Security Overview

Since January, frequent eruptions of fighting among rebel groups and between rebel groups, Arab Militia and the Sudan Armed Forces have made more densely populated areas unsafe in North and South Darfur. NGOs have had vehicles stolen and have been facing increasing harassment, leading to many organisations suspending or scaling-down operations or pulling-out entirely. Chronic instability plagues West Darfur. For most of this quarter, the UNICEF office has been operating with less than a third of its professional staff due to the shift from Phase IV blue to Phase IV amber; a move which has generally hampered efforts of both GoS and NGO partners. Chadian rebels have been crossing over into West Darfur, adding to both security and political tension.

Hot spots in Darfur

- Manawashi: In January, an estimated 73,000 people arrived into Manawashi, displaced from nearby Mershing during a Janjaweed attack in which at least 100 people were killed and several women were raped. UNICEF participated in an inter-agency rapid assessment mission into Manawashi and undertook two follow-up missions covering all sectors.
- Jebel Marra: This area is a chronic trouble-spot due to conflict between the Sudan Armed Forces and the SLA. In addition, East Jebel Marra is the site of inter-factional fighting within the SLA.
- Golo town: About 15,000 IDPs arrived in Golo, West Darfur from Rokerro in January. Shortly afterwards, the SLA attacked and occupied the GoS army garrison, which was later recaptured by the Sudan Armed Forces. The situation prompted the evacuation of a number of NGOs. A UN helicopter crashed while evacuating 13 humanitarian workers from the Golo area, killing one Sudanese staff member from GOAL died. The pilot and 3 other passengers were injured.
- Gereida: A tribal conflict in West Darfur which started in late 2005 and has led to some 100,000 IDPs moving to Gereida. The situation has remained tense throughout the quarter with SLA regularly bringing in reinforcements.

Political Overview

Abuja Peace Talks

Peace talks continued in Abuja with mounting international pressure to resolve the conflict, particularly as fighting continues and a peace-keeping force is absent. Following speculation as to the fate of the cash-strapped African Union force currently stationed in Sudan’s troubled west, the UN has been holding discussions onto a possible takeover at some stage this year. The President of Sudan stated categorically that UN peacekeepers would not be welcome in the Darfur region, threatening to withdraw Sudan from the AU. The Government has since clarified this position and asked that a UN peacekeeping force only be considered when a resolution had been reached in Abuja. A deadline for successful peace talks has been set for the end of April.

The East

As security conditions deteriorate on the border with Eritrea and people movement is anticipated, the Government of Sudan has clamped down on foreign intervention. US aid agencies were asked to leave the Beija area. In addition, Government troops contravened an agreement with the Government of Sudan and the UN regarding travel documentation and have forced several UN workers to leave Kassala when they could not produce travel permits. Several NGOs have since been asked to cease operations and leave the area.

South Kordofan Unites

Previously operating as two distinct political zones, South Kordofan has established a Unity State Government. A cabinet has been appointed and includes ministers from both National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLM). The humanitarian community is waiting for the cabinet to provide policy guidance and operational directives to speed up programme delivery which has, up until now, been slow due to the distinct policies of the two separate former administrations.
Humanitarian Developments

Human rights abuses in Darfur.

• Recruitment of children by armed groups and militia is recurring in West Darfur as tensions continue to mount with Chad.

• There are constant reports of cases of sexual violence targeting girls and women while collecting firewood outside IDP camps.

• There are an increasing number of abandoned babies in West and South Darfur.

Political commitment to cost-sharing

• The Wali of North Darfur has pledged to cover 30% of the operation and maintenance costs of WES programmes in North Darfur as a result of World Water Day celebrations in his state. This commitment was followed by similar pledges from the Walis of West and South Darfur. The theme for this year’s World Water Day in Sudan was “Participation of all for the sustainability of water systems”.

• Similarly, the National Water Corporation has agreed in principle to finance one third of the operation and maintenance costs in Darfur. This will be finalised by the Ministry of Finance soon and support is planned from the beginning of May 2006.

Street children

Government authorities are not protecting the street children in El Fasher town, leaving them open to commercial exploitation—sexual and labour, poor working conditions and hazardous living environments. IRC has started some activities for street children, but these were hindered by lack of clearly defined partnerships with local authorities.

Withdrawal of partners in Nutrition

Despite the approach of the hungry season, a number of NGO partners – including MSF Spain and Action Contre Faim – have pulled-out or are planning to pull-out from Darfur. Some feeding programmes have been discontinued. Security plays a major role in withdrawals, but the primary factor is severely limited funds for the sector. Out of the 19 therapeutic feeding programmes that operated in South Darfur last year, 4 are now closed. UNICEF is instrumental in guiding and facilitating discussions on exit strategies with partners NGOs.

Blue Nile Developments

Normalising the political set-up and civil service structure is moving slowly in Blue Nile. UNICEF has been attempting to bring service providers together to create a supportive environment for the delivery of the UNICEF-supported programmes. For the first time since the signature of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, UNICEF has facilitated the movement of the SMoH and WES Project to Southern Blue Nile County, advocating for SMoH to increasingly shoulder responsibility for health in this area, in partnership with GOAL and Samaritans’ Purse who are operating in the area. Also, with UNHCR and GOAL, WES Project’s immediate intervention will be to drill 28 boreholes for 33,000 people.

