

UNICEF's work in Darfur

UNICEF works with other UN agencies, 39 NGOs and local authorities in the Darfur region to provide humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable population in the area by fighting infectious diseases, tackling major causes of malnutrition and providing children with a safe environment.

KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

WATER AND SANITATION

- To date, UNICEF and partners have supported water systems which currently provides close to 1.75 million persons with safe water as well as the construction of over 90,000 latrines which improve sanitation for 1.9 million persons.
- UNICEF is also working hard to promote safe hygiene practices through Darfur-wide campaigns, as well as community based initiatives and training of community leaders, committees and other social mobilizers. During the May-August period, over 5,500 children and youth, 400 women and 400 community members were trained.
- Other sanitation interventions includes clean-up campaigns, provision of waste disposal bins, supporting construction of onsite garbage pits, transportation and disposal of garbage from camps, and spraying for vector control in shelters, latrines and garbage sites.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

- As lead agency in primary health care, UNICEF provides technical inputs, essential drugs, midwifery kits, malaria treatments, long lasting insecticide treated nets and training/coordination for over 184 fixed health facilities and approximately 36 mobile teams. These facilities which are approximately three quarters of the total primary health care facilities operating in Darfur reach around 2 million persons.
- This year alone, seven successive polio National Immunization Days have been carried out in the three Darfur States reaching 1.4 million under five children (98% coverage). This intensification of polio immunization has led to the interruption of wild polio virus transmission in Darfur and prevented the occurrence of new polio cases in 2005.

NUTRITION

- UNICEF supports selective feeding programmes for malnourished children, capacity building and the set up of a nutritional surveillance in Darfur. As of August 2005, UNICEF provides nutritional inputs, anthropometric equipment, technical expertise and training in management of severe malnutrition for over 52 therapeutic feeding centres/community based therapeutic centres and 96 supplementary feeding centres.
- Thus far, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, developed a Protocol on Micro-nutrient supplementation as well as micro-plans on distribution of lipidol capsules for each of the three Darfur States. Although coverage of Vitamin A has been maintained

around 90%, routine coverage of iron and folic acid is unfortunately still low.

EDUCATION

- Although the gross enrollment rate plummeted during the conflict due to destructions of schools and movement of IDPs, with the assistance provided by UNICEF and partners, more children than ever before are enrolled in school in Darfur. During May-August of 2005, UNICEF support enabled the enrolment of over 315,000 pupils, with 147,107 being girls through classroom construction or rehabilitation, teacher training and distribution of school supplies.
- To date, UNICEF has constructed over 2,589 temporary classrooms, distributed over 66,000 uniforms to girls to boost enrolment, and trained over 4,550 teachers including volunteer and nomad teachers with courses on child-centred methodology, peace education, and HIV/AIDS awareness.

CHILD PROTECTION

- Also important for childhood development in the midst of conflict is providing support for the psycho-social well-being of children. Currently, over 166,000 out of school children are reached through 355 Children's Spaces, where children can play free from violence and conflict. UNICEF supports these programmes through training of teachers and animators, provision of recreational materials and coordination/planning support.
- In 2005, a total of 240 humanitarian workers were trained on child rights and child protection in Darfur.
- Also in 2005, UNICEF supported the demobilisation of 513 child soldiers from the SLA fighting forces, out of which 213 are currently enrolled in schools. As a way to prevent recruitment of child soldiers, UNICEF is focusing on ways to empower adolescents in the IDP camps. During the May-August period, over 37 youth committees/clubs were established in IDP camps, with the participation of 700 adolescents. In addition, over 850,000 youth participated in 39 football teams existing under IRC activities in North Darfur, which have a component of youth management and leadership opportunities.

NON-FOOD ITEMS

- Throughout the Darfur conflict, UNICEF and its partners have made considerable advances in the provision of non-food items and shelter to the internally displaced population. These items have contributed significantly to improve health, sanitation, and hygiene and allowed restoration of dignity through enabling family privacy and the establishment of basic community facilities.