

UNICEF SUDAN - DARFUR SITREP

16 July – 31 July, 2004



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SUMMARY

Although the GoS has greatly improved their facilitation of access to vulnerable populations, humanitarian organisations are still hindered in their work as fighting and general insecurity persists. According to the OCHA Humanitarian Profile, the total number of IDPs in Darfur as of 1 July 2004 is estimated at 1,050,506 people, supported by equally vulnerable host communities, totalling approximately 209,915 people. In addition, several hundred thousand people not in the above two categories are also affected by the conflict, although they remain in their places of origin. Access to these vulnerable populations has been hindered by a variety of factors including the level of access facilitated or permitted by the GoS, the security situation on the ground (which is often dependent upon the forces in control in that area) and seasonal constraints. Higher level negotiations and assessment missions are underway however, to gain humanitarian access into SLA-controlled areas.

UNICEF's role in coordinating the sectors of Nutrition, WES and Education included the finalization of comprehensive sector reports which reviewed the progress of the sector in achieving the targets expressed in the 90-day plan. Progress on targets is good in all sectors but more needs to be done in the area of monitoring, especially in the Health, Water and Sanitation sector. Of particular note this period was the successful Health and Hygiene Education Campaign, launched in North and West Darfur. Despite this campaign and positive advances in WES including the beginning of massive chlorination effort, the risk of water borne disease remains, and is compounded by increasing rains.

Highlights of the Period:

THE HEALTH AND HYGIENE PROMOTION CAMPAIGNS



A special part of the Hygiene Launch in Al-Riad Camp, West Darfur, was a presentation by child hygiene promoters. They performed plays and sang songs that demonstrated the importance of proper hygiene and sanitation practices.

RECREATION BESIDE NEW TEMPORARY CLASSROOMS



Children enjoy recreation activities in Dorti, West Darfur, following the arrival of new canvas tents to be used as temporary classrooms. Together with MoE, school children registered and education materials distributed.

FIRST LESSONS IN NEW TEMPORARY CLASSROOMS



First lessons at in the new classroom tents in Dorti. White canvas walls permit ventilation and light.

1. UNICEF SUPPORT TO EMERGENCY PROGRAMMES

1.1 Staffing

UNICEF's capacity to respond to the emergency has increased greatly over the last month, largely as a result of the arrival of field staff for all sectors, as well as Khartoum-based support. As of 31 July, the total staff for Darfur including those working in Khartoum was 61, of which 32 are IPs (out of a total of 36 planned). Nine IP, National and General staff posts are vacant at this time. Despite these additions, UNICEF Sudan staff remain stretched, given the combined demands of the regular programme and the North-South IDP returns programme which will require more attention in the coming month.

1.2 Operations and the Control Environment

During the last reporting period, UNICEF offices have benefited from several concrete improvements to their communications, logistics and control-environment capacities. The installation of M4 satellites and HF radio networks in each sub-office has made an immediate difference to the operating environment. Each office has 5 Thuraya satphones for field missions which has greatly increased communications capacity. Training of sub-office staff in administrative procedures has been conducted by Program, Supply and Administration staff from Khartoum while finance systems are being set up by an Operations staff member from the Egypt country office.

1.3 Structure of Operations and the Implementation of the 90-day Plan

Follow up of the 90-day Plan is the focus and concern of all sub-offices in Darfur, as well as Khartoum support staff. Each Thursday, the Country Management Team reviews progress and conducts a gap analysis. Visits of the Darfur Coordinator, the Representative and the Section Heads to the States during this reporting period were aimed at tracking progress and identifying ways to better facilitate implementation. RPOs are now submitting weekly reports with detailed figures registering our progress toward planning goals—with point-by-point location reports of challenges, solutions and actors involved. Section heads in Khartoum compile this information, with additions on overall sectoral progress, in order to more accurately ascertain programme advancement.

1.4 Programme Communications

The Country Office welcomed the Danish and German National Committees from 17-22 July 2004. The committees traveled to West Darfur and participated in a number of activities including a special school enrolment campaign for girls in Mornei IDP camp. The Belgian, Spanish, and UK Natcoms visited Darfur 1-3 August. The Belgians were accompanied by the Belgian Minister for Development, the UK by their Goodwill Ambassador Martin Bell MP, and the Spanish by their Goodwill Ambassador Sylvia Estrada. A press release regarding the first training of trainers of the Sudanese police force was issued on 26 July 2004. A further release was issued 2 August on a Government of Japan donation.

