

URGENT CALL TO DONORS FOR CONFLICT – AFFECTED CHILDREN IN DARFUR

June-December 2004



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

unicef 

ISSUE

Approximately 1.2 million IDPs and host communities have been directly affected by fighting that has raged in Darfur for the past year. In addition, over 100,000 people have fled to neighbouring Chad, where UNICEF is also providing emergency assistance. Hundreds of villages have been burned, crops and livestock looted or destroyed, and food reserves and coping mechanisms eroded. This devastation has occurred in a region already under-served in terms of health, water, sanitation and education services. These services are now completely over-stretched and unable to provide adequate assistance to the IDPs and neighbouring villages. Consequently, children and women are left extremely vulnerable to epidemic diseases, which are likely to increase as a result of the upcoming rainy season, and malnutrition has reached alarming rates among children under five.

Even once they reach settlements where they can receive limited services, the IDPs do not feel safe. Many reports continue that women and children are raped or beaten when they venture outside the IDP settlements to gather firewood or fetch water.

One of the most serious obstacles to massive intervention in Darfur has been the lack of capacity amongst all partners. There are only 13 TFCs serving 1,500 children at present, but over 5,500 children are severely malnourished. Similarly, there are very few organizations with expertise in child protection and reporting/advocacy issues. Another hurdle, bureaucratic procedures regarding visa restrictions and travel permits, has recently been lifted. UNICEF has noted improvement in this area, but remains concerned about the number of vehicles that have not yet been released from customs to our partners and to UNICEF.

UNICEF partners with national and local authorities and with both international and national NGOs. For example, of the 42 UNICEF-supported health clinics that cater to the IDP/host population in Darfur, 30 are run by NGOs and 12 by the Ministry of Health. In addition, contracts for work by the private sector have been issued, especially in the water sector.

In order to increase UNICEF's capacity, additional international staff are being recruited. Each of the three sub-offices in Darfur will be headed by an international Resident Programme Officer and have at least one international professional in the sectors in which UNICEF is active: health, water and environmental sanitation, nutrition, education and child protection. An average of seven internationals will be assigned to each sub-office, and an additional eight internationals, specifically focused on Darfur, will backstop the field staff. By the end of August, UNICEF intends to have 38 staff based in Darfur, of whom 22 will be international staff. Extra vehicles have already been dispatched to Darfur, and another four are to arrive in June.

These staff will significantly increase UNICEF's ability to monitor interventions, especially in the health and nutrition sectors. Monitoring schedules and formats have already been instituted. UNICEF often combines field missions with partner NGOs in order to travel in convoy and avoid having to dedicate two UNICEF vehicles to the mission.

ACTION

UNICEF has undertaken a wide range of programmes to save the lives of people affected by this crisis. Safe drinking water services have been provided to 340,000 people in IDP settlements and host communities. UNICEF has helped partners to assist around 400,000 people with primary health care. In addition, 50,000 long lasting treated bed nets have been provided to 100,000 children to reduce malaria incidence. Because many children lost their school year, UNICEF has organized catch-up education programmes for 21,000 boys and girls. For many children, this has been their first opportunity to attend school. Child protection assessments have been undertaken and structured play activities initiated.

Despite these efforts, the needs remain enormous. Over half of the IDPs (600,000 people) still do not have access to health care and two-thirds do not have clean water. The sanitation situation in IDP camps is abysmal. Only around 15% of the children are currently in school.

This document outlines UNICEF's strategies to ensure that as many children as possible have access to the most basic aspects of survival: primary health care including nutritional support, safe drinking water and sanitation, basic education, and protection from exploitation and abuse. The challenges are huge, but UNICEF will use all possible tools to support Sudanese authorities, NGOs, and other partners to help Darfur's children.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND NUTRITION

UNICEF aims to ensure basic primary health care for one million displaced people and host communities in Darfur by the end of 2004. The strategy includes providing essential drug kits to the Ministry of Health and to NGOs, supporting routine immunization, and training health workers. In order to increase access to health care, UNICEF initiated mobile health teams with the Ministry of Health and is also considering offering incentives to civil servants from other parts of Sudan to work in Darfur. In addition, UNICEF, WHO, and the Ministry of Health have organized a massive measles campaign, targeting 2.26 million children. The campaign commences on 5 June 2004 in South Darfur and on 12 June in North and West Darfur.

UNICEF is extremely concerned about the rising malnutrition among children under five in some areas of Darfur. UNICEF supplies therapeutic feeding supplies and anthropometric equipment to NGOs and government facilities, supports surveys, and provides training. In May 2004, around 40 health professionals participated in training on management of severe malnutrition, run by Michael Golden and Yvonne Grellety. These world-renowned nutrition experts are introducing a treatment regime that has already saved tens of thousands of lives in other countries. UNICEF is also considering supporting technical aspects of supplementary feeding, if not enough NGOs are available to take on this task.

Funds requested	USD
Measles Campaign	2,100,000
Health and Nutrition	5,700,000

WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION

UNICEF and partners aim to provide 600,000 IDPs and host communities with safe drinking water in the next 90 days. Strategies used to meet this objective include drilling new boreholes, rehabilitating existing handpumps, creating water yards in areas with high-yield boreholes, and trucking water with tankers. Some hand dug wells have also been outfitted with pumps. In order to increase the number of drilling rigs operating in Darfur, UNICEF is contracting a private company to sink 75 boreholes between June and November. Additional rigs and tanker trucks are also being sought from bilateral donors.

