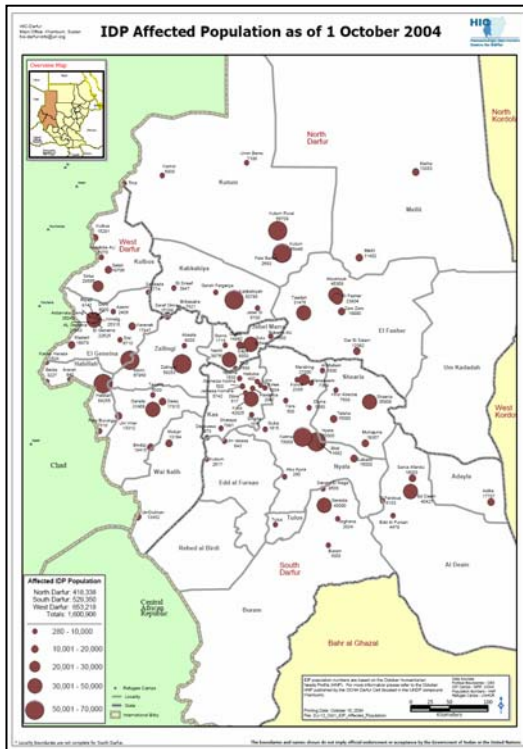


UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION DARFUR, SUDAN

MONTHLY REPORT

19 NOVEMBER 2004



OVERVIEW

The situation in Darfur continues to be considered the worst humanitarian crisis in the world today. Despite positive developments in the Abuja peace-talks, the conflict on the ground shows few signs of dissipating. Instead, general insecurity, banditry and fighting have actually increased over the last month, resulting in further population displacement and a greater dependence on humanitarian aid. About 100,000 people were newly displaced during the month of September, (due to both insecurity and a pull-factor associated with inequalities in aid distribution) while an additional 50,000 persons were accessed for the first time in previously insecure areas, most under SLM/A control. These factors have pushed the total conflict affected population to approximately 2,021,000 persons. About 1.6 million of this number are internally displaced while 420,000 are part of the affected host community. These figures are expected to rise as estimates for the month of October are verified.

In a statement issued on 2 November, the Secretary-General expressed his concern over the deteriorating situation, following the kidnapping of 15 hostages by the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA), and the mobilization of militias in areas of West and South Darfur. The Secretary-General urged all parties to the conflict to respect the N'Djamena ceasefire in its entirety and reminded the Government of Sudan of its responsibility under international

humanitarian law to prevent attacks against civilians. In a surprising turn, the SLM/A, JEM and Government of Sudan signed two accords on 9 November aimed at ending the crisis. In the security portion, the government accepted a ban on military flights over Darfur. The second agreement focuses on improving the humanitarian situation. Despite these agreements mobilization and confrontation has continued on the ground.

Most concerning are reports of local police and armed soldiers increasing pressure for return and relocation of internally displaced persons. The involuntary relocation of Al Jeer camp, for example, and the associated violations of human rights and international and humanitarian law, are being investigated. There are also reports of pressure on communities in Kalma and Otash. The Secretary General noted in his 2 November statement that the Government of Sudan should halt immediately all such relocation operations and to facilitate the return of the affected persons from the inappropriate sites to which they have been taken.

These new developments which have further restricted movement are hampering aid efforts. Serious gaps continue to exist—especially in the coverage of water, sanitation and nutritional interventions and these gaps are exacerbated by conflict. Efforts have been taken to build capacity at both field and Khartoum-levels to ensure work is accelerated and expanded to meet the growing needs of the affected population—while contingency planning is being emphasized, to prepare for the impact of further relocation and/or return. Given the current political atmosphere, the security situation on the ground, and the fact that communities have missed this year's planting season, it appears certain that this crisis will continue, if not worsen through the next year. This eventuality has been considered in the 2005 Work Plan, for both Darfur, and Sudan as a whole.

1. PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

The Primary Health Care Workshop

Most significant in the coordination of the Health sector this period was the successful launch, (by the Federal Ministry of Health, supported directly by UNICEF), of a workshop titled "Primary Health Care response in Darfur: Lessons Learned and Challenges Ahead". The workshop was held in Khartoum on 17-18 October 2004 and was attended by more than 158 representatives from Federal and State Ministry of Health, UN Agencies and NGOs. Participation was high during group work and plenary discussions, underlining the need for one, integrated forum for the partners involved in primary health.

Discussions focused on coverage of PHC services, the gaps and disparities between states and within states, the quality of services, standards and monitoring methodology. Recommendations included strengthening of coordination mechanisms between all players under the overall leadership of the Ministry of Health; improving data collection, monitoring and management; ensuring that a minimum PHC package is delivered in all health facilities and developing an integrated training plan for all levels of staff. Specific recommendations related to child health, maternal health and disease surveillance were also adopted, and will be further analyzed in technical follow-up sub-committees. It was decided that a similar action-oriented series of workshops should be held at the state level—and that a follow-up meeting should be held in six months time to evaluate the progress on implementation of recommendations.

Health Facilities

UNICEF support to implementing partners in Health has continued with positive results. At this time, there are over 127 fixed health facilities and 24 mobile teams that receive UNICEF support in the form of essential drugs, training or other inputs. These health facilities provide approximately 1,219,000 persons with access to primary health care. Despite these achievements, there continue to be serious geographic gaps in coverage. Closing these gaps will require not only increasing the number of facilities, but the quality of care. UNICEF has committed in the 120 Day Plan to supporting training programmes for over 500 health workers by the end of December. At present, approximately 234 have received training in correct case management and/or the new malaria protocol.

There are indications however, that quality of care is improving. Ministry of Health statistics show that there is a positive trend in routine EPI coverage. Using DTP3 (diphtheria, pertussis/whooping cough, tetanus) coverage as a proxy indicator, the September data shows 3,365 persons vaccinated in North Darfur, (up from the previous monthly average 2,000), and 4,487 in West Darfur, (previous average was 2,800), while 6,514 were reached in the South (previous average 3,000). Looking at Tetnus Toxoid, we also see a positive trend. Despite this improvement, EPI coverage remains low. Figures from September data which also use DPT3 as a proxy indicator show a 65% gap in coverage. Coverage in this case refers to actual immunizations and not access to EPI services.

Acceleration drives for EPI

Several additional acceleration drives have been successfully completed during September and October. The interagency campaign in the SLM/A controlled areas of North Darfur contributed to the overall figures for state coverage. Approximately 30,000 children 9 months to 15 years were vaccinated for measles, thus bringing the total in Darfur to 2,053,000. As a result, reported cases of measles have dropped significantly –but they have not been eradicated and are still reported on a weekly basis. The 120 Day Plan aims to close the gap to the overall target of 2.6 million children by conducting similar campaigns in South and West Darfur. Access however, remains a major impediment to reaching the targets.

The special campaign in SLM/A areas also vaccinated 23,000 children for Polio during September, with a second round in October reaching 22,000. These totals, plus the results of the National Immunization Days in the rest of Darfur, indicate that over 1,252,000 children have been reached with at least the first round. A second round campaign is planned for 20 November –but this may be put on hold in some areas due to recent insecurity.

National immunization days, special SLM/A campaigns and routine EPI boosted Vitamin A supplementation through this period. In the North, approximately 167,000 children have received supplementation, representing 63% coverage. In the South, 608,000 children have been reached, representing 99% coverage of accessible areas. In West Darfur 206,000 of children were reached representing 99% of coverage in accessible areas. Further campaigns are moving into JEM-held areas of West Darfur (the Jebel Moon region of Kulbus) to further vitamin A and polio coverage.

2. NUTRITION

As of the end of October, UNICEF was supporting 38 Therapeutic Feeding Programmes in Darfur (these are both centre-based TFCs and the Community Therapeutic Care programmes designed for covering remote areas) with nutritional supplements, equipment and coordination support. In September, total number of children who had been registered in these programmes since May is over 8,750. The figures for October will be available shortly, as nutrition data is compiled on a monthly basis. UNICEF is also supporting approximately 50 supplementary feeding programmes. UNICEF also provides anthropometric equipment, feeding kits and coordination support for these centres while WFP provides the food inputs.

