

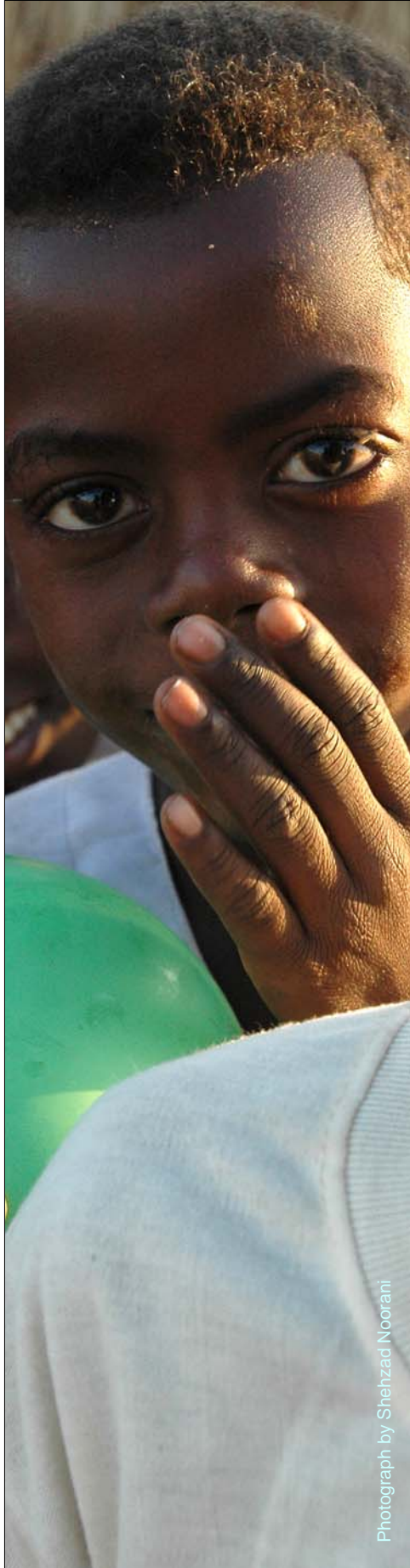
Photograph by Shehzad Noorani



# UNICEF DARFUR EMERGENCY JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2005 REPORT

For every child  
Health, Education, Equality, Protection  
**ADVANCE HUMANITY**

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Photograph by Shehzad Noorani

Letter from Keith McKenzie, Special Representative for the Darfur Emergency (Darfur and Chad)

*The crisis in Darfur continues to be the world's worst complex emergency, characterized by widespread insecurity, population displacement and dependence on humanitarian aid. According to current estimates, over 210,000 refugees remain in Chad while the total conflict affected population in Darfur has risen to approximately 2.4 million persons. Most importantly for UNICEF, approximately 1.4 million of these groups are children under 18 years of age and 550,000 are under five years old -- and thus, are particularly vulnerable to the effects of violence, abuse, hunger, disease and exploitation during the increasing social and economic collapse.*

*We must remember that the greatest tragedy in the Darfur conflict is that a generation of youth continues to suffer disrupted and diminished developmental opportunities, thus affecting the future of the western region and country as a whole. In order to minimize the impact of conflict, UNICEF has continued to support programmes which improve the health, development and overall well-being of families so that children can continue to survive and thrive, bringing hope to Darfur.*

*UNICEF in 2005 will continue to promote healthy mothers and children through support to primary health care facilities; routine and accelerated immunization; targeted feeding programmes and nutritional surveillance; safe water and sanitation services with strong hygiene promotion components; basic education and child protection activities which aim to create a more protective environment for women and children.*

*It will be a challenging year. Not only must we rapidly expand and increase our programmes to meet the basic needs of those affected, but we must integrate children into the wider humanitarian response and keep them at the forefront of our advocacy for a negotiated political solution to the conflict. Children are the key to peace, stability and development in Darfur.*

### OVERVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING DARFUR

#### Political Developments

There were several significant political developments in the first months of 2005 which promise to influence not only on the shape and structure of international intervention in Darfur, but domestic and local strategies for conflict resolution, thus impacting the lives of families and children. Most publicized was the International Commission of Inquiry in Darfur, which was mandated to investigate the scale of human rights abuses in the Western region. On 16 February, the Commission's report was presented to the SG. The report concluded that the Government of Sudan had not pursued a policy of genocide but that the grave crimes committed in Darfur "may be no less serious and heinous than genocide". The commission recognized however, that some individuals, including government officials, may have committed acts with genocidal intent.

The Sudanese Government's reaction to the report was mixed, especially regarding the Commission's strong recommendation that the Security Council refer the situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court (ICC). Sudanese First Vice President rejected the idea of overseas trials for individuals, saying it would only fan the ethnic violence in Darfur while the Minister of Foreign Affairs warned that "a foreign trial will lead to devastating effects on the security front in Darfur which is one the bases for a solution to the crisis. This may cause us to face some disturbing scenarios such as the abduction of non-Sudanese workers..." As a domestic alternative, the GoS has recently established three committees in order to provide the structure for national action: a Judicial Investigation Committee; a Reparations Committee; and a third Committee to investigate the root causes behind the conflicts relating to navigation of passageways for nomadic peoples. The Judicial Investigations Committee and the Reparations Committee are currently visiting the Darfur states.

