RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IMPACTING HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

Political Developments for Darfur

The sixth-round of the Inter-Sudanese peace talks on Darfur ended on 20 October, following weeks of negotiations undertaken by the parties to the conflict. The session ended positively, with parties jointly acknowledging the substantial progress made on the first three items of the power-sharing agenda. The next round of talks will begin in late November or early December.

Meanwhile, UNMIS Nyala was informed that the South Darfur Interim Constitution was rejected by the National Constitution Commission (NCC) as the South Darfur State did not comply with the requirement that the first draft constitution be made by the NCC in Khartoum.1

The Deputy Sheikh of Kalma IDP camp, who was arrested by National Security on 23 October, was released on bail from police custody in the afternoon of 26 October. A group of young IDPs in the camp had released all remaining hostages by 25 October.2

Security Concerns

For much of the year, apprehension over security has prevented organisations from reaching children and women living in remote areas under SLA control. As well as suffering displacement, destitution and disruption of normal life, some children in Darfur have been direct victims of violence whilst others have been psychologically affected by the acts they have witnessed.

The unpredictable peace of early 2005 continues to be threatened by growing conflict and an unpredictable security situation. Despite an erratic negotiation process facilitated by the African Union (AU), and the deployment of AU monitors, the region continues to be volatile with renewed fighting and attacks against civilians and IDP camps.

Banditry and looting escalated during the period of September and October. This has included a large number of attacks on commercial vehicles by armed bandits in North, South and West Darfur, with drivers sustaining injuries including gunshot wounds. WFP convoys have not been immune to violence and have been partially looted in South Darfur. No injuries were reported.

In North Darfur, Kutum Hospital was closed temporarily after armed tribesmen entered and assaulted nurses, returning to destroy some furniture on the same day.

In the reporting period, the GoS curfew in El Geneina changed from midnight to 10pm. On 26 October the UN decided to change the UN/HC curfew to 9pm.

The ASMT meeting on 12-13 October decided that all agencies would compile a list of essential and non-essential staff and send the non-essential staff outside El Geneina on the scheduled flights of UNMIS and UNHAS. After this reduction, UNDSS conducted another exercise of MOSS and MORSS compliance for the remaining staff. The UNICEF staff numbers in Geneina will be maintained at 23.

The Conflict Affected Population

At September 2005, the affected population was estimated to be close to 3.4 million: 1.8 million IDPs and 1.6 million residents.

120 Day Programmatic Planning

The 120 Day Plan is a programmatic planning tool which sets sector-wide targets for implementation and service delivery for all UN Agencies and NGO partners between September and December 2005. The UNICEF 120 Day Plan, detailed on the next page, is an agency-specific plan which complements the overall sector plan by setting internal targets for service delivery within a four month period.

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1 UNMIS, United Nations Sudan Situation Report, 25-27 October 2005
2 UNMIS, United Nations Sudan Situation Report, 25-27 October 2005
# The UNICEF 120-Day Plan (September-December 2005) Target

## Primary Health Care
- Expanding access to primary health care services to at least 80% of conflict affected population.
- Strengthening routine EPI to reach the target of 70% coverage. Maintaining polio free statutes and measles control through the provision of 2 additional rounds of polio and 2 measles campaigns.
- Sustain and strengthen the current response to diarrhoeal diseases, with a focus on high risk areas.
- Maintaining the highest level of preparedness and response to malaria and cholera.
- Enhancing training and capacity building for 30% of the health workers and particularly improving routine EPI, Reproductive Health and HIV skills. Establish 3 VCT clinics for preventive HIV activities.
- Assessing and strengthening the cold chain system through the provision of adequate supplies.

