

HIGHLIGHTS : APRIL-JUNE 2009

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

Improving access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene for all

Through the efforts of UNICEF and its local partners, more than 68,000 additional people gained access to clean water in Southern Sudan through an ongoing programme of drilling boreholes and fitting hand pumps. The physical supply of water is also strengthened through a comprehensive training programme that enables local community members to take on responsibility for maintenance of pumps, water resource management and hygiene promotion. In the second quarter of 2009, some 560 people including many women benefited from these programmes in five states of Southern Sudan.

The first national workshop on water, sanitation and hygiene was held in Khartoum in May, bringing together partners from the Government of National Unity, the Government of Sudan, UNICEF and other agencies working in the sector. One of the key outcomes of the workshop was the approval of 14 new technical manuals and sets of guidelines that will now direct the design and installa-

tion of water facilities along with other programme initiatives across all 25 states of Sudan.

Nearly 1,000 students in Upper Nile and Unity States are able to enjoy much improved sanitation facilities at their schools, following the UNICEF-supported installation of new latrines at their places of learning.

Reducing infant, child and maternal mortality

The fourth rounds of national immunization campaigns against polio were undertaken in the second quarter of 2009, with an estimated 9 million children being targeted in an initiative supported by the Governments of Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, Rotary International and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Although no new cases of polio have been reported in the north of Sudan since mid-March this year, 32 cases had been registered in Southern Sudan by the end of June. Localised fighting in parts of Jonglei State in Southern Sudan continued to

Notes from the field ...

Instead of water pipes connecting the homes of Kunena village – 30 kilometres short of the Ethiopian border – there are donkeys. Saddam Mohammed's chocolate brown beast stands with great nonchalance as his water saddle, made out of rubber inner tube and crafted to hold a good eight litres either side, is filled.

The donkey then begins his fifth or sixth trip today from Kunena's water yard to one of the thatched, grass-fenced homes. There, Saddam is paid one Sudanese pound (roughly 50 US cents) to pull out the corn cob stoppers on the bladders and provide a family with another day's water supply.

Crucially for Kunena's residents, the water is chlorinated.

Chlorination programmes, supported by UNICEF with the assistance of the European Community, have been crucial in the reduction of cases of acute water diarrhoea in the north of Sudan from over 1,400 in 2007 to only 163 last year.

But the scientific protection afforded by chlorination has acted hand-in-hand with the efforts of advocates like Nhasroot who with her nine-strong team is trying to persuade families to build latrines and stop defecation outside that can contaminate water supplies and spread disease through flies.

The awareness and education programme is another initiative supported by UNICEF, in an effort to reduce disease outbreaks.

Nhasroot's Kunena hygiene committee is gearing up again now for renewed effort as the rainy – and the cholera – season reaches its peak. "We're planning to have an open defecation-free village by the end of 2009," she says. When asked if that is really possible, she looks stern. "It will be tough but we will fight," she said.

She has reason to be confident: in the past two years she says latrine use has increased from 20 per cent of the village households to 50 per cent.



Above: a young girl draws water from the chlorinated water source in Kunena village, Gedaref State [UNICEF Sudan/2009/Skye Wheeler]

hamper immunization efforts, with children in county of the State left unreached.

In April, however, UNICEF was able to provide 65,000 doses of meningitis vaccine in response to an outbreak of the disease in Unity State.

A Child Health Week, supported by UNICEF and implemented by local health partners as part of the Sudan Accelerated Child Survival and Development Initiative, took place in April in all fifteen states of the north of Sudan - during the week long effort, up to 6.4 million children were reached with polio vaccinations, vitamin A supplements and de-worming treatment. In addition, over 122,000 women in three states received iron/folic acid supplements, and 170,000 long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets were distributed.



The Sudan Accelerated Child Survival and Development Initiative is also building momentum in Southern Sudan. A second round of integrated health activities was launched in June in Eastern Equatoria State, bringing distribution of bed nets, measles vaccination, deworming treatments, nutrition screening and health and hygiene information to more than 23,000 children and 28,000 women.

Nearly 34,000 women and children were targeted in a similar campaign launched in June in Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State.

Following the launch of the new motorcycle ambulance programme in Southern Sudan (see last Highlights), which aims to improve access for pregnant women to medical treatment, five new drivers were trained in Eastern Equatoria State. Meanwhile, UNICEF has also provided a range of supplies to support maternal health programmes at the Bor Hospital in Western Equatoria, including midwifery kits.

