



Office of UN Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sudan
UN Resident and Humanitarian Co-ordinator

Darfur

Humanitarian

Profile No. 31



Photo Credit: UNOCHA-Sudan/2008

Abu Surouj – February 2008

Situation as of 01 April 2008

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION I

I. AFFECTED POPULATION – TRENDS AND ANALYSIS.....	3
II. HUMANITARIAN ACCESS.....	3
III. RESPONSE CAPACITY – AID WORKERS IN DARFUR.....	6
IV. PROVISION AND QUALITY OF ASSISTANCE.....	6

SECTION II

OVERVIEW CHARTS

- Chart 1: Estimated Number of IDPs and the Total Affect Population
- Chart 2: Trend of Affected Populations Accessible to UN Humanitarian Aid
- Chart 3: Trend of Humanitarian Staff Working in Darfur
- Chart 4: Number of People Assisted in Key Humanitarian Sectors January 2007 – October 2007
- Chart 5: Attack rates of malaria
- Chart 6: Attack rates of bloody diarrhoea
- Charts 7 to 10: Trends in SFC and TFC Admissions and Performance Indicators

SECTION III

ANNEXES WITH LOCATION-SPECIFIC MATRIXES (SEPARATE DOCUMENT)

- I. North Darfur
- II. South Darfur
- III. West Darfur

Please address any comments to the OCHA Coordination Unit - Darfur Cell, Khartoum:

Mike McDonagh, Head of Office
Office: +249 (0) 187086000 ext.9492
Mobile: +249 (0) 912 306469
Email: mcdonaghm@un.org

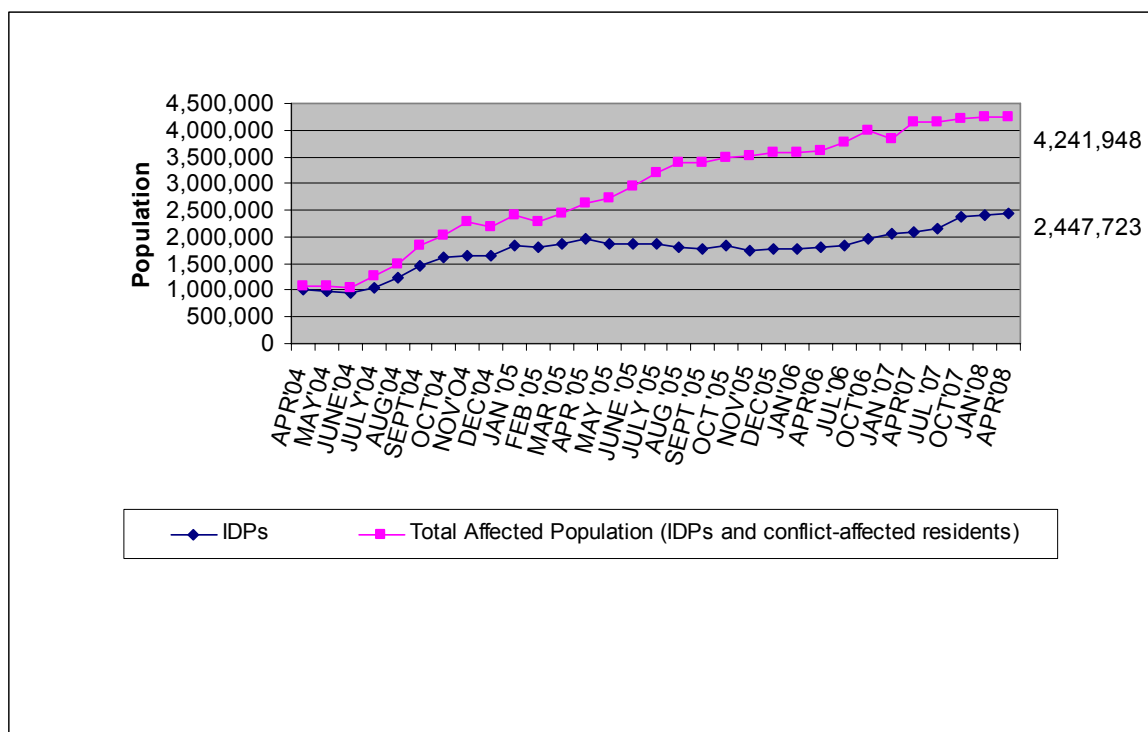
Christian Smets, Field Liaison/Reporting Officer
Office: +249 (0) 187086000 ext. 9490
Mobile: +249 (0) 912167042
Email: smets@un.org

All maps provided by the Humanitarian Information Centre for Darfur (HIC).

I. Affected Population – trends and analysis

1. The year started with a steep increase in armed clashes, mainly between Government and rebels in West Darfur and between rival tribes in South Darfur. By 1 April 2008, there were some 2.45 million Internally Displaced Persons registered in Darfur, while another 1.8 million were seriously affected by the ongoing crisis and considered in need of humanitarian aid. The first three months of the year also saw an alarming rise in violent attacks on humanitarian workers and their assets. On the positive side, the number of aid workers in Darfur has risen to almost 17,100 in order to effectively respond to the increased humanitarian needs.

**CHART 1. Estimated Number of IDPs and Total Affected Population
(UN estimates since April 2004)**



II. Humanitarian Access

2. Humanitarian access in Darfur is primarily determined by a combination of three factors:
- The degree of general insecurity, which may require the United Nations and other humanitarian partners to suspend or limit operations in certain unsafe areas for a certain amount of time;
 - The continued harassment of humanitarian organizations and workers, including blanket denial of humanitarian access, bureaucratic obstacles, detention and intimidation of national staff, bullying and temporary denial of access to affected areas and IDP camps.
 - Targeted attacks on humanitarians and their assets, including hijacking of cars and abduction of personnel, physical violence directed towards humanitarian workers, road ambushes, destruction of NGO assets and armed break-ins in humanitarian compounds/centres.

Chart 2 shows the trend of the affected populations accessible according to UN security standards since April 2004. On 1 April 2008, overall UN accessibility in Darfur slightly decreased to 71% of the conflict-affected populations, mainly due to the insecurity in West Darfur. It is important to underline that NGOs and Red Cross/Crescent Movements may assist people in UN no-go or limited access areas, but they have become similarly cautious to access areas with a high risk of targeted road banditry and armed confrontations.