On a positive note, an African Union mini-Summit took place on 16 February in N'Djamena with the Presidents of Chad, Nigeria, Sudan and the AU Executive Secretary in attendance. The leaders discuss the ways to enhance the humanitarian ceasefire and peace talks framework for Darfur, predicting that comprehensive talks would resume in the near future.

Also important for the coming months is the Letter of Understanding (LOU) on the voluntary return of IDPs to and within West Darfur, which was signed on 31 January by UNHCR and the GoS's Humanitarian Aid Commission. The LOU supersedes previous agreements with respect to voluntary return and relocation in West Darfur and allows UNHCR to assume full responsibility for coordination of protection issues in the state.

#### Security Concerns

It is hard to say whether or not advances in the political arena have had a positive impact or not on the ground. The AU's special representative in Sudan was recently quoted as saying that security "had progressively deteriorated to appalling levels over the last four months, with unacceptable consequences to the peace and tranquillity of the civilian populations". Ground fighting between GoS forces, aligned militia and the recognized (but splintering) rebel groups has been reported in multiple locations, through all three states. In the last weeks of February however, the security situation appeared to calm. International pressure led to official statement by the GoS that they would withdraw air force bombers from Darfur, while major offensives appear to have ceased.

The result of fighting in December, January and most of February is increased population displacement to areas of relative security. During a recent visit to Kabkabiya, NGOs indicated that approximately 25 families per week are moving into the town from outlying areas. In Manawashi, a UNICEF assessment determined that approximately 16,000 displaced persons have recently arrived over the last two months from areas such as Hamada, Adwa, Jimmaiza, Om Oshar, Hamaraya and Madam. Agencies operating in Kass reported that approximately 8,000 additional IDPs had arrived in the last few weeks. Newly displaced communities continue to flood Abu Shouk and Kalma camps, pressuring the international community to speed preparations for voluntary relocation to better equipped camps.

Not all communities are migrating due to direct attack. People are also moving into areas of greater humanitarian aid delivery because they are experiencing food insecurity and further deterioration of livelihoods. Until now the majority of IDPs have been predominantly from Africanized tribes whose livelihoods depended upon agricultural activities. Now, however, the nomadic migration

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routes for camel and cattle herders are also blocked by mobilization in the region, thus leading to economic collapse for these communities as well. Insecurity has not only prevented the transport and sale of cattle through markets reaching all the way to Libya, but it has prevented herds from following traditional migration routes. The result is that animals, now penned in smaller areas, are overgrazing and depleting surface water resources, thus damaging the fragile environment and exacerbating drought-like conditions.

These circumstances will directly impact the crisis in coming months. Not only is competition and conflict between groups expected become more evident at the height of the dry season, but it is assumed that food insecurity will induce further migration of persons from areas where food stocks are depleted, into areas with humanitarian services. As evidence of the tensions, approximately 200 nomadic tribesmen held a demonstration at the AU headquarters in El Fasher on 9 February, stating their grievances which included the looting of livestock in areas north of El Fasher. The humanitarian community will need to keep focused on interventions for nomadic populations.

Not to be forgotten are the effects of insecurity on humanitarian aid operations. UN and NGOs continue to confront dangerous elements, despite restrictions on particular areas and modes of travel through the states. Most incidents are related to a lack of notification given prior to entry into rebel held areas, despite the challenges involved with doing this. Shots were fired at WFP helicopters carrying NGO staff twice over the last week of February in North Darfur. Two international and two national staff of ITDG (International Technological Development Group) workers were held for more than a day by SLM/A in North Darfur but have now been released. ADRA staffs, detained for several months, have now been located but are still not released. The 7 abducted CRS staff, taken in West Darfur, have been released following negotiations with the NMRD. Meanwhile, shooting incidents are reported on a daily basis by humanitarian organizations both inside and outside camp settings, although they are rarely targeted.

Incidents of banditry are still widespread. On 15 February, a commercial truck carrying supplies for UNICEF was hijacked in the El Azzerag area of North Darfur. Approximately 80- school in a box kits

were stolen but the driver is unharmed. On 3 February, a WES truck attached to Mornei water supply project and working with Oxfam was attacked 20 km outside the town by two bandits. One WES staff was shot in the jaw. Attackers took clothes, shoes and cash but not the water supply materials. The vehicle had a UNICEF logo on the side since it was donated by UNICEF, but this is not thought to be a targeted attack.

Relations between humanitarian workers and local authorities in South Darfur have become strained, as the size of the community has grown. The head of ACF in South Darfur and three national staff members were recently detained and jailed for one night for having a party past curfew. Tearfund were threatened within their camp in Masterei, West Darfur, by three soldiers, but the matter has been solved by placing a curfew on military in the region.

### Planning and Evaluation of the Crisis

UNICEF's 2005 Work Plan was finalized in December 2004 and the presentation of plans to the state Ministries and Government officials at the field level is complete. Work sessions with partner UN agencies, donors, and NGOs on the strategies and priorities of UNICEF are also taking place, and schedules are being set for implementation goals.

UNICEF's 2005 Work Plan takes into consideration recommendations made by the DFID UNICEF evaluation team, such as promoting a more decentralized approach to planning giving field offices more inputs on programmatic matters. Policy changes include seeking increased collaboration with NGOs and the private sector, to implement projects while increasing capacity building activities with government partners aiming at improving managerial capacity and coordination.

## PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

### Primary Health Care Facilities

UNICEF seeks to minimize the effects of the conflict on mother and child survival and development by increasing access to primary health care services. UNICEF has committed to ensuring that 2.5 million conflict affected persons gain access to adequate primary health care services in 2005.

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At present, UNICEF is supporting over 137 fixed primary health care facilities in the Darfur region, through distribution of essential drugs, training programmes and technical expertise. UNICEF also supports 32 mobile teams for coverage in remote areas with scattered populations. The total beneficiaries of these interventions are approximately 1,400,744 persons. According to sector-wide data, which also records the progress of NGOs not supported by UNICEF, the total beneficiaries of primary health care interventions was approximately 1,489,118 in December, 2004. This is only 62% of the estimated needs at this time. Expansion and rehabilitation of health care services is required to increase coverage for vulnerable families and children.

### Major Primary Health Care Implementing Partners

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

UNICEF support to PHC clinics in SLM/A areas requires special note. Despite logistical difficulties associated with remote terrain and insecurity, distribution of essential drugs has continued for Hashaba, Bashim, Kulkul, Kherban, Gabr el Ghanam and Um Ajaja sites. IRC has planned to take over the UNICEF support to clinic in the Hashaba area with monitoring; training activities; essential drug distribution and routine vaccination materials. Security concerns, communications problems and a ban on SMOH access makes these sites particularly challenging.

UNICEF has also committed in 2005 to improving the quality of care provided by PHC facilities. In order to better monitor the staffing, equipment and consultations of primary health care services, a standard reporting form for all PHCs has been drafted with WHO and UNIFEM. It is being piloted in North Darfur. For now, the results of UNICEF routine monitoring visits to health facilities has indicated that there has been improvement but more must be done. Generally, there was an 80% recorded presence of essential drugs in monitored facilities since May; 50% availability of EPI services and 65% availability of Ante-Natal Care (two thirds of patients receiving iron/folate supplements).

### Immunization Plus

Immunization is essential to save children's lives. It is an affordable means of protecting whole communities and it reduces poverty. Children in Darfur are particularly vulnerable to measles, polio, and meningitis.

The need to continue with measles mop-up campaigns to reach areas not covered or insufficiently covered in the 2004 Darfur-wide drive was made clear in December and January, as several sites have shown outbreaks of the disease.

The Darfur-wide June campaign reached approximately 2,023,666 children and the special drives in SLM/A areas in September reached just under 30,000 children. Since then, there have been three significant drives. An emergency measles mop-up campaign was held in Umtajok, Krenick, Azerni and Kafanwith in West Darfur during December and covered 12,490 children, through the efforts of SMOH, UNICEF, SC-US and MSF-CH. An emergency campaign in Abu Shouk was held between 5 -20 December and approximately 13,997 children were immunized. Finally, 1,700 children were covered in January through an interagency drive in Gendernei, West Darfur.

Unfortunately, measles cases in Gendernei continue to increase despite the campaign. More than 40 cases were reported by partners in weeks 3-4 but since the site is not included in the EARWARN monitoring system, the outbreak has not been reflected in epidemiological reporting. Following the joint investigation, State EPI, WHO, UNICEF and Medair has agreed to conduct another campaign in the areas east of Gendernei, which were not covered during the Measles campaign in June, due to insecurity. The activity was planned to take place 13-15 February 2005 but FMOH has asked that the campaign be postponed.

Plans are also being made for mop-up for approximately 120,000 children in the Jebel Mara locality and for 150,000 children in the Tina, Kutum and rural areas of El Fasher, North Darfur. Training for EPI Basic and Refresher courses is ongoing while community mobilization training is planned for the month of March.

In response to the outbreak of Cerebral Spinal Meningitis (CSM) in Gedaref and Blue Nile states, Eastern Chad and select areas of Darfur, UNICEF is participating in the re-activated FMOH Emergency

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Child is immunized against measles in SLMA area of N. Darfur.

Preparedness and Response (EPR) National Meningitis Task Force with the provision of A & C vaccines and support for immunization drives. At present, there is speculation regarding the total cases in Darfur. As of early February, two cases were confirmed in Saraf Umra, two suspected in Abu Shouk camp and one suspected in El Fasher rural. UNICEF, WHO & SMOH are participating in outbreak response meetings in each state and assessing the feasibility and impact of a meningitis vaccination campaign. In Eastern Chad, a 12-day drive has already been completed with nearly 72,000 people in and around the Treguine, Bredjing, Farchana camps reached.

The second round of the 13th Polio NIDs will begin on 27 February. The SMOH has asked for contributions from NGOs & UN agencies for vaccines, transportation & training, especially for areas not under government control. UNICEF has called for a meeting to identify these areas and build an operational plan. The first round of the 13th drive was completed with around 1.37 million children vaccinated (0.10 m more than in November).

UNICEF also aims to increase routine EPI coverage rates for under-ones to at least 60% in 2005. According to MoH reports for the entire year of 2004, for the entire under-1 population of Darfur (not just conflict affected), approximately 55% of the children under 1 were covered with DPT3, a proxy

indicator for the full routine EPI package. From January to end-of November 2004 the actual figures, as reported by MoH were:

Darfur	Children <1	Immunized
West	59757	29506
South	115566	63250
North	60654	26957

To date, routine EPI activities have been limited by insecurity, lack of equipment and by the distraction of accelerated drives in the area. UNICEF is supporting EPI programmes through distribution of cold chain materials, vaccines and EPI training.