According to September data, most of the TFCs in the West Darfur displayed a decrease in admissions, except for the areas around El Geniena where two CTCs were recently established, while admission in the South and North appear to be either stable or increasing. The decrease or stability in admissions numbers can, in some ways, be attributed to the improvements in general food distribution and the success of supplementary feeding programmes which prevent the slide into severe malnourishment. If this trend continues, the number of established SFPs, Blanket SFP and TFCs should gradually be reduced, while the need for opening new TFCs in other areas will also be reduced. However, the time for these cuts is not now. Nutritional surveys are still showing high malnutrition rates, as recently confirmed by the WFP survey, which found a Darfur-wide GAM of 21%. WFP also reported this month that approximately 70% of the conflict affected population received food aid during the month of September, as compared to 51% in August. This should positively impact the nutritional situation in Darfur but increasing unrest due to camp relocations and the risk of conflict in certain areas, could also exacerbate food insecurity and set back the progress made.

Unfortunately, the implications of the mine accident involving SC-UK in North Darfur have not only impacted the organisation, but communities in the region, as SC-UK suspended their nutrition programmes in Mellit, Malha and Umbaru. SC-UK is considering re-opening the TFC in Mellit due to the difficulty of referring malnourished children to Al-Fasher. A nutrition survey in Al-Fasher rural and the survey to analyze high defaulter rates (supposed to start on first week of Oct) were postponed due to insecurity.

3. WES

Water

Through the months of September and October there has been a shift from emergency delivery to maintenance of water systems and the development of systems for standardization and quality control. UNICEF is working with NWC/WES to strengthen the enforcement and monitoring of standards for water services, as well as to consolidate and maintain the progress achieved. UNICEF is supporting over 1000 water systems (not including trucking and chlorination schemes) but it is estimated that approximately 60% of the population in Darfur still lacks access to safe water. The operation and maintenance of present water systems is extensive however, and this maintenance has stretched the capacity of NWC/WES to further expand delivery. Additional funds will be needed to sustain and possibly expand UNICEF-supported programmes.

In order to gain a better understanding of actual water-usage, UNICEF is planning a comprehensive survey. The survey would record site specific populations, facilities available, a status report on functionality of pumps and water systems, indicators of water quality and associated information on usage and/or behavioral habits of beneficiaries. It is unknown whether or not the survey will increase or decrease the current estimations of coverage. Although there may be agreement concerning the amount of services which have been delivered, there is a great need to verify the functionality and quality of specific sites. This project should ideally be an interagency endeavor to provide common, agreed data for coordination and the drafting of a sector-wide implementation plan. UNICEF is determining the logistics requirements for such a survey.

Sanitation

Sanitation interventions in the 120 Day Period have continued in the same manner as the 90 Day Plan, in partnership with NWC/WES, the private sector and NGO partners. UNICEF has supported the construction of approximately 25,331 latrines, as of the end of October, against a sector target of 78,919. These efforts are benefiting just over 506, 000 persons.

Despite this significant delivery, the progress is still not adequate, when considering the growing affected population and the continuous needs of all communities to access safe and sanitary means of excreta disposal. Figures from September indicate that approximately 58% persons still lack access to latrines –but there are few indicators that show the functionality of latrines over time. Oxfam Hygiene Promoters in North Darfur, for example, have reported 93 full latrines at Abu Shouk camp. UNICEF is investigating back-filling and providing increased environmental clean-ups in high-density camps but the capacity of UNICEF and partners remains limited to cover all areas in need. Additional funds will be needed to properly address issues of maintenance and quality assurance.

An additional concern in the sector is the spontaneous growth of new camps and/or camps insufficiently prepared to receive communities relocated by government directive. The area around Tawilla has seen the rise of several small camps by IDPs fleeing the recent insecurity. Although these may be temporary, NWC/WES have started constructing around 600 latrines in the area. WES tankers from Tawilla have been supplying water twice a day to the north-eastern camp and irregularly to the other others. Bladders and plastic sheeting are being shipped to cover the needs, highlighting the urgent need for an emergency buffer stock of WES materials in the event of new population displacement, relocation or return.