2. UNICEF PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES BY SECTOR

2.1 Health

Measles and Vitamin A

The Darfur-wide measles campaign was completed on 27 June but the campaign did not reach some 500,000 children due to their location in inaccessible areas under SLA control. As mentioned under the Security and Access section of this report, an interagency assessment mission is currently underway in the SLA controlled areas of Tina, Kornoi and Um Barru of North Darfur. The UNICEF team is comprised of a health, nutrition and WES officer. In addition to conducting a review of the overall health and nutrition situation, the UNICEF health officer is carrying 50,000 Oral Polio Vaccines and Vitamin A supplements in order to target some of the children that were not accessed during the state-wide campaigns. This limited

distribution is aimed not only at preventing the spread of disease, but also at increasing UNICEF's credibility with the SLA leaders, in preparation for a wider campaign in their region.

Polio Vaccination

In response to the one imported case of polio reported in the Darfur area, two (2) rounds of polio Sub-National Immunization Days were organized for the end of July (1st round) and 28-30 August (2nd round), in order to target children under five with the Polio vaccine in the region. In West Darfur, the campaign was started on 24 July in Zelinge and on 25 July in El Geniena; partial results show that about 165,329 children were vaccinated against the targeted 133,431 which represents 124 percent. Some administrative units and villages in Zalingi, Jabal Mara, Kulbus and Habila have not been covered for security reason; in El Geneina locality 38 villages were not accessible due to the rain. In North Darfur, the campaign was launched on 27 July by the Deputy Wali in Abu Shouk camp with excellent results. Preliminary figures estimate that 260,827 children under five were vaccinated against a target population of 262,909, thus indicating that 99.2 percent of the target population was reached. In South Darfur, the campaign was launched on the 27 July in Nyala by the Minister of Health and in Buram by the Wali. Preliminary results estimate that 542,002 children have been vaccinated out of 635,002 targeted. Access into SLA controlled territories remains an impediment to this campaign as well.

Health facilities

By the end August, UNICEF has committed to ensuring that 100 fixed and mobile health facilities are functioning. At the end July, the total number of fixed PHC health facilities and mobile health teams in operation was 91. In North Darfur, this includes 18 fixed sites and 7 mobile teams maintained through the work of SC-UK, GOAL, IRC and SMoH, providing access to approximately 110,000. In South Darfur there are 35 fixed sites and 2 mobile teams, maintained by SC-UK, GHF, HAI, ROUT, MdM and Spanish Red Cross serving an estimated 241, 028 persons. In West Darfur there are 38 fixed sites and 7 mobile teams, maintained by MSF-CH/H/F, MEDAIR, IARA, SC-US, providing services to 336,000.

The lack of a systematic monitoring of the functioning of the 79 health facilities to which UNICEF provides support was flagged as a priority during this reporting period. A full time UNICEF public health specialist has been assigned to oversee the monitoring of the centres and to work with three MOH support teams in the states. These teams will also be accompanied by one UNICEF doctor. In North Darfur, UNICEF conducted a joint mission with Malteser of 8 Health Facilities and agreed that they need increased provision of medical supplies, cold chain systems, primary health and antenatal care, in addition to creating a refresher course for paramedical staff. These options are being explored. In South Darfur, weekly monitoring of health facilities is continuing according to agreement with MoH. Six health facilities assessed in Kass, Kalma and Mosee during the first week of this period were functioning with satisfactory results.

As a result of the increased monitoring, the issue of the quality of the health services delivered have been made more visible. In a gap identification analysis conducted jointly with the FMOH, it is estimated that 30 additional medical doctors are required to be posted in health facilities in the three Darfurs, (27 to provide medical care and 3 as State supervisors). UNICEF and FMOH are undergoing on the contractual terms for their recruitment).

There has been a restructuring of responsibilities in Health Facility management in West Darfur following the admittance by Medair that they were overstretched. Facilities like Alreyad and Abu Zar have been handed over to MSF-CH while Absorouch, Kandabi and Serba have been passed to SC-US. Selia is now being run by ICRC. Plans are also being made to pass on other facilities onto partners.