### Safe Motherhood

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

### HEALTH MAPS AVAILABLE THROUGH The Humanitarian Information Centre (HIC)

#### Health Facilities in Darfur

[http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/darfur/uploads/catalogue/general/SU-47\\_A3\\_Jan12\\_Darfur\\_Health\\_Facilities.pdf](http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/darfur/uploads/catalogue/general/SU-47_A3_Jan12_Darfur_Health_Facilities.pdf)

#### Humanitarian Profile Health Sector Gaps

[http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/darfur/uploads/catalogue/dhp/DHP\\_5Dec04\\_Sectoral\\_Gap\\_Primary%20Health%20Care.pdf](http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/darfur/uploads/catalogue/dhp/DHP_5Dec04_Sectoral_Gap_Primary%20Health%20Care.pdf)

## NUTRITION

### Targeted Feeding Programmes

UNICEF's 2005 Work plan aims to prevent and manage malnutrition among under-five children and contribute to the reduction of global acute malnutrition to less than 15%. To do this, UNICEF will continue to support targeted feeding programmes, elaborate and promote national protocols for treatment while supporting and developing surveillance capacity.

At present, UNICEF supports 47 Therapeutic Feeding Programmes with nutritional inputs, anthropometric equipment, technical expertise,

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training and/or coordination support. The total admissions in Therapeutic Feeding Centres (TFC) and Community-based Therapeutic Care (CTC) programmes (some in operation since May 2004) is 14,471. Statistics from implementing partners indicate that the number of children leaving before discharge is decreasing, partly through the development of more systematic defaulter tracing programmes.

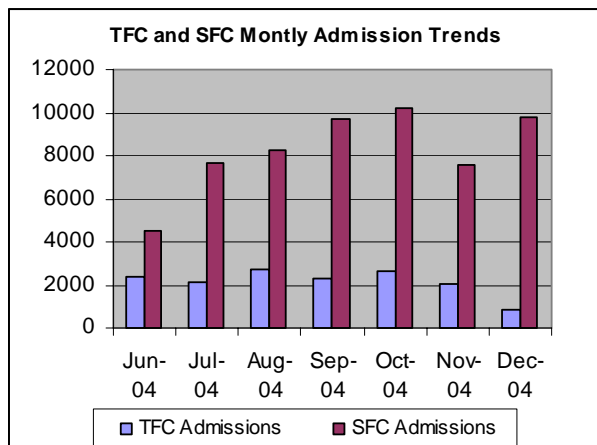
UNICEF also provides some coordination support and technical inputs to 57 supplementary feeding centres to treat moderately malnourished children and approximately 10 blanket feeding programmes that supplement the general food rations with deliveries to all children under five in high-risk areas. The cumulative admissions in SFCs since the beginning of the emergency intervention is 59,096 children.

### Major Nutrition Sector Implementing Partners

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

### Nutrition Situation

There is growing evidence that the nutritional situation in select parts of Darfur is improving. It is clear to see that admissions in TFCs have stabilized and decreased in most locations, potentially indicating that the areas are experiencing a decrease in the global acute malnutrition rate. The table below shows the cumulative monthly admissions numbers from all three states.



There have been several important nutritional surveys in 2005, which confirm this assertion. For example, four nutrition surveys have been completed in West Darfur during February by SC-US, TearFund and Concern in collaboration with UNICEF and MOH at state level. One coverage survey was also conducted by Concern in collaboration with Valid International. The SC-US survey in Furbaranga recorded a malnutrition rate of 6.6%, including 0.3% severely malnourished and CMR and U5MR of 0.89/10,000/day and 1.8/10,000/day, respectively. The Concern survey in Mornie showed a global acute malnutrition rate of 4.9%, including 0.6% severe acute malnutrition rate and CMR and U5MR of 0.79/10,000/day and 1.16/10,000/day respectively.

In both surveys, the malnutrition rates are at an acceptable level, indicating an improvement. However, the under-five mortality rates, although not at emergency levels, still show a concerning situation. Both surveys recorded high prevalence of disease and serious water problems. The reports also indicated that overall, the situation is fragile as the populations are entirely dependent on food relief.

The improvement may be due primarily to the stable general food rations and the positive impact of targeted feeding programmes. It is important to remember however, that these surveys are conducted in point locations. There are still areas of Darfur that are showing high rates of malnutrition and others that have not been assessed or surveyed yet.

In addition to concern for un-assessed and insufficiently covered sites, nutrition sector partners are taking seriously the reports of WFP, FAO, Tufts and Ahmed University, which warn of a potential deterioration of food security in select pockets of Sudan, for the reasons outlined in the security section of this report. Despite the Government's plans to ensure that adequate supplies of cereals are commercially available, poor households are not expected to have purchasing power to buy food during the critical "hunger gap" months of May/June through August/September. With these possibilities, UNICEF must be prepared for additional caseloads.

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Child is assessed for severe malnutrition, S. Darfur

### Surveillance for Next Month

To further develop the nutrition surveillance system for Darfur, UNICEF is bringing two consultants on board to develop tools for data collection; a database to record and analyze data from nutrition surveys, feeding centres; and training sessions for MOH and field staff in the data requirements. This system will be developed in consultation with the Food Security Assessment Unit (FSAU), for Somalia, which has had several years of experience in this area.

