

**Darfur Humanitarian Response**

**Report on Child Protection Sector**

**Khartoum, Sudan**  
**August 2004**



Adolescent girls and women in Kass, while speaking about sexual gender base violence.  
(August 2, 2004)

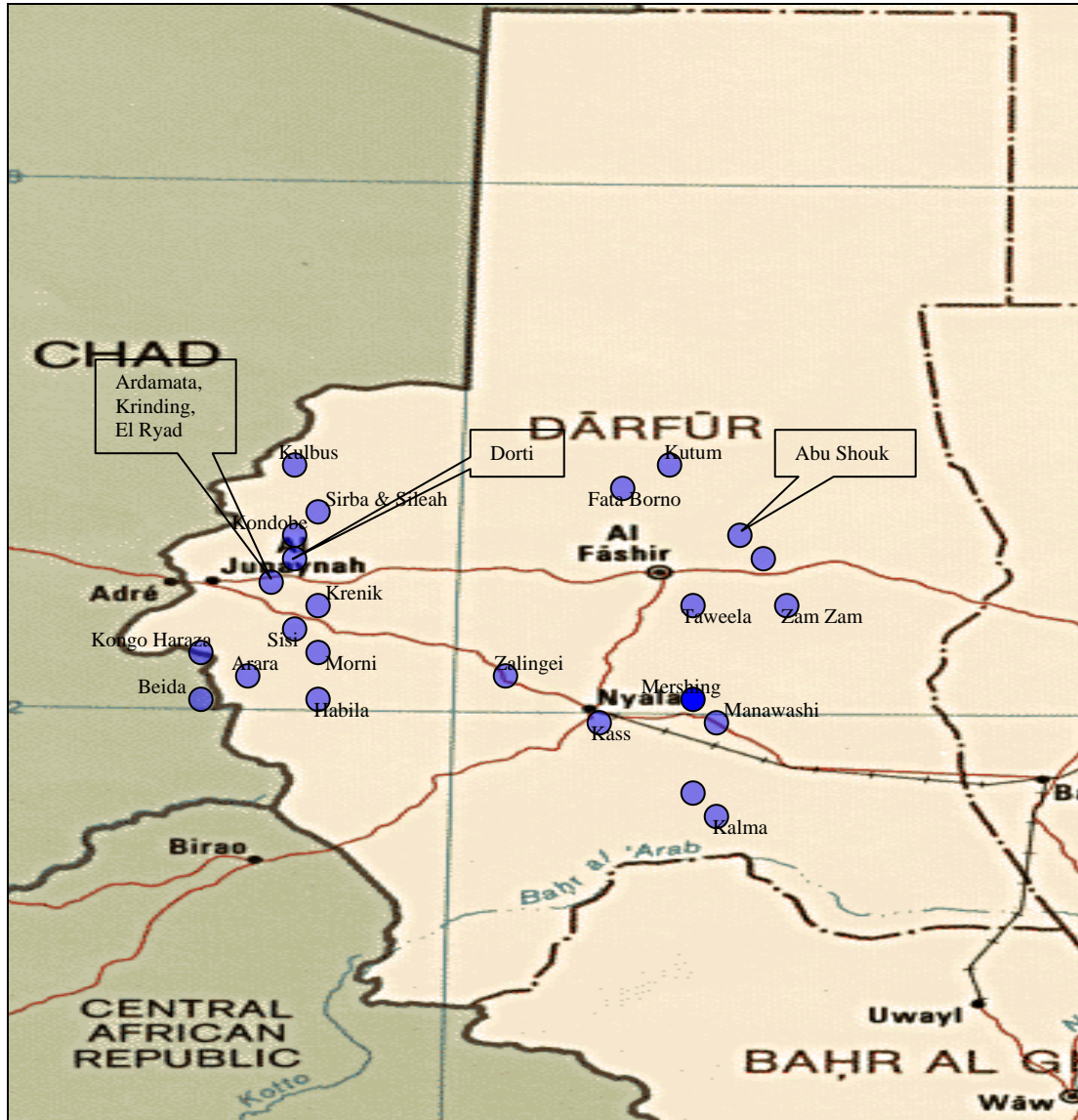
**UNICEF Sudan in collaboration with:**  
**The State MSW, MoE, CFCI, SPCR, SRC, EDM, ICRC, IRC, SC-US, SC-**  
**UK, SC-Sweden, NRC, WV**