Cholera and Malaria Control

Although every effort will be made to prevent the outbreak of waterborne disease (see WES section for water, sanitation and hygiene promotion), the Health section has also developed outbreak control strategies. UNICEF has recently assessed its quantities of ORS in Darfur and taken measures to ensure that the MOH and implementing partners are adequately equipped. In addition, UNICEF has supported the

efforts of WHO to implement the Cholera vaccination campaign in Kalma in the form of planning, camp mapping, the full time presence of 2 staff members and two vehicles--plus support to the EPI section of MoH. According to WHO, some 42,800 were vaccinated with the first dose. The second dose will follow shortly, along with the expansion of the campaign to Kass.

In addition, distribution of impregnated bed nets continued. In North Darfur, 6,600 nets have been distributed through IRC. Anti-malaria drugs (over 800 boxes with 300 tablets each of Artesunate) have also been provided to several camps in North and West Darfur and are being distributed by NGO partners. Funds have been released for Malaria Case Management and Social Rehabilitation training in North Darfur which will involve 24 candidates for each. In addition, a refresher training course in Malaria Diagnostics has just been concluded in North Darfur in July, in coordination with FMOH ; assisted by UNICEF .

2.2 Nutrition

UNICEF continues to host weekly meetings in each state of Darfur and a bi-weekly meeting in Khartoum. As Sector Coordinator for Nutrition, UNICEF is working to establish monitoring systems, standards and protocols for all Feeding Programs and nutritional surveys, as well as a compilation of a comprehensive sector report which will identify gaps and provide guidance on technical and policy-related issues. It will also revise targets in light of increased needs of affected children. The sector report will be released in the first week of August.

UNICEF has committed to supporting 24 TFCs by the end of August, as stated in its 90-day plan. To date, 20 therapeutic feeding centres have been established by MSF-F, MSF-H and MSF-CH, MSF-Spain GOAL, SC-UK, ACF, Care and the MoH, with UNICEF support. The estimated number of beneficiaries from 19 operational centres that have provided data is 4,820 (2,240 in West Darfur, 986 in North Darfur, 1,594 in South Darfur). Unofficial observations from the field indicate that increased enrolment has pushed this number closer to 6,560, as compared to the overall 90-day target of 6,954. This total will be confirmed in the coming week. For SFCs, an estimated total of 18,039 children are being reached (7,288 in North Darfur, 3,638 in South Darfur and 7,112 in West Darfur) against a 90-day target of 46,360 children moderately malnourished and in need of Supplementary Feeding.

During coordination meetings however, UNICEF and WFP recognized that since general food distribution has been limited in many areas, there is a need to implement a Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program to prevent moderately malnourished children from sliding into severe malnourishment. WFP is reviewing its pipeline to ensure they have adequate inputs to cover the entire population under 5 years old (approximately 240,000), but in the interim, WFP has confirmed that it can cover at least cover 50% of this figure immediately. Blanket SFP will be targeted therefore, on the basis of high malnutrition rates, inadequate general rations, the outbreak of disease or other aggravating factors.

There are worrying reports of 23 deaths over a period of nearly 3 months, correlating to a CMR of 0.3 deaths/10,000/day from micronutrient deficiencies in Ferdous area. An assessment team comprising of UNICEF, WHO, MOH and SC-UK will travel on 7 August to conduct an investigation. Save the Children UK has been following the situation closely and has a doctor visiting the area regularly. The doctor has reportedly given treatment to approximately 70 cases on 14 July, with a follow-up on 27-29 July. SC UK has been working with WFP to do a blanket CSB distribution in the area.

2.3 Education

As sector coordinator for Education, UNICEF is in the process of finalizing a comprehensive sector report which reviews the progress of UNICEF and partners on achieving targets expressed in the 90-day plan and subsequent education documents. The greatest challenge to the sector at present is the limited number of implementing partners involved in Education programmes.

The total number of children enrolled in school as of the end of July 2004, supported by UNICEF/MOE, is 60,621 against a target of 60,000 children. UNICEF, therefore, has reached its own internal targets for Education support, but the sector target remains challenging. The overall sector target for school

enrollment was set at 141,700, however, given the lack of organizations involved in classroom rehabilitation and construction, as well as supply distribution and teaching support, this figure appears to be a difficult target to reach. As of 31 July 2004, there are approximately 65,000 children enrolled in school.

