

HIGHLIGHTS : NOVEMBER 2008

A selection of recent UNICEF-supported activities for women and children across Sudan

Improving access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene for all

Efforts continued throughout November to improve access to potable drinking water. In Warrap State, 5,500 people benefited from the drilling of 11 new boreholes while 12,000 people will be able to access clean water from 24 new hand pumps installed in Western Equatoria State. In the three Darfur states, North and South Kordofan States, and in the east of Sudan, UNICEF has also supported the construction and repair of hand pumps and water yards that together will provide clean water for more than 42,000 people.



Maintaining the focus on improved sanitation to improve health conditions, UNICEF has also supported the construction of school latrines for more than 1,000 school students in Upper Nile State. In the northern states, more than 80,000 people have benefited from improved sanitation facilities created by the construction and repair of household and communal latrines.

UNICEF also supported the training of 32 laboratory technicians from all ten states in Southern Sudan, focusing on water quality monitoring.

Reducing infant, child and maternal mortality

Ensuring that children affected by the ongoing conflict in Darfur still have access to life-saving health services has always been central to UNICEF's activities, and in November more than 13,000 children in both government and rebel-held areas of West Darfur received polio vaccinations, along with more than 7,000 children who were immunized against measles.

More than 40,000 children in South Darfur were targeted with a package of primary health services, including immunization, de-worming, vitamin A supplementation, hygiene promotion activities and distribution of insecticide-treated bed nets against malaria, as part of the Sudan Accelerated Child Survival Initiative.

The President of the Government of Southern Sudan launched the fourth round of polio National Immunization Days in Southern Sudan, which targeted 2.9 million children under the age of five. Faced by a number of polio cases being reported in Southern Sudan this year, efforts to improve community awareness of the vaccination ef-

fort included a pilot programme of social mobilization led by community-based activists.

Routine immunization also remains a critical focus for UNICEF in Southern Sudan - more than 56,000 children were vaccinated against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus in November. The generally low level of routine immunization coverage in the southern states remains cause of concern, and discussions are underway with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to look at ways of using the school system to support routine immunization efforts.

The second - or "pulse" phase of the Sudan Accelerated Child Survival Initiative got underway in five northern states of Sudan. During the phase - which was implemented alongside a national polio immunization campaign, more than 500,000 anti-malarial bed nets were distributed, while 1 million children received de-worming treatments. The vaccination efforts saw 6.2 million children immunized against polio.



Efforts to tackle malaria in Southern Sudan resulted in 1,200 bed nets distributed to partners in Jonglei State.

Meanwhile, UNICEF supported the treatment of more than 1,000 children suffering from acute malnutrition in Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal and Warrap States through the provision of therapeutic foods and milk supplies and nutrition equipment.

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HIV/AIDS prevention and control

A one-week training programme on Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV and AIDS was undertaken with 35 health workers from across Southern Sudan. Given that global evidence shows that the lack of information and support for pregnant and new mothers on HIV transmission can result in nearly one-third of infants being infected, such training is seen as a vital element of UNICEF's support to tackling HIV in Sudan.

**UNITE FOR CHILDREN
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Meanwhile, 17 health professionals received training on PMTCT policy and technical knowledge at Khartoum Teaching Hospital, through an initiative funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The students included obstetricians, paediatricians, doctors and midwives.

Creating a protective environment for children

An historic new set of laws were introduced in South Kordofan State. The Child Law contained key provisions in support of child rights - including increasing the age of criminal responsibility from seven to 12 years, making birth registration a right for all children, banning the recruitment of children into armed forces and groups, and banning hazardous labour for children. The Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting Law outlawed the practice in the state, emphasising that the tradition is not only a threat to health, but also a social issue that is the responsibility of every section of the community to prevent.



Meanwhile 98 children associated with armed forces and groups in Upper Nile and Unity States have been identified by the Southern Sudan Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission, and efforts are underway to support their return to their home communities.

In the north of Sudan, 98 children aged between 11 and 17 years old, initially detained after an attack by the Justice and Equality Movement on the city of Omdurman in May, were successfully reunited with their families in various states, after their official pardon and release by the government. UNICEF has been providing psychosocial support to the children, and will continue working with them to ensure their safe reintegration to their home communities. This work is being funded with support from the Government of Denmark.

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Improving access to, and quality of, primary education

Nearly 2,500 children in Eastern Equatoria State are now enjoying brand new school facilities, following the completion of construction of six new schools. The Government of Japan has funded the construction project, with three additional schools in progress in the state, also funded by Japan.

With school enrolments rates continuing to increase in Southern Sudan, ensuring adequate facilities remains a high priority for UNICEF. Two new schools are under construction in Western Equatoria, all equipped with classrooms and adequate sanitation facilities to ensure a healthy learning environment.