In South Darfur during the month of March, NCA plans to conduct Nutrition survey in Kubum, WV in Otach camp, Tearfund in Ed Daein, NRC will do assessments Abu Ajora, Sania Daleeba and Keiki. Meanwhile, ACF will wrap up their survey of Nyala town. In West Darfur UNICEF will continue to support partners with the final 5 of 8 planned surveys with SMOH, Concern, Tearfund, SC-US, World Relief and MSF France and Switzerland. In North Darfur ACF is planning to conduct surveys in Abushouk and Kebkabiya in April. UNICEF, in collaboration with MOH and partners will conduct a survey in El fasher town in March. MSF-Spain will conduct surveys in Zamzam and Shengil Tobai in March.

### Coordination and Training

UNICEF, in collaboration with MOH and Valid International, held a two day workshop on Community-based Therapeutic Care from the 9-10 February in Khartoum. Some 50 participants from field and Khartoum levels of UNICEF, WFP, WHO, various NGOs and the MoH attended. The main

aim of the workshop was to share experiences among partners who have implemented this programme in the context of the current Darfur crisis in order to standardize the approach and orient the nutrition community. The workshop was highly successful and the MoH has provisionally accepted the CTC approach for adoption into national protocols. Follow-up sessions and state level workshops are now underway in Darfur.

### NUTRITION MAPS AVAILABLE THROUGH The Humanitarian Information Centre (HIC)

#### Nutrition Situation in South Darfur

[http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/darfur/uploads/catalogue/sector/DHP\\_05%20Dec%2004\\_Sectoral\\_Gap\\_Nutrition.pdf](http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/darfur/uploads/catalogue/sector/DHP_05%20Dec%2004_Sectoral_Gap_Nutrition.pdf)

#### Humanitarian Profile Nutrition Sector Gaps

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## WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION

### Safe Water in Darfur

Obtaining safe water is absolutely essential for life. Children who do not drink enough water or drink contaminated water, risk death, disease and infection. Water-borne disease such as Hepatitis A, diarrheas and dysentery continue to affect children in Darfur but thankfully, a major outbreak of cholera has been avoided. There are other adverse affects of limited access to water including a limited ability to wash hands and body properly, resulting in increased infections in the intestinal tract and skin or eyes. Also, due to the arid landscape and lack of infrastructure, children are often forced to trek long distances or wait in line for water, thus exposing themselves to fatigue and dehydration, while preventing their continued attendance at school.

UNICEF has worked with government counter parts NWC/WES, NGO partners and the private sector to increase access to safe water. In 2005, UNICEF aims to improve access for 1.75 million IDPs, and 200,000 member of the host community. In the event that security permits return, UNICEF is also committed to providing 100,000 returnees with improved access in 2005.

According to the OCHA Humanitarian Profile Approximately 1,188,813 persons have improved

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access to potable water through the work of all partners since June. UNICEF and NWC/WES have supported roughly 800,000 of this number through drilling operations, installation or rehabilitation of hand-pumps, water yards and other systems; as well as water tankering, chlorination schemes, water quality testing and training activities for operation and maintenance. Unfortunately, the total progress of all partners is still only 49% of the estimated need at this time. This means that half the conflict affected children in Darfur remain at a high risk of disease and death.

### Drilling Capacity

One of the greatest factors impeding more rapid expansion of the water sector is the limited drilling capacity in Darfur. At present, the three NWC/WES drill rigs remain almost unusable as they frequently breakdown and require great maintenance and repair investments. The NGO community has several rigs, but they are mostly limited to particular areas due to insecurity, and do not have the ability to drill into the basement complex (deeper aquifer).

By April 2005 however, there should be 14 operational rigs in Darfur (10 through the NGO community, the 3 NWC/WES unreliable rigs, 1 drill rig is on the way to Geneina for commissioning and 1 additional rig from DFID is expected to arrive in May 2005.) To fill the gap, the private sector drilling rigs will be contracted for drilling about 150 wells in the Darfur region.

The drilling capacity will be improved significantly this month with the arrival of the new NWC drill rig, which was purchased by UNICEF with the generous contribution of DFID. The Federal Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources received the delivery of the drilling rig on 14 February. The rig has departed for El Geneina where it will be commissioned and is programmed to drill around 35 boreholes before moving to other states. It is one of the most efficient and easy to use models available. In addition, efforts are being made to repair existing drill rigs as quickly as possible.

### Water Quality and Testing

The 2005 plan has identified water quality and disinfection as high priority activities to improve the health and well-being of children and families. The plan includes systematic water quality monitoring

through sanitary surveys and laboratory testing (including training of survey teams).

UNICEF ordered two types of water testing supplies (to test both chemical and bacterial contamination) for the 120 day plan and these kits continue to be distributed in the field. UNICEF has also made two bulk chlorine procurements which were delivered in August/September and December/January to partners in the field. To assist in the management of water quality, UNICEF has also procured pool testers to measure residual chlorine levels, which should be delivered this month.

#### WES Sector Implementing Partners

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

UNICEF has also been working with WES and NGO partners through 2004 and 2005 to develop more appropriate hygiene promotion practices to assist in the behavioral changes necessary to reduce the incidence of hygiene water related diseases. Hygiene promotion workshops to discuss hygiene promotion practices in 2005 have recently been held in Fashir and El Geneina and a further workshop is to be held in Nyala.

