



Photograph by Shehzad Noorani

UNICEF DARFUR EMERGENCY 1 MARCH – 15 APRIL 2005 REPORT

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OVERVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING DARFUR

Political Developments

Long-awaited and long-deliberated UNSC Resolutions were passed this month and immediately impacted both the political climate and popular opinion concerning international intervention in Sudan. The first resolution, designed to de-couple the peacekeeping mission from more controversial issues on Darfur, was passed on 24 March to establish the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) to support the CPA and to perform certain functions relating to humanitarian assistance, protection and promotion of human rights. The second resolution, 1593, adopted on 31 March, is more sensitive, as it decides to refer the situation in Darfur (since 1 July 2002) to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court and to apply sanctions on individuals who commit atrocities or undermine peace efforts. Sudan is neither a party to the Rome Statute nor a proponent of ICC involvement but this referral from the Security Council establishes jurisdiction and as a result, thousands of documents relating to the conflict, including a list of 51 names (including government officials, rebels and government-aligned militia) to be investigated, has been transferred to the court.

On the popular front, these resolutions inspired immediate demonstrations in Khartoum and Darfur. Press reports indicate up to 100,000 persons gathered in front of the UNDP HQ on 5 April with some of the protesters attacking the perimeter fence and throwing stones until a group of community leaders passed a petition to UN Officials. Protests were more peaceful in Darfur. Some 3,000 people demonstrated in Nyala and 200-300 persons gathered in El Geneina.

On the political front, stakeholders have reacted to these developments in a predictable and strategic manner. The government has opposed the resolution as "unfair, ill-advised and narrow-minded", warning of a worsening of ethnic tensions and attacks on humanitarian workers. The SLM and JEM, on the other hand announced their withdrawal from peace negotiations until the "criminals" who committed atrocities in Darfur face trial by the international court. The rebels also said they were calling for mediation by Eritrea to settle the crisis.

Meanwhile, prospects for mediation in the Abuja peace talks crumbled further as the Chadian

President suspended his mediation efforts on Darfur and raised accusations that the GoS is recruiting, training and arming Chadian rebels. Exacerbating poor relations was the injury of the Consul-General of Chad in West Darfur on 15 April, when unidentified gunmen opened fire on his vehicle. The governments appear to have resolved the crisis however, and Chad has indicated it may return to the Darfur peace talks.

At the local level however, the threat of individual accountability, combined with local pressures has inspired more concrete and visible efforts to kick-start peace-building efforts. The UN, AU and Arab League have been asked to review the "Darfur Peace Portfolio" submitted by the "Goodwill Intentions Committee", which is composed of influential tribal leaders from the Fur and Arabized tribes of Darfur. The Portfolio, signed 13 April, proposes a 5-stage plan to bring peace, disarmament and IDP returns to Darfur through the agreement and governance of tribal leaders. The initiative is supported by the government and makes a rough timeline to expand the signatories to include the Zagarwa, Masseilit and other significant groups. It remains to be seen however, what the reaction of these groups will be to the proposal. Progress will be reported to the community every Thursday in Khartoum. UNICEF is considering the implications for the success of such an agreement on the needs of communities in areas of return.

Security Situation

Unfortunately, despite the prospect of a tribal-based initiative, the security situation on the ground has continued to manifest the competitive interests of stakeholders. With increasingly desperate communities in the dry season, it is getting more difficult to distinguish where organised political violence starts and the interests of tribal militia for pasture grounds and cattle ends. With traditional grazing routes now blocked by mobilization and water holes systematically destroyed, the crisis is also affecting nomadic populations and cattle herders as their livestock are trapped in smaller pens, overgrazing and depleting groundwater reserves. With their agricultural and trading partners now displaced and stripped of their assets and livelihoods, the medium to long-term economic potential of the region has been sacrificed for short-term gain, thus significantly worsening the humanitarian situation for all Darfur residents, not just those targeted by violence and attack. Strategic control over important land for pasture and migration

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therefore, is an integral part of the conflict for all parties and promises to be flashpoint for violence as the hungry season treks on.

In this context, the SLM/A was on the defensive in February as government aligned militia attacked camps in the Korma area and Jebel Marrah areas of West Darfur and the Tori area in South Darfur. Through March and April fighting has continued. Most destructive was the attack on SLA-held area of Khor Abeche in South Darfur, carried out on 7 April by some 200 militiamen, backed up by a group of 150 people from Niteaga armed militia. According to a joint AU-UN statement, militia "ramped through the village, killing, burning and destroying everything in their paths and leaving in their wake total destruction with only the mosque and the school spared." Populations have since scattered and 234 individuals arrived at the Galab IDP site as a result.

Armed tribesmen also reportedly attacked several villages north and east of Thur since 31 March, resulting in large population displacement into Kass. Due to the continued harassment of IDPs in Kass however, there is a renewed movement from Kass to Kalma camp. On 4 April, Jebel Si and Dali IDP camps near Tawilla, North Darfur reported heavy gunfire in their areas and the majority of residents fled. In West Darfur, an INGO reported that 555 people moved to Zalingei during March from Jebel Marrah due to insecurity and lack of food. Meanwhile, the Interagency Assessment mission to Tendelti on 4 April confirmed approximately 1500 IDPs fleeing insecurity in Juruf arrived in the village.