4. EDUCATION

The education sector has experienced both advances and setbacks in the past two months. Positive developments include the addition of new partners to reach a total of 16 in the sector (11 international) –and the confirmation that interventions this year have brought the GER close to pre-war levels. The pre-conflict GER was estimated at 41.9% by MoE in 2002-2003. During the conflict this figure plummeted, but current estimates from the MoE on Darfur-wide enrolment (including communities not affected by conflict) show a GER of 40.4%. At the end of August, UNICEF supported the enrolment of 75,683 pupils, out of a total of 91,015 in the sector. As of the end of October, UNICEF is supporting approximately 140,913 children in school. By the end of December, the sector aims to support a total of 153,395 pupils. In 2005, UNICEF aims to support the enrolment of approximately 300,000 students. Assistance will be required in order to ensure adequate school facilities and teachers, training programmes, learning materials and supplies.

UNICEF funded infrastructure is also preceding well. At the end of October approximately 883 temporary classrooms have been constructed or assembled as tents while 54 permanent classrooms in host communities have been rehabilitated. Construction and rehabilitation will continue until the 120 Day Goal of 1,688 classrooms expected to be reached.

Unfortunately, it is now clear that the bottle neck to expansion of education programmes is not partners, infrastructure or supplies, but the number of qualified teachers available to staff the schools. As mentioned in previous reports, there has been a historical shortage of teachers in Darfur and since they are government paid employees, the humanitarian community has been reluctant to create parallel and potentially unsustainable incentive structures to encourage recruitment. The end result of this problem has been interruptions of classes

as teachers, being underpaid and overstretched, have had to leave their posts or engage in strikes, as was the case in ZamZam, North Darfur where classrooms closed for approximately two weeks.

Teacher training has been recognized not only as a way of increasing the quality of education, but as a way of encouraging teacher commitment. Unfortunately, there has been reluctance on the part of the State Ministries of Education to expand their teacher training programs to include volunteer teachers, due to financial constraints. UNICEF-supported teacher training programmes have been temporarily put on hold during the month of Ramadan, but great advances were made in the month of September to train teachers in teaching methodology and peace education. The enrolment in these sessions has been counted at 1,686 teachers, but some teachers have taken multiple courses, thus the individuals benefiting from the training is slightly lower than this figure.

Despite successes in training, the teaching shortage remains acute. In the late October an additional challenge was presented. The MOE reported on 19 October that the Government has ordered the transfer of 274 (out of 393) teachers in Abu Shouk camp to their villages of origin. Most teachers have refused the order due to fear of insecurity in these designated areas of return. The matter was raised with the FMoE on 31 October in Khartoum, and at the same time with the SMOE Director of Basic Education in North Darfur, but no resolution has been reached. The directive has interrupted classes, as well as put teachers in a dangerous situation.

5. CHILD PROTECTION

The coming months will be a challenging time for child protection programming as the instability of the security situation and the reality of forced relocations has restricted access to some vulnerable populations. As of the end of October 2004, a total of 37,948 children have been provided with psychosocial support programmes in schools and 37,049 children have been supported outside schools in the context of Children's Spaces. In schools and in Children's Spaces, children are introduced to structured recreation and play which can help them to deal with traumatic events in their life. The centres offer an environment conducive for children who have been victims of serious children's rights violations, including Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), to speak out and to be assisted in terms of recovery and reporting.

Efforts during September and October for the prevention and response to SGBV against children and women, have focused on enhancing coordination around SGBV and on developing priorities for action. The common observation on the Darfur response to sexual violence is that the majority of efforts have focused on training and/or getting victims to report incidents— while little emphasis was placed on fostering a protective environment in which women and girls want to report violence. Efforts should be focused more towards minimizing the consequences of SGBV and strengthening services for victims. A project agreement is under discussion between UNICEF and IRC to enhance victim assistance. These activities need to be outreached into the community and should have a title associated with health services or life skills building, in order to prevent sensitivities or stigmatization. Prevention of SGBV is proving to be extremely difficult in the present conditions, partly because of the lack of confidence in the police forces, but also because it has been associated with pressures for the IDP population to relocate or return. UNFPA has recently been designated as the coordinator for SGBV.