## Selective Feeding and Nutrition Surveillance
- Ensure the establishment and support of at least 11 additional TFCs to bring the total number to 63 targeting approximately 3,600 severely malnourished children per month. Support similar expansions of 6 SFCs to bring the total number to 102, reaching over 15,000 children.
- Contribute to the reduction of the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate to less than 15%.
- Improve surveillance through coordinating 14 location specific surveys, 1 Darfur-wide survey and 10 rapid assessments, as well as produce 4 nutrition surveillance updates for the Darfurs. Complete the Nutritional Surveillance system and nutrition database at Darfur-level, which will include sentinel sites, reports and feeding centre data disseminated to partners.
- Disseminate protocol for micronutrient supplementation and distribute iodised oil capsules to 75,334 pregnant women.
- Coordinate state level training for 500 MoH/NGO staff on conducting surveys, data analysis and report writing as well as protocols (SFP/TFP, surveys, and micronutrient supplementation) and infant feeding.

## Water and Sanitation Programmes
- Ensure continuous availability of minimum safe water and access to sanitary means of excreta disposal to some 1.9 million people already covered in 2004 and 2005, and to provide services to an additional 380,000 conflict affected persons. Construct an additional 16,000 latrines.
- Assess the needs of returning displaced population, and other vulnerable rural communities, and ensure availability of minimum safe water and access to sanitary means of excreta disposal for 100,000 persons.
- Reduce the tension between host and displaced communities created by unequal provision of water and environmental sanitation by ensuring the availability of minimum safe drinking water supply and access to sanitary means for 80,000 host population.
- Ensure that people are protected from vector diseases which are likely to represent a significant risk to health or well-being by spraying at least 85% of shelters in selected locations and strengthening solid waste management practices among the population.

## Child Protection and SGBV
- Provide psychosocial support to reach a total of 225,000 children through approximately 450 Child Friendly Spaces with a focus on improving the quality, through mobilisation of the core group of model animators to train animators of Child Friendly Spaces and 750 teachers.
- Advocate for programmatic interventions for psychosocial support to victims of gender violence and promote the utilisation of fuel efficient stoves.
- Conduct a child protection situation analysis to provide insights on exploitation and violence against children.
- Develop and implement strategies to reduce / prevent children being associated with the armed forces.
- Support implementing partners to provide livelihood opportunities and empowerment to 700 adolescents in the Greater Darfur, including SLM/A-controlled areas.
- Continue training the AMIS Civilian Police and strengthen their role in the area of monitoring the protection of children and women.

## Basic Education
- Increase enrolment of conflict affected primary school aged children enrolled by approximately 50,000 to reach 365,000 students. Boost enrolment in non-GoS areas to 65,000. Promote girls enrolment through the distribution of 53,000 uniforms. Construct/ rehabilitate about 1,075 temporary classrooms.
- Ensure the rehabilitation of an additional 24 existing permanent classrooms. In addition, ensure the construction and rehabilitation of 17 additional temporary classrooms.
- Train an additional 529 trainers and 1,944 teachers, both salaried and volunteer. To boost recruitment and retention of volunteer teachers, while increasing the quality of education, UNICEF, MoE and I/NGOs will continue to implement an in-service teacher training scheme, on child-centred teaching methodology, peace education, child rights, psycho-social support for children, HIV/AIDS prevention and mine-risk awareness.

Photography by UNICEF WATSAN
PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

The overall impact of emergency health interventions in Darfur can be inferred from the result of the WHO mortality survey in June and WFP/UNICEF/FAO Nutrition/Mortality survey in September. Both surveys indicate a 50% reduction of Crude Mortality Rate in Darfur from the 2004 level. It is now below the emergency threshold at an average of 0.8/10,000/day.

**Disease in children 6-59, IDP camps and host communities, Darfur**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Caseload % total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhoea</td>
<td>43.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloody Diarrhoea of those with diarrhoea</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cough with difficulty breathing (ARI)</td>
<td>45.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>56.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: WFP/UNICEF/FAO Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment, Darfur, September, 2005)

Limited safety and security is increasingly a major obstacle to programme implementation. Despite improvements in mortality rates, there is growing evidence of the gap between accessible and inaccessible areas. About 20% of the targeted population are inaccessible because of the security situation in and around their localities, particularly in SLA areas. Reaching these populations in a deteriorating security situation is a key challenge.