Funding Crisis

UNICEF and other organisations have been shielding conflict-affected communities from the potentially devastating effects of the continuing conflict in Darfur and assisting people in the rest of North to return to some semblance of normality—but funds are limited and running out quickly. Compared to 2005, fewer resources are currently available for all agencies. Bereft of this support, the displaced population in Darfur will be exposed to the full brunt of a sharply deteriorating security environment. Without significant and timely investment, the humanitarian crisis that was controlled in 2004-5 will certainly return and erode the progress made. In addition, returnees who are facing villages with little infrastructure will not be supported will sufficient basic services. At the end of March, UNICEF North Sudan had received US$24,859,627 against a target of US$148,493,182—just 16.74% funded for the year. UNICEF is currently streamlining operations, including reducing staff, and appealing to the donor community to continue to provide funds. The peace environment in Sudan is very fragile.
Child Protection

Child protection in brief

- UNICEF led a UN monitoring team on a return operation of abductees in South Darfur to Bahr El Gazal in Southern Sudan. Three separated children were identified and their families traced. The reunification process is underway.
- UNICEF supported 137 AU Civilian Police with training on child rights and the role of CivPol Officers in reporting child rights violations in North Darfur.
- A total of 400 adolescents have been trained on livelihood opportunities in South Darfur as a strategy to prevent child recruitment.
- UNICEF is working closely with youth committees and the Children Development Foundation (CDF). Around 4,620 adolescents participate in sports, recreational and other activities through 150 youth committees and clubs in North and South Darfur.
- UNICEF in North Darfur has been providing access to psychosocial support for 42,000 children through 220 Child Friendly Spaces.

Policy advocacy

UNICEF and UNMIS were engaged in providing inputs and human rights language to the Enhanced Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement and the Security Arrangement including the Demobilisation Disarmament and Reintegration (DDR) for Darfur in Abuja, Nigeria, in order to ensure maximised protection for boys and girls who have been associated with armed forces and groups.

Situation Analysis

There is a need to develop a clear strategy for protection capacity building with state-level institutions. That was a key finding of the situation analysis on child vulnerability and child protection in Darfur, concluded this quarter by UNICEF consultants from Columbia University. Detailed recommendations have been made for key actors to support protection for children in Darfur.

Preventing sexual violence

Fuel-efficient stove training continues in Darfur, to minimise the exposure of girls and women to sexual violence while they are collecting firewood. UNICEF, in partnership with Relief International in North Darfur, has established 17 Fuel Efficient Stoves (FES) training centres in Kabkabiya and Saraf Omra, training 84 women as trainers in FES manufacturing. These trainers have since trained 10,237 women and girls in making and using FES. In West Darfur, UNICEF and Mercy Corps have implemented the programme providing training for 1,411 trainers, who have trained a further 10,582 girls and women, addressing the need for a sustainable response to rape outside of camps.

Children associated with armed groups

SLA leaders have revealed that some children are being held within their ranks. During discussions with UNICEF, the leaders agreed to release these children, with a focal point from SLA military to be nominated to liaise with UNICEF for the process of release.
Health

General
Renewed fighting in Darfur has resulted in a significant decrease in humanitarian access in the region. At this stage, UNICEF is still supporting 208 Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities serving an estimated 2.2 million people. During this quarter, UNICEF established 6 new PHCs in SLA-controlled areas, and signed 8 Project Cooperation Agreements with NGOs to sustain and expand health services in secure SLA areas.

Immunisation
- In collaboration with Comité d’Aide Médicale and Médecins Sans Frontières, UNICEF has supported vaccination of more than 700 children between 9 months to 15 Years, among the new arrivals in Gellu, West Darfur, for routine and measles mopping-up.
- Two rounds of Polio National Immunisation Days (NIDs) were carried-out throughout Darfur, except in the SLA area of Jebel Marra in South Darfur—inaccessible due to security. In North Darfur, two Malteser vehicles were stolen during the campaign, affecting coverage.

Supplies
Throughout Darfur this quarter, UNICEF has released some 84 PHC Kits and loose medical items, 54 complete Solar Fridge sets, 15 cold boxes and 20 motor-cycles to the State Ministry of Health (for measles surveillance and HIV/AIDS activities). Some PHC kits and essential drugs are covering IDPs in Manawashi, Mershing, Gereida and Jebel Marra – hot-spots in South Darfur that have seen IDP influxes in excess of 120,000 over the quarter.

Capacity building
- In North Darfur, UNICEF has supported training of 70 health volunteers from GoS and SLA areas and refresher training to 120 EPI technicians. Nineteen cold chain managers have been trained in the effective management and maintenance of the cold chain system. In addition, 844 volunteers and health workers were trained for the Polio NIDs.
- Continuing UNICEF support to the midwifery school in South Darfur, 50 midwives graduated from refresher training.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of U5 immunised against Polio</th>
<th>98.13%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of children U5 immunised against Polio</td>
<td>1,315,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># children 9m-15y immunised against measles (mop up campaign)</td>
<td>125,109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of women receiving two doses of TT since September</td>
<td>25,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of children U-1 who received DPT3/routine EPI</td>
<td>48,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of PHCs with functioning Cold Chains</td>
<td>76.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of PHCs providing safe motherhood service</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># HWS/midwives trained on safe motherhood services and GBV prevention and care</td>
<td>449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Total PHCs supported this quarter</td>
<td>255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of mobile health teams</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of persons with access to PHCs</td>
<td>69.89%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nutrition

Treatment of Acute Malnutrition

- In the Therapeutic Feeding Centres in the first quarter, there were 402 admissions in North Darfur, 468 in South Darfur and 385 in West Darfur. For Supplementary Feeding Centres, there were 1,882 admissions in North Darfur, 5267 admissions in South Darfur and 2112 in West Darfur.