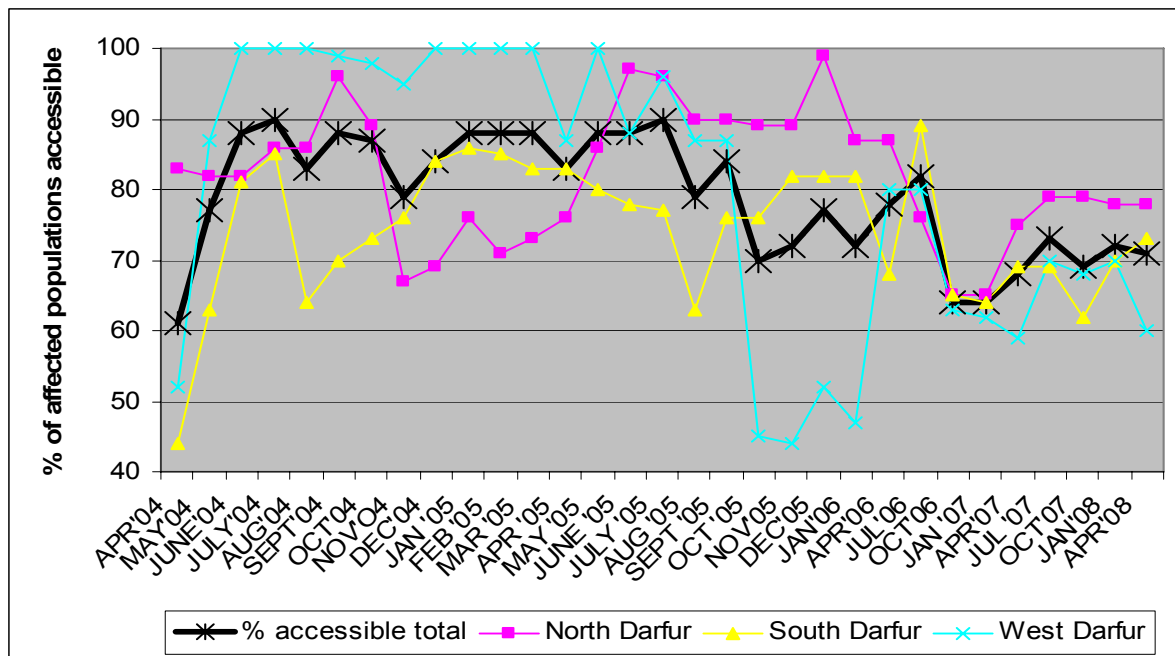


CHART 2. Percent of Affected Population Accessible to UN Humanitarian Aid since April 2004

1. The first three months of 2008 have been again characterized by widespread GoS – rebel armed confrontations in large parts of Darfur. GoS aerial bombings in the northern corridor of West Darfur, west and east Jebel Marra, and the Tabit and Malha areas of North Darfur have resulted in temporary suspensions of humanitarian activities in these areas. For the first 40 days of 2008, Government authorities denied all humanitarian access to the conflict-affected populations in the northern corridor of West Darfur, leaving tens of thousands people without humanitarian assistance and protection. The military operations by Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), militias and JEM in the northern corridor of West Darfur caused dozens of civilian fatalities and led to the displacement of an estimated 60,000 individuals. Of these, some 13,500 fled to Chad. Damage to homes, offices and infrastructure was extensive. One national aid worker and two community assistants died while other humanitarians fled to Chad. Humanitarian compounds and centres were systematically destroyed and/or looted during the SAF and militia attacks. In addition, inter-tribal fighting in South Darfur continued to cause new displacements and limit humanitarian access. During the first three months of 2008, some 94,000 people have been newly displaced in Darfur.

2. A worrying factor this year has been the extreme rise in violent incidents involving humanitarians and their assets. Humanitarian operations suffered from serious forms of intimidation and harassment by different actors, including bandits, armed movements, Government officials and IDPs. Between January and March, four humanitarian workers were killed. Armed men assaulted 35 humanitarian centres/compounds, against 15 during the same period last year.

3. The number of violent hijackings of humanitarian vehicles quadrupled during the first quarter of the year in comparison to the same period last year. So far this year, 94 humanitarian vehicles were hijacked against 23 during the first three months of 2007. These hijackings

include 61 WFP-contracted trucks, thereby seriously hampering food supplies to Darfur. During these incidents, 97 staff members were temporarily abducted, against 22 last year. Twenty-nine WFP-contracted drivers are still missing. In addition, three UNAMID vehicles have been hijacked. Various factions of the rebel movements as well as militias and Chadian rebels have been involved in the hijacking of humanitarian vehicles, to be used in combat or offered for sale.

4. The presence of Chadian rebels inside Sudan and fighting across the border has resulted in large parts of the area south of Geneina being without humanitarian access.

5. On 22 January 2008, the Government of Sudan extended the Darfur Moratorium until 31 January 2009. The Moratorium facilitates a series of fast track procedures to facilitate the humanitarian operations in Darfur. As the former Moratorium expired on 31 January 2008, HAC granted a one month grace period to allow NGOs to complete their paperwork.

6. The 2007 Joint Communiqué and the General Directory of Procedures outlining the bureaucratic requirements for NGOs operating in Sudan have continued to improve the working conditions for NGOs in the field. Two joint committees, a High Level Committee and a Joint Tripartite Joint Technical Committee involving GoS, UN and NGOs, met on a regular basis to follow up on the implementation of the Joint Communiqué and find appropriate solutions and recommendations.

7. Despite the Communiqué and Moratorium, some hitches remained in the issuance of permits and visas for NGO expatriate staff. A number of NGO staff had difficulties in getting their permits, while a few NGO expatriate staff members have been refused a stay visa/work permit for unclear reasons.

8. Local GoS authorities throughout Darfur have occasionally obstructed humanitarian missions to the field. In North Darfur, HAC systematically did not allow NGOs to travel in rented vehicles. Rented vehicles being used as a mitigating factor in view of the high incidence of hijackings, this ban put serious limitations on NGOs to operate in the field. In South Darfur, NGOs had serious delays in having their technical agreements processed, which in turn caused delays in the issuance of stay visas for expatriate staff. In West Darfur, local authorities requested NGOs to transport medical supplies in NGO trucks only.