Nearly 31,000 children will also benefit from a contribution of primary health centre kits, containing essential drugs and medicines, provided by UNICEF to health facilities in five states of Southern Sudan.

UNICEF continued its support to nutrition programmes across Sudan, at a critical time of year - the hunger gap - when traditionally malnutrition rates amongst children are on the increase. During the second quarter of the year, UNICEF provided essential nutrition supplies to more than 200 feeding programmes in the three Darfur states with the assistance of the European Community and the US OFDA, as well as more than 20 centres in Blue Nile, North Kordofan, South Kordofan, Kassala and Gedaref States. Feeding programmes run by partners in Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal, Jonglei and Central Equatoria States have also benefited from supplies provided by UNICEF.

With poor harvests resulting from heavy flooding in 2008 and ongoing localised conflict in parts of Southern Sudan leading to increased displacement, particular concerns are being expressed at the nutrition situation in key states.

In addition to material support, UNICEF continued to play a role in strengthening local capacity in the health and nutrition sector throughout the second quarter of the year. For example, nearly 140 health workers received training on management of severe acute malnutrition in the Darfur States, Blue Nile, Kassala and Gedaref States, while in South Kordofan nearly 2,500 people participated in community-based information sessions on the issue of nutrition and health education.

HIV/AIDS prevention and control

With UNICEF material, technical and financial support, nearly 80,000 children and young people across Sudan were reached with information about HIV prevention through community-based information sessions. In addition, based upon a recent media audience survey, UNICEF estimates that over 5 million people are regularly accessing information on HIV and AIDS through central and state radio in the north of the country.

Bringing information on HIV and AIDS to school children in a culturally suitable way remains a central part of UNICEF's work in Sudan. In the north of Sudan, UNICEF has helped to train nearly 900 teachers during the second quarter of the year, providing them with the necessary skills to deliver the new HIV curriculum to more than 126,000 students. In Southern Sudan, partnerships have been established with local church organizations and health NGOs to disseminate information on the virus - UNICEF has helped to orientate more than 100 peer counselors in the second quarter, providing them with the necessary skills to improve young people's understanding of HIV.



Whilst understanding remains critical to the battle against HIV in Sudan, personal knowledge of one's HIV status is equally important. More than 5,000 people undertook voluntary testing and counseling in 13 centres supported by UNICEF in Southern Sudan, while a new Voluntary Counseling and Testing Centre has been established in Blue Nile State.

Two new Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission centres have been established in Jonglei State, in a partnership between UNICEF and the International Medical Corps. Four centres in the north of Sudan also benefited from financial and technical support from UNICEF.

More than 300 families living with HIV in the north of Sudan benefited from assistance funded by UNICEF, in the form of psychosocial support, respite care and professional counselling. In Western Equatoria, UNICEF and the NGO ZOA Refugee Care have provided training for 11 local people to manage home-based care for people living with HIV and AIDS. The training programme will enable participants to better support families reduce the risk of HIV transmission within the family and provide the best care for those family members affected.

Improving access to, and quality of, primary education

Distribution of school supplies continued across Southern Sudan, despite insecurity in Upper Nile, Jonglei and Western Equatoria States causing some delays to the schedule. During the second quarter of the year, nearly 19,000 children and more than 900 teachers received supplies provided by UNICEF.

In addition, more than 2,000 boxes of exercise books and 200 kits of recreational items were provided by UNICEF to support the needs of an increasing number of children and teachers returning to Central and Eastern Equatoria States from refugee camps in northern Uganda.

A continued focus on improving the quality of education in Sudan was marked by the inauguration of the Southern Sudan Institute of Education, in Lakes State in June. The Institute, which has been supported by UNICEF with financial assistance from the Governments of Italy, Japan and the Netherlands, will serve as a focal point for developing in-service training, supporting institutional capacity strengthening within government departments and act as a repository for education information and knowledge.

UNICEF also supported intensive English-language courses for teachers in Southern Sudan previously experienced only in an Arabic medium. More than 260 teachers are participating in courses being held in Upper Nile and Unity States.

Responding to emergencies

With continuing violence breaking out in parts of Southern Sudan, UNICEF has played a critical role in the provision of emergency non-food items, water and sanitation facilities. In the second quarter of the year, UNICEF provided emergency materials funded by the European Commission - including blankets, sleeping mats, jerry cans,

household items and plastic sheeting - to more than 8,000 households in Western Equatoria, Central Equatoria, Unity, Lakes and Jonglei States.

