UPDATE 9 JUNE 2004

- **Vast majority of the refugee population will be inaccessible during the rainy season; thus, an urgent need to deliver relief aid before then**
- **Less than 5% of the US\$ 6.8 million appeal covered**
- **US\$ 1.9 million urgently needed to undertake priority actions between now and August 2004; Children and women, suffering from disease, malnutrition and exploitation, require continued assistance**

1. EMERGENCY OVERVIEW

Thousands and thousands of Sudanese refugees have crossed into eastern Chad to escape violence and abuse in the Darfur region over the past year. The vast majority of these refugees are vulnerable children and women, who heavily rely on international assistance for their survival and wellbeing. Many are susceptible to killer diseases (such as diarrhoea and malaria), malnutrition and exploitation. Children have lost countless numbers of school days and remain without access to educational and recreational activities, which are so essential to give them hope for the future.

The total number of Sudanese refugees who have crossed into the Chadian territory is over 150,000, according to the latest estimates given by UNHCR. With the rainy season just 2-3 weeks away in the region, there is an urgent need to get the relief supplies as close to beneficiaries as possible. This is particularly important given the fact that much of the target population will be difficult to reach through ground transportation during the rainy season i.e. during June – September 2004.



2. UNICEF ACTION

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- On June 4, a plane-load of essential non-food items were airlifted into the country: 197 school-in-a-box kits to increase educational activities in the refugee area; 250 rolls of tarpaulins to set-up additional temporary schools and child-friendly spaces for pre-school children; 7,000 insecticide treated nets to keep malaria incidents to a minimum during the rainy season; and 400 family water kits to respond to the immediate water needs of the refugee population in two camps and in Kariari.
- 1MT of therapeutic milk provided to the therapeutic feeding centres run by MSF-Belgium in the refugee area; 5 midwifery kits provided for their health centres.
- Standard textbooks used in Sudanese schools distributed to 3,451 pupils; basic school materials, 120 mats and school-in-a-box kits provided for 4,800 refugee children in Farchana and Kounoungo camps and in the schools located in the refugee settlements of Tiné and Nakoulouta, on the border with Sudan. 8 school-in-a box kits positioned in Touloum camp.
- 145 teachers and 35 care-givers of pre-school age children identified in the refugee sites; training in pedagogic skills planned for June.
- 300 family water kits (water tablets, jerry cans, etc.) distributed to 15,000 refugees arriving in the north-eastern border town of Bahai in March/April.
- Hygiene education training for 10 NGO refugee camp managers who have set-up hygiene and sanitation committees among refugees in each camp.
- Assessments of child protection issues in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs.
- Major mine risk education (MRE) campaign, targeting both refugees and host communities, completed in May. Some 20,000 copies of MRE folders were produced to train and further enable 500 community leaders / teachers / humanitarian staff to deliver mine risk education to 120,000 people.

PLANNED ACTION THROUGH AUGUST 2004

Health and Nutrition

Issue

Young children are already susceptible to infectious diseases, especially malaria and diarrhoea, and the related morbidity and mortality will considerably increase during the rainy season. Children are particularly suffering from severe and moderate malnutrition, thereby making them even more vulnerable to infectious diseases and death. The ability of the humanitarian community in addressing nutritional needs is seriously marginalized with limited baseline information available on the nutritional situation of children in and around the refugee camps. Furthermore, health workers lack proper training to be able to adequately address malnutrition cases.

Action

UNICEF, along with UNHCR, WFP, WHO, NGOs and Ministry of Health, is carrying out a nutritional survey to determine the nutritional status of children in and around refugee camps prior to the onset of the rainy season. Trained teams will visit camps as well as surrounding spontaneous settlements and villages to interview parents as well as to measure height and weight of children aged under-five. This will help to determine the food security situation at the household level as well as the prevalence of malnutrition among children. If completed by end-June, it will allow UNICEF to plan for the establishment of a therapeutic feeding programme, along with WFP's general food distribution to beneficiaries. The survey results will also provide baseline information to measure impact of nutritional interventions.

In order to respond to the severe malnutrition cases, UNICEF will procure and distribute therapeutic milk to NGO partners for the case management of an estimated 100 severely malnourished children per day for four months. Training will be conducted for health workers to detect malnutrition cases in a timely manner, to rehabilitate moderately malnourished children and to refer the severely malnourished ones to therapeutic feeding centres.

The prevalence of malaria will significantly increase during the rainy season. As a preventive measure, UNICEF will provide insecticide-treated mosquito nets. Due to the logistical and time constraints, pregnant women and households with large numbers of children aged under-five will primarily be targeted at this early stage. The use of nets will contribute to the reduction of anemia during pregnancy as well as child morbidity and mortality.