9. In addition, there have been a number of instances over the last months where local GoS authorities have denied humanitarian agencies to undertake full nutrition assessments. In addition, there are at least seven nutrition surveys that have been conducted since August 2007 for which permission to release the results has not yet been given. With waiting periods of up to four months before receiving permission to share results even informally within nutrition coordination mechanisms, the ability to mobilize appropriate responses in a timely manner is undermined. Additionally, delays in getting permission to do surveys has in at least three cases resulted in nutrition surveys being conducted out of the usual six month cycle, reducing comparability of data with previous results. In one case, permission was given by federal HAC which was then refused by HAC at State level, resulting in a rapid assessment rather than a nutrition survey in February 2008. While there is always a time lag between data collection and preparation of preliminary results, the additional layers of approval and delayed release of results impacts the ability of the humanitarians to respond and/or mitigate the situation.

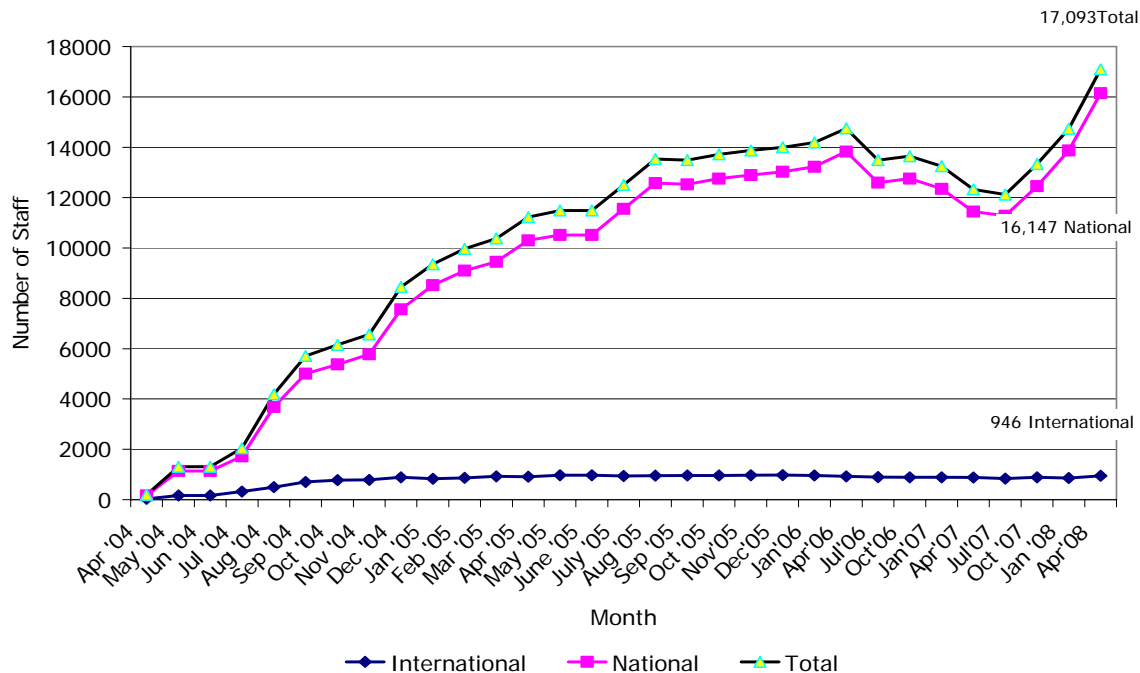
10. Armed movements have also occasionally obstructed humanitarian access. In March, three UNAMID teams were temporarily obstructed by PDF forces between Shaeria and Labado, by SLA-MM elements at Zam Zam camp and by SLA-Unity forces in Um Sidir.

11. To counter the negative trend in access limitations, over the past months the UN and NGO partners have defined a strategy to regain humanitarian space in Darfur. This strategy includes a consolidation of the joint UN/NGO working group, the monitoring of the implementation of the 2007 Joint Communiqué, the promotion of the 'Saving Lives Together' IASC guidelines for safety of humanitarian workers.

III. Response Capacity – aid workers in Darfur

12. The numbers of national and international humanitarian workers in the region have increased further to reach the highest number ever in almost five years of conflict. Darfur remains the world's largest humanitarian relief operation with nearly 17,100 national and international aid workers. Some 80 NGOs and Red Cross/Crescent Movement and 14 UN agencies continue to support the affected populations in Darfur.

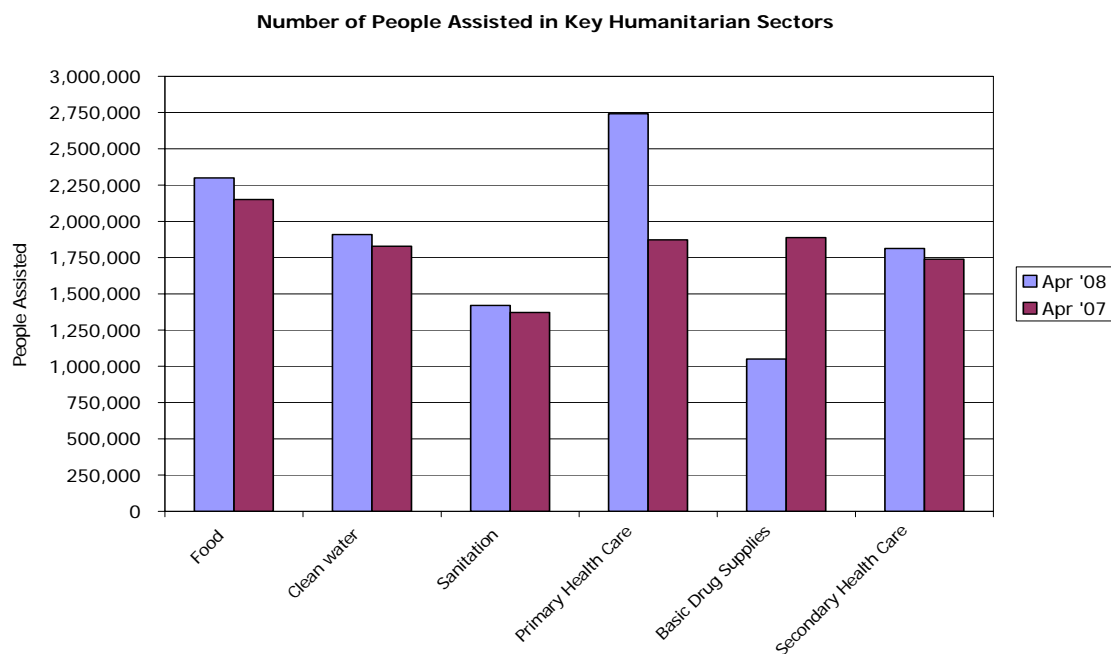
Chart 3. Trend of Humanitarian Staff Working in Darfur (April 2004 – April 2008)