Meanwhile, UNICEF also supported the provision of clean water for more than 15,000 people affected by attacks from the Lord's Resistance Army in Western Equatoria State, while 50 latrine slabs were provided for those affected by localised fighting in Jonglei State.

Notes from the field

The smiles of the children are wide across their face as they tightly clutch their newly-donated school exercise books and materials.

Books and pens are simple materials, but they can make the difference for the children between getting an education or not.

"Without these books, the teachers say there is no point going to school," says 15-year old Philip Deng, in his sixth year of primary school in the Southern Sudan town of Malakal. "But my family can't afford to buy it themselves."

The exercise books, donated by UNICEF, are just one small part of the school bags, pencils, and other essential teaching and learning materials that have been distributed across Southern Sudan.

The distribution of learning materials has been a key part of UNICEF's 'Go to School' campaign to boost education attendance and quality in the peace that has followed Sudan's two decades of war. The distribution project is supported by Dubai Cares, along with the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), the governments of Italian and Denmark, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), and the UNICEF National Committee in the United Kingdom.



Above: Children show off their new exercise books following a distribution in Malakal, Lakes State. [UNICEF Sudan/2009/Peter Martell]

In Darfur, the Government of Sudan and the United Nations continue to monitor and report on the impact of the expulsion of humanitarian organizations in March. Latest information gathered from the field indicates that the immediate delivery of life-saving services has been mostly maintained in the health, water and sanitation sectors, although some 35,000 people are still not able to access regular health services formerly provided by NGO partners. In the main, gaps in service provision left by the NGO expulsions have been filled in the short-term by government technical staff and remaining NGOs. UNICEF has provided extensive financial, material and technical support to both government and non-government partners to help meet the most urgent needs. Concerns remain over both the quality of service provision, monitoring and analysis of information, access to areas that government

staff have difficulty in reaching, and the longer-term impact of the NGO expulsions as Darfur is again expected to suffer a particularly challenging hunger gap, following poor harvests in 2008.

In Southern Sudan, natural emergencies remain a constant threat; an outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea in Warrap State led to UNICEF providing urgent supplies of latrine slabs and digging kits, water filters, water purification tablets and soap to partner Action Contre Le Faim. The NGO also undertook hygiene promotion activities in affected areas, to further reduce the risk of disease spreading.

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UNICEF's work in Sudan go to**

www.unicef.org/sudan

or

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Ft 2009 - North Sudan Area Programme, including Darfur

	2009 target	2009 received	Shortfall	% funded
Education	17,907,780	10,231,348	7,676,432	57%
Health and nutrition	23,869,328	20,369,207	3,500,121	85%
Water, sanitation and hygiene	25,194,612	16,652,777	8,541,835	66%
Protection	12,849,687	11,648,173	1,201,514	91%
HIV/AIDS	3,318,063	1,595,590	1,722,473	48%
Planning, research, monitoring and evaluation	1,844,649	727,688	1,116,961	39%
Communication and advocacy	2,761,181	1,734,706	1,026,475	63%
Non-food items	5,824,044	7,437,842	-1,613,798	128%
Cross-sectoral costs	17,809,773	10,929,217	6,880,556	61%
Totals	111,379,116	81,326,548	30,052,568	73%

2009 - Southern Sudan Area Programme

	2009 target	2009 received	Shortfall	% funded
Education	15,163,825	12,037,479	3,126,346	79%
Health and nutrition	20,512,350	8,095,823	12,416,527	39%
Water, sanitation and hygiene	15,717,363	5,426,080	10,291,283	35%
Protection	5,332,163	3,691,357	1,640,806	69%
HIV/AIDS	3,448,163	800,000	2,648,163	23%
Planning, research, monitoring and evaluation	4,989,838	3,884,464	1,105,374	78%
Communication and advocacy	1,110,800	426,350	684,450	38%
Cross-sectoral costs	14,777,000	6,850,100	7,926,900	46%
Totals	81,051,500	41,211,653	39,839,847	51%

FAST FACT : Since the start of 2009, with the help of the Governments of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, Dubai Cares and the Common Humanitarian Fund, UNICEF has helped to provide classrooms for an additional 45,000 children in Darfur and the Abyei area through construction of new facilities or repair of those that had fallen out of use.