More than 8,000 students in South and West Darfur - many of them internally displaced children - have benefited from the construction and repair of classrooms during November.

In Upper Nile, Warrap and Western Bahr-el-Ghazal States, more than 27,000 students have been supplied with new school bags, while recreation kits for some 17,000 students have been provided in Jonglei State.

In South Darfur, more than 7,000 text books were provided through UNICEF to schools in the state. Meanwhile in South Kordofan State, distribution has commenced of more than 17,000 school uniforms for girls, while in neighbouring North Kordofan UNICEF has assisted with the provision of student and classroom materials to benefit some 50,000 children including those studying in nomadic communities.

In addition to material support, UNICEF continues to play a role in strengthening systems and capacity in the education sector. A second Thematic Working Group meeting on education in Southern Sudan was held in November, supported by UNICEF, to look at a range of issues including alternative education systems, teacher training and education for children with disabilities. The Thematic Working Group brings together participants from different sectors, to ensure a more holistic approach to education development.



More than 600 participants from Upper Nile, Unity and Eastern Equatoria states have now completed a six month intensive English programme for teachers, supported by UNICEF and the Windle Trust.

In support of education advocacy, 250 children received training on social mobilization skills in Western Equatoria, while a mix of students, teachers, education officials community leaders and women participated in a training course to promote the role of Girls' Education Movements in Southern Sudan.

Information sharing and communication for development

Thirty radio producers from across the Darfur states took part in a UNICEF-supported workshop that looked at the role of community-based programming, production and broadcast techniques as well as orientation on key issues affecting women and children. Radio is seen as amongst the most effective mode of sharing information with communities across Sudan. UNICEF has been supporting Community Radio Listening Groups in Sudan for several years, providing technical assistance and guidance on programme content for local committees to produce their own programmes, subsequently broadcast through the local radio network.

As one of the key partners in the Sudan Information Campaign for Returnees, UNICEF supported an Information Day at the Heiy Al Baraka camp for internally displaced persons in Khartoum State, providing information to potential returnees on issues including health, hygiene, education opportunities, food rations, child protection, mine risk awareness and procedural matters related to returns. The Information Days have proved to be a critical way of ensuring that potential returnees can make informed choices about their planned return home.

In response, UNICEF partnered with a medical unit from the UNMIS peacekeeping force to provide free medical services for nearly 9,000 returnees in the area.

In nearby Baleela, UNICEF provided two primary health care kits containing essential drugs and supplies, 73 cartons of specialist nutritional foods, 400 insecticide-treated bed nets and ten bales of blankets. UNICEF and the State Water Corporation also ensured the repairs of damaged hand pumps, with all five existing pumps now operating.

Responding to emergencies

In response to flooding in Bor County, UNICEF has provided emergency assistance including 4,000 sleeping mats, 2,000 tarpaulins and 4,000 insecticide-treated bed nets, which will assist 20,000 affected people.

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www.unicef.org/sudan

Funding status, 30 November 2008

2008 - North Sudan Area Programme, including Darfur				
	2008 Target	2008 received	Shortfall	% Funded
Education*	15,880,468	22,144,431	-6,263,963	139
Health	25,893,413	24,351,426	1,541,987	94
Nutrition	7,378,030	7,880,969	-502,939	107
Water, sanitation & hygiene	25,201,670	20,998,655	4,203,015	83
Protection	11,921,952	14,806,353	-2,884,401	124
HIV/AIDS	3,471,434	3,588,222	-116,788	103
Planning, Reporting, Monitoring & Evaluation	2,249,265	2,356,444	-107,179	105
Communication & Advocacy	2,954,302	1,803,036	1,151,266	61
Non-Food Items	8,560,000	6,878,379	1,681,621	80
Cross sectoral costs	16,828,715	13,341,493	3,487,222	79
Totals	120,339,249	118,149,408	2,189,841	98
2008 - Southern Sudan Area Programme				
	2008 Target	2008 received	Shortfall	% Funded
Education	14,710,000	12,361,446	2,348,554	84
Health	14,925,391	13,464,914	1,460,477	90
Nutrition	3,451,464	5,022,038	-1,570,574	146
Water, sanitation & hygiene	14,210,000	13,922,380	287,620	98
Protection	5,260,034	3,087,583	2,172,451	59
HIV/AIDS	3,002,000	2,742,524	259,476	91
Planning, Reporting, Monitoring & Evaluation	3,833,000	2,311,502	1,521,498	60
Communication & Advocacy	958,000	631,000	327,000	66
Cross sectoral costs	14,690,942	12,007,492	2,683,450	82
Totals	75,040,831	65,550,879	9,489,952	87

* An error in the previous month's report for education receipts, which indicated higher funding than actually received, has been corrected in this table

HIGHLIGHTS : NOVEMBER 2008

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