

# UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

## DARFUR, SUDAN

# DONOR UPDATE

16 MARCH 2006

**UNICEF URGENTLY REQUIRES US\$ 87 MILLION TO CONTINUE LIFE-SUSTAINING AND LIFE-SAVING PROGRAMMES**

- Security and access in Darfur have experienced a steep deterioration in recent months.
- The current funding crisis further compounds the crisis (only 3% of the appeal requirements have been met to date). If UNICEF does not secure funding in the next three months, cuts will be made with serious consequences for the 1.8 million children affected by the conflict.



## 1. ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

Although Darfur remains the worst complex emergency in the world UN agencies and partners working in the region have reported a dramatic decline in donor support. Sadly, as media coverage has dwindled over the past two years, security has further deteriorated, the caseload of conflict affected persons has risen and the dependency of communities on humanitarian aid has increased—meaning that funding cuts will make a direct and unfortunate impact on children and families, likely eroding the progress made.

As of early 2006, approximately 3.5 million persons are estimated to be affected by the conflict in Darfur. Hopes for a substantial peace agreement and the return of around 1.8 million internally displaced persons in 2005 now appear to have been premature. While parties continue to stall and fracture in the Abuja talks, camp populations become more and more entrenched – while rural communities and host populations continue to lack basic social services due to insecurity and/or lack of funding for expansion of activities. Around 1.7 million are either sharing dwindling resources with those that are displaced or have suffered loss of livelihoods in rural areas due to social and economic collapse.

UNICEF is concerned primarily with the 1.8 million children affected by the conflict, some of whom have been displaced multiple times through repeated attacks. The impact of violence, disease, malnutrition, destitution and dependency is leaving a mark on this generation of children, weakening their capacity and trapping them in the poverty cycle.

Within the last two months, there have been increased levels of violence in Mershing, Golo, Tawila, Shearia and Kulbus localities causing the displacement of at least 70,000 people. Meanwhile, tensions along the border with Chad threaten to internationalize the conflict as both Chadian and Sudanese forces “dig-in” with reinforcements. Reflecting these tensions, the Designated Official raised the security phase from Phase III to Phase IV in El Geneina and five other localities in West Darfur. These access constraints have not only increased logistics costs and made monitoring and evaluation of programmes more difficult, they also prevent aid from reaching some vulnerable communities.

At this stage, over 100,000 IDPs and 71,000 conflict-affected people in host communities cannot be accessed by UNICEF due to ongoing conflict in North Darfur. In West Darfur, the situation is worse: more than 184,000 IDPs are currently inaccessible. About 209,000 people in host communities are also isolated by poor security. Many more can only be reached by air. This access will be risked if UNICEF and other agencies are forced to withdraw due to funding cuts, and a large number of IDPs will face isolation. In addition, there will be little hope of rural areas receiving assistance.

Without significant and timely investment, the humanitarian crisis that was controlled in 2004-2005 will certainly return and erode the progress made. Due to the lack of funding, UNICEF is currently in the process of planning scale-back measures and strategies for handing over life-sustaining and life-saving programmes to the government, despite its limited capacity to fund and manage activities. With rationalization of costs and scaling-back of programmes, UNICEF’s remaining funding will carry its operations in Darfur through until mid-May. If UNICEF does not secure funding in the next three months major cuts will be made with serious consequences for children.

## 2. UNICEF RESPONSE: ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS

The work of all humanitarian partners has led to a positive impact on overall mortality, with a reduction in crude mortality from 2/10,000 in 2004 to 0.8/10,000 in 2005. Lack of funding will result in cut-backs through most life-saving sectors, thus threatening a rise in mortality.

Together with all agencies and partners, UNICEF’s work contributed to the reduction of global acute malnutrition from 21.8% in 2004 to 11.9% in 2005. Any deterioration in the maintenance of water and sanitation services and/or food and nutrition programmes, however, will erode this progress, especially as the hungry season approaches.

The full expansion of primary health care, nutrition, education, WES and child protection activities into remote and rural areas has been constrained primarily due to insecurity – but lack of funding now blocks the equitable delivery of services to all displaced, hosts and affected residents. This can exacerbate the “pull-effect” of IDP camps as communities move towards areas receiving better international assistance.

### Sector-specific concerns

**Water:** UNICEF, sister agencies and partners assisted over 2.3 million people, or 70% of the conflict-affected population, to access water through maintaining and rehabilitating 1,301 sources and constructing 770 new sources. Maintenance and expansion requires substantial resources. Any scaling back of water and sanitation services without a reciprocal government investment could result in an increase in water-related disease.

**EPI:** Currently, 80% of the UNICEF supported health centres are providing EPI services with DPT3 coverage of 61% for U-1 children. Lack of funding could result in an increase in the incidence of communicable disease.

**Nutrition:** UNICEF supported partners in managing 54 therapeutic and 100 supplementary feeding centres that helped rehabilitate 20,571 severely and 65,752 moderately malnourished children in 2005. Cutting funding to these programmes will result in a rise in child mortality as those who become malnourished may not recover.

**Education:** More children than ever are enrolled in school in Darfur. By the end of 2005 382,794 (46% girls) were enrolled. Cutting funding to Education programmes will result in deterioration of the learning environment and loss of teachers, thus provoking a drop in enrolment and eventual reduced capacity, both for individuals and communities of Darfur.