Diarrhoea and cholera, which are also responsible for high morbidity and mortality among children under-five, will be prevented through the water and sanitation interventions described later in the document.

Emergency Education

Issue

Among the refugee population, some 30 per cent are school-aged children (6-14 years) and some 10 per cent constitute pre-school age children (5%) and adolescents (5%). Thus, some 40 per cent of the population in the refugee camps require care and education assistance. Temporary classrooms have been set-up in some camps, but these are insufficient to respond to the high demands for education. Classrooms also lack basic school supplies such as notebooks, textbooks and pencils to ensure basic quality education. In addition, not only is there a lack of teachers in the camps, but there is also a limited number of trained teachers who possess adequate pedagogic skills to provide a conducive learning environment for children. Moreover, lack of learning opportunities and attention by care-givers exposes children to risks of exploitation, forced recruitment and various forms of violence. The traumas and distress experienced by children have taken away their smiles and laughter, or have simply robbed them of their childhood.

Action

UNICEF, in collaboration with UNHCR, partner NGOs, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social Affairs, aims to expand educational activities for children in/around the refugee camps. These interventions will particularly aim to address the protection issues faced by children through the creation of classrooms as 'safe spaces' for them to learn, play and interact with each other. UNICEF will procure and distribute school-in-a-box kits, containing basic school supplies for pupils as well as their teachers, to initiate learning activities in temporary settings. Sudanese textbooks will be procured to enable children to continue education in their native curriculum.

In order to adequately respond to the education needs in the camps, UNICEF will support the installation of temporary classrooms by procuring plastic sheeting (or tarpaulins) and basic furniture. It will also assist with the construction work for temporary class structures. The quality of education will be ensured through intensive training sessions for teachers, youth animators and other school staff. Training materials will be specifically designed and produced for this purpose. Care-givers for pre-school age children will also be involved in these training workshops to help them prepare the young ones for primary education and further learning opportunities. Recreational kits will be also procured to promote the integral development of young children. These kits will include materials for playing, drawing and other recreational activities.

Water and Sanitation

Issue

Water shortage continues to be a major problem in the refugee camps. The few existing functional water points are insufficient to respond to the tremendous needs of refugees. While the UNHCR's water trucking operation continues to cover the immediate needs of the refugee families in a number of camps, it is not sustainable in the longer-term and especially during the rainy season when the use of ground transportation will be drastically reduced and delayed. Thus, more permanent solutions need to be identified and implemented. The almost non-existent sanitation facilities in the camps, coupled with inadequate basic personal hygiene practices, considerably contribute to the occurrence of water-borne diseases. Children are particularly vulnerable to diarrhoea, which increases the risk of malnutrition. In addition, the lack of trained health and sanitation workers hinders the promotion of safe hygiene practices in the camps.

Action

UNICEF will continue to work with UNHCR, WHO, NGO partners, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environment and Water with an overall aim to contribute to the reduction of water and sanitation related diseases. This will be ensured through the provision of adequate supply of safe water and proper sanitation facilities as well as dissemination of hygiene messages for the population in the refugee camps. UNICEF will support the installation of water points. It will provide basic water family kits to help refugees to collect, carry and store water as well as to disinfect unsafe water at the household level. The kits will

also help families to maintain personal hygiene. Construction of sanitation facilities will be undertaken to ensure safe waste disposal.

Sensitization materials on safe hygiene will be produced for conducting training sessions and for distribution within the refugee camps. Training workshops will be organized for hygiene committees, with equal participation of women, who traditionally assume a leading role in hygiene practices within their families. Furthermore, an appropriate mechanism will be put in place to ensure that the committees will further spread safe hygiene behaviours throughout the camps.

Protection

Issue

Among the refugee population, there are reported cases of separated, unaccompanied and traumatized children as well as cases of rape and violence against women. To date, there has not been a systematic intervention to address the noted protection issues. The risks of recruitment of children and adolescents by warring parties are quite real. These children are also at risk of being exploited sexually, economically and in the worst forms of child labour. Young girls and women heading families are particularly vulnerable to violence, rape and sexual exploitation. Humanitarian workers in the refugee camps have not been trained or sensitized adequately to monitor and to address the protection issues faced by children as well as women.

Action

In collaboration with UNHCR, WFP, partner NGOs, Ministry of Social Affairs and the national commission for refugee assistance (CNAR), UNICEF will systematically address protection issues faced by children and women. A top priority will be the registration of all unaccompanied and separated children in the camps and provision of support for family tracing and reunification. In addition, adolescent- and women-headed families will be registered and provided care as appropriate.