### Areas of Concern

Through this last month, cases of Bloody Diarrhea increased in North Darfur state as a whole, El Geneina and Mornei localities of West Darfur and the Kalma and Kass sites of South Darfur, although the overall reported cases in these later states appeared to decrease. Acute Jaundice also appears to be on the rise in El Geneina and Mornei in West Darfur but reported cases slightly decreased this week in Kalma, Ottash and Kass, South Darfur, thus indicating that there the large camps are still in need of additional interventions. There includes attention to vector control activities, which have been limited due to a recent shortage of insecticides. UNICEF, WHO and MoH are working together to ensure that spraying activities increase.

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Photograph by Shehzad Noorani

Woman carries water in January, Darfur,

### Relocation Activities

Following the unfortunate discovery of inadequate ground water resources at the proposed IDP relocation site of Sewelinga (for the Abu Shouk caseload) in North Darfur, the area was abandoned. Clearance has now been obtained by the GoS to prepare an alternate site at Bisharia. NWC/WES supported by UNICEF, commenced borehole drilling with success on 4 February. WES rig drilled three large diameter boreholes along the wadi to depth of 60 metres each and estimated yields are between 2,000 and 4,000 litres per hour. The private contractor will start drilling seven boreholes for hand pumps along the wadi as soon as site plans are outlined.

### Sanitation

Finding a sanitary means of excreta disposal and developing safe hygiene practices is also absolutely essential for child and adult survival. In addition to "faecal-oral" infections, pathogens such as worms can be spread rapidly through contamination at open defecation grounds and unsanitary latrines. Also, lack of proper sanitation facilities in schools can impeded children's right to education, as girls in particular may be deterred by the lack of separate or hygienic facilities in schools. Similar to water provision, UNICEF aims to provide 1.75 million

IDPs, 200,000 hosts and 100,000 returnees (in the event of return), with access to environmental sanitation,

According to latest estimates, the work of all sanitation sector partners has improved the access to sanitary latrines for over 1,041,331 persons. UNICEF and NWC/WES, along with private sector contractors, has contributed to approximately 600,000 of this number. Unfortunately, the sector total is only 56% of the estimated need at this time. UNICEF is trying to focus on encouraging and supporting additional NGOs in the sector to boost implementation in this area. There are great concerns however, for the quality and functionality of many latrines as back-filling and reconstruction is an ongoing process.

## EDUCATION

### Enrolment

Education is the key to stabilization, normalcy and hope for children in conflict. Children, traumatized by war need a safe and protective environment. Schools provide the opportunity to gain basic skills and knowledge, socialize with others, play, receive important community messages, and find assistance or psycho-social support. UNICEF has committed to restoring and establishing education activities for 300,000 conflict affected primary school children and 50,000 host community/returnee children, (in the event of return).

As of late February, approximately 167,241 conflict affected children were enrolled in classes in Darfur, through UNICEF support. When compared with the enrolment figures of 31 August (75,683 children) we can see that UNICEF enrolment has more than doubled in six months. Girls make up approximately 47% of the total enrolment in conflict affected communities. Unfortunately, the conflict affected population has also doubled since August, thus, when we compare implementation with current need in the sector there is still a significant gap. Approximately 68% of the target population is not in school. These children may live in areas with restricted or limited access, but they may also live in areas with insufficient coverage of education initiatives.

#### Major Implementing Partners in Education

SMoE, WES, SC-Sweden, SC-US, SC-UK, IRC, German Agro Action; WFP, NCA/SCC, WVI, Muslim Hands, Intersos, IRW, Ahlam,

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## School feeding

In order to boost attendance and retention of students, while ensuring their healthy development, UNICEF is working with WFP to develop school feeding programmes for high risk areas. Discussions with WFP in Khartoum have clarified the roles of stakeholders and the two agencies are developing a 'Partnership Framework Agreement' specifically for the Food for Education activity in Darfur. (WFP now refers to the School Feeding programme as "Food For Education").

This agreement will fall under the general Education Sector MOU between WFP and UNICEF Sudan which is also in the process of being developed. Food for Education proposals will be received and reviewed at the field level jointly by UNICEF and WFP initially and then forwarded sent to Khartoum for further review and processing. The Partnership Framework Agreement identifies exactly who is prepared to fund which components of Food for Education projects.

As an interim measure, WFP released the February allocation of 63.9 MT of High Energy Biscuits to UNICEF as part of the interim school feeding programme for Abu Shouk and Zam Zam camps in North Darfur. The MoE secured enough storage facilities to store the 3 weeks ration and UNICEF will ensure transportation to the camp on a weekly basis. A total of 15.983 MT has already been distributed to the pupils in the schools of the two camps.

## Exam Fees

School fees make it impossible for most conflict affected families to ensure the rights of their children to basic education. In some camps, a linkage between school fees and increased firewood collection for income generation has been identified, thus tying protection concerns for mothers to the denial of basic schooling. UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Education to advocate for the elimination of school fees, while supplementing particular supplemental fees for exams. UNICEF has paid the exam costs for 236 IDP students taking the 8th grade exam in Kalma and Nyala schools and 1,292 IDP students (738 male and 494 females) in West Darfur. It is likely that UNICEF will cover more of these fees until an agreement with the MoE is reached on exempting and/or subsidizing these fees themselves.