The pressure on rebel groups appears to be straining internal cohesiveness. Press reports suggest the JEM may split following a statement issued by 56 field commanders that they have relieved Chairman Khalil of his post. Meanwhile Suleiman Jamoose, the chief interlocutor for the SLM/A, is regaining control after his long absence in Chad– which caused problems with notifications to SLM/A-controlled areas of North Darfur.

Staff Security Concerns

Getting caught between rebels and militia is only one of the potential threats facing close to 10,400 (930 international) aid workers currently operating in Darfur. More frequent incidents include detention by rebel groups insisting on proper notification regimes, banditry and ambush on major transportation routes as well as harassment by government officials in major capitals.



The conflict is affecting the livelihoods of all Darfur residents including nomadic populations. Here a herd of cattle pass through Dorti, West Darfur.

For example, twice in February, WFP marked helicopters allegedly came under heavy fire. The African Union Mission also came under fire no fewer than seven times in February. The NGO community reports frequent incidents of shooting and attack in and outside IDP locations. The most recent example is the shooting death of a national staff member of an international NGO in the Golo area on 15 April.

UNICEF operations have been directly impacted by the abduction of Ibrahim Sadik on 6th April 2005 in Cindi, when he was driving a WFP truck in a WFP convoy travelling to Malha. Also on 18th March a vehicle belonging to NWC/WES but supplied by UNICEF and bearing UNICEF logos, was hijacked in the region of Kafod, North Darfur. The whereabouts of the driver and the vehicle are unknown. Attempts to trace both of these drivers and recover the trucks, with over 25 metric tonnes of consumables, have so far been unsuccessful. Several meetings have taken place with the SLA authorities in that region. Several other detentions of this nature are being investigated jointly by AU civpol, local police and UNDSS.

All the above incidents not only affect the personal safety of individuals but impact the delivery of aid to vulnerable populations. Insecurity continues to be the primary constraint listed by all sectors. For commercial trucks contracted to delivery essential supplies, there is currently a 200 truck convoy

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minimum in South Darfur meaning that delays in delivery could stretch over a month.

The Impact of the Conflict

The Ahfad and Tufts University study on *Livelihoods Under Siege*, mentioned in the Jan-Feb report, continues to provide insight into the extent to which the conflict has eroded community coping mechanisms and threatened recovery. The study notes that never in the history of Darfur has there been such a combination of factors causing the failure of livelihood strategies and loss of assets, including: systematic asset-stripping, production failures, market failures, failures to access natural resources, and failure to transmit remittances. Food aid during this hungry season, therefore, is only one incredibly insufficient method for addressing the social and economic collapse.

The worsening situation is reflected in the growing conflict affected population estimate by OCHA. As of 1 March the total affected population in Darfur was estimated at 2.45 million, of which 1.86 million are internally displaced persons. This represents an increase of 45, 646 persons since January— due not only to violence and hunger but also to improved registration methods by WFP and partners.

Contingency Planning

The MENA Regional Office has assisted UNICEF with a contingency planning exercise which identifies potential case loads and key preparedness actions in the event of a deepening crisis and deteriorating situation (with increased food insecurity and population displacement). The plan is particularly useful at this time.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

Current Health Situation Affecting Children

According to WHO's Weekly Mortality and Morbidity Bulletin, between 26 March and 1 April 2005, a total of 23,659 cases in the under-five category were reported from sites under surveillance. These cases constitute almost 37% of the total consultations during the same period for all age groups. As usual the majority of cases (26%) were due to Acute Respiratory Tract Infection while 6% were due to Malaria. There were 25 reported deaths in the under 5 year age group (decrease of 21.9% compared to

week 12), of which 4 (16%) were due to Severe Malnutrition and malaria. Children and families also remain at water-borne and water related disease. During week 13, 2036 new cases of bloody diarrhoea were reported. The weekly attack rate for Hepatitis E has decreased since summer last year but remains concerning. Over 22,148 cases including 177 deaths were suspected between 22 May 2004 and 1 April 2005. Treatment and prevention of these and other illnesses is greatly facilitated by increased coverage of primary health care.

Support to Primary Health Care Facilities

As of April 2005, UNICEF was able to reach about 69% of the 2.45 million conflict affected population in need through support to 156 primary health facilities (against a six month target of 176) and 32 mobile facilities which reach approximately 1.7 million beneficiaries in Darfur (against a six month target of 1.8 million persons). These UNICEF-supported facilities are assumed to be approximately three quarters of the total primary health care facilities operating in Darfur. Support includes procurement and distribution of essential drugs, malaria treatments and nets, health kits, midwifery kits, cold chain items, and technical equipment. To improve the quality of care at facilities, UNICEF continues to support training and capacity building courses in Correct Case Management, EPI, the new malaria protocol and other important aspects of primary health care.

Major Primary Health Care Implementing Partners

MSF-B, Spain, CH, France, Holland; SC-UK (now activities suspended) and US; OXFAM; GOAL; Tear Fund; IRC, ARC, CordAid, COSV, ACF, AMI, CARE, Concern, IMC, German Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, IRW, Malteser, World Relief, NCA, MDM, WVI, MedAir, Al Massar, GHF, IARA, SUDO

Immunization Plus

To date, approximately 10 wild polio cases have been confirmed in South Darfur, 4 in West Darfur and 1 in North Darfur but the onset of paralysis in all cases was in 2004. No cases have been identified in Darfur in 2005. The virus circulation seems to be concentrated now in Upper Nile region and in the eastern areas of Sudan. This success is due largely to the good coverage of National Immunization Days, as outlined in the table below. The Third round of the 13th PNIDs is currently underway and

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results are expected to be positive. UNICEF has supported operations through procurement of vaccines, support to operational and logistics costs, as well as communications and social mobilization support.