13. One of the solutions to offset the serious access constraints has been the increased use of local community workers and volunteers. The number of humanitarian workers in Darfur has increased over the past year from 12,300 in April 2007 to nearly 17,100 in April 2008, largely due to this trend. Sudanese nationals constitute 95% of the total aid workers in Darfur, while the numbers of international workers remained stable at around 950. However, a number of NGOs are finding it increasingly difficult to cope with the implications of legal or other challenges by former employees, incentive workers or volunteers. The most serious challenge for many NGOs is that the concept of volunteers for non-profit organizations has not been recognized under Sudanese labour law and, as a result, NGO volunteers are treated as if they are full employees for 'profit' organizations after they have completed three months of 'employment'. This may jeopardize the NGOs' ability to implement emergency interventions and activities in outlying areas.

IV. Provision and Quality of Assistance

CHART 4. Number of People Assisted in Key Humanitarian Sectors April 2007 – April 2008



An in-depth sector update for 2008 with emphasis on the last quarter

14. Food:

During the first quarter of 2008, WFP, ICRC and partners assisted approximately 2.3 million people on average each month with some 91,000 MT of food. Food distributions occurred amidst deteriorating security conditions with increased banditry attacks against trucks delivering WFP food to Darfur. Some of these incidents were fatal and led to the killing of two drivers contracted by WFP, while 855 MT of food was looted by bandits and 41 trucks and 28 drivers remain unaccounted for. Furthermore, the continuing conflict in Darfur limited humanitarian access, particularly in North Darfur where road missions were suspended for the most part of the quarter, preventing WFP participation in planned assessment and monitoring missions.

The rapid decline in security along key transport routes into Darfur has resulted in a situation where WFP's delivery capacity has dropped by at least 55 percent, affecting WFP's ability to replenish food stocks to meet operational needs and build up contingency reserves in Darfur. As a result, WFP is being forced to implement a 50 percent ration cut in cereals, pulses and sugar starting in May 2008 for some 2.4 million people in Darfur. The Government has promised to increase the frequency of Police escorts to facilitate safe movement of convoys of trucks delivering humanitarian cargo to Darfur. This is yet to improve turn-around time for delivery trucks. This comes at the start of the hunger season, particularly noting increased food insecurity in rural areas as a result poor cereal harvests.

Rapid Food Security Assessments (RFSA) were carried out by WFP and its partners at the beginning of the quarter to determine the impact of poor cereal harvests on household food security and any associated additional food needs following state authority requests to increase food assistance. Initial findings in four locations in South Darfur (Kass, East Jebel Marra, Shaeria and Ed Daein/Adilla) confirmed poor cereal harvests but noted improved cash crop production. The assessments also revealed that residents had not cultivated due to insecurity and relied on humanitarian agencies as their main source of food. Similar assessments were conducted in five locations in West Darfur, recommending the provision of food support to some

vulnerable groups. In North Darfur, seasonal support to vulnerable households in rural El Fasher, rural Shangil Tobayi and Korma started in March, earlier than anticipated, based on the outcome of RFSAs conducted in February.

The nutrition situation in Darfur remains precarious, requiring close monitoring. With the approaching rainy season and the hunger months, WFP and its partners established a Blanket Supplementary Feeding programme (BSFP) in pocket areas of South Darfur targeting children under-five in an effort to prevent acute malnutrition among newly displaced children arriving at IDP camps. In March, 19,000 children in South Darfur benefited from this programme. Noting high malnutrition rates recorded in North Darfur during the 2007 Darfur Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment, WFP and the relevant stakeholders are preparing to launch a BSFP in North Darfur for all children under-five among the IDP population and residents in rural communities assisted by WFP. Meanwhile, supplementary feeding assistance to malnourished pregnant and lactating women and children under-five continued this quarter reaching an average of 21,600 beneficiaries each month.

Food for Education (FFE) or school feeding of vulnerable children in Darfur ensures that each child eats at least one meal a day at school, while encouraging enrolment and regular attendance. In 2007, 130,000 children were supported under this activity, and a further expansion is planned for 2008 due to the programme's success. In North Darfur, the programme will be expanded to reach 130,000 children, up from the current 94,000 children, in cooperation with the State Ministry of Education to areas in Kabkabiya rural, Serief Bin Hussein, Kutum rural, and Mellit rural. In South Darfur, partnering with Samaritan's Purse and CARE, the FFE programme is expected to reach 25,000 children this year, from the current 7,600 children. Participating schools should meet the basic selection criteria of having storage and cooking facilities, clean water source and latrines. As part of a broader move to improve the quality of the programme, training of teachers and cooks were conducted during the quarter to ensure proper food management and to diversify cooking recipes to incorporate locally available commodities in addition to that provided by WFP. Approximately 122,000 children have benefited from the programme during this quarter.

15. Agriculture:

FAO and partners continue to prepare for the summer agricultural campaign. Inputs purchased are being pre-positioned for distribution in May/June 2008. Letters of agreement with cooperating partners are being signed and implementation plans being discussed in order to ensure the success of the campaign although the level of funding is still lower than needed to cover for the planned activities. On 10 April, the Food Security and Livelihood working group in El Fasher held a one day workshop on "Challenges of crop production in emergency context and ways forward". The workshop was led by the state Ministry of Agriculture supported by FAO and attended by about 40 participants from the State Government Ministries, International and National NGOs, and UN agencies. Major constraints and challenges facing crop production in North Darfur were thoroughly discussed locality by locality. The workshop proceedings will be compiled soon and shared with all food security stakeholders.