**Supporting Primary Health Care**

By the end of October, UNICEF supported about 2 million conflict-affected population (IDP and host communities and 200,000 in SLA areas) with Primary Health Care services, which is about 76% of the accessible population. In the reporting period, four new PHCs were established in non-GoS areas in North Darfur, most recently one in Mellit locality.

**Meningitis in Darfur**

In the reporting period, as with 2005 as a whole, there has been no major outbreak of meningitis, other than small foci in some localities that have been tackled and responded to effectively.

**Immunisation**

The defining achievement of health programmes in 2005 is the interruption of wild Polio virus transmission in Darfur after a major outbreak in 2004. There have been no new polio cases in the reporting period; however the virus is still circulating in other states in Sudan and in Chad. The zero polio cases in Darfur has been achieved through 6 rounds of PNID up until the end of August. There are another two rounds planned for November and December, when a further 1.3 million children under the age of five will be vaccinated in the three Darfur states.

The key challenge here will be accessing children in SLA areas where NGO partners and GoS services are not operational.

UNICEF organised planning meetings with SMoH and NGO partners in the three Darfur States in preparation for the November Polio NIDs. The PNID Plan of Action (November round) has been finalised and agreed upon and includes activities in SLA areas. Cold chain items have been sent to the three Darfur states in five shipments to support preparations for the campaigns.

**Measles Control**

According to the recent Darfur-wide Nutrition Survey (see below), only 69% of under-5 children are immunised against measles. However, there has been no major measles outbreak in 2005. With support from OFDA,
UNICEF, WHO and SMoH conducted a state wide measles campaign in South Darfur and eight catch-up campaigns in different camps and localities in Darfur. At the end of November, WHO will support the operational costs of state wide campaigns in North and West Darfur, with UNICEF providing the vaccine, syringes and cold chain items.

**Malaria Control**

Continuing to support the malaria programme, 28% of households in Darfur were provided with bed nets (LLIN) in the reporting period. According to the Nutrition Survey, 37.5% of mothers of children under 5 are sleeping under bed nets.

**Cholera Preparedness**

There has been no major outbreak of cholera as of October 2005. UNICEF has supported a rigorous cholera preparedness plan in all of Darfur, providing ORS sachets, bags of IV fluid and antibiotics. Doubtless the effective WES programmes – particularly water chlorination and hygiene promotion – have assisted in preventing the occurrence of a cholera epidemic.

**HIV/AIDS**

In Darfur, the disruption of family and community life, particularly among IDPs, is breaking-down social norms governing sexual behaviour, increasing the risk of transmission of HIV. In order to break the silence and denial surrounding HIV/AIDS in Darfur, Voluntary Counselling and Testing units have been established, with local community awareness campaigns. No baseline or situation analysis on HIV/AIDS currently exists for Darfur.

**Relationship with Counterparts**

UNICEF, FMoH and SMoH continue to sustain effective partnerships and no major obstacle has been faced. The excellent partnership with WHO has been maintained and there are currently 28 Project Cooperation Agreements with international NGOs that are still valid. Coordination is working well.

**NUTRITION**

Preliminary results of the joint WFP/UNICEF/FAO Darfur-wide Nutrition and Food Security Assessment conducted in September have been presented to stakeholders. The final report will be released in mid-November.

The survey showed that coverage of food aid, selective feeding programs, safe drinking water and sanitation and health programs has improved in the IDP camps and surrounding host populations but that assistance to affected populations in the rural areas, particularly in non-governmental areas, remains inadequate.