## School Uniforms

One of the strategies used to boost girls enrolment has been the distribution of school uniforms. Over 30,000 uniforms have already been distributed. The North Darfur Girls Education Department of the SMOE recently released 1,386 additional uniforms to Kabkabiya schools and has more cloth in stock. In West Darfur, the Ministry of Education has started the tailoring project for 10,722 school uniforms. In South Darfur, the Ministry of Education finalised contracts with local tailors for the production of 21,250 school uniforms. UNICEF will continue to support tailoring and distribution costs.

## School Construction

The enrolment rate has increased steadily, due in part to the continuous construction of temporary classrooms and/or rehabilitation of existing school facilities. As of end February, 1,200 temporary classrooms have been constructed or assembled as tents while 68 permanent classrooms in host communities have been rehabilitated.

## Teachers

There has always been a historical shortage of teachers in Darfur and since they are government employees paid through locally raised taxes, the conflict has further disrupted the systems for assignment and salary. Government structures do not permitted inter-state movements of teachers thus those who are relocated or displaced in another state due to the conflict are required to receive their payments from their original state, which is obviously not possible for most IDPs.

The humanitarian community has been reluctant to create parallel and potentially unsustainable cash-based incentive structures but it is clear that some additional programmes are needed, especially for volunteer teachers and those who are salaried but have not been paid for long periods. A number of schemes to boost recruitment and commitment have evolved including Food-for-Work, NFI distribution and teacher training.

UNICEF has focused its efforts on providing a regular series of training sessions for teachers and to offer a small incentive for participation in the sessions. At present, approximately 2,035 teachers have enrolled in UNICEF-supported methodology training sessions; 242 in peace education training; and 883 in psychosocial support workshops.

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These programmes will be further expanded in 2005, with child-centred life-skills training and, potentially, a distance learning programme for volunteer teachers not recognized by the state. UNICEF and NRC have been discussing the feasibility of establishing this programme which would enable approximately 150,000 teachers to earn a teaching certificate recognized by the MoE. This proposal would be managed by an NGO partner and would take place over six months, funded initially by UNICEF. On the Food-for-Work front, WFP is prepared to provide an incentive food basket for teachers (1 kilo gram of sugar and 4 litres of oil) through a selective proposal system for specific distributions in areas of high need. WFP has already delivered 53 baskets to volunteer teachers in Mastri, Ardamata, Kulbus, Hilylat, Dorti and West Zariba.

### Areas of Concern

There has been particular concern this month for the education situation in Kalma Camp. According to the latest estimates, the total number of Kalma population is now above 142,000 (more than double the estimate for September) but only around 8,000 children (or 27% of the target for school aged children) are in school. New arrivals, fleeing personal and food insecurity, have overburdened the available services. The low enrolment rates are linked to classroom availability and teachers.

Volunteer Teachers in the camp went on strike for two days, protesting their lack of incentives, thus closing schools and leaving children to loiter. In response, UNICEF and WFP arranged for food incentives, but the teachers were not satisfied with the ration. UNICEF has since succeeded in advocating with the Governor of South Darfur, who agreed to provide (and immediately released) a substantial financial incentive package for 105 teachers to last 7 months. This is the first time in South Darfur that the GoS has contributed in the education sector to assist IDP education with direct funding.

Later, the Minister of Education and UNICEF held a meeting with the volunteer teachers, the members of the Parent Teacher Associations and the Sheikhs in Kalma camp, where, after discussion, the strike was called off and the volunteer teachers were paid on the spot for two months.

Also for a rapid impact, UNICEF has released funds to SMOE to begin the rehabilitation and maintenance of 40 damaged classrooms while

sending 30 classroom tents to the camp for assembly. UNICEF is also investigating the establishment of a long-term teacher training programme which would extend over several months, thus providing sustainable knowledge development and incentives.

## CHILD PROTECTION

### Key Issues

Child Protection activities aim at creating and strengthening the protective environment for children in Darfur. Key child protection issues that remain evident as of end February 2005 are:

- The psychosocial effects of the violent displacement on children and the disruption of normal life;
- Continued reports of girls and women IDPs being attacked when moving beyond the fringes of camps or while collecting firewood and other forms of sexual and gender based violence;
- Use of children in armed conflict;
- Problems relating to children born as a result of rape.

### Major Child Protection Implementing Partners

Child Development Foundation; Enfants du Monde; S-C US; SC-S; Sudanese Red Crescent; Sudanese Popular Committee for Relief; Tear Fund; Terre des Hommes

### Coordination

A number of coordination challenges have arisen through the period. The first relates to the hand-over of child protection activities and interventions that were supported and implemented by SC-UK, following their withdrawal from Darfur at the end of 2004. Strong advocacy for a smooth transition has resulted in IRC, World Vision, SC-Sweden, EDMH and Coopi taking over activities in North and South Darfur. By the beginning of February however, SCUUK had decided to return and resume work in the main cities of Darfur, starting in El Fasher.

The second challenge relates to identification of gaps in child protection and finding means to covering them. A matrix, mapping the distribution of roles and responsibilities among the key actors in child protection, showed a number of gaps, notably outside the main cities and in particular, Zallinge and Garsilla. Coordination meetings have been used to advocate for an expansion of interventions

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to cover those areas. Unfortunately, as of end February, little success has been achieved, mainly due to insecurity which has made access more difficult, the often overstretched capacity of partners working in protection. UNICEF will continue to advocate with partners not usually focused in protection issues, to take on the organization of Children's Spaces in new areas not yet covered.