The largest gap in sector enrolment comes from West Darfur where only 8, 439 pupils are enrolled against a target of 59,000 eligible children. The main reason for this gap is that West Darfur has had catch-up classes only since April 2004. The academic year officially starts in August and enrolment should increase within the next week. To fill this gap and the overall sector gap, UNICEF is trying to encourage increased activity of partners such as IRW and IRC. NCA will expand but requires more time. Save Sweden is about to kick start interventions in Tawilla and Kutum.

The rehabilitation of school facilities and/or establishment of temporary classrooms is ongoing throughout the three states but demand for facilities is still exceeding the immediate supply. To meet the demand UNICEF has either rehabilitated or constructed 385 classrooms in addition to those were completed prior to 31 May. A shortage of local construction materials for temporary classrooms inspired UNICEF to purchase canvas tents from a supplier in Khartoum. These tents are now arriving in West Darfur. IRW is expected to complete the renovation of schools that have been occupied by IDPs in West Darfur earlier than expected and has indicated it will expand its activities to other areas.

The distribution of pupil kits and teaching supplies is ongoing however during this reporting period, it identified that schools in Tawilla lacked materials and may be in need of additional classrooms and latrines. UNICEF, the SMOE and SC-Sweden met to discuss the needs of the region and SC-Sweden has decided to expand its interventions to these schools.

Hygiene Education has started as a child-to-child activity and in Abu Shuk camp, 50 children were trained in hygiene education practices. Each of the children will now train 100 other children. This initiative will be replicated in other locations.

WFP emergency school feeding programs are being planned for many schools, but implementation is yet to have started mainly due a lack of availability of implementing partners. At this moment, WFP is discussing the possibility of providing food to class teachers, in addition to pupils.

2.4 Water and Sanitation

UNICEF's efforts in sector coordination this period have focused on the production of a comprehensive sector report. UNICEF staff, in partnership with NWC/WES, distributed reporting matrixes to partners and conducted field assessment missions in order to gather the most information possible on the current coverage of water and sanitation facilities. The report will focus on sector progress in achieving the targets of the 90-day plan and will conduct an analysis of what inputs are needed to bridge identified gaps.

Sector coordination meetings were well attended by implementing partners over the last period. Discussions focused on the importance of hygiene education, widespread and systematic chlorination of both centralized and decentralized water sources, as well as the progress of partners and UNICEF in achieving targets. WatSan partners agreed that the overarching aim is to ensure the availability of safe/improved water and environment free of health risks.

Water

All organisations engaged water services, (UNICEF, NWC/WES and partners such as OXFAM; NCA; MEDAIR; SC-US; MSF-F; ICRC; Solidarites; IRW; Spanish Red Cross; ICRC; ADRA; World Vision; CARE and Concern) have committed to provide 750,000 persons with improved access to safe water, by the end of August. Early estimates on total coverage in the sector are arriving at 602,700 beneficiaries.

From this sector total, UNICEF has committed to provide access to water to 600,000 IDPs and affected populations, in partnership with NWC/WES and private contractors. By end of May, some 350,000 people gained access to water using a variety of strategies including rehabilitation of existing water sources,

establishment of new hand pumps, and water tankering. In June and July 2004, UNICEF reached 177,100 more beneficiaries for a total of 524,600.

With UNICEF increased efforts in drilling, it is believed that these targets will be met by the end of August. At present, there are five drill rigs operating in the Darfurs (three WES rigs and two from the private contractor). UNICEF's private contractor is in the process of signing an additional contract for 75 more boreholes. UNICEF has also tried to encourage other private contractors who have been reluctant to face the insecurity in the region, to drill additional water points—but this effort has not proved successful as of yet. UNICEF is also grateful for the expected arrival of an additional rig from DFID.