Nutrition Surveillance

- UNICEF is leading partners to monitor programme impact and identify areas of vulnerability with the Darfur Nutrition Update bulletins, two of which were produced in this quarter. They consolidate all available field data, analysing the current and evolving situation.

- In addition, UNICEF has supported 4 localised nutrition surveys in Darfur, with an additional 5 conducted by sector partners. The nutrition surveillance sentinel site systems continued to expand in the first quarter with West Darfur commencing data collection in 8 sites. South Darfur expanded to one previously inaccessible area and North Darfur has expanded to include a further 4 sites.

Micronutrient Supplementation

While far-reaching action is still required to address the endemic problems of iodine deficiency in Darfur, UNICEF continued to tackle the problem this quarter, providing 337,151 children under 5 years and 245,758 women of child bearing age with iodised oil in Darfur; training 873 health workers from Relief International, Partner Aid International and MSF Spain on diagnosing goitre and implementing prevention measures; and training 34 Ministry of Health staff in monitoring iodine levels of salt. A further 40 Ministry of Health staff were trained on the micronutrient supplementation protocol. Rounding out micronutrient supplementation, 1,175,801 children aged 6-59 months received Vitamin A supplementation in the polio campaign conducted in February across Darfur – 92% coverage.

Coordination

UNICEF brought together all sector partners for a workshop to develop a livelihood map for Darfur, listing the key areas for information collection in Nutrition, Food Security/Livelihoods and Health. Flowing from this, UNICEF is leading discussions with WFP and other actors on addressing concerns of high defaulting rates in Supplementary Feeding Programmes.
Water and Environmental Sanitation

Cost sharing of WES programme
In principle the Minister of Planning and Urban Utilities in West Darfur has agreed to cost share WES activities, covering 30% of operation and maintenance costs. An additional 30% will be covered by the Federal state government at Khartoum level.

Interventions
In Darfur over the quarter, 281,000 people have been provided with improved water supply with UNICEF assistance: 83,000 people have been provided with safe water through 44 new bore wells with hand pumps, 4 hand-dug wells with hand pumps, 3 water yards and 14 hand-dug wells with motorised systems. The remaining 198,000 people have benefited from rehabilitation of 70 existing water facilities.

Assistance in hot spots
- In East Jebel Marra people had largely been relying on unsafe water from the Wadi. Despite insecurity in the area, UNICEF has drilled 14 boreholes and equipped them with hand pumps. Now more than 7,000 people have access to safe drinking water.
- The IDP influx in Gereida has strained water and sanitation facilities. UNICEF is assisting OXFAM to improve daily water production. Already UNICEF has provided 500 communal latrines and will provide a further 500.
- To facilitate the return of Dinkas to north Bahr El Ghazal, UNICEF is providing WES facilities in way stations with 4 bladders, 1 generator, 105 latrine platforms and sheetings. In addition, UNICEF and WES Project have rehabilitated 3 water yards at 3 way stations and replaced a generator set at El Kubo.

Community participation
To mitigate the impact of funding limitations, discussions are being held regularly with community leaders about assuming responsibility to operate, manage and maintain simple water systems and promote hygiene practices among the community. While there has been high community interest in maintaining water points, contributing to sanitation facilities is not as high. The WES sector, under UNICEF’s leadership, has formed WES Committees in 12 IDP camps in South Darfur that mobilise community involvement in digging pit latrines and pipeline trenches, hand pump repair and cleaning campaigns. For example, IDPs provided labour to rehabilitate 240 latrines in Abu Shouk camp in collaboration with OXFAM and UNICEF for 5,800 persons in North Darfur.

A nomad family collect water from a hand pump near Abu Shouk IDP camp. © UNICEF/S-Noorani

| # of persons with access to safe water supply | 1,493,544 |
| # of people access to sanitation facilities | 726,029 |
| # of hand pumps maintained | 350 |
| # of motorized pump maintained | 71 |
| # of latrines maintained | 1,755 |
| # of HP rehabilitated | 24 |
| # of hand dug wells/MP and bore wells/MP rehabilitated | 27 |
| # of hand pumps constructed | 69 |
| # of beneficiaries from rehabilitation | 145,000 |
| # of latrines (communal) constructed | 4,613 |
| # of primary schools with latrines | 30 |
| # of household latrines constructed | 1,755 |
| # of persons benefiting from new latrines | 40,538 |
| # of beneficiaries from vector control activities | 114,300 |
| # persons trained on hygiene promotion | 3,114 |
In-brief achievements

• UNICEF is supporting grade 8 IDP students by paying exam fees for 1,872 students in West Darfur and 1,000 children in North Darfur. Discussions are ongoing to enable refugee students currently in Chad to sit for the same exam.

• UNICEF has been signing small scale agreements with the Parents-Teachers’ Associations (PTAs) to provide labour and supervision for the construction of temporary classrooms with funding support from UNICEF.

• Distributed 20,000 girls’ uniforms in North and South Darfur, which parents and teachers think has contributed to girls’ confidence.

• UNICEF has approached NGO partners working on capacity building with women’s groups, to collaborate in the tailoring of 19,300 school uniforms to enable communities to contribute to their children’s education.