**Nutritional Surveillance: Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment**

- The survey represents the ‘Population of Darfur classified as vulnerable by the UN’
- 3.24 million people were in the sample population and all areas were included
**Nutrition Survey Sample Size**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>West</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>South</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Households</td>
<td>663</td>
<td>791</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>2,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children (6-59 mo)</td>
<td>577</td>
<td>834</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>4,056</td>
<td>5,236</td>
<td>4,104</td>
<td>13,396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community interviews</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Malnutrition**

According to the results, Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) among children aged 6-59 months in Darfur has improved from 21.8% in 2004 to 11.9% (12.9% in resident populations and 10.6% in IDP populations) in October 2005. Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) has improved from 3.9% in 2004 to 1.4% in 2005, likely as a result of food aid to the IDP population.

**Food consumption groups by household type**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Greater Darfur</th>
<th>IDP in camp</th>
<th>IDP in comm.</th>
<th>Resid.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acceptable</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borderline</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very poor</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Micro-Nutrients Distribution**

According to the survey, micronutrient deficiency is still a major problem with one in four women suffering from iodine deficiency disorder (goiter) and 14% women suffering from night blindness. According to the Nutrition Survey, 39.2% of children (6-59 months old) have had Vitamin A in the past 6 months. A new Vitamin A campaign is underway to boost routine coverage.

Over the next 3 months, UNICEF aims to provide iodised oil capsules to around 750,000 children under the age of five and iron and folic acid capsules to women of child-bearing age (15-45).

**Targeted Feeding Programmes**

UNICEF, WFP and other partners are supporting 54 Therapeutic Feeding centres and 96 Supplementary Feeding Centres, assisting approximately 25,000 malnourished children every month.

**The Final Report**

The final survey report will inform UNICEF and partners in the planning and prioritisation of key emergency nutrition interventions and improving infant and young child feeding practices in the Darfur region for 2006.

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**WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION**

**Sector Coordination**

The UNICEF led camp assessment pilot survey in nine IDP camps in Darfur was completed and data analysed. Preliminary results of data analyses indicate good trends in WES services coverage within IDP's camps. In terms of quality and quantity services are exceeding the Sphere standards in many instances. The WES Coordination Unit is presently refining the questionnaire for a larger exercise, planned for December 2005.

**Water Supply**

In the reporting period an estimated additional 200,000 people were provided access to safe water.
water supply for the first time bringing the total to close to 2 million people with access to potable water in all of Darfur by the end of September/October.

In terms of accessibility to water, 95.7% families in Darfur have access to safe water sources. An average of 63.5% of families – with West Darfur low at 43% – use either chlorine or soap to regularly clean their water containers. In terms of water quantity, the estimated daily per capita share in ND and WD were 15.2 litres and 17.9 litres respectively compared to a Sphere standard of 15 litres.3

Specifically, over the reporting period WES (with UNICEF support) and NGOs rehabilitated or maintained 58 hand pumps and 272 pit latrines, constructed 774 bathing facilities, trained 21 water yard clerks and pump operators and delivered 5,476,000 litres of water. In addition, Oxfam and private companies have between them drilled 22 boreholes across North Darfur. Detailed drilling reports are yet to be received from the teams in the field.

Sanitation in IDP camps and host communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>IDP</th>
<th>Residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use of latrine (open or improved)</td>
<td>67.4%</td>
<td>48.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soap present in household</td>
<td>51.3%</td>
<td>52.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment, Darfur, September, 2005)

Hygiene Promotion

Hygiene promotion continued to build upon previous action and training. In South and North Darfur, 116,197 household visits were conducted for hygiene promotion. Hygiene campaigns and sessions were conducted by WES in IDPs camps in South and North Darfur. Vector control through spraying was conducted by WES in Ottash, Dereige, El Salam, Kabum, Kass and Eddaein areas. A total of 110 camp cleanings were conducted in the same areas. Fencing of water points has also commenced in three IDP camps and host communities to improve environmental hygiene.

UNICEF and its partners are planning to hold a workshop on hygiene promotion in order to ascertain the diverse hygiene promotion methods and strategies being used by partners, with a view to harmonising these methods and strategies in Sudan. The workshop will be held in December 2005.