	1st Round 10-12 Jan		2nd Round 27-29 Feb	
	Target	Coverage	Target	Coverage
South	681,329	110%	752,274	104%
West	229,880	134%	307,375	105%
North	291,609	111%	333,420	101%
Total	1,202,818	118%	1,393,069	103%

Polio NID Coverage in 2005

Although the Polio NIDs have achieved desired rates of coverage, concern remains for children not vaccinated against measles. Between 22 May 2004 and 25 March 2005, a total of 1173 clinically Diagnosed Measles cases including 43 deaths have been reported due to measles. Outbreaks continue due to the gaps in coverage due to insecurity or population displacement. The Darfur-wide June campaign reached approximately 2,023,666 children and the special and emergency mop-up drives through the last six months brought this total to over 2.082 million. Plans are also being made for mop-up in the previously inaccessible areas of Jebel Mara locality and Tina and parts of Kutum in North Darfur but what is required is another large scale campaign to reach children who have grown to vaccination age, children now accessible due to displacement or access and children in areas that reported measles, regardless their immunization status. This campaign is being planned for June.

As of 1 April 2005, a total of 95 cases of suspected meningococcal meningitis including 6 deaths (CFR: 6.32%) have been reported from the IDP camps in Greater Darfur. North Darfur State reported 54% of the cases. In response to the concentration centres of the outbreak, a localized meningitis vaccination campaign was carried out from 2 to 9 April in Saraf Omra North Darfur, and surrounding areas. UNICEF partnered with WHO, WFP, MoH, MSF- Belgium and Switzerland as well as Oxfam to conduct the campaign which showed a final coverage of 81.1% of the target (approximately 59,000 persons).

UNICEF also aims to increase routine EPI coverage rates for under-ones to at least 60% in 2005. According to MoH reports for the entire year of 2004, for the entire under-1 population of Darfur (not just conflict affected), approximately 55% of the children



Healthy Mothers Make Healthy Babies. Medical staff perform an antenatal check up in a MSF health clinic supported by UNICEF in Dorti IDP camp, West Darfur.

under 1 were covered with DPT3, a proxy indicator for the full routine package. Updated figures will be received from the MoH shortly. To date, routine EPI activities have been limited by insecurity and by the distraction of accelerated drives in the area. UNICEF supports EPI through distribution of cold chain materials, vaccines and training.

Safe Motherhood

UNICEF is also contributing to the overall reduction in maternal morbidity and mortality through support a variety of programmes which promote healthy mothers and healthy children. Twenty obstetric kits were just sent to Darfur in the last weeks while two million iron folate tabs were given to MoH for Darfur and the rest of the country. According to UNICEF reports approximately, 32,503 pregnant mothers have been vaccinated against TT2 since June.

NUTRITION

Nutritional Surveillance

UNICEF's 2005 Work plan aims to prevent and manage malnutrition among under-five children and contribute to the reduction of global acute malnutrition to less than 15%. There is evidence however, that this has already occurred in many places. Based on the results of recent surveys there

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is overwhelming evidence that the nutritional situation in areas with reliable food distribution and targeted feeding programmes has improved dramatically. While the regional estimation of GAM was approximately 20% in mid-2004, the results of surveys up to March indicate that this figure dropped to between 4.9 and 9.9%. Several surveys indicated malnutrition levels well below emergency thresholds. The graph below shows West Darfur survey results, over time, as an example.

This trend however, does not apply to all locations and there are indications that the hungry season may be adversely affecting these positive developments. There are also still pockets that are not currently accessible or have been assessed but suffer from high malnutrition rates, provoked by insecurity and displacement, erratic or insufficient food distributions and/or poor water and sanitation conditions leading to water-related disease. A UNICEF and MoH survey of El Fasher town for example, showed a surprisingly high GAM of 17.4% and SAM of 2.6%.

There is particular concern for the area of Ed Daien (South of Nyala) which was recently surveyed by TearFund (with support from UNICEF), and revealed a GAM of 25.2% GAM and SAM of 4.3%. The rate of diarrhea incidence among children under five was also high, likely contributing to the descent into severe malnutrition. The nutrition coordination group also cites a delay in including newly arriving IDPs in general food distribution and the multi-sector gap left by SC-UK as aggravating factors. This case is being addressed by the nutrition coordination team but also by Health and WES sectors, in order to promote and integrated response to the spectrum of needs. Meanwhile Tearfund and SUDA are starting one month of blanket feeding for all children under five.