Volunteer Teacher Recognition

UNICEF has been paying teacher incentives for volunteer teachers through in-service training for the 2005/2006 school year, an activity which will stop in June 2006 due to limited funds for education interventions. In light of UNICEF phasing-out these payments, the Minister for Education has instructed the Director General that all volunteer teachers who have participated in UNICEF’s in-service teacher scheme should be recruited as Ministry of Education teachers with immediate effect to ensure there are adequate teachers in rural schools.

Basic Education

In Gulumbain Village, a scenic three-hour donkey ride from Jebel Marra in South Darfur, lives Najwa, a 23-year old grade five teacher. Having taught the children of her community for three years, the young teacher expressed her desire to teach the students as she sees it as her responsibility to help build her underserved community. She’s proud to teach and even more proud to announce that she’s completed her secondary education. If the conflict had not broken out, she would have continued her own education to become a fully qualified teacher.

She escaped to Jebel Marra four years ago and before beginning to teach, her goal was to change the community for the better as they have long been impoverished and, she believed, held there by lack of education. Armed with an infectious smile, Najwa shared some of her concerns about teaching in Jebel Marra. There is a lack of textbooks and other education supplies as people movement in Jebel Marra is curbed due to possible attacks by GoS and or Janjaweed militia. Up until when UNICEF began supporting these schools with education materials, teachers were using old tattered textbooks which the Ministry of Education had provided to the schools in limited numbers four years ago.

In order to support the growth and development of not only the children’s minds, UNICEF collaborates with communities such as Gulumbain to establish and nurture an environment – through Child Friendly Spaces – in which children can express themselves through creative play. Many school teachers support the spaces too. During the planting season, Najwa opens this centre two times a week only. However, when the academic year begins again in the fall, she looks forward to opening the centre for up to five days to provide a recreation outlet for the children. What the people there need is immediate support on the ground where it matters most and this is where UNICEF has a responsibility to step in – now.
Access to Nomadic Basic Education

Girls’ education was emphasised during UNICEF, Al Massar and government enrolment campaigns in nomadic communities in Darfur. Gross enrolment now stands at 12,065 in North Darfur and 16,636 in South Darfur. UNICEF and Al Massar rehabilitated 12 permanent classrooms in North Darfur and 30 school tents were erected in South Darfur to accommodate the students. In addition, UNICEF trained 300 nomadic teachers in child-centred teaching approaches, psychosocial needs, peace education and HIV/AIDS.

Classrooms and capacity building

- In order to better provide children with safe and protective learning facilities, 265 temporary classrooms – made with local materials – were rehabilitated/constructed in North and South Darfur for over 20,000 students.
- UNICEF conducted in-service training for 350 volunteer teachers in GoS areas and 450 in non-GoS areas which has contributed to improved teacher attendance.
- Distributed 107 school kits, 15,119 assorted textbooks benefiting over 68,000 children including provision of blackboards, sitting mats and school uniforms.

HIV/AIDS and Children

Policy highlights

HIV/AIDS Coordination Committees have been revived throughout Darfur, with UNFPA support. As a result of UNICEF advocacy efforts towards the State Ministry of Health, an HIV/AIDS unit has been established in Nyala to coordinate and supervise the overall HIV response in South Darfur.

Strategic Planning HIV/AIDS

An HIV/AIDS action plan for 2006 has been drafted for each Darfur state. This was the outcome of a regional strategic workshop on interventions and partnerships for HIV in Darfur, organised by UNICEF, UNFPA and the Sudanese National AIDS Control Programme (SNAP). The main actions identified include supporting a coordination mechanism, raising awareness among young people and training of medical staff. The plans are being finalised and will be shared with donors.

Primary Prevention

At this stage in the HIV/AIDS programme, capacity building and information sharing are key strategies. Over the quarter, UNICEF training some 28 programme managers, 53 students, 135 teachers, 20 police officers, 20 army officers, 115 religious and community leaders, 34 dramatists, 260 IDP women and 343 IDPs. Awareness sessions on care and protection services have reached 3,500 children, young people and women in North Darfur.

Voluntary Counselling and Testing

UNICEF established a Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) centre in Nyala in February 2006. At this stage, six HIV positive patients are registered and receiving treatment – five of them women. An additional 20 people have been tested and received counselling. In North Darfur, two VCT centres are being established, but are under-resourced.
Child Protection

Child Protection in brief

- The Ministry of Health is endorsing a code of conduct to be incorporated into the midwives training curriculum, advising students that Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) should not be practiced.
- Four youth centres were established in Kassala and Gedaref communities to strengthen mobilisation efforts against FGM/C and to empower women and girls.
- The Ministries of Social and Cultural Affairs in South and North Kordofan are advocating against FGM/C and, with UNICEF support, have trained 150 surveyors in five localities who have taken a sample survey.

Advocacy Highlight

UNICEF’s advocacy bore fruit in El Obeid, North Kordofan with the local government adopting a Ministerial decree to establish a mechanism for child protection programmes in the state, particularly focusing on harmful practices such as FGM/C.

Children in contact with the law

Police at the national level have agreed to collaborate with UNICEF to establish protection units within police stations for children and women in contact with the law. In addition, following a review of the state constitution and UNICEF advocacy to parliamentarians, police and other stakeholders, the state police have requested and are awaiting approval from the Federal Court to establish a juvenile court in South Kordofan.