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# Darfur Humanitarian Response



Locations of Child Protection activities in Darfur

## I. INTRODUCTION

The situation in Darfur, western Sudan, is considered the worst humanitarian crisis in the world today. According to the August OCHA Humanitarian Profile, over one million persons are internally displaced and more than 170,000 have taken refuge across the border into Chad. Recent statistics indicate that 326,422 persons are displaced in South Darfur, 398,773 in North Darfur and 502,265 in West Darfur, and approximately 271,342 residents have become hosts to the displaced communities. Children under 18 years of age represent 55-60 percent of the displaced population in Darfur. A significant number of these children have either been direct victims of violence, or have witnessed violent acts.

As part of the United Nations effort to co-ordinate and streamline assistance to conflict affected communities in Darfur, the 90 Day Plan for Darfur was established, setting targets for implementation of humanitarian aid during the period from 1 June to 31 August, 2004. Workshops were organized at the State level in the three Darfurs, bringing together the State Ministries of Social Welfare, the State Ministries of Education, and NGOs. This report presents the achievements of the 90 day plan in the child protection sector, analysis of the results and identification of gaps as of end August 2004.

## II. OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION IN MAY 2004

### **The most pressing child protection issues in May 2004 in Darfur included:**

- Severe psychosocial effects of the violent dislocation and displacement on children;
- Separation of children from their families;
- Rape and other gender based violence.

## III. 90 DAY PLAN OBJECTIVES

Child Protection activities aimed at ameliorating the harsh realities experienced by children in the conflict situation in Darfur. The overall goal of child protection interventions in Darfur is to strengthen the elements which make up a protective environment for IDP children, including advocacy with government and NGOs, capacity building of those dealing with children, monitoring and reporting on child protection abuses, and services for recovery and reintegration of children affected by the conflict.

### **The core objectives in the sector focused on:**

- Sensitization of duty bearers on child rights and child rights based programming;
- Contributing to the monitoring of the child protection situation on the ground;
- Establishment of child protection coordination mechanisms at central and field levels;
- Psychosocial rehabilitation of children through mass recreational activities and assisting in establishing children Spaces for the IDP children, as well as in the capacity building of staff and training of teachers and animators to provide psychosocial support;
- Inter-agency coordination to ensure the identification, registration, care, tracing and reunification of separated children;
- Sensitization on sexual and gender based violence.

### **The main targets for the 90 day plan were set as follows:**

- Training of 285 teachers and animators on psychosocial support to conflict affected children (target later revised by UNICEF to 300);
- Setting up of 6 recreational facilities for IDP children. (This was further defined as giving children access to psychosocial support. Original 90 Day Plan targets were 23,000 children in school and 4, 500 children out of school. Target was later revised by UNICEF to 60,000

- children in schools and 40,000 children outside the schools);
- Sensitization of 700 humanitarian personnel on children’s rights and their integration into the wider humanitarian response (target later revised by UNICEF to 1000);
- Sensitization of 350 humanitarian workers on the code of conduct regarding the protection of children and women from sexual abuse and exploitation during humanitarian crises (target later revised by UNICEF to 500);
- Orientation of 120 police on protection of children and women from sexual abuse and exploitation—as well as training of 20 trainers for police on protective programming (target was later revised by UNICEF to 200 police officers trained);
- Establishment of 3 referral systems to support the psychosocial and physical recovery of rape victims.