There were no serious disease outbreaks reported among animals in the three Darfur states over the period January-March 2008. Most of the diseases reported were mainly parasitic diseases (internal and external parasites), respiratory infections, diarrhoea and external wounds. Most of these diseases are mainly attributed to the extensive animal management system and communal use of the natural resources. Based on an urgent needs assessment following the eruption of fighting in the northern corridor of Western Darfur State, FAO has supported the IDPs in Abuzar's Camp in Geneina with four livestock pens and shelter for their livestock in the overall framework of protecting important livelihood assets. The work was implemented in collaboration with CRS West Darfur. No major scarcity in pasture grounds and water was reported in the three states during the first quarter, but this is expected to deteriorate in the coming months as the dry season intensifies. There is a significant increase in fodder prices during March 2008, especially in North Darfur state. This trend is expected to continue during the dry season in April, May and early June in all the three states.

FAO has continued to provide different veterinary inputs to its partners, especially essential veterinary drugs and vaccines as well as initial and refresher Community Animal Health Workers' (CAHW) training to sustain the essential veterinary services for the conflict-affected communities. Conduction of animal health care programmes in different areas has contributed in preventing spread of diseases in areas of high animal concentration. Most of the ongoing animal health care programs are maintained through trained CAHWs which have improved local capacity built to care for their animals.

FAO will make a revision of the initial planned activities as the total quantities of inputs procured with the funds made available so far will not suffice for the entire programme. The incidents/fighting that happened between the JEM and Government forces in addition to the overall ongoing insecurity situation across the Darfur Region is likely to affect the delivery of inputs as some transporters have become reluctant to execute the contracts already signed and sometimes ask for more expensive freight costs as they have to cover additional charges along the roads.

16. Non-food items:

The Common Pipeline continues to provide over 90% of all non-food items (NFIs) and emergency shelter (ES) aid to the Darfur region. This quarter, the Common Pipeline Partners – UNJLC, CARE, and UNICEF – completed an intensive planning exercise analyzing country-wide stock requirements and pre-positioning strategies of NFIs for the rainy season, as well as funding needed for stock purchases necessary to implement these strategies. A Common Appeal was developed and launched to address identified shortfalls. The funds requested will enable the purchasing of the life-saving NFI stocks not available through other channels, prior to the onset of the rains. While the partners continue to meet with donors, there is concern that stocks will not be available and distributed in time to be effective, as the rainy season is rapidly approaching.

Through distributions in the first quarter of 2008, the Common Pipeline supported 81,972 households with 591,292 items. IDPs requiring replenishment represented approximately 60,000 of the beneficiary households and nearly 10,000 households in West Darfur and 6,000 households in South Darfur who were newly displaced during the reporting period. Additionally, the Common Pipeline provided NFI packages to IOM for distribution to organized returns moving from South Darfur to Northern Bahr el Ghazal. Items distributed over the three-month period included 198,817 blankets, 206,913 plastic sleeping mats and 79,119 jerry cans, along with mosquito nets, plastic sheeting, sanitary material, soap, and women's clothing.

Cooperating partners making beneficiary support possible during the period of January through March included African Humanitarian Action, CHF International, CRS, German Agro Action, Humedica, International Aid Hand, IOM, IRC, Labado Development Committee, Mercy Corps, MSF-Holland, MSF-Spain, Muslim Aid, NCA, OXFAM, PATVO (Peace and Tolerance), Rehaid El-Fursan Rural Development, Samaritan's Purse, Save the Children-US, Solidarités, SPRC, Sudan Red Crescent, SUDO, TDH, Triangle, UNHCR and WID.

UNJLC-Sudan continues to support the humanitarian community's logistics needs through research, analysis, coordination, and information management. In the first quarter of 2008, activities included rapid assessments, fuel price monitoring, UNHAS User Group coordination, as well as coordination of trainings and services provided in conjunction with other organizations.

In the first quarter of 2008, the Logistics Team did two rapid assessments of the transport market in Darfur. The first tracked rising transport prices, in light of the truck hijackings between November 2007 and January 2008. The second compared air and land transport options, confirming the need for ongoing helicopter service as it is the only means of currently accessing certain areas and ensuring ongoing access in an unpredictable security environment.

As part of its logistics coordination activities, UNJLC and CARE jointly announced and began coordinating a free Common Transport Service, which will run in May and June to El Fasher, Nyala and Geneina. The service will deliver humanitarian cargo free of charge to the offices of humanitarian agencies in the three Darfur state capitals. Additionally, UNJLC announced the coordination of a light vehicle convoy to the Darfur state capitals for May.

17. Water and sanitation:

The deteriorating security situation across Darfur is having an impact on the provision of safe water and sanitation. In March, unidentified armed men hijacked a UNICEF supported State Water Corporation drilling rig and support vehicles along with four drivers. While the drivers were eventually released, the drilling rig and support vehicles remain missing. Up to 180,000 people could potentially be denied access to clean water as a result.

Water supply was sustained through operations and maintenance of water schemes including chlorination at IDP locations in North, South and West Darfur, benefiting 420,000 persons with the involvement of community leaders and partners. Access to improved water supply facilities was increased for 32,500 persons and 2,800 school children at seven schools, and access was re-established for 18,000 persons in the three Darfur states.

Access to safe means of excreta disposal was provided for 6,510 persons and access re-established for 5,980 persons. Hygiene promotion messages reached 500,000 persons through house visits by health promoters and soap was provided to facilitate good hygiene practices. In addition, 32 hygiene campaigns were conducted including support for garbage collection and disposal at all major IDP camps.

The State Water Corporations, supported by UNICEF and NGO partners continued groundwater monitoring at IDP locations across Darfur, with results finalized and circulated to all sector partners. Key recommendations include expanding groundwater monitoring, improving data analysis, preparing contingency plans for all vulnerable IDP locations, and implementing mitigation measures to sustain groundwater resources.