Activities associated with the promotion of children's rights and child protection among law enforcement actors has expanded in the 120 Day Plan to include three components. The first involves orientation sessions for new police recruits on a number of topics including human rights, child rights and women's rights. So far, three training sessions have been held in North Darfur on an inter-agency basis involving UNOCHA, OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR and UNICEF. The second component involves UNICEF's cooperation with UNDP for the Rule of Law Project, which UNDP is implementing in the field through IRC. A total of 517 persons including police, security officials, judiciary, NGOs, tribal and community leaders received a two day-training which included a module on child protection, developed by UNICEF. Thirdly, a training session on human rights, child rights and the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement was organized for 180 members of the African Union Force in North Darfur. A main challenge of human and child rights training remains obtaining a measure of impact. Efforts will be accelerated in the remainder of the 120 Day Plan to identify indicators that can help measure progress, while strengthening the monitoring and reporting system on human rights abuses and violations.

The Government of Sudan ratified the two Optional Protocols on children in armed conflict and sexual abuse and exploitation of children at the end of October 2004 and UNICEF took the opportunity to issue a press release congratulating the Government and pressing it to tackle the sensitive issue of children associated with the fighting forces. Efforts to ensure the demobilization and reintegration of children, while preventing further recruitment, have focused on preparing for the community sensitization sessions. There have been difficulties relating to carrying out the assessment on children associated with the fighting forces, given the highly tense political and security situation. Instead, the sensitization sessions to be held with community leaders and youth themselves, in the months of November and December, will be used as an opportunity to get some information on the patterns and characteristics of these children.

Unfortunately, there have been several UXO and mine incidents reported this period, underlying the need for mine awareness programming in Darfur. Following the anti-tank mine incident in Um Baru, (in which two SC-UK staff members were killed), a grenade exploded at a boys school in North Darfur injuring 16 children. The boys reportedly found the grenade and took it to school where it exploded in the classroom. In partnership with SC-US and SC-Sweden, UNICEF has started preparations for launching a mine risk education campaign on mines and unexploded ordnance among in school and out-of-school children in North Darfur.

6. NON FOOD ITEMS

UNICEF continues to procure shelter and non-food items (NFIs) and distribute them in partnership with CARE International, to families and organisations in Darfur. UNJLC coordinates the distribution of NFIs in the field with OCHA while UNICEF and CARE participate in the coordination committees at both state and national levels. As of mid-October, UNJLC reports that approximately 442,406 blankets; 23,739 sleeping mats; 54,817 mosquito nets and 224,101 sheets of plastic are in stock or are already distributed to IDP communities to meet shelter needs. Approximately 536,671 kg of soap; 150,875 buckets and 256,165 jerry cans have been distributed or are in stock to aid in promoting safe hygiene practices. Personal items include 167,700 pieces of clothing and 183,603 sanitary products distributed or in stock.

7. SUPPORT TO PROGRAMMES

Operations and Staffing

During the last two months, UNICEF has taken additional steps to increase the capacity of Darfur operations and their coordination with the Chad Country Office. Mr. Keith McKenzie has been appointed as the UNICEF Special Representative for the Darfur Emergency (Sudan and Chad) and with his appointment, a special coordination group for the Darfur crisis was established. A Senior Programme Officer, a Field Liaison Officer, a Media Relations Officer and Reports Officer will form the core of the coordination group. The Programmatic sectors have also been strengthened with the addition of Darfur specific focal-points, at both the field and Khartoum level. When all positions are confirmed and filled, the total strength of the Darfur mission should be close to 140 national and international staff members.

There have also been some operational improvements to offices in Darfur this period through provision of more appropriate communications equipment. The offices are also implementing a plan to comply with MOSS, on a Darfur-wide deadline. Unfortunately, due to the deteriorating security situation, staff in the Zalinge outpost were pulled back to West Darfur and the plans for developing this office are temporarily on hold.