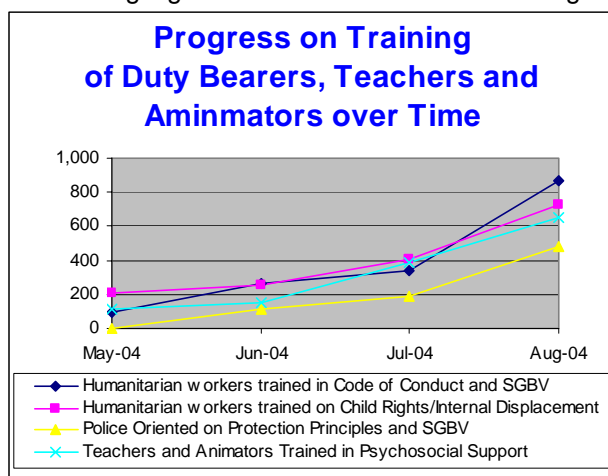
#### IV- IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The following strategies were adopted for the implementation of the 90 day plan:

- Establish coordination of the child protection sector at both Khartoum and State level (the three Darfurs);
- Ensure close coordination with the interventions in the Education sector to ensure integration of psychosocial support within the temporary schools;
- Disseminate the code of conduct on protection of children and women from sexual abuse and exploitation during humanitarian crises;
- Maintain an overview of the child protection situation;
- Broaden partnerships in action on child protection;
- Strengthen capacity in child protection at the field level. For UNICEF and the child protection agencies, this meant deployment of international and national child protection officers in the field;
- Integration of child protection concerns into the discourse on the resettlement or return of the IDPs.

#### V- OVERALL ACHIEVEMENTS

Table 1: highlights the advances made in training of duty bearers, teachers and animators over time.



#### Child protection partners

UNICEF is the Coordinator of the Child Protection sector for the three Darfur States. The table below shows the partners operational in the Child Protection Sector, in addition to UNICEF and the State Ministries of Social Welfare and Education in the three States.

- Save the Children UK focused their interventions in the region of North Darfur around psychosocial support to children, registration, verification, monitoring and care of separated children. Save the Children UK worked also on integrating overall protection and child protection in the other sectors of humanitarian response, notably nutrition, health and education.
- Save the Children US were the only child protection agency working in West Darfur over the reporting period. Their team included one international team leader based in Geneina, a national senior protection officer and two local protection officers. Their interventions included play space and structured activities to children in 11 IDPs locations in West Darfur, training of school teachers and animators on psychosocial support to children, registration, verification, monitoring and care of separated children, as well as improving the protection of children and particularly vulnerable households.
- Save the Children Sweden's action focused on North Darfur, and included support to emergency education, training of police and humanitarian workers on children's rights and child rights based programming. Advocacy on children associated with the fighting forces was also carried out by Save the Children Sweden at the Khartoum level.
- ICRC's main involvement in child protection has been through the registration, family tracing and reunification of separated and unaccompanied children. ICRC has established branched in the three main state capitals of Darfur, in addition to Zalynge, a major town in West Darfur.
- Sudanese Popular Committee for Relief (SPCR) focused its work on South Darfur, in IDPs locations in Kalma, Kass, Mershing, Manawashe. SPCR's mission includes an emphasis on the protection of vulnerable children, with special attention to street children. Their work in South Darfur included raising awareness of child protection and psychosocial issues and supporting the implementation of age-appropriate psychosocial activities for war affected children. They were also involved in social work support to separated and other particularly vulnerable children.
- IRC are working in overall protection and child protection. Their activities are concentrated on South and North Darfur. IRC recruited and set up a Child and Youth Development Protection Team. Their interventions included training on human rights, setting up of Child Friendly Spaces, training of teachers and animators on psychosocial approaches to teaching and establishment of participatory youth organizations. .
- Sudanese Red Crescent (SRC) is a main actor in humanitarian assistance in all three Darfur states. SRC work with ICRC in the registration of separated children and missing persons. Their work in child protection was confined to the state of North Darfur, where they organized psychosocial support activities for children in one of the IDPs locations.

### **Sector Coordination**

UNICEF, in its role as focal-point for Child Protection issues, has organized and chaired child protection coordination committees on a weekly basis in the states and a bi-weekly basis at the national level. The aims of these committees is to gather and consolidate information with regard to emerging child protection issues; offer a framework for discussion, exchange and coordination of the child protection response; coordinate the preparedness and planning of the response for emerging issues.