18. Health:

In early March 2008, a further round of the Polio National Immunization Days (PNID) was conducted by the State Ministries of Health in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF. The polio eradication campaign reached 262,380 children under 1 year of age and 1,319,582 children aged 1 to 5 years across North, South and West Darfur states with total vaccination coverage rates of 105%, 107% and 110% respectively. In each of the Darfur states, immunization activities in both GoS controlled and previously inaccessible sectors of SLA areas were supported. In addition to the PNID, accelerated routine immunization campaigns in identified low coverage areas in the region were conducted. In North Darfur state, three rounds of immunization were conducted with OPV3/DPT3 with a coverage rate of 78%, Measles (65%), BCG (70%) and Hepatitis B3 (79%). Vitamin A supplementation and de-worming activities were also conducted in targeted localities of the states.

Surveillance for acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) was maintained across the region and no cases of polio or AFP were reported for the quarter. Surveillance of communicable disease in the Darfur states was responsive, with over 76% of all sentinel sites reporting each week. There was an outbreak of meningitis in February and March, resulting in 247 cases and 10 deaths in Northern Sudan, with the Darfur states representing almost a quarter of all cases notified. In Nertiti, West Darfur, the meningitis epidemic threshold was reached, which prompted an emergency intervention through vaccination of 30,000 people to contain and prevent further cases. An accelerated immunization intervention was also conducted in West Darfur to respond to 20 cases of pertussis. Containment was successful with no further cases reported in the following month.

Throughout the quarter, there were low numbers of vaccine preventable disease notifications,

notably measles in South Darfur. Furthermore, there were no notifications of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD).

Malaria incidence of in the region ranged between 5.9 and 10.1 cases per 10,000 people. To address the disease burden, malaria prevention and control activities focussed on distribution of long lasting insecticide treated nets (LLITNs) to households with children aged under 5 years and provision of Intermittent Preventive Treatment (IPT) for malaria at primary health care clinics. Over 6,000 LLITNs have been provided to Ministries of Health and NGOs. The malaria prevalence in the Darfur region remains at manageable levels compared to other Northern Sudan states.

Primary health care delivery and coverage was facilitated through the distribution of over 230 Primary Health Care kits, comprising essential drugs and equipment, to health facilities operated by implementing partners and the Ministries of Health. The kits will enable health care to be delivered to over 2.3 million people.

In the first quarter, training was conducted to over 98 health care personnel across the programme areas of Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI), malaria detection and treatment, as well as midwifery care.

The pattern of morbidity due to infectious diseases continues the same in Greater Darfur, with major proportional morbidity due to Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI), Clinical Malaria and Bloody Diarrhoea (see charts below). West Darfur reported an increased number of meningitis cases, particular in the Nertiti area (Jebel Marra), where approximately 20,000 people were vaccinated against Neisseria Meningitis Type A, with the support of UNICEF and MSF-F. Observed attack rates of malaria and bloody diarrhoea remained lower than average for the comparable period. However, preparedness for outbreaks like meningitis and diarrhoeal diseases remain high in all three Darfur states.

Chart 9: Comparison of current attack rate of Malaria with historical value, Greater Darfur.

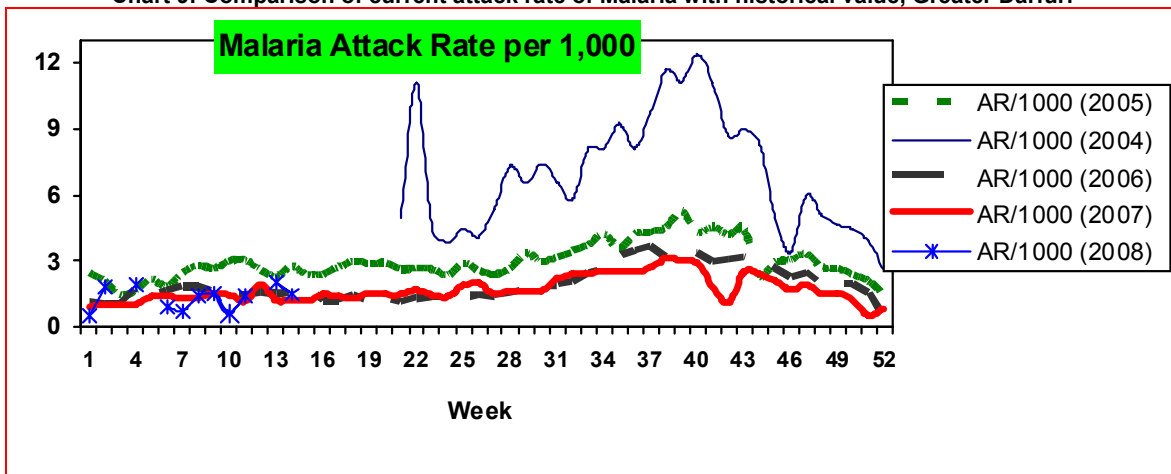
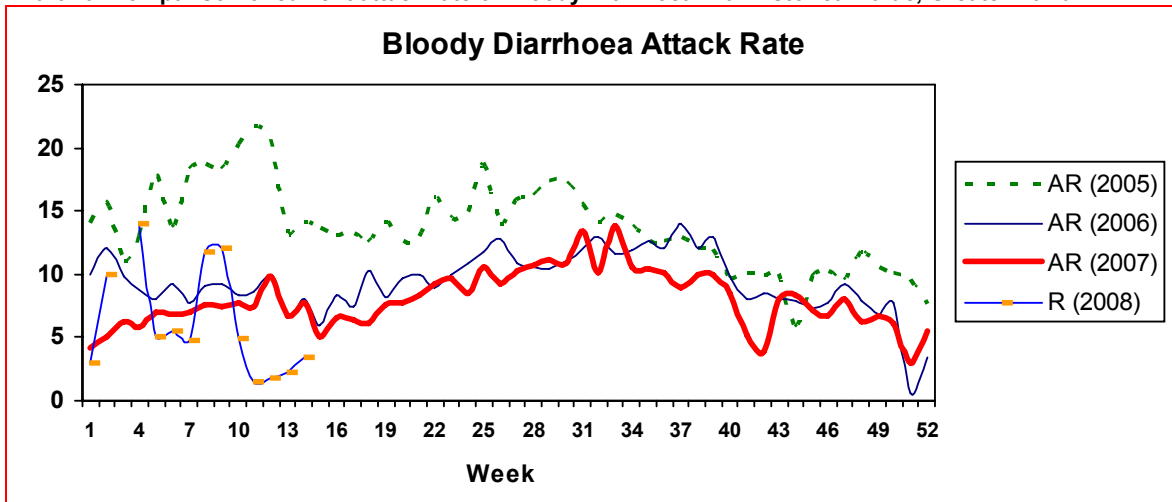


Chart 10: Comparison of current attack rate of Bloody Diarrhoea with historical value, Greater Darfur.