**Child Protection:** UNICEF support to Child Friendly Spaces and psychosocial support activities reach 172,385 IDPs and conflict affected children. Without these spaces and psycho-social activities, children lack access to safe-havens and services in their communities for improving their psychosocial well-being. Crucially, international staff presence in this key human rights area is critical to ensuring and advocating for protection.

### 3. APPEAL REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS

All of Sudan is facing a shortage of funding for humanitarian interventions. This year to date, for Darfur, UNICEF has only received approximately \$US1.8 million in contributions from government donors while the UNICEF National Committees have raised approximately \$790,000. This means UNICEF has a total of about \$US2.6 million in donor resources against its Darfur target of \$US91.7 million. The tables below illustrate the distribution of fund (both earmarked and unearmarked funds) through the Darfur Programme.

**Table 1: Funds Received against Appeal**

Appeal Sector	Requirements by Sector	Funds Received (US\$)	Unmet requirements (US\$)	% Unfunded
Health	17,212,000	1,219,585	15,992,415	92%
Nutrition	3,200,000	0	3,200,000	100%
Water and Environmental Sanitation	25,000,000	449,140	24,550,860	98%
Education	12,000,000	175,822	11,824,178	99%
Child protection	4,354,000	615,625	3,738,375	84%
Relief and Shelter	30,000,000	0	30,000,000	100%
Communications and Advocacy	0	100,000	0	N/A
Cross-sectoral	0	83,338	0	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>91,766,000</b>	<b>2,643,510</b>	<b>89,122,490</b>	<b>97%</b>

**Table 2: Funds received by Donor for Darfur in 2006**

Donor	Funds Received(US\$)	Sector
Government of Japan (through the UN Trust Fund)	515,625	Child Protection
ECHO	1,118,603	Health
USAID	100,000	Health
Government of Ireland (through the UN Women's Guild)	120,000	Education
Japan NatCom	491,121	WES; Child Protection
Australia NatCom	982	Health
UK NatCom	67,034	Education
US Fund for UNICEF	230,145	WES; Communication and Advocacy
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,643,510</b>	

#### 4. IMPACT OF UNDER-FUNDING AND CURRENT PRIORITIES

Currently, UNICEF has a total of just over \$US2.46 million in donor resources against its Darfur target of \$US91.7 million. In other words, it is 3% funded as it moves into the third month of the year. The remaining funds will be sufficient to continue providing basic services until mid-May.

From this moment on, UNICEF cannot continue regular programming. If significant support remains outstanding by May, UNICEF will be forced to cut both its operational presence and its critical support to life-saving sectors and essential activities in Darfur. This will undoubtedly have an impact on the activities of implementing agencies, will erode the significant gains made in the sector, and will potentially impact the survival and health of children in Darfur.

A number of NGOs are also facing security concerns which, in addition to resources concerns, is causing the withdrawal or downsizing of a number of UNICEF's key partners. In a further demand on its resources, UNICEF, as sector lead in WES, Nutrition, Education and Child Protection is facing an additional burden as NGOs leave.

**Table 3: Urgent priority requirements**

<b>Table 3: URGENT PRIORITY REQUIREMENTS AS OF MARCH 2006</b>			
<b>Sector Priorities</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Beneficiaries/coverage</b>	<b>Amount required (US\$)</b>
WES	Ensuring maintenance of water schemes and systems while ensuring sanitation through latrine maintenance, vector control and camp clean-ups	Maintenance of water schemes benefiting 1,800,000 persons and maintenance of communal and household latrines, benefiting 137,000 persons	<b>4,000,000</b>
Nutrition	Ensuring that malnourished children receive the treatment and care they need for recovery	An estimated 30,000 severely malnourished children and 300,000 moderately malnourished children will be treated through 61 TFCs and 115 SFCs.	<b>1,000,000</b>
Education	Keep teachers supported through training	2, 175 teachers making and impact on close to 200,000 of the total 382,000 currently enrolled	<b>1,300,000</b>
Primary Health Care	Ensuring procurement and distribution of essential medicines to primary health care clinics (over 470 health kits, 300 midwifery kits)	2,000,000 children, women and men.	<b>1,700,000</b>
Child Protection	Ensure the provision of community- based psychosocial support.	150,000 children supported through Child Friendly Spaces	<b>1,300,000</b>
Non-Food Items	Ensure a vital, life-saving package of NFIs for distribution through the Common UN pipeline	240,000 families	<b>2,000,000</b>

UNICEF is prioritising fundraising so that these urgent needs are met, thereby ensuring that the humanitarian situation of children and women does not decline. This effort must be seen in tandem with the streamlining of UNICEF operations in a way that makes as minimal an impact on life-saving and life-sustaining programme as possible.

Details of the Darfur emergency programme can be obtained from:

Ted Chaiban UNICEF Representative Sudan Tel: + +249 183 473462 Email: <a href="mailto:tchaiban@unicef.org">tchaiban@unicef.org</a>	Olivier Degreef UNICEF EMOPS Geneva Tel: + 41 22 909 5655 Fax: + 41 22 909 5902 E-mail: <a href="mailto:odegreef@unicef.org">odegreef@unicef.org</a>	Gary Stahl UNICEF PFO New York Tel: + 1-212 326 7009 Fax: + 1-212 326 7165 Email : <a href="mailto:gstahl@unicef.org">gstahl@unicef.org</a>
--	---	--