UNICEF and other child protection agencies participated in the overall Protection Coordination Committees, lead by UNOCHA at the field level and UNHCHR at the Khartoum level, which serves to publicize achievements and to guarantee that children's rights are duly considered in broader protection initiatives. These were the forum through which it was possible to integrate children's rights and child protection into the discourse that was happening around the forced return and relocation of IDPs.

Coordination on sexual and gender based violence issues, in particular the dissemination of the code of conduct regarding the protection of children and women from sexual abuse and exploitation during humanitarian crises was spearheaded by UNICEF during the 90 day plan period. This topic was addressed within the context of the child protection coordination committees created at Khartoum and State level. This may be subject to change in the 120 day plan. UNICEF will continue to participate and contribute to planning and action around sexual and gender based violence; yet the coordination role may be given up in favor of agencies that have a stronger mandate in this area and that have more technical capacity to extend action to women from all age groups.

### **Separated children**

Recognizing the need for a coordinated inter-agency response to the problem of separated children, ICRC, UNICEF, Save the Children, Save the Children US and the Sudanese Popular Committee for Relief (SPCR - a national NGO in South Darfur) agreed on a framework for identification, registration, care, tracing and reunification of separated children. The framework was shared with UNICEF and ICRC in Chad to ensure cross-border coordination. At the end of the 90-day plan however, challenges remain in ensuring the framework is made operational in the field. Information management and sharing between agencies must be strengthened, in addition to monitoring mechanisms to ensure the care of separated children.

During the 90 day period, a total of 287 separated children have been identified in the three Darfurs. The majority are staying with extended family. Child protection agencies are monitoring the care of these children in their current placement. A field manual for registration, monitoring and care of separated children has been compiled and translated into Arabic. A total of 65 social workers received training on separated children.

Although the figures of separated children registered may be underestimated (perhaps due to different understandings of the concept of separated children between agencies and local communities and because ICRC did not yet complete yet full registration in Darfur), ICRC estimates that the number of separated children is in the hundreds and not in thousands.

### **Sensitization of duty bearers**

A major component of the 90 Day Plan aimed at building a protective environment for IDPs children and women in Darfur. UNICEF has focused attention on the sensitization of duty bearers on children's rights and child rights based programming through training and development of reference materials. Practical guidelines on child rights based programming in the sectoral interventions (health, nutrition, water, sanitation, education) during humanitarian crises were developed in English and Arabic. Training of trainers sessions and orientation sessions for humanitarian personnel from both government agencies and NGOs were organized across Darfur. During the 90 day plan, 724 persons from amongst governmental and non-governmental partners in Darfur were trained on child rights, child rights based programming and child protection.

### **Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV)**

During the reporting period, UNICEF took the lead action for disseminating the six principles of the code of conduct for the protection of children and women from sexual abuse and exploitation during humanitarian crises. A consultant was hired by UNICEF and spent three weeks in Darfur to organize three training of trainers sessions (one in each of the three Darfurs) and orientation sessions for the field staff of the UN agencies, the international and national NGOs, and a limited number of government personnel.

Sexual and gender based violence was one of the topics covered within the child protection coordination meetings that UNICEF was chairing at both Khartoum and field levels. During the reporting period, a total of 950 humanitarian personnel working in Darfur received orientation on sexual and gender based violence and the code of conduct.

Less success was achieved in terms of establishing referral systems for the physical and psychosocial recovery of rape victims. Factors for this include: the focus of most agencies on awareness raising activities rather than service provision; the sensitivity of the topic and a resulting reluctance of NGOs to take on responsibility for provision of sensitive services (especially since most of their support to health care systems came within the context of the government hospitals and health centers); coordination challenges; the overstretched capacity of the relevant actors and their limited presence at the field level.