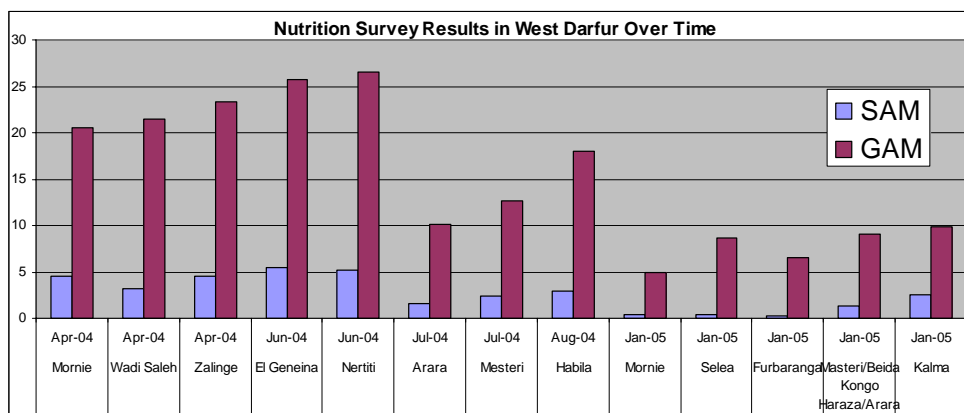
WFP, FAO and other partners have warned of deterioration in the food security situation over most parts of Darfur. Although food stocks normally deplete during this pre-harvest season, the conflict has exacerbated all conditions as economic failure has provoked a seed crisis, insecurity has prevented planting and mobilization in the region has forced overgrazing as cattle have been unable to follow traditional migratory routes. Combined with the low rainfall, there is serious concern for the 2005 harvest. Also discouraging is WFP's warning that it will experience a break in the pipeline for sugar and non-cereals and are thus reducing general food rations in order to stretch them further into the summer. Ration of sugar, pluses and salt will be cut by 50%, starting May 05. With this ominous forecast, it is expected that supplemental and therapeutic feeding centres will again, experience a rise in admissions.

Improving Surveillance

To further improve nutritional surveillance in Darfur, the nutrition survey guideline has been reviewed by all partners and will soon be released. UNICEF has also brought on board two consultants to establish a database which would store and analyze key sector data from feeding centres, nutrition surveys and sentinel sites or other monthly food security information, submitted by partners. This improved system should be operational soon.

Targeted Feeding Programmes

UNICEF's six-month goal for 2005 was to inspire a reduction in the GAM through support to 14 additional Therapeutic Feeding Programmes, bringing the total to over 60 in operation. At present,



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UNICEF supports 43 TFCs or Community-based Therapeutic Care Programmes with nutritional inputs, anthropometric equipment, technical expertise, training and/or coordination support. The number of TFCs required however, should be a reflection of the current SAM. Since this appears to be improving, some adjustment of targets may be required.

UNICEF also provides some coordination support and technical inputs to some of the 70 supplementary feeding centres that treat moderately malnourished children. There are also approximately 10 blanket feeding programmes that currently supplement the general food rations with deliveries to all children under five in high-risk areas.

To show the capacity of the sector – but not coverage or quality of programmes – a total of 11,638 severely malnourished children have been admitted into therapeutic programmes since May 2004 and 73,424 moderately malnourished children have been admitted into supplemental feeding programmes.

In correlation with the results of surveys which show a reduction in the GAM and SAM, the majority of centres and programmes were to have a decrease in admissions until March. There are multiple locations however, which have reported and increase over the last few weeks, namely Masterei, Kongo Haraza, Beida, Arara, Tawilla, Abushouk, Thur, Sharea, Muhajeria, Kalma and Kass. Partners attribute the change not only to the depletion of food stocks, but also to community mobilization activities and active case screening, as well as a rise in water-related disease. Close monitoring of the situation is required to ensure that the root of the problem is accurately diagnosed and addressed.

Major Nutrition Sector Implementing Partners

WW, SUDO, NCA/Cartita, TearFund MSF-H, MSF-F, MSF-Swiss, MSF-Spain, GOAL, ACF, WVI, WR, ICRC, WFP, WHO, CordAid, SC-US, CARE, IMC, AMA)

WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION

Safe Water in Darfur

Obtaining safe water is absolutely essential for life. Children who do not drink enough water or drink contaminated water, risk death, disease and

infection. The number of hepatitis E cases has decreased significantly from last summer, but between 22 May 2004 and 1 April 2005, over 22,148 cases including 177 deaths were suspected. The rise in West Darfur is mainly due to cases detected in Mukjar. In North Darfur, the majority is in Zam Zam camp. In South Darfur, Otash camp reported 62% of the total in the state. These areas are part of ongoing efforts by the WES Coordination group to improve water access.

There are other adverse effects of limited access to water including a limited ability to wash hands and body properly, resulting in increased infections in the intestinal tract and skin or eyes. These conditions are currently exacerbated in the dry season. Also, due to lack of infrastructure, children are often forced to trek long distances or wait in line for water, thus exposing themselves to fatigue and dehydration, while preventing their continued attendance at school.

UNICEF has worked with government counter parts NWC/WES, NGO partners and the private sector to increase access to safe water. In 2005, UNICEF aims to improve access for 1.75 million IDPs (850,000 in 2004 and 900,000 in 2005), 50,000 returnees and 100,000 member of the host community.

According to the March Humanitarian Profile approximately 1,418,772 conflict-affected persons have improved access to potable water through the work of all partners since June. UNICEF and NWC/WES have supported roughly 850,000 of this number. Interventions in the WES sector since January include drilling 84 bore wells and installation of hand pumps, establishing 17 motorized schemes with submersible pumps, generators and distribution systems; rehabilitation of 61 hand pump schemes and daily operation of 33 water tankers. Support have also been provided to operate and maintain all water schemes established in 2004, which are serving some 1.21 million IDPs and host community members.