Sanitation

Currently, there are 20 people per latrine in IDP camps, on average. UNICEF supported

3 UNMIS October SRSG Report, p.2
Information Systems Database

Information and data for North Darfur WES achievements has been verified for 2004 and January-October 2005 and entered into the database (established in September). In North Darfur, a total of 2,017 boreholes were drilled for hand pumps and have been entered into the WES information system, as has the GPS location of all new hand pumps.

Challenges

Overall programme implementation in West Darfur has been poor for all partners, mainly due to increased insecurity and restricted movement in West Darfur.

A security incident in Kalma IDP camp, South Darfur resulted in WES withdrawing most of their manpower from the camp. Currently only IDPs employed by WES are carrying out water-related activities including water supply in sector 6 and part of 8. This development has adversely affected implementation especially in sectors under WES. Activities such as desludging of the filled latrines and hygiene promotion have been suspended while UNICEF and GoS WES seek a permanent solution to the problem.

In an important development, an official directive on the Prohibition of Depriving Children from Schooling was issued by the Federal Ministry of Education in response to advocacy efforts targeted at preventing school principals and teachers from turning children away due to an inability to pay school fees.

WES Sector Implementing Partners
Oxfam, GOAL, IRC, CARE, Triangle, Samaritan’s Purse, Tear Fund, Islamic Relief World Wide, World Relief, ARC International, IAS, Spanish Red Cross, Mercy Corps, Solidarité, ACF, CHF, MSF Switzerland, MSF France

Basic Education

Enrolment

Primary school enrolment saw a dramatic increase over the period. The primary school enrolment figure as of the end of October was 354,886 (155,200 girls), an increase of 42,262 (15,730 of them girls) from the September enrolment figures of 312,624 (139,470 girls). Increased availability of teachers, new classrooms and the new 2005-2006 school year in October can account for the increase.

A successful enrolment campaign also took place in Kalma Camp in South Darfur, when 5,537 new students, 2,133 of whom are girls, registered for grade one in two newly constructed schools. The campaign was a success not only for the additional enrolment but also for the cooperation between the Ministry of Education and IDP community. Enrolment campaigns planned for other locations were not able to take place for security reasons.

We want peace and education!” – A chant adopted by school children during the enrolment registration campaign at Kalma Camp, South Darfur.

“School girls in a South Darfur IDP camp

Classrooms

The construction and rehabilitation of temporary classrooms continued, using steel poles and locally available straw. Throughout the three Darfur states 288 classrooms were constructed or rehabilitated in IDP camps (North Darfur 211; South Darfur 45; West Darfur 32) and construction and rehabilitation is ongoing for 96 classrooms.

Outside the camps, the education sector continues to expand its programme. In rural areas and host community schools, 324 classrooms have been constructed (North Darfur 280; South Darfur 28; West Darfur 16) and work is ongoing for an additional 199 classrooms. An assessment mission to remote rural schools in North Darfur noted that many schools do not have proper classrooms causing some schools to remain
closed. UNICEF responded to these urgent needs by signing small scale funding agreements with three local school communities for the construction of 36 temporary classrooms.

### Teacher Training

During the reporting period, 1,308 volunteer teachers in IDP camps and host community schools from North and South Darfur, participated in the in-service volunteer teacher training scheme, implemented by the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with NGOs and UNICEF. Participant numbers have grown by 196 teachers due to the start of the new school year, the renovation of classrooms and additional students. The teacher training scheme links a small stipend to participation in the training. It also increases the knowledge and skills of the volunteer teachers on child-centred teaching and learning approaches.

In West Darfur, which is not currently participating in the above scheme, 67 master trainers participated in a 10-day training to increase their knowledge and skills on child-centred teaching and learning approaches. These trainers will begin training 300 volunteer teachers in rural and host community schools in late November.