### **Police training**

Sensitization of the police force on children's rights and protection of IDPs children and women from sexual violence was pursued during the reporting period through a two-pronged approach:

- Organization of orientation sessions for the police already operating in Darfur: a total of 478 policemen and women have benefited from these sessions. It is worth noting that the presence of policewomen in sessions was only noted in South Darfur. The sessions were organized by two Sudanese trainers consultants who had received earlier training of trainers (TOT) on this topic through a UNICEF supported TOT session held in May 2004. The average duration of these orientation sessions was 2-3 hours. Members of the military forces have participated in some of the sessions held in West and North Darfur.
- Organization of a three day training session in Khartoum, in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior. This training was the first of its kind. It was organized with the technical support of trainers from the Family Protection Unit of the Police Force in the Jordan. The main aim of this training was to sensitize police on children's rights, community policing and procedures and techniques for doing the investigation and management of the rape victims. The Ministry of Interior has shown great interest in this work and appreciated the support brought by Jordan. It also expressed a willingness to consider the experience of Jordan in establishing Family Protection Units. This will be addressed in the 120 day plan.

### **Promoting the psychosocial well being of children**

Promoting the psychosocial well being of children affected by the conflict and re-establishing normalcy in their lives was another major concern of the 90 day plan. Psychosocial support to children was made accessible to school children in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. In close coordination with education and child protection partners in Darfur, UNICEF trained 655 teachers in Darfur on the needs of war affected children and the psychosocial support that can be provided to them. UNICEF also provided the IDPs schools with the recreational kits required. A training manual on psychosocial support for school teachers, developed by IRC, was adapted to the Darfur context and used for teachers' training. The manual was also translated into Arabic.

UNICEF and protection partners have also been able to mobilize the Ministry of Education by launching the Safe-to-Play campaign in South and West Darfur. Most importantly, the Ministry of Education in South Darfur) has agreed to introduce psychosocial recreational activities as part of the educational system. Coordination with the Ministry of Education in North Darfur is still in progress. The number of children that were given access to psychosocial support within the school context was 54,869 in the three states of Darfur.

Outside the school context, psychosocial support was made accessible to children through 25 Children's Spaces in various localities in Darfur, maintained by national and international NGO partners. A Children's Space is a defined place within IDP locations where activities for children are organized with the intent to offer psycho-social support. It is also an environment conducive for children who have been victims of serious children's rights violations (including Sexual and Gender Based Violence) to speak out and to be assisted both in terms of recovery, as well as in the reporting of their case to the police, international organisations and/or human rights monitors. A total of 34,110 children were given access to psychosocial support activities outside the school context in Darfur through the Children's Spaces, during the 90 day period. (This is up from an earlier total of 30,601, due to additional reports from partners.)

The training provided for implementing partners focused on:

- A wide range of recreational activities for and with children
- A first psycho-social response, mainly focusing upon guaranteeing children the opportunity to return to some normalcy in their daily lives
- The registration of separated children
- A total of 365 animators received training; many of them were from amongst IDPs themselves (Up from an earlier reported total of 295, due to additional reports from partners).

UNICEF and IRC also provided to the implementing partners the necessary recreational kits for the various age groups involved in these activities.

Several achievements were made by actors in the child protection beyond the targets set for the 90 day plan. These include:

- the organization of the inter-agency workshops on the IDPs guiding principles in each of the three Darfur States;
- Preparation of guidelines on child protection in the context of IDPs return relocation and in camp management;
- Supervision of ongoing child protection rapid assessments;
- Development of an initial reporting format for SGBV reporting in West Darfur.

## **VI. CHALLENGES**

One of the most serious challenges to massive intervention in Darfur is the limited number of local non-governmental organizations in the three states of Darfur, combined with the lack of trained and qualified human resources on child protection programming among all partners.

Another challenge is the sensitivity of the issues addressed, in particular sexual and gender based violence. This had to do in particular with the protection of the information sources on this topic from amongst the IDPs.

While no constraints were faced from the Government on the implementation of child protection activities, it is worth mentioning that there was no pro-active contribution from the Government, unlike the situation in the water and health sectors for instance, where government allocated

additional staff and funds to cover needs. This is coupled with a low level of confidence amongst the IDPs and even the international NGOs in the mechanisms established for addressing human rights violations in Darfur.

Communications, logistics and transport challenges, as well as security and access constraints have been noted by all child protection partners.

## **VIII. RESULTS BY STATE**

### **North Darfur**

By the end of August 2004, a total of 22,369 school children benefited from psychosocial recreational activities, in addition to 3,000 children in such activities outside the school context. Orientation sessions on psychosocial interventions benefited 421 teachers and 96 animators working in the IDP camps of North Darfur.