UNICEF will form and sensitize child protection committees, composed of health workers, camps managers, staff from CNAR and community/religious leaders, to adequately identify and respond to the psychosocial needs of children, many of whom have suffered psychological distress and trauma. These interventions will also address the vulnerability of youth to trafficking and recruitment by armed groups. Child Friendly Spaces will be created to provide opportunity to children to freely express themselves and receive protection services. Information and statistics relevant to protection issues will be regularly collected to support the establishment of a monitoring mechanism.

Registration at birth is not only a child's right, but is fundamental for his/her care, protection and security. UNICEF will support registration programmes in the camps through the provision of personnel training and adequate materials.

Social workers will be trained to identify cases of violence against adolescent girls and women and to provide psychosocial support to them. Victim women will be referred to nearest health facilities for medical attention. Monitoring and reporting mechanisms for tracking abuse against women will be put in place. Sensitization activities will also be carried out in the camps to ensure that communities take the responsibility for protecting women.

UNICEF will conduct training workshops for humanitarian workers, particularly social workers and teachers, to allow them to detect, monitor, report and address protection issues. In addition, work will be initiated for the development of a 'code of conduct' to promote appropriate behaviour among humanitarian staff.

HIV/AIDS

Issue

Prevalence of HIV/AIDS can dramatically increase among the population in refugee settings. This is primarily due to promiscuity, unsafe sexual behaviour, unawareness about HIV risks and lack of knowledge of preventive measures. Cases of rape also contribute to the spread of the infection. In the current situation, the risks of HIV/AIDS are greatly augmented in the refugee camps, some with more than 12,000 inhabitants. Scarcity of health facilities and of health personnel, that are able to provide psychosocial support as well as medical treatment, leave the victims unattended.

Action

UNICEF, in cooperation with UNHCR, UNFPA, UNAIDS, WHO, partner NGOs, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Social Affairs, will contribute to the reduction of the spread of the HIV/AIDS among the population in the refugee camps. UNICEF will produce training and sensitization materials to support training for trainers, peer educators, youth groups, health workers and social workers in counseling skills and in conducting sensitization activities. Health workers will be trained in the appropriate management of Sexually Transmitted Infections. Trained members will be furnished with sensitization materials to further increase awareness on the risks related to HIV/AIDS and to promote safe sexual behaviours.

3. APPEAL REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS

On April 2, UNICEF, as part of the UN Consolidated Appeal for Darfur Refugees and Host Communities in Chad, outlined a total funding requirement of US\$ 6,777,264 until the end of the year. As the donor response has generally been minimal (with less than 5% resource needs covered), UNICEF has primarily been supporting its humanitarian actions through re-programmed funds and emergency reserves. The limited funds have hindered UNICEF's efforts to proactively plan and respond to the needs of the affected population. The table below details funding requirements, by sector:

Table 1: 2004 APPEAL REQUIREMENTS	
Sector	Funds required (US\$)
Emergency Education	531,818
Child Protection	425,614
Health and Nutrition. Emergency health care and nutritional support	846,808
Health Measles control + vitamin-A supplementation	3,938,933
HIV/AIDS	193,182
Water and Sanitation	840,909
Total	6,777,264

The table below summarizes the current funding status as well as donor contributions

Table 1: FUNDS RECEIVED BY DONOR As at 3 June 2004	
Donor	Funds Received (US\$)
French National Committee	262,762
Finnish National Committee	59,241
Total	322,003

In addition, UNICEF has just this yesterday received a contribution of C\$ 800,000 from CIDA in support of water and sanitation activities. Moreover, there is an indication of funds from the Swedish Government of US\$ 686,800.

Please note that due to the fluid and rapidly evolving humanitarian situation in the region, the funding requirements outlined in this document as well as those reflected in the Consolidated Appeal may be revised through an inter-agency review process.

4. IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

In light of the above-mentioned funding constraints and the need to accelerate humanitarian operations before the onset of the rainy season in a few weeks, **UNICEF is urgently seeking US\$ 1,876,000 for the next three months (i.e. June-August 2004)**. These funds will enable UNICEF to maintain as well as augment its humanitarian assistance for the affected population in eastern Chad over the coming weeks and months. The table below gives the breakdown per sector:

Table 2: IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES THROUGH AUGUST 2004	
Sector	Amount Required (US\$)
Health and Nutrition	422,240
Emergency Education	470,400
Water and Sanitation	483,840
Child Protection	389,760
HIV/AIDS	109,760
Total	1,876,000

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