Unfortunately, the total progress of all partners is still only 58% of the estimated need at this time. This means that almost one third of the conflict affected children in Darfur remain at a high risk of disease due to insufficient coverage.

Drilling Capacity

As of January, UNICEF supported the drilling of 76 new borewells with installation of hand-pumps and

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12 new borewells with submersible pumps – as well as rehabilitation of 52 water services. Limited drilling capacity remains a concern. UNICEF is expecting another new rig to arrive in May which will increase the total number of rigs available to the WES Coordination Group to 12.

Dry-season in North Darfur

Although many locations in Darfur will be adversely affected by the record breaking low rainfall (and the a subsequent drain on groundwater resources), North Darfur is of particular concern. It is anticipated that six localities (El Fasher, Kutum, Tinna, Kebkabiya, Mallit and Un Kadadda) will experience severe water shortages in the coming months. There are currently 210 water sources available but 56 additional are planned for construction by June. Additionally, 134 hand-pumps and 7 motorized schemes are under rehabilitation. (IRC will rehabilitate 9 water yards in collaboration with SWC, COOPI will rehabilitate 16 water yards with UNICEF and ECHO; GOAL completed 9 bore wells and are now installing hand-pumps) These projects will make a significant impact – but will still not cover 100% of the needs.

Areas of Concern

Kass and Kalma camps continue to pose challenges as their borders are continually swelling with new arrivals. To increase water coverage in Kalma, efforts are underway to pump water from a long-distance high-yield borewell into a camp reservoir. In Mornei, efforts are being made to improve the water yard distribution system, storage and chlorination.

Fortunately, the relocation site for Abu Shouk has finally been approved and the WES Coordination Group is beginning operations in this area. Unfortunately, it is not the new arrivals that are stretching water supply, but rather, commercial brick-makers that ring the camp. Brick makers are currently draining up to 50% of the estimated 1.2 million litres of water supply per day.

Another area of concern was vector control and solid waste disposal, especially for the larger camps of North Darfur. In the past, UNICEF provided limited support (per diem for spraying labours) to chemical spraying activities in Darfur since WHO supported the State MoH for these activities in 2004. As a result, large IDP locations (Abu Shouk, Zam Zam, Kassab, Kutum, Saraf Umra and Kabkabiya) were sprayed once or twice per month.



UNICEF works in partnership with the government not only for implementation but to increase human and technical capacity.

UNICEF also supported vector control activities for these locations –but through solid waste collection and disposal, in cooperation with WES. In January 2005 however, WHO indicated that it could no longer support the full cost of spraying and UNICEF decided to assist to fill the gap. UNICEF committed to provide 500 litres of Ancothrin, 25% EC, (chemical used in fly control) per month for six months, along with support for the rental of one vehicle and incentives for three MoH staff at each of the locations to spray.

Unfortunately, as these plans were being set in action, the situation in IDP locations has worsened. An increase in fly population and density has been reported at all locations with a particular outbreak in Abu Shouk. On 31 March however, UNICEF delivered its first installment of 150 litres of chemicals to the State MoH for immediate use in Abu Shouk. Meanwhile WHO has also provided some funds to State MoH to buy chemicals for use in Zam Zam and Kassab. As additional shipments are received there should be a noticeable improvement in the situation. To address the problem comprehensively for all Darfur, WHO and UNICEF are preparing a detailed plan.

Sanitation

Finding a sanitary means of excreta disposal and developing safe hygiene practices is also absolutely essential for child and adult survival. In addition to “faecal-oral” infections, pathogens such as worms

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can be spread rapidly through contamination at open defecation grounds and unsanitary latrines. Similar to water provision, UNICEF aims to provide 1.75 million IDPs, 100,000 returnees and 200,000 hosts with access to environmental sanitation.

According to latest estimates, the work of all sanitation sector partners has improved the access to sanitary latrines for over 1,252,037 persons. UNICEF and NWC/WES, along with private sector contractors, has contributed to approximately 650,000 of this number. Since January, UNICEF has constructed 1,935 latrines. Unfortunately, all interventions total is only 67% of the estimated need at this time.

Concerns for the quality and functionality of many latrines persist as back-filling and reconstruction is an ongoing process. Kalma camp existing latrines are near full and space for additional ones is difficult to find within the crowded camp. Sucking waste and disposing it outside the camp is an option being discussed as an interim measure.

WES Sector Implementing Partners

NWC/WES and ADRA; ARC; CARE; Concern; DCA; FAR; GOAL; ICRC, IDRB, IARA; INTERSOS; IRC; IRWW, MEDAIR; MDM; MSF-France, OXFAM; SCF UK; Spanish Red Cross, Sudanese Red Crescent, SUDO; SC-USA, SC-UK, TearFund, Triangle, WV.

Health, Hygiene and Nutrition Education

This multi-sectoral education project, designed to unite various important health, nutrition and hygiene messages into an integrated programme, has been in operation for almost six months. In October and November last year UNICEF enabled approximately 274 trainers in North Darfur to receive training and approximately 176 have received training this year against a target of 290 for the state. In South Darfur, 264 trainers were trained in against a 6-month target of 300. For West Darfur, training will start in June, targeting 300 trainers. The estimated total impact is that every one trainee will be able to reach 1000 persons over the six months, thus impacting close to 900,000 people.