### School Supplies

Supplying children with textbooks, uniforms and something to sit on helps encourage them to attend and remain in school. During the reporting period, 8,190 textbooks, 315 school and recreation kits (notebooks, pens, chalks, volley balls, nets) were distributed through our NGO partners for 40,320 children in IDP camps throughout Darfur. Uniforms were provided for 3,480 girls. In IDP camp classrooms, 74,148 children are now benefiting from 24,716 new sitting mats, 132 blackboards and 30 desks and chairs for their teachers.

In rural and host community schools, 7,070 textbooks, 200 school and recreation kits were provided for approximately 31,210 children and uniforms were provided for 7,944 girls. 18,480 children in rural and host community classrooms were provided with 6,160 sitting mats and 18 blackboards.

### Food for Education

Joint UNICEF, WFP and Ministry of Education assessments were carried out in rural schools which had implemented WFP School Feeding programmes in North and West Darfur prior to the conflict. The purpose of the assessment was to identify pilot schools for Food for Education programmes. Twenty-six rural schools in North Darfur and 28 in rural West Darfur have been selected. UNICEF will provide water supplies, improve latrines and support training on fuel-efficient stoves.

### CHILD PROTECTION

#### Child Rights based Programming

In order to strengthen the protective environment for children, UNICEF has continued its efforts to train the AU Civilian Police in Darfur. Across the states, 200 AU Civilian Police were instructed on child rights, child protection and the six core principles regarding sexual exploitation and abuse of women and children and sexual and gender based violence. The orientation was conducted by a UNICEF consultant and AU master trainers who were trained earlier through the Training of Trainers Workshop.

Efforts to promote child rights based programming in the wider humanitarian response continued, with 99 humanitarian workers participating in orientation sessions on Integrating Child Rights and Child Protection in Humanitarian Response and the Code of Conduct for Humanitarian Workers in South Darfur. In addition, 72 WES personnel from a number of IDP camps were also trained. A simple reporting mechanism will be developed where WES staff-workers can report any violation of rights observed during their work. Participants also recommended ways in which children could be involved in planning and evaluation.

### Major Implementing Partners in Education

| ARC International | Al Masar | CDA | NRC | Samaritan's Purse | Muslim Hands | GAA |
UNICEF facilitated three orientation sessions on the Code of Conduct for 34 UNICEF, UN and NGO staff in the three Darfur states.

**Strengthening Psychosocial Well-being**

UNICEF and partners continued activities for providing psychosocial support for children outside the school context. Deteriorating security continues to hamper the work of child protection organisations in West Darfur. To minimise the impact of this on children, UNICEF continues to sponsor Child Friendly Spaces with 347 currently running throughout Darfur, supporting almost 160,000 children.

UNICEF and the State Ministry of Education in North Darfur supported training of 100 master trainers on psychosocial support for children, as have 8 InterSos animators in West Darfur and 180 animators from the TearFund project in South Darfur. The training covered principles of psychosocial support, child and youth participation, community involvement, and expressive and creative techniques.

UNICEF has entered into partnership with Save the Children Spain to provide psychosocial support to 5,000 children through 7 CFSs in West Darfur.

Non-formal education and recreation activities for pre-school children and youth – including arts, recreation and developmental learning activities – will be available for 8,000 young children through a short-scale funding agreement with IRC in South and West Darfur. Through 30 CFSs, these children will have access to sports, literacy and numeracy programmes and youth leadership activities.

**Prevention and Response to Sexual and Gender Based Violence**

During this period, UNICEF has continued disseminating findings and recommendations of the Effects of Conflict on the Health and Wellbeing of Girls and Women in Darfur Situation Analysis to numerous working groups and community workers in Darfur.

Following-up from the May workshops on Providing Emotional Support for Survivors of Sexual Violence, refresher workshops were conducted for 34 participants from partner organisations in Geneina and Zalingei.