Two confirmed cases of Diphtheria were diagnosed by the National Public Health Laboratory (Coryne bacterium diphtheria) out of 17 suspected cases with no deaths from Dar Semiat area North Darfur). The total population is about 14,000. On 20 February, WHO supported a training workshop for 27 doctors and medical assistants on Diphtheria case management together with the deployment of 15 trained persons responsible for conducting medical case management, vaccination campaigns, active case finding and community health education.

19. **Nutrition:**

Available information from feeding centres, sentinel sites, assessments and partners on the ground continues to suggest that the situation is progressing in line with seasonal trends with a few localized exceptions such as Al Salam camp and El Ferdous in South Darfur, following displacement and insecurity. Nonetheless, there is concern that the nutritional situation in Darfur could deteriorate, in particular at the height of the hunger gap (June- August), and in the light of additional displacements and subsequent pressure on individual IDP camps, pressure on the water tables, poor harvests in South Darfur and challenges in delivering aid to remote locations due to ongoing insecurity.

UNICEF will continue to work in close collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health, FAO and WFP to ensure sharing of relevant information in real time in order to mobilize responses. As April progresses, it is expected that admissions into selective feeding centres will increase and that mean Weight for Height Z scores from the sentinel site data will show a seasonal deterioration, in particular as the hunger gap progresses, and with increased morbidity (in particular diarrhoea) during the rainy season. Supplies for treatment of acute malnutrition, in particular severe acute malnutrition, are in the process of being prepositioned at state level, based on previous years' admissions, partner capacity, and contingency planning in case further deterioration beyond seasonal expectations is noted.

Results from eight localized nutrition surveys by NGOs are not yet available for dissemination, pending their release by government. Since this process is related to the Joint Directory of Procedures, UNICEF has taken this up with the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General and OCHA to address within the context of these procedures. UNICEF has also discussed this with the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, the Federal Minister of Health and the Humanitarian Affairs Commissioner. They have agreed to address this.

Preliminary results for two rapid assessments in North and South Darfur and one nutrition survey in South Darfur conducted in 2008 have just been submitted for clearance. Preliminary

results for a nutrition survey conducted in Gereida (South Darfur) in February 2008 are in the final stage of preparation prior to dissemination.

Admissions (1) into Supplementary Feeding Centres (SFCs) and Therapeutic Feeding Centres (TFCs) across Greater Darfur continued to increase in line with seasonal trends, with localised fluctuations related to insecurity and population displacements, as well as expansion of programming and increased outreach efforts in some areas.

Chart 11: SFC admissions, Greater Darfur

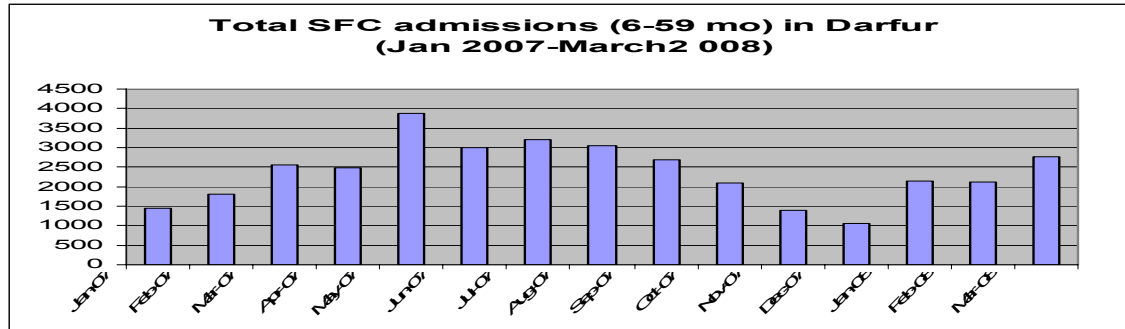
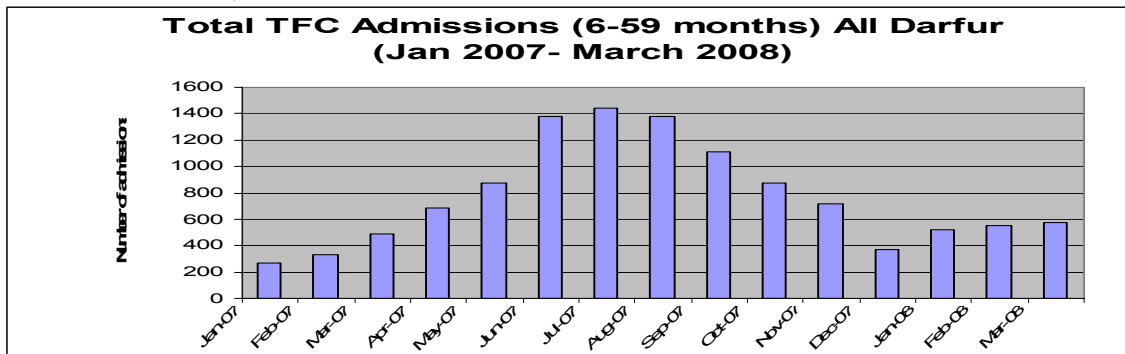
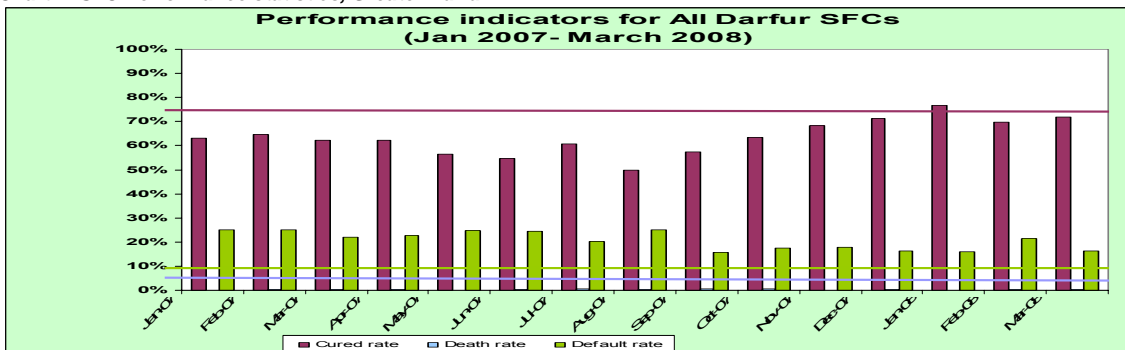