To empower the community nutrition, health and hygiene promoters, educators, medical staff and midwives in their training activities, a series of IEC materials (flipcharts and flashcards) have been developed and are being printed in Khartoum. The materials will support trainers/Community Health Promoters in their work imparting child-care giving

practices during home visits, meetings at water points, community forums and/or special functions. They are designed to motivate communities to incorporate positive behaviour for:

- Safe Water and Hygiene Practices
- Management of Diarrhoea in children
- Sorghum and Blended food preparation
- Care of Malnourished Child
- Play as a Complementary activity to Nutrition and Growth
- Community- Based Therapeutic Care
- Vaccination against Polio

Highly interactive “adult learning” pilot sessions with the new materials have been conducted in Zam Zam, (in collaboration with KPHF and UNFPA, for a total of 24 health, nutrition and hygiene community workers recruited by African Muslim Association, MSF-Spain, SUDO and Saudi Red Crescent); and Abu Shouk (for training in Community-based Therapeutic Care for 34 ACF health, nutrition and hygiene community workers from targeted feeding programmes – and training for 50 IRC and 36 OXFAM recruited community health and hygiene promoters in Abu Shouk camp). On 16 April UNICEF and WFP trained 32 field monitors from German Agro Action and Sudanese Red Crescent. UNICEF supported training will continue through April with similar sessions in El Fasher, Shangel Tubai, Tabet, Ghallab, Kutum and Kebkabiya.

This programme compliments WES’s initiatives, supported by UNICEF which have also reached some 220,000 IDPs and host communities through 72,418 household visits and the training over 650 hygiene promoters, women, children and VHC members.

EDUCATION

Enrolment

One of the key achievements since January has been an 102,417 increase in children reported to be enrolled in primary school, bringing the total to 244,749, meaning that the sector has exceeded the six-month target of 226,000 children. The increased enrolment figure not only represents an increase in the absolute number of children enrolled in primary school but also improved data collection methods. It is important to note that more children than ever before are now enrolled in school in Darfur which is an incredible achievement considering the challenges of the conflict.

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Enrolment rates for conflict affected children in grade one are significantly higher than enrolment rates in grades three and above and approximately a quarter of the children enrolled in grade one are between the ages of 9 and 11, several years older than the usual age for grade one students. The first grade students who are older have never been to school before as they were previously tending animals or working with families.

Girls Enrolment

Similarly, girls' education in the region has historically been hampered by cultural and traditional beliefs about a girl's right to education. According to MoE statistics for all schools in Darfur during 2002/2003, the GER was 49.7% boys and 33.9% girls. The current gender breakdown shows that girls make up 116,374 of 244,749 –or 48% of the total conflict affected children enrolled as of April. This increase may be partly due to the separation of displaced families from their homes and livelihoods, which usually require labour from young girls – but some credit must be given to the efforts of all education partners, the MoE, UNICEF and NGOS, who have promoted girls education. In 2004 over 30,000 uniforms were distributed to girls to boost enrolment, and during the reporting period, an additional 8,834 were provided.

Schools and Classrooms

UNICEF and partners support approximately 1,847 classrooms with various inputs. Some 375 classrooms have been rehabilitated or constructed since January, against a six-month target of 396. In total since June 2004, 79 permanent classrooms have been rehabilitated and 8 new permanent structures have been built with UNICEF support. Around 1,648 temporary classrooms have been constructed or assembled as tents since June 2004 and some 92 have received repair and maintenance during the last few months. In addition, 903 latrines have been built and 72 water system upgrades have been completed to ensure that schools are child friendly. These inputs have been essential components of expanding education opportunities, both this year and last.

The procurement and distribution of school supplies, demonstrated good coordination among the Ministries of Education, UN agencies and NGOs and approximately 75,000 children have been equipped

with textbooks and basic learning materials such as notebooks, pencils and pens, chalk etc in 2005.

School Feeding

Unfortunately, school feeding programmes are still not being implemented in Darfur due to delays in finalising an operational partnership framework for "Food for Education" activities in Darfur between UNICEF and WFP. The partnership is now complete however, allowing WFP and UNICEF to develop partnerships with NGOs for implementation of programmes through a proposal system.

Supporting Teachers

The biggest constraint to providing access to education for the primary school aged children in Darfur is the availability of teachers and payment of salaries. Teachers in Darfur are government employees paid through locally raised taxes and Government structures do not permit inter-state movement of teachers. Therefore, those who are relocated or displaced in another state due to the conflict are required to receive their payments from their original state, which is obviously not possible for most IDPs. The international organisations recognise that teachers need to be remunerated for their work but also believe that the payment of teachers' salaries is a government responsibility.

To boost recruitment and retention of volunteer teachers, while increasing the quality of education, UNICEF, MoEs and NGOs in Darfur will continue to implement an in-service teacher training scheme, with courses on child-centered teaching methodology, peace education, child and human rights, psychosocial support, HIV/AIDS prevention and hygiene education. This scheme, which links small incentives to participation in training, will hopefully avoid the creation of unsustainable salary structures parallel to the MoE. Approximately 1,871 teachers enrolled in methodology sessions and 1,077 enrolled Peace Education seminars since fall last year.