The livelihood and psychosocial well-being of women and adolescent girls will be improved through a project that trains them to use fuel efficient stoves, in order to minimise the risk of rape. 5,400 women and adolescent girls in West Darfur will participate, also benefiting from skills and literacy training and psychosocial support. UNICEF is collaborating with Mercy Corps on this project.

**Children Associated with Fighting Forces**

Almost 50 decision makers (including SLA commanders, politicians and tribal leaders) have participated and discussed the impact of involvement of children in armed conflict during a two day sensitisation workshop in the SLA area of Jabel Marra in South Darfur on the CRC Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.

Among other initiatives to divert young people away from army recruitment, the Youth Committee (UNICEF and SPCR sponsored project) in Kalma Camp is engaging adolescent boys and girls in community improvement projects in order to mobilise adolescents in a large scale effort to plant fruit and shade trees in areas within and around IDP camps. Schools will also join the project, with seeds, tools and saplings to be provided by FAO and the Forest Department. UNICEF is assisting the Youth Committee with management and financial support. For fun, the committee also organised a successful football tournament involving the eight sectors.
**Mine and UXO Risk Education**

In collaboration with the State Ministry of Education in South Darfur, UNICEF supported the training of 100 teachers on mines/UXOs risk education. The teachers were trained by the master trainers who had already participated in the TOT training.

**Advocacy Efforts on Child Protection**

The State Ministry of Social and Cultural Welfare of South Darfur has supported a workshop to present the findings of the study conducted by the National Centre for Child Welfare and UNICEF on the National Sudanese legislation and their compatibility with the CRC and its two Optional Protocols. A total of 42 high ranking government officials from various sectors participated and discussed the gaps and discrepancies and debated ways to redress them.

UNICEF has recommended the inclusion of provisions for children in the new state constitution. The Legislative Council has affirmed that “The State shall protect the Rights of the Child as it is stated in the regional and international instruments and treaties that have been ratified by Sudan”.

This assertion has been submitted for the Wali of South Darfur to be forwarded to the Federal Ministry of Justice for final adoption.

**NON-FOOD ITEMS**

No additional funds were received for procurement of NFIs, leaving the total funding procurement of NFIs at a little over US$11 million. UNICEF and its partners are making considerable advances in the provision and distribution of shelter and NFIs to IDPs in Darfur.

In 2005, UNICEF procured 156,792 mosquito nets. There is a balance in stock (for Darfur) of 5,792 that are yet to be distributed, with a further 26,500 pieces expected in December.

For shelter and protection 223,808 tarpaulins were delivered. Around 25,000 pieces arrived in September at Port Sudan and the balance in stock with CARE in Darfur is currently 80,368 pieces. Crucially for the onset of colder months, 498,800 blankets have been distributed in Darfur by CARE, completing UNICEF’s 2005 procurement process for blankets. Out of 723,000 sleeping mats procured, 495,000 have been delivered. However, there is a good stock in the Darfur that will last until January.

For water and sanitation, 428,825 jerry cans were ordered and the procurement process has been completed. Around 809,000 packs of 45 piece soap have been ordered and 446,500 will be delivered during the coming months until February next year.

To contribute to women’s health, hygiene and dignity, 284,324 women’s clothes have been procured and only 36,000 are still to be delivered. In addition, 673,423 sanitary pieces have been were ordered.

**NEXT REPORT**

Note that the next monthly report will be incorporated into the 120 Day Plan Report.

**Major Child Protection Implementing Partners**

Terres des Hommes, SPCR, CDF, SC-US, COOPI, TearFund, Mercy Corps, SC Sweden, WV, Spanish Red Cross, IRC, Solidarités, EMDH
UNICEF has requested US$ 123,513,594 for Darfur-specific activities in 2005. As of end-October, just over US$66million has been received in new contributions. Although these contributions are significant – only 45.6% of the required amount is available to implement activities.

UNICEF is thankful to the donors listed in the table below for their generous contributions.