Report to the Security Council

An initial report compiled for the Security Council Working Group on children affected by armed conflict has emphasised monitoring and reporting mechanisms for violations against children affected by armed conflict, particularly in Darfur.

Family Reunification

UNICEF continues to support reunification programmes targeted at children who are unaccompanied. Some 200 children were reunified with their families during the reporting period. UNICEF and Save the Children US are mobilising community and local partners to help the affected children re-enter community life through developing community networks. Over 1,000 children are participating in sports and creating messages of peace through traditional song and dance. Over 60 recreational kits were distributed to facilitate the work of community networks in South Kordofan and Abyei.

Mine Risk Education

In North Sudan almost 115,000 people were reached through UNICEF campaigns, mostly among IDPs and returnees. The Talodi, Kadugli and Lagawa localities of the Nuba Mountains are still heavily mined. Through UNICEF support, Save the Children US has established a community network for mine risk education in affected areas. School children have been targeted in this quarter and now 2,384 students in local schools can name three actions that they can take when they think that they are in a mined area.

Demobilising children

- The UNICEF-supported South Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) Authority has been conducting sensitisation sessions with local governments and SPLA units on reintegration, family tracing and the impact of armed conflict on children. Thus far, 195 children in SPLA ranks have been identified and are to be demobilised, from an estimated 2,000 in the region.
- There has been no consensus on de-
fining the term ‘child soldier’ in a draft policy, with the Government continuing to deny that the Sudan Armed Forces is recruiting children. They are adopting an exclusive definition: that child soldiers are only those boys and girls carrying guns, not children in other roles within armed groups. Policy discussions are continuing and the Northern DDR Commission is receiving training.

Ahmed and Khalid—Two Boys

“We’re going to our families soon. That’s what makes us happy” – a statement you hope you would never hear a child have to say. But Ahmed and Khalid are saying it now and after three years of being child soldiers in the Sudan People’s Liberation Army, they are going home.

Ahmed was in grade 4 and Khalid in grade 2 when they were abducted – or “recruited” – in Khartoum and taken to South Kordofan, a base of the SPLA during the 23 year civil war in Sudan, where they were inducted into army life.

They are just two young boys. But their far-off look betrays a sadness and an experience that most people never have to endure. Their silence indicates that it is a life they are unlikely to discuss at length any time soon. Khalid is not comfortable talking about his life at all, even the future, and quietly leaves the room.

Ahmed recounts the isolation of his three years as a soldier. It was three years of unhappiness and confusion; “you have no friends, living like that. We were moving around so much and you never know where you are.”

Sadly, and compellingly, their story is not an unusual one. “We estimate that up to 20,000 children were taken away to form part of the SPLA.” (Samuel Sesay, UNICEF) – and that’s just from one side of the war. At this stage, the National Government of Sudan is denying that it recruited children into its armed forces during the war, despite indications to the contrary.

Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) is a nationally owned programme, administered by two commissions – one in the South and one in the North. While the North DDR Commission is limited by political denials, the South Commission has moved ahead with policy development and the inception of an Interim DDR Authority. Part of this progress can be attributed to the SPLA initiating the demobilisation process with UNICEF in 2001 and participating in training with UNICEF and partners. In some key localities there is now a high level of cooperation as verification teams identify and screen children and attempt to trace their families. When it comes to family tracing, UNICEF works closely with agencies involved in child protection in and out of the capital. It was one of these agencies in Kadugli, Save the Children, who found Khalid’s and Ahmed’s families back in Khartoum.

But their imminent return, while exciting, concerns them; “We have been away for three years and will go home with no money to show for those years. That is very bad. Wasted years.” Adult worries, but they are still just boys. While all these things seem to play on their minds, it is clear that re-entering the lives of their families is the next major event.

Perhaps at this stage they do not realise that they have lost three precious years of their childhood. Perhaps they do not realise that life has continued back home since they have been away and may be hard to adapt to. Perhaps some memories will never fade. But these things are ahead of them and they will now, hopefully, have their families to rely on.
**Immunisation**

The first round of National Immunisation Days (NIDs) was conducted from 19-22 February in the 15 northern states and 5 former GoS accessible areas in the South. UNICEF provided the vaccine required and contributed to the operational costs for social mobilisation, cold chain and personnel. Out of the targeted 6,258,059 children under the age of 5 years, 6,166,074 were reached during the first round – 98.5% coverage. Some parts of West Darfur and SLA areas of South Darfur were not accessible due to insecurity. It was the first time in 4 years that teams were able to access the Hameshkoreib locality where they vaccinated 12,600 under-5 children.

**Yellow Fever Vaccination campaign**

Following the initial mitigation of a yellow fever outbreak in October last year, a yellow fever campaign was planned for the first quarter of 2006. UNICEF responded to the emergency with 2.1 million doses of yellow fever vaccine, 5,000 bottles of IV fluids, 20,500 LLITNs (Long-Lasting Insecticide Treated bednets—covering 90% of households in the most affected localities), 45 PHC kits, 30,000 sachets of ORS (Oral Rehydration Salts), syringes, 1.3 MT of Deltamethrin insecticide, 10 knapsack sprayers, 4 motorcycles, 44 bicycles for monitoring and supervision, examination gloves, 8.2 MT of different loose items of medical supplies and anti-malarial drugs. In South Kordofan, 98% (1,582,594) of the population was covered with vaccine.