School Fees and Final Exams

The findings of a UNICEF-sponsored assessment on the imposition of school fees has produced a final report confirming that there are three types of fees that children and parents are often asked to pay. The first is final examination fees which are decided by the FMoE and are compulsory for every pupil

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wishing to take grade 8 examinations. UNICEF has responded to requests from school authorities in both IDP and host community schools to cover the cost of these fees for some 5,700 eighth grade students who were unable to pay. Unfortunately, pupils in Galab missed this year's exams but efforts will be made to help these students in the future.

The second type of fees is the fees PTAs collect from parents for general operating costs of the schools. It is confirmed that in most host schools, there is a lack of SMoE support, prompting the PTAs to collect fees from parents to ensure basic school maintenance and teacher commitment through salary incentives and mid-day meals. In some schools, children who fail to pay these fees are still permitted to attend classes provided their parents inform PTAs. Most UNICEF-supported IDP schools do not impose fees since most of the operational costs (provision of classrooms, teaching and learning materials, etc) are covered through the international donor community.

The third type of fees are those charged for admission into the first grade. These fees are decided by the PTAs and are paid annually upon admission to the school. The amount varies between urban and rural schools. As a result of much UNICEF advocacy, the MoE in ND has written a decree to all school directors stating that teachers and PTAs cannot request fees from children. Additional advocacy and work must be done however, to ensure that this does not disrupt the quality of education.

Cross Border Issues

UNICEF Chad visited El Geneina authorities from 26 to 29 March 2005 to discuss the exams for the Grade 8 Sudanese refugee children in Chad. The MOE showed willingness to give an opportunity to their children in Chad to complete exams but insisted that the exams should be held in Sudan. UNHCR representative in Darfur will follow up the issue at the Khartoum level. As an interim measure, the MoE in Geneina provided samples of textbook sets (from grade 1 to grade 8) for refugees in Chad. Also it provided grade 8 exam samples of the last two years for children in Chad to do a "mock" test as a way of measuring their level of knowledge in various subjects and thus prepare them for the exam, regardless of location.

Coordination

Positively, UNICEF has established 5 new partnerships with NGOs and expanded 2 existing partnerships which should enable a further 56,777 primary school aged children to attend school. In South Darfur, agreements are being finalized with *Norwegian Refugee Council* for work in Kalma, *Samaritan's Purse* for Sanya-Fondu, Um-Tendalti, Menawashi; *American Refugee Committee (ARC)* for the Nyala-Gareida corridor, *Mercy Corps* for Zalinge Camp and Mukjar; *Intersos* in Habila and Wadi Salih and finally *Community Development Agency*, for Kulbus locality in West Darfur and *Al Massar*, a local NGO working with nomadic communities in North and South Darfur.

Major Implementing Partners in Education

ARC, SMoE, WES, SC-Sweden, SC-US, SC-UK, IRC, German Agro Action; WFP, NCA/SCC, WVI, NRC, Muslim Hands, Intersos, IRW, Ahlam, Mercy Corps, Community Development Agency; Massar; Samaritan's Purse.

CHILD PROTECTION

Key Issues

Child Protection activities aim at strengthening the protective environment for children in Darfur. Key child protection issues are:

- The psychosocial effects of displacement on children and the disruption of normal life;
- sexual and gender based violence;
- Use of children in armed conflict;
- Problems relating to children born as a result of rape.

Promotion of children and child rights

Given the significant role of the AU CFC in Darfur; three orientation workshops in El-Fasher, Nyala and Geneina on Child Rights, Child Protection and the six core principles regarding sexual exploitation and abuse of women and children were conducted by UNICEF to 75 AU Civilian Police including 17 women deployed already in Darfur through the assistance of both an international consultant and a national consultant. The goal is to reach all AU CivPol Officers deployed to Darfur. This is a tentative goal of reaching 800 officers in total.

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A total of 106 humanitarian workers, including 51 women and 55 men from a number of agencies and NGOs, notably FAO, SPCR, OXFAM, NRC, MSF-Belgium, Relief International and two local women Community Based Organisations (CBO) in North and South Darfur participated in orientation sessions on the Code of Conduct relating to prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation during humanitarian crises and on child protection. The training was conducted by members of the Child Protection Working Groups at field level.

Psychosocial Well-being of Children

There are over 173 of Child Spaces now functioning in Darfur, supported by UNICEF (28 in west Darfur, 129 in north Darfur, 16 in South Darfur). Centres are expected to grow and meet the 6-month target of 200. UNICEF in partnership with INGOs and national NGOs, notably Save the Children US, Sudanese Popular Committee for Relief, Child Development Foundation, Enfants du Monde, and two local CBOs in North Darfur provide psychosocial support through the centres. The total number of children provided with access to psychosocial support outside the school context was 114,221 (81,993 in west Darfur, 12,228 children in North Darfur and 20,000 in South Darfur), thus coming close to the 6-month target of 150,000.

With the support of the same partners, UNICEF was able to provide school children with access to psychosocial support within schools; a total of 150,859 pupils have benefited from this intervention, against a 6-month target of 160,000. To support both operations a total of 574 animators and teachers have received training to provide psychosocial support through creative activities in schools and centers, against a 6-month target of 645 teachers and 600 animators trained.

UNICEF contracted a consultant to assess the UNICEF-supported psychosocial interventions in Darfur. The initial results pointed to a need to provide special attention to participation and empowerment of adolescents and girls and the need for more focused interventions to strengthen children's relationships with peers through improved developmental stimulation, participation and personal attention. It has been suggested that several "model centres" be established which will set quality-standards for Child Friendly Spaces which could then be replicated by other partners.