Implementing Partners in North Darfur include:

- Enfants du Monde, working on psychosocial rehabilitation for children with emphasis on structured play activities and psychosocial counseling component. At the closure of the 90 Day Plan, Enfants du Monde has built three Children Spaces in Abu Shouk.
- International Rescue Committee (IRC), working along side and complemented UNICEF's work in Abu Shouk and Zam Zam in North Darfur on psychosocial recreational activities and teacher training. This included the establishment of play areas around all schools in one of the major camps; training of 70 animators; organization of 25 Child Friendly Spaces and their equipping with recreation/psychosocial supplies. IRC also established sports teams for older youth in one of the camps, and trained 38 youth leaders. Five Roots and Shoots clubs (a participatory youth organization) were mobilized in one of the IDPs camps in North Darfur for youth age 15-18 years.
- Save the Children have focused on child protection activities, as part of an integrated package of assistance given to IDPs in two locations in North Darfur.
- During the reporting period, Save the Children Sweden accelerated their preparations for launching child protection activities focusing on provision of legal aid to children and women in detention, training of animators on psychosocial assistance and advocacy in favor of the implementation of the Optional Protocol on Children in Armed Conflict.
- Kabkabya Women's Associations (local CBO), focusing on psychosocial recreational activities for out of school children in Kabkabya.
- Kabkabya Small Crops Holders, a community-based organization involved in agricultural and hygiene related activities. In August 2004, they started focusing on recreational activities for children in the Kabkabya settlement.
- In coordination with implementing partners, UNICEF's direct interventions on capacity building achieved the following results:
  - 288 humanitarian workers were trained in protective programming and IDP protection.
  - 448 humanitarian workers received orientation sessions and training on SGBV
  - 212 police received orientation on SGBV

### **West Darfur**

The achievements on psychosocial intervention up to 31 August 2004 indicate that 18,811 school children benefited from psychosocial recreational activities, plus 17,400 out of school children. It is worth noting that the target for school children in West Darfur was not reached since the temporary classrooms planned to be built in several locations were not yet completed. Orientation sessions on psychosocial interventions benefited 110 teachers, as well as 117

animators working in the IDP camps, bringing the total of beneficiaries to 36,211 IDP children.

#### Implementing partners in West Darfur

- Save the Children US was the main actor on child protection in the reporting period. Save US was also the implementing partner for UNICEF. Its attention focused on protection activities, with provision of supplementary training and orientation to teachers on psychosocial support and working with conflict-affected children. At the close of the 90 Day Plan, SC-US had built 10 Children Spaces in Ardamata, Krinding, El Ryad, Dorti, Sissi, Krenik, Morni, Kondobe, Sirba and Sileah. It is also worth mentioning that War Child who provided training support to SC-US on psychosocial activities.
- The Ministry of Education is a partner in West Darfur and fully involved in the psychosocial well being of the IDP school children through the implementation of the Safe-to-Play initiative.
- Children Friendly Community Initiative, with active involvement in psychosocial recreational activities and work with school and out school children.
- UNICEF's direct interventions on capacity building achieved the following results:
  - 176 humanitarian workers were trained in protective programming and IDP protection.
  - 295 humanitarian workers received orientation sessions and training on SGBV
  - 119 police received orientation sessions on SGBV

#### South Darfur

As of 31 August 2004, 13,689 school children benefited from psychosocial interventions, in addition to 10,201 out of school children.

The key actors in child protection in South Darfur are:

- Save the Children UK
- IRC:

Implementing Partners for UNICEF in South Darfur include:

- The Sudanese Popular Committee for Relief, a national NGO.
- Child Friendly Community Initiative and Manawashee.
- The Ministry of Social and Cultural Affairs spearheaded work on child protection in South Darfur. The Ministry is a strong partner in mobilizing a greater outreach with local partners.
- UNICEF's direct interventions on capacity building achieved the following results:
  - 258 humanitarian workers were trained in protective programming and IDP protection.
  - 212 humanitarian workers received orientation sessions and training on SGBV
  - 93 police received orientation sessions on SGBV