UNICEF committed in the 90-day plan to provide 50,000 persons with safe water through temporary tankering. At present, there are 27 water tankers supported by UNICEF, in operation in Darfur, reaching approximately 43,200 beneficiaries with 20 liters of water per day. In order to increase coverage and access to new areas an additional 24 tankers are being deployed. The breakdown: two additional tankers—plus one from DFID—are in the process of being contracted for North Darfur, thus bringing the state total to 18. In South Darfur, ten tankers will reach Nyala by 15 August, as well as one from DFID, bringing the state total to 18. In El Geneina, 10 tankers will reach by 15 August, as well as one from DFID, bringing the total to 15. By the end of August therefore, there should be 51 UNICEF tankers in operation, reaching an estimated 81,600 beneficiaries. This brings the total tankers to 53 including the 2 from NGOs.

Sanitation

Although latrine construction is only one part of sanitation improvements, the expansion and acceleration of construction remains UNICEF's most urgent priority. Thus far, UNICEF has supported the construction of 5,646 communal latrines against a revised 90-day target of 10,000. As a sector, the work of Oxfam; MEDAIR; SC-US; Triangle; Solidarites; IRW; Spanish Red Cross; ADRA; CARE and Concern in construction has reportedly yielded 1,250 latrines. UNICEF did not receive information from several NGOs and hence achievement of partners may actually be higher than this figure. UNICEF efforts, plus those of implementing partners who have reported, yields a sector total of 6,896.

Understanding that this coverage is inadequate, UNICEF has obtained a commitment from the Government's WES department to construct 10,000 sanitation facilities and has placed resources at their disposal including one full-time UNICEF staff member. To aid in these operations and the work of implementing partners, UNICEF has ordered 20,000 prefabricated sanitation slabs. Some 1,623 slabs are currently being distributed in the Darfurs. A second batch of 4,500 slabs will arrive first week of August, while a third batch of 3,780 will be dispatched at the end-August. The remaining 10,097 will be received by the first week of October. In addition, UNICEF has signed a contract with the private sector for the completion of 9,000 sanitation facilities (3,000 pit latrines in each state) by the first week of August—with the expectation that this will be increased to a total of 30,000 latrines (10,000 in each state) by the end of August. These initiatives, plus the work of sector partners, integrated with the hygiene education should result to improvement of the sanitation situation.

Hygiene Education

UNICEF, NWC/WES and other implementing partners collaborated to launch the Health and Hygiene Education Program (HHEP) in West and North Darfur last week. On 26 July 2004, the opening ceremony was held in El Geneina and on 28 July 2004, activities began in El Fasher. The campaign is scheduled to begin in South Darfur on 3 August. The launches have served as the kick-off for further coordination and education activities in various IDP locations to ensure that safe health and hygiene practices become a routine part of community life.

The program launch in every location employs several "change agents" (such as WES professionals including hand-pump mechanics and water point caretakers; Community Health Committee members; other community leaders, teachers and animators) who conduct training and orientation on hygiene practices (through school education, public orientation sessions, home visits or recreational/dramatic activities). IEC Materials focusing on four main messages of safe hygiene are distributed for the campaign, as well as adequate quantities of soap and chlorine tablets to put the messages into practice.

More importantly, the launches have been preceded and followed by meetings with partners to ensure a more coordinated approach on hygiene and to expand the campaign into camps not yet covered. In West Darfur, for example, NWC/WES, MEDAIR, Triangle, Save the Children–US, Concern, Tearfund and UNICEF worked together to identify a hygiene promoter coordinator in each camp and to establish agreements on responsibilities between each other, for various locations. The group agreed on the need for more social mobilization to stimulate community participation and ownership; the need to incorporate the four core messages of HP by all partners in line with UNICEF IEC materials; and on the need to target both in-school and out-of-school children through training of teachers and animators. The group has created a timeline of targets in information sharing, distribution of materials, training and the establishment of health committees. This well coordinated system for hygiene education developed in West Darfur with the full involvement of all implementing partners in the campaign with NGOs taking specific responsibility in hygiene education in each camp will need to be replicated in the two states.