Women, like this one in Abu Shouk camp North Darfur, remain vulnerable not only to gender based violence, but to being shunned, arrested, ostracized and/or denied health treatment for seeking victim assistance.

Separated children

In an effort to better understand the community response and its coping mechanisms in supporting separated children and elderly people living together, UNICEF and HelpAge International are conducting research in West Darfur. The results will identify the concerns raised with regard to access to resources and equity in their distribution.

Prevention and response to SGBV

Unfortunately the scale and scope of SGBV does not appear to be lessening. MSF doctors throughout South and West Darfur states claim to have treated almost 500 rape victims between October and mid-February. This represents a fraction of the total number of women and girls believed to have been attacked, the group said in a statement, with many victims being reluctant to report the crimes or seek treatment. To provide more insight, UNICEF, in collaboration with UNFPA have finished a situational analysis on the impact of the conflict on the health and well being of girls and women. The analysis included three sites in North Darfur and 4 sites in West and South. Both IDP and host communities were visited and focus group discussions involved men, women and girls. The report is expected to be released shortly.

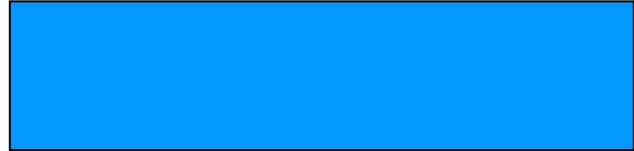
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Meanwhile, activities for the prevention of SGBV continue, with a focus on fuel efficient stove training with FAO and implementing NGO partners. UNICEF is also coordinating a series of Training of Trainers sessions in May on "Providing Emotional Support to Survivors of Sexual Violence". The target audience includes community-based networks (including fuel efficient stove-making trainers), animators, social workers, and humanitarian personnel. Training will be conducted in both urban and rural areas. The total six-month target for all types of SGBV training including the Code of Conduct is 500 humanitarian workers and/or community networks. UNICEF is also continuing with advocacy efforts for victim assistance and in an encouraging move, the Wali of South Darfur has decided to form a committee which will follow-up with SGBV cases. UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA are nominated as full-time observers.

Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups

UNICEF supported a consultant to conduct an initial assessment on "Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups" to have a better understanding of scope and magnitude of this problem. The report is still under preparation. Due to the sensitive nature of the issue and the limited information available, not much progress has been made with regard to the objectives set forth on

demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers. Prevention of recruitment however, has moved forward, with the establishment of 65 youth committees among the IDPs who will address this issue and others of importance to their communities. This progress is significant considering the fact that the six-month goal for all Darfur was 20 committees.



SHELTER AND NON FOOD ITEMS

UNICEF's goal this year is to improve living conditions for 444,444 families of IDPs, returnees and host community residents through the timely provision of shelter and relief items. To achieve this, UNICEF continues to procure shelter and non-food items (NFIs) and transport them in partnership with CARE International, to organisations in Darfur. UNJLC coordinates the distribution of NFIs to implementing partners with OCHA. Thanks to the Government of Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and ECHO, 6 million dollars worth of NFIs have been delivered or are in the pipeline, since the start of 2005, through the framework agreement with Care International.

FUNDING STATUS AS OF 10 APRIL

UNICEF has requested US\$ 135,466,092 for Darfur-specific activities in 2005. As of early April just over 20 million dollars has been received in new contributions. Although these contributions are significant –adding received funds to the money carried over from last year shows that only 23 % of the required amount is available to implement activities, despite moving into the second quarter of the year. This estimate does not include the estimated costs for the in-kind assistance received from DFID.

	Health And Nutrition	Watsan	Education	Child Protection	Shelter & Relief Items	Communication & Advocacy	Coordination & Planning	Total
Target / Funding Requirement	22,671,600	44,170,495	19,689,156	3,231,000	45,292,841	-	-	135,055,092
Governments	5,395,968	6,765,748	2,747,259	2,248,970	6,624,539	-	403,047	48,371,062
Total Governments Carry Over	1,961,464	4,228,758	1,334,244	351,688	110,782	0	61,044	8,047,980
Total Governments New	3,434,504	2,536,990	1,413,015	1,897,282	6,513,757	0	342,003	16,137,551
NATCOMs	1,732,078	3,357,358	552,555	490,057	-	71,620	354,655	13,116,646
Total Natcoms Carry-over	739,845	484,824	552,555	490,057	0	71,620	156,552	2,495,453
Total Natcoms New	992,233	2,872,534	0	0	0	0	198,103	4,062,870
Total Carry Over	2,701,309	4,713,582	1,886,799	841,745	110,782	71,620	217,596	10,543,433
Total New Contributions	4,426,737	5,409,524	1,413,015	1,897,282	6,513,757	0	540,106	20,200,421
Total Funds Available in 2005	7,128,046	10,123,106	3,299,814	2,739,027	6,624,539	71,620	757,702	30,743,854
% of Target Funded	31%	23%	17%	85%	15%	n/a	n/a	23%

For More Information on UNICEF and the Darfur Emergency Please Contact:

Marc Salvail, Senior Programme Officer Darfur Emergency
msalvail@unicef.org

Stephanie Kleschnitzki, Reports Officer Darfur
kleschnitzki@unicef.org