**Meningitis vaccination campaign**

In response to the epidemic – 1,059 clinical cases with 148 deaths by the end of the first quarter, above the emergency threshold – UNICEF provided 500,000 A&C vaccines, covering Kassala, Gedaref, Blue Nile, Abyei, Zalingei (in West Darfur). An additional 190,000 vaccines are in the pipeline to cover newly affected areas in North Kordofan, Kassala and West Bahr el Ghazal. Over 230,000 people (2–30 years old) have been protected through mass vaccination. To continue monitoring the situation, disease surveillance at 42 sentinel sites has been strengthened and improved.

**Caring for pregnant women**

Communities are often unaware of the dangers associated with pregnancy and childbirth, which is exacerbated by poor quality of care. UNICEF has supported the training of 23 RH Coordinators in 7 focus states (Khartoum, Kassala, South Darfur, North Darfur, West Darfur, South Kordofan, Blue Nile) on the danger signs of pregnancy, childbirth and post partum. Further capacity building has included basic training of 140 village midwives in South Kordofan in 4 schools and basic training of 40 village midwives in El Obeid, Umm-Ruaba, Bara, En Nahud schools. Supplies – midwifery kits, 183 PHC kits, IV fluids, antiseptics, 4,000 ORS sachets and 2,000 LLITNs – have also increased capacity with partners. In Kassala, UNICEF has pre-positioned 150 PHC kits for the anticipated IDPs (20,000 persons) and refugees (50,000 persons) expected from confrontation between the Beja Congress and Sudan Armed Forces; and Ethiopia and Eritrea.
Nutrition Policy Development

Sudan’s first National Policy for Nutrition has been developed. An international consultant recruited by UNICEF was seconded to the Federal Ministry of Health during the first quarter to develop the policy, which includes a 5 year implementation strategy. This policy was developed in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health in North Sudan and with Ministry of Health counterparts in the South. The policy is now being reviewed by a technical taskforce, after which a work plan will be developed. This significant step encompasses not only emergency nutrition but also the overall nutrition situation of the population, the cross-sectoral nature of nutrition and the various actors involved from both the public and the private sector.

Maternal and Child Health

In North and South Kordofan, there are no feeding centres, with UNICEF instead providing supply support and capacity building to assist the local hospitals to handle malnutrition cases. In this quarter, 146 severe and 882 moderately malnourished children received case management in hospitals in North Kordofan State and 212 severely malnourished children were successfully managed in the 5 hospitals that have paediatric wards in South Kordofan.

Micronutrient deficiency

- During the NIDs in February, 330,241 children received vitamin A in South Kordofan (98.5% coverage). This figure excludes Kauda where 49,698 children were reached (71.8% coverage). In North Kordofan, 511,386 children received vitamin A during the campaign (97.4% coverage). In Kassala, Gedarif and Red Sea, vitamin A distribution reached an overall average of more than 85% of the target.

- Universal salt iodisation was the theme of the SMoH’s UNICEF-supported workshop for school children. Over 3,200 children were taught about using iodised salt at home.

Emergency preparedness

Kassala has improved emergency preparedness capacity by pre-positioning therapeutic food stuffs (F100, F75, BP5 etc), sufficient for 4,000 under-five malnourished children, lactating and pregnant women, in case an influx of 20,000 IDPs and 50,000 refugees takes place.
Technical standards

Due to the paucity of standards and design manuals in the sector – which now encompasses over 40 NGOs – UNICEF and partners are developing a technical standard and design manual for boreholes/hand-dug wells and hand-pumps, water yards, household latrines and institutional latrines. Each manual provides details of the standard, design, schedule of rates and formats for quality control. A national workshop is being planned in June to review the first draft, with the release date set for September.

Policy advocacy

The Water Policy in Sudan does not include sanitation and hygiene promotion issues. As a result of UNICEF advocacy, the National Water Corporation has established a steering committee to review the policy and integrate sanitation and hygiene promotion.

WES achievements

- With UNICEF assistance, 64,250 people have been provided with an improved water supply: 46,500 through the construction of 126 bore wells with hand pumps and 6 water yards; the remaining 17,750 through the rehabilitation of 52 existing facilities.
- In South and North Kordofan, the percentage of population with access to safe excreta disposal is estimated to be less than 20%. Improved sanitation facilities have improved sanitation for 5,300 people and 3,300 schoolchildren through the construction of one communal latrine, 741 household latrines and latrines in 14 schools.
- Hygiene promotion activities have continued with the training of 90 youth group members, 14 teachers and 95 school children—and supporting hygiene promoters to undertake household visits. In addition, 4 village health committees and 2 school hygiene clubs have been trained on hygiene promotion in the Nuba Mountains.
- Further capacity building to establish community-based management systems and sustain water facilities has involved training 160 community leaders, 20 water yard operators, 190 hand pump mechanics and 114 Village Health Committee (VHC) members.
- In Khartoum State, UNICEF supported the supply of safe water with one water tanker for 7 locations in Al Fateh camp for 3 months benefiting over 8,000 people everyday. Currently actions are being taken in cooperation with the State Water Corporation to extend the pipes in Al Fateh camp, which will bring the water supply closer to IDPs.