Following a successful launch of activities in various locations of West Darfur, UNICEF experienced a rather difficult launch in Zam Zam, North Darfur— which provided an indicator of the degree of insecurity IDPs face. Following the visit of a Nigerian Envoy to Zam Zam, IDPs reported harassment by both GoS officials and irregular groups and thus, were intimidated from engaging in community events. Although this incident impeded the launch, it did not arrest hygiene promotion activities in Zam Zam. In addition to safe water promotion, ongoing construction of latrines, a football match and theatre for children were set up to promote the campaign, as well as distribution of soap and home visits. Progress on launches in four other locations will be received soon—but there are already signs of positive progress. The UNICEF RPO in El Fasher reported that cases of diarrhea have decreased in Abu Shouk camp, most likely due to the efforts of Oxfam in promoting jerry cans cleaning and the chlorination of water points.

2.5 Child Protection

UNICEF continues to chair the child protection meetings in Khartoum and the three states. Through these coordination mechanisms, a number of simple and easy to measure indicators on child protection were developed and integrated into the reporting procedures of staff and implementing partners visiting IDP locations. The indicators are reflected in a simple questionnaire that should be returned after an observation. It is expected that at least 100 questionnaires will be filled per week, hence enabling a continuous monitoring of the child protection situation in a variety of locations.

UNICEF is currently supporting 12 children spaces in South and West Darfur. Some 6,624 children are currently benefiting from psychosocial recreational activities within these centres. An additional 6 spaces have been planned and should be operating by the end of August, thus far surpassing the original target of 6 centres, set by the 90-day plan. UNICEF's effort to provide psychosocial support however focuses on reaching children both through children's centres and schools. Children receiving support through schools is approximately 20,189 as of the 30 June. A total of 26,813 children therefore, are currently benefiting from UNICEF support to both centres and schools. Given the increasing demand for children centres however, the UNICEF RPPB Darfur coordinator has developed a draft proposal to support 30 additional Children Centres in the three states. This proposal will be presented to donors for funding support.

The "Safe-to-Play" Programme of activities was successfully launched in Kalma camp, South Darfur through the Ministry of Education, the Sudanese Popular Committee for Relief and the support of UNICEF this last reporting period. In preparation for the launch, training and orientation sessions for teacher and animators were accelerated. Currently, 388 teachers and animators (out of a 90-day target of 300) have been orientated in psychosocial support for children.

Progress on sensitizing duty bearers on child rights and on mainstreaming children's issues into the wider humanitarian response also progressed during this period. Out of the 1000 humanitarian personnel targeted in the 90 day plan, a total of 405 have been reached, as of 30 July 2004.

An important milestone, achieved in July 2004, has been the cooperation between the Ministry of Interior and UNICEF in regards to child protection training for police officers. A three day training workshop for 32 police officers, with the support of the Family Protection Department of the Jordanian Police, was held on 20-22 July 2004. The training focused on child protection principles, and on procedures and techniques for dealing with rape and sexual violence victims. The Ministry of Interior has expressed interest in expanding this training to include all police forces in Darfur. There is also an expressed willingness to consider deploying men and women police officers in the IDPs locations and "safe areas" for children, which UNICEF is promoting in coordination with the Ministries of Social Welfare, Education and partners.

UNICEF also continued to take the lead in the dissemination of "the code of conduct" regarding protection of children and women from sexual and exploitation during humanitarian crises. Out of the 500 Humanitarian personnel targeted within the 90-day plan, a total of 342 have received orientation as of 30 July 2004. Two additional training of trainers benefiting 100 persons from partner organizations have been organized for West and North Darfur. A third training session will be held in South Darfur in the first week of August. In addition to conducting the training of trainers, UNICEF staff are providing the technical assistance to other UN agencies to develop the reporting and investigation systems on sexual abuse and exploitation cases.

3. UNICEF PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT PERIOD

- Intensely follow up, monitor and encourage further 90 Day Plan implementation.
- Release of the comprehensive sector reports for Nutrition, WES and Education. Incorporation of all feedback and concerns from partners.
- Expansion of the Health and Hygiene Promotion Campaigns, in cooperation with all implementing partners.
- Release of inter-agency assessment report on the current conditions of residents and IDPs living in SLA controlled areas of Tina, Kornoï and Um Barru. Continuation of negotiation with SLA leadership for comprehensive access for humanitarian interventions, primarily in health and nutrition but also in water and sanitation.
- Finalize the planning and site selection for the remaining 21, 000 latrines to be constructed.
- Ensure wide registration of school children in West Darfur.
- Further define and update our resource needs for Darfur.
- Develop plans with other agencies on police training.