Sanitation is a serious problem in the IDP settlements. UNICEF and the Government WES partners and NGOs have been able to construct some latrines, but thousands more are needed. UNICEF aims to create 2,000 latrines in the next 90 days, if necessary through private contractors. However, this will not come close to meeting the need. Other partners are actively encouraged to enter this sector.

Funds requested	USD
Water and Sanitation	6,298,000

BASIC EDUCATION.

One of the most important activities to provide children with a sense of normalcy and stability in a traumatic situation is basic education. UNICEF plans to construct another 158 temporary classrooms and provide school materials for over 30,000 children. There are many more children in Grade One than in any other class, indicating that this is the first time many children have had an opportunity to attend school. This possibility may be the only silver lining in the otherwise terrible thunderstorm of the Darfur crisis.

Funds requested	USD
Education	1,600,000

CHILD PROTECTION

Children in Darfur have experienced high levels of trauma and exploitation. They have seen their parents and other relatives killed, some have been raped, and all suffer from the stress of too few social services. UNICEF is organizing structured play activities for 5,000 children through local NGOs to restore a sense of normalcy and fun to children's lives. In addition, protocols have been established for registration, monitoring, tracing and reunification of separated children. Very few children have become separated from their families, however, because communities have strong mechanisms to absorb children into comfortable environments. Because of concerns about rape and other abuse, UNICEF is also initiating a project to train police on sexual and gender-based violence. Sessions for humanitarian workers have already taken place but will be expanded in the coming months. UNICEF also intends to set up referral systems to support psychological and physical recovery of rape victims.

Funds requested	USD
Protection	1,500,000

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

UNICEF has appealed for \$22,378,000 for shelter and non-food items for 1,000,000 displaced people in Darfur. Adequate in-kind contributions of plastic sheeting and blankets for the first phase of distribution have been received, but a wide range of additional items are still required. These include soap, jerry cans, buckets, mosquito nets, and additional sheeting and blankets. A common allocation and distribution system has been set up under OCHA's leadership and with the logistical support of the UNJLC. CARE is organizing the transport to IDP settlements, where partner NGOs distribute the supplies. These items are very time-sensitive because of the oncoming rainy season. Hundreds of thousands of people are currently living in simple straw huts that will become sodden piles of grass once the heavy rains arrive.

Funds requested	USD
Shelter and Relief	22,378,000

IMPACT

UNICEF's actions have already saved thousands of lives in Darfur, but much more remains to be done. The activities outlined in this document are aimed at helping children and their families survive the trauma of war and displacement. With full funding support from donors, more UNICEF staff in the field, and additional partner agencies, UNICEF will be able to provide many of Darfur's children with primary health care, basic education, water and sanitation, protection activities, and non-food items.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS	90 days June to August	Post rain September to December
Health and Nutrition		
No. of children 6 months to 15 years to be vaccinated against measles	2,260,000	
No. of children 6 months to 59 months to receive vitamin A supplementation	784,000	
No. of pregnant women to be vaccinated against tetanus	22,000	22,000
No. of existing therapeutic feeding centers to be supported or established	25	25
No. of people to receive health education		300,000
No. of health workers trained	50	50
No. of health facilities receiving technical, drug and equipment support	100	100
Water and Sanitation		
No. of safe water points rehabilitated (each 500 beneficiaries)	200	200
No. of water yards rehabilitated (each 10,000 beneficiaries)	5	4
No. of hand dug wells equipped with motorized system (each 4,000 beneficiaries)	2	4
No. of safe water points established (500 beneficiaries each)	100	125
No. of sanitary latrines installed (20 beneficiaries each)	2,000	1,200
No. of camps covered by environmental clean-up	10	10
No. of population covered through temporary water (tankering etc)	50,000	50,000
No. of families receiving adequate purification tablets every month	20,000	
No. of Pump mechanics trained	600	600
No. of community leaders trained on operation/maintenance of water schemes	60	40
No. of Social mobilisers trained on hygiene education	200	200
No. of people receiving hygiene education	500,000	1,000,000
Non-Food Items and Shelter		
No. of families to receive Blankets, Shelter, mats, soap, Jerrycan, bucket, cooking pot, mosquito nets, clothing and sanitary material (for UN/Care)	114,000	
Education		
No. of children receiving learning materials	15,730	15,730
No. of teachers receiving teaching materials	268	268
No. of classrooms receiving school materials	250	250
No. of teachers trained including on mine risks and sexual exploitation	255	255
Number of primary schools rehabilitated or temporary schools established	158	31
No. of pupils receiving sanitation and hygiene education	7,078	7,078
No. of schools receiving Recreation materials	80	80
Child Protection		
No. of humanitarian workers trained in practical child & IDP protection	1,000	1,000
No. of humanitarian workers trained in protection of children and women from sexual exploitation during humanitarian crises	500	500
No. of recreational centres set up for IDP children	6	6
No. of police oriented on protection from rape and sexual violence	200	200
No. of referral systems established to support psychological and physical recovery of rape victims	3	3

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS: TOTAL US\$ 39,576,000

Measles Campaign	2,100,000
Health and Nutrition	5,700,000
Water and Sanitation	6,298,000

Shelter and Relief	22,378,000
Education	1,600,000
Protection	1,500,000

UNICEF is grateful for funds and pledges already received from the governments of Canada, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, UK, USA, ECHO, the Bill Gates Foundation, the Netherlands National Committee and the UK National Committee which have allowed it to assist the war-affected population in Darfur.

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