| # of persons with access to safe water supply | 2,442,883 |
| # of people access to sanitation facilities incl. returning displaced and host population | 1,769,637 |
| # of water sources maintained and rehabilitated | 228 |
| # of school water systems | 100 |
| # of latrines maintained | 13 |
| # of hand pumps constructed | 94 |
| # of latrines (communal) constructed | 91 |
| # of primary schools with latrines | 46 |
| # people trained on hygiene promotion | 170 |
| # of staff trained on O&M and chlorination | 70 |
| # of sustainable community management structures established | 28 |
Basic Education

_Education in brief_

- In South Kordofan 380 teachers have received various in-service training on methodology and subject teaching (Arabic, English and Mathematics).
- The SMoE, Ed Demazin and the DoE in Kurmuk County are now working closely to implement basic education activities for 3,000 children in Blue Nile State.
- UNICEF has funded 2 enrolment campaigns in Kassala State, led by SMoE and the commissioners of the targeted localities, resulting in the registration of 1,300 pupils in two days.
- Food for Education with WFP is supporting 130,000 children in South Kordofan.

_Second chance education_

The National Centre for Curriculum and Educational Research has completed the first stage of a 4-year Accelerated Curriculum for Basic Education, targeting the children and young people who missed out on their basic education during the civil war. Other beneficiaries of the programme include educationally disadvantaged groups such as the nomadic populations. UNICEF has provided technical advice in the process.

_Access to Education_

- Enrolment in schools in South Kordofan, North Kordofan and Abyei is currently 626,827. In the first quarter, UNICEF supported the Government of South Kordofan with school materials: benches, bags and classroom supplies for 76,000 students.
- Children returning with their families from Bahr el Ghazel, where they enjoyed education, were faced with the prospect of no schools upon return to Abyei. As an initial effort, UNICEF has provided three classroom tents to return villages. While the schools do not yet have trained teachers, children have the opportunity to continue the routine of school with untrained volunteer teachers.
HIV/AIDS and Children

Policy highlights
A countrywide participatory process has resulted in consensus to build a road map towards universal access to HIV/AIDS treatment by 2010. More than 80 national and state government representatives, leaders from civil society, people living with HIV/AIDS, private sector, UN agencies and donors met in Khartoum and in Juba to explore opportunities and identify obstacles for the HIV/AIDS response in Sudan. UNICEF facilitated a prevention working group which made recommendations to increase peer-education programmes and behaviour change strategies for young people to be equipped with the necessary skills and information to protect themselves.

HIV/AIDS Advocacy Workshop
A SNAP workshop was held to forge consensus on the state level programme, staff structure reforms and resource allocation. The workshop focused on the programme structure of the proposed states, the roles and responsibilities of the states’ AIDS councils and the terms of reference of the state taskforce. UNICEF emphasised the particular vulnerability of children, young people and pregnant women and secured the commitment of participants to facilitate HIV prevention and protection efforts.

Primary Prevention
UNICEF with Accord, Plan Sudan and Ockenden Venison, supported the State Council for Child Welfare to conduct 10 orientation sessions on HIV/AIDS in 41 schools in Kassala town. The sessions covered 6,346 boys, 5,217 girls, 192 male teachers, 168 female teachers and 62 senior educational leaders. In these schools, 18 HIV/AIDS clubs have been established for peer education.

| # of children have the information and skills | 4,165 |
| # of children received the services | 11,563 |
| # of OVCs benefited from psychosocial support | 40 |

Sudanese children and youth taking part in a march aimed to raise awareness on AIDS. The march was jointly sponsored by UNICEF and the Sudanese National Aids Programme (SNAP) in Medani town, Gezira state. © UNICEF/S.Noorani
Planning and Research

Child Friendly Community Initiative

- The Child Friendly Community Initiative (CFCI) completed the training of 280 community members from 15 TFL groups in North and South Kordofan, focussing on awareness about child rights and children participation. Also, 58 CFCI staff, middle and senior government counterparts and women leaders trained in participatory planning, implementation and local resource management. These efforts are resulting in increasing ownership of the initiative.

- The initiative has been introduced in Blue Nile State and baseline data has been collected on 19 communities. From this group, eleven communities – comprising 5,598 households or 32,546 people – have been identified for project interventions.

- There are 5 new CFCI communities in Kassala and 30 in Gadarif.

Peace Building

Efforts in peace building have focussed on young people and peer education, with several activities to promote peace culture in South Kordofan conducted by the State Ministry of Social and Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Education and UNICEF in partnership with Dilling University. Some 61 young people participated in a workshop on post conflict reintegration and reconstruction, later conducting seminars for 240 students in Dilling University on post conflict reintegration. Similarly, 45 young people in Kadugli conducted a seminar and sports day following their workshop. Through these initiatives, the communities – divided during the conflict – are learning ways to reintegrate returnees. Outreach activities to promote peace have also been conducted through schools, with over 3,800 people in four CFCI locations participating.

Communication and Advocacy

Video for Public Action Project

This pilot project in Blue Nile started operations 17 February with one mobile video van. Since then, 11 video show sessions have been held in remote villages, covering FGM, immunisation, HIV/AIDS, girls’ education and family planning. Each video show is followed by discussions on lessons learnt, relevance to the community and recommendations for community action. Government officials, tribal chiefs, community leaders and NGO partners attend the sessions.

Community Mobilisation

- UNICEF supported the social mobilisation campaigns for two rounds of National Immunisation Days for Polio Eradication, which resulted in over 90% coverage. A Social Mobilisation Steering Committee has been formed under the aegis of the EPI (Expanded Programme on Immunisation) Department of the Federal Ministry of Health involving UNICEF and WHO, Rotary International and media practitioners to coordinate mobilisation for NIDs.