Programme Communications

Support to UNICEF National Committees and government donors visiting Darfur was substantial this period. UNICEF provided logistical and staff support for the visit by Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Vidar Helgesen and former Ambassador Tom Eric Vraalsen in early September. This was followed by the Italian National Committee for UNICEF from 3-8 October and a photojournalist team sent by the German National Committee from 15-24 October. The Nyala and El Fasher Sub-Offices participated in a WFP-organized visit by AusAID from 19-22 October while seven SCO staff were interviewed by the French National Committee, which launched a special fundraising and advocacy campaign for Darfur.

Evaluation of the Preparedness and Early Response to the Emergency

In the interest of strengthening the on-going UNICEF response to the Darfur crisis, a systematic assessment of the experience and performance of UNICEF in planning, organising managing the emergency, is presently underway. A team, composed of 4 evaluators; (2 external, 1 DFID expert and 1 UNICEF expert), has conducted a desk review in Khartoum and Amman during mid-October, visited the zonal offices in late October and facilitated a large “lessons learned” workshop in Khartoum with key staff, from the 3-4 November. The final report will be submitted at the end of this month.

The evaluation is examining the relevance and timeliness of preparedness planning, early intervention, and the 90 Day Plan, as well as effectiveness (progress in terms of outcome and coverage); efficiency (analysis of cost/resources invested in relation to the results achieved); management and operational support through the various stages of the emergency. It also examined issues related to coordination, partnerships and the overall leadership of UNICEF in

key sectors. The evaluation will generate recommendations to facilitate support to the CO and the 3 zonal offices. It should also provide lessons and recommendations for CO, RO and HQ for strengthening preparedness planning and early response for the future.

8. FUNDING INFORMATION

UNICEF had originally requested US\$ 61,924,976 for Darfur-specific activities. Requirements have been revised to meet the needs of increased numbers of conflicted-affected persons as reflected in the September Humanitarian Profile. UNICEF is thankful to the donors listed in the table below for their generous contributions. These are shown in the table below. These do not include the estimated costs for the in-kind assistance received from USAID/OFDA and DFID. The estimated costs, including transportation costs, for the in-kind assistance as worked out by UNJLC is about US\$ 4,685,699.

Table 1: Contributions received against CAP 2004 for Darfur Interventions, by sector:

	Health	Watsan	Education	Rights, Protection, Peace-bldg	Emergency Preparedness & Response and NFIs	Total
Requirements	11,600,000	23,600,000	3,700,000	1,191,680	29,926,336	70,018,016
Total Funded	11,871,085	12,773,043	2,790,682	1,728,991	5,628,448	35,151,302
Unfunded Balance	(271,085)	10,826,957	909,318	(537,311)	24,297,888	34,866,714
% Funded	102%	54%	75%	145%	19%	50%

Table 2: Contributions received against CAP 2004 for Darfur Interventions, by donor:

DONOR	RECEIVED (US\$)	DONOR	RECEIVED (US\$)
Government:		National Committee for UNICEF:	
Australia	2,430,540	Belgium	241,780
Canada	1,629,381	Denmark	194,172
Denmark	818,350	France	307,883
Finland	487,212	US	500,000
Germany	1,564,381	Germany	2,480,693
Ireland	1,314,274	Italy	122,549
Italy	738,918	Netherlands	2,339,785
Japan	2,500,000	Spain	78,219
Netherlands	1,666,000	UK	723,079
Norway	28,208		
UK	7,458,117		
USAID/OFDA	6,574,830		
EC	2,436,060		
SUB-TOTAL	29,646,271	SUB-TOTAL	6,988,159
Thematic:		PSFR	
Norway	1,910,221	UNICEF Oman	2,865
Sweden	1,333,300		
Australia Natcom	277,095		
Canada Natcom	229,008		
Norway Natcom	101,768		
Sweden Natcom	142,633		
US Fund	1,164,000		
SUB-TOTAL	5,158,025	SUB-TOTAL	2,865
GRAND TOTAL			41,795,320

NOTE: Please note that there is a difference between the total contributions reported in the Table 1 and Table 2. This is due to the recent receipt of funds which have not been allocated across the sectors.

Further details of the Darfur Emergency Programme can be obtained from:

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