Chart 6: TFC admissions, Greater Darfur



On average, performance indicators for SFCs across Greater Darfur approach, but do not meet, SPHERE standards.²

Chart 7: SFC Performance statistics, Greater Darfur

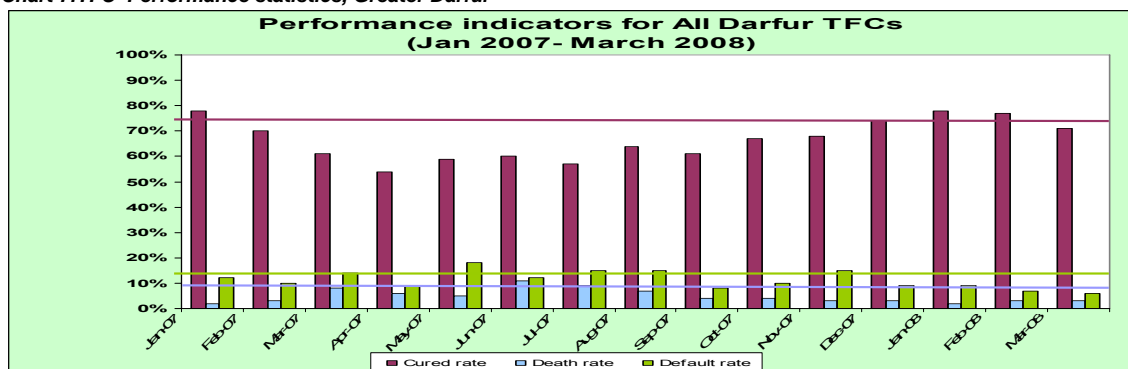


Performance indicators for TFCs, which had met SPHERE standards in January and February declined slightly in terms of cure rate in March, on average falling below Sphere standards.

¹ Refers to children 6-59 months of age

² SPHERE standards refer to minimum standards in humanitarian response to be attained in five key sectors (water supply and sanitation, nutrition, food aid, shelter and health services), that were developed through inputs from practitioners.

Chart 7:TFC Performance statistics, Greater Darfur



20. Education:

In January, 15,202 newly displaced children due to insecurity in Um Baru, Korno, El Sireaf and El Fasher were enrolled in primary school, (6,679 girls and 292 nomadic children, among them 147 girls). Across North Darfur, 3,100 children including 256 nomadic children now have improved access to child-friendly classrooms through the completion of 62 new structures. The Food for Education programme has been effective in boosting enrolment and retention. By the end of February, 130,263 children, including 61,030 girls, in 304 schools were receiving one meal a day at school. Still in North Darfur, 15,202 children (6,679 girls) have received education learning materials. Construction is underway of 16 classrooms in Towisha, 16 classrooms in Lait and eight classrooms in El Fasher Rural. All villages mentioned above, except Towisha, are SLA controlled areas where the Sudanese government and many NGOs do not have access. This support is being delivered through a network of community leaders. Construction works are being undertaken by community members, except for the technical supervision and procurement of construction materials that are not available in the communities. A total of 2,523 children (1,304 girls and 1219 boys) will benefit from this activity. The construction of four semi-permanent classrooms and rehabilitation of 10 permanent classrooms have been completed in Abu Deleg village which is also an SPLM controlled area in North Darfur. A total of 1,191 children (666 boys and 525 girls) benefited from this activity.

In West Darfur, training on child friendly teaching methodologies for 770 volunteer teachers, who are working with IDP children as well as children in very remote communities, has been initiated. This activity will benefit approximately 45,000 children. In partnership with the State Ministry of Education of West Darfur, UNICEF is now completing the construction of 25 permanent classrooms in Nertiti, Kerenek, Kulbus, Zalingei and Wadi Salih localities. This will benefit at least 1,250 children. During the recent crisis in West Darfur, UNICEF supported children in affected communities through emergency education interventions. Currently, with the State Ministry of Education, UNICEF is preparing radio lessons for those children who do not have access to education due to lack of school facilities or teachers due to insecurity.

In South Darfur, a total of 11,227 children (4,600 girls) have benefited through the construction and rehabilitation of 55 classrooms. The construction of 32 classrooms and educational material distribution in Tulus and South Shearia localities will commence soon which will benefit 1,600 children through classroom construction, and 23,580 children through provision of educational materials. In East Jebel Marra, UNICEF is initiating the construction and rehabilitation of 81 classrooms and distribution of educational materials for 18,606 children. The South Darfur State Ministry of Education has contributed US\$1 million for the construction and rehabilitation of 43 classrooms in 11 localities. This will benefit an additional 4,400 children.

Across Darfur, over 750,000 children have received support in the education sector.

21. **Protection:**

Hostilities between the parties continue to expose civilians to severe risk. GoS military forces continue to use disproportionate force, and parties to the conflict fail to differentiate between military and civilian targets. GoS forces bombed Kadada village in the Mado area (North Darfur) on 29 March, prompting all 315 residents to flee. Two bombs were dropped in the centre of the village within 50 meters of residences, and one eight-year old boy was killed and three other children were injured. In response to attacks by JEM on SAF installations in West Darfur, pro-government militia attacks supported by SAF troops, and more recently by aerial bombardment, have caused an unconfirmed number of civilian deaths and injuries and the displacement of some 60,000 civilians from areas such as Seraf Jidad, Sirba, Sileia, and Abu Surouj. Efforts to ascertain the full extent of civilian casualties and to provide much needed assistance continue to be hampered by insecurity, although the deployment of GoS Central Reserve Police to Sirba did improve security and humanitarian access. Aerial bombings have also been reported in the Malha and Tabit (North Darfur) and Jebel Marra (North and West Darfur).

All parties to the conflict have undermined the civilian and