- UNICEF has developed a communication strategy for avian flu emergency preparedness in collaboration with the Health section and the Health Promotion department of the Federal Ministry of Health.

Sudan Information Campaign for Returns

The Sudan Information Campaign for Returnees (SICR) serves to ensure that IDPs know about the hazards of returning to their area of origin and the services available to them. Without access to essential information, there is a real risk that IDPs and refugees may choose to return to areas ill-prepared to receive them. To date, twenty two fact sheets have been printed covering behaviour change, child protection and geographic issues, with over 669,000 sheets distributed. It is estimated that over 4.5 million people have been exposed to this UNICEF-led initiative. Collaboration with UN-
MIS radio has resulted in the production of 3 radio spots on the returns process.

**Community Radio Listening Groups**

The community radio listening group (CRLG) concept continues to draw interest and support from across sectors and development agencies. With the airwaves still tightly controlled by the Government, the CRLG offers the only viable opportunity for community participation in information dissemination on health, peace building and education issues. A total of 27 new radio listening groups have been established in Kassala, North and South Kordofan, Blue Nile and El Gadarif, bringing the total active listening groups to 327 with an estimated audience reach of 5 million. More than 110 radio programmes in 25 local languages have been developed during the reporting period covering child protection issues (female genital mutilation, mine risk education, reintegration of child soldiers, education focusing on enrolment and retention), polio eradication, peace building, HIV/AIDS and water and environmental sanitation. To promote greater ownership, each of the 7 state radio stations has autonomy in managing and selecting programme priorities.

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**MIRACLE IN HANGOLA: DEVELOPING GENDER EQUALITY**

The road to the village of Hangola is bumpy, dusty and twisting – a reflection of the winding path that the men of Hangola have taken to allow the women of the village to publicly participate in development activities. Even two years ago, such a notion would have been impossible.

But today a “miracle has happened”, says Haydar Osman, the Community Radio Coordinator of Radio-Kassala as he describes the remarkable transformation which has enabled the women of Hangola to participate in the Community Radio Listening Groups Project.

“It was our biggest dream, to have the women participate in discussions about issues affecting them, but it was almost impossible in this very traditional area.” The Hadandawa people total about 3,000 in this area and being one of the most conservative tribes, women are not allowed to meet foreign men. The people of Hangola used to be nomads, but in recent years they have been settling around Hangola.

“In our first visits to Hangola, all our meetings were with men led by their tribal and religious leader, Sheikh Taha. We asked the men to help the women establish their own listening group,” says Haydar, clearly excited by the process of empowerment. “Following more visits in which we explained the benefits of the ComRadio, the Sheikh Taha agreed to have two listening groups; for men and women, with the women’s group to be handled only by women from the ComRadio.”

When the radio programmes started targeting these new groups, they were used as a communication channel to reach the women of Hangola. The women became very active and held their activities – listening sessions for the ComRadio programmes – in the Women’s Centre.

“By mid-2005 we reached an agreement with the Hangola people that men from ComRadio project could talk to the women listening group but behind the ‘sareef’, the grass wall of the Women’s Centre. But now, we can talk to the women’s group without any barriers and discuss with them all issues related to their development and their children’s welfare, such as girls’ education, FGM and HIV/AIDS.

“This is a major breakthrough,” concludes Haydar. “Now, we are planning for the women of Hangola to take charge of all aspects of their radio programme, and there are no impediments to their doing so.”
### Funding

#### FUNDING BY PROGRAMME AGAINST TARGET AS AT 31 MARCH 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Target (US$)</th>
<th>Contributions (US$)</th>
<th>Unfunded</th>
<th>Percentage funded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>32,013,000</td>
<td>6,225,248</td>
<td>25,787,752</td>
<td>19.45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relief and Shelter</td>
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<td>2,189,120</td>
<td>42,242,062</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>8,850,000</td>
<td>1,140,800</td>
<td>7,709,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water and Environmental Sanitation</td>
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<td>4,895,539</td>
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<td>15.38%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basic Education</td>
<td>16,171,000</td>
<td>1,458,606</td>
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<td>9.02%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>12,995,000</td>
<td>3,360,532</td>
<td>9,634,468</td>
<td>25.86%</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>2,200,000</td>
<td>550,000</td>
<td>1,650,000</td>
<td>25.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications and Advocacy</td>
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<td>484,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning and Research</td>
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<td>745,700</td>
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<td>Cross-sectoral</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3,809,882</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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<td>24,859,627</td>
<td>123,633,555</td>
<td><strong>16.74%</strong></td>
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#### FUNDING BY DONOR AS AT 31 MARCH 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Amount (US$)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CDC</td>
<td>Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECHO</td>
<td>Health</td>
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<td>ECHO</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>1,361,006</td>
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<td>Child Protection</td>
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<td>Norway</td>
<td>WES</td>
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<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>WES</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN Women's Guild</td>
<td>WES</td>
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<td>UNDP-USA</td>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>1,011,360</td>
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<td>UN Trust Fund</td>
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<td>UK-DFID</td>
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<td>USAID/Washington</td>
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<td>Australian NatCom</td>
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<td>Italian NatCom</td>
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<td>Japan NatCom</td>
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<td>WES</td>
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<td>WES</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>24,859,627</strong></td>
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**NB.:** Funding information does not include carry-over from 2005