Also noteworthy is the news that IRC and SC-Sweden have completed a needs assessment and are planning to expand activities in West Darfur. Meanwhile, UNHCR deployed a child protection officer in West Darfur for three months period.

### Promotion of children and child rights based programming in the wider humanitarian response

Orientation during this period was organized for 41 humanitarian personnel on children's rights in humanitarian response and child rights based programming.

A joint UNICEF/AU meeting took place in mid-January in the Addis Ababa Headquarters of the African Union to discuss the expansion of training programmes to include all new troops arriving in 2005. Following this meeting, it has been agreed that UNICEF will support the training of AU civilian police and military troops on child protection, child rights and the code of conduct regarding the sexual exploitation and abuse of children and women. The training will take place in Sudan. UNICEF identified an international consultant and two national consultants who will be in charge of developing the training and orientation package, as well as deliver the package in the field.

Four workshops were organized in West Darfur by the Women and Children's Department of the Ministry of Social and Cultural Welfare, with UNICEF's support. Workshops focused on sensitization of the community leaders in four IDP camps on children's and women's rights. Approximately 120 community leaders have participated in these workshops.

### Psychosocial well-being of children

The total number of children provided with access to psychosocial support outside the school context 83,080. There were over 131 Child Spaces operating in Darfur during the month of February.

The number of children provided with access to psychosocial support within schools was 67,036. A total of 326 animators and 62 teachers have received training to provide psychosocial support through creative activities in schools and centers during this month. In addition, 150 Arab nomad children participated in recreational activities during February.

### Prevention and response to SGBV against children and women

The alarming level of sexual violence occurring in the context of the current conflict has been widely documented, even though no accurate figures exist. However, despite efforts of different agencies, the services to respond to the needs of sexual violence survivors remain woefully inadequate. The need for an inter-agency, multi-sectoral approach to GBV has become a matter of urgent priority.



Adolescent women speaking about SGBV in Kass, August 2004

With the intent of strengthening this approach, an interagency team undertook training and strategic planning exercises in January and February in each of the three Darfur states. The main purpose was to ensure a multi-sectoral team approach, based on recommended standards, addressing the most immediate needs of survivors of sexual violence.

Priority issues, gaps and strategies for prevention and response were identified in each of the three States. UNICEF has contracted a staff on

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temporary basis for six months to work with the child protection team in the field and with UNICEF implementing partners to ensure that victims of sexual violence have access to appropriate post rape care, especially health and psychosocial support including compassionate response from the community.

UNICEF remains a member of the GBV working group and continues to advocate for the free access of survivors to medical care in all health facilities in Darfur, (not only public hospitals, as had been stipulated earlier by Government). The obstacles preventing GBV survivors from accessing treatment was raised in the coordination meetings with Government and the ministries concerned have since agreed that such services could be available in all health facilities.

In addition, some 93 humanitarian workers were trained on the code of conduct as a prevention and response to SGBV in North Darfur and a 1 workshop was conducted in Mornei, West Darfur on the issue of vulnerable children and women for better referral systems and to strengthen coordination on child protection and gender based violence.

### Identification, registration, care, tracing and reunification of separated children

Efforts to ensure the implementation of the interagency framework on separated children continue. Although no separated children have been rapidly registered for tracing during February some were identified and "rapidly registered" for follow-up with ICRC, in remote areas of West Darfur.

### SHELTER AND NON FOOD ITEMS

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

### FUNDING STATUS

UNICEF has requested US\$ 135,466,092 for Darfur-specific activities. Requirements have been revised to meet the needs of increased numbers of conflicted-affected persons. These do not include the estimated costs for the in-kind assistance received from USAID/OFDA and DFID.

	Health and Nutrition	Watsan	Education	Child Protection	Shelter & Relief Items	Communication & Advocacy plus Planning	Total
<b>Target</b>	<b>22,671,600</b>	<b>44,170,495</b>	<b>19,689,156</b>	<b>3,231,000</b>	<b>45,292,841</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>135,055,092</b>
Total Carried over from 2004:	1,965,261	4,427,372	1,790,309	818,621	55,551	256,406	9,271,428
Government	1,764,812	4,068,669	1,334,244	351,688	55,551	61,044	7,636,008
NATCOMS	200,449	358,703	456,065	466,933	0	195,362	1,677,512
New Contributions:	2,196,737	4,752,014	1,241,410	1,508,328	6,513,757	531,393	16,739,290
Government	1,204,504	2,536,990	1,237,061	1,508,328	6,513,757	342,003	13,342,643
NATCOMS	992,233	2,215,024	0	0	0	189,390	3,396,647
Other Resources	0	0	4,349	0	0	70,277	74,626
<b>Total Funded</b>	<b>4,161,998</b>	<b>9,179,386</b>	<b>3,031,719</b>	<b>2,326,949</b>	<b>6,569,308</b>	<b>787,799</b>	<b>24,458,622</b>
Unfunded Balance	14,850,562	34,991,109	16,657,437	904,051	38,723,533	n/a	110,596,470
<b>% Funded</b>	<b>21.9%</b>	<b>20.8%</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>72.0%</b>	<b>14.5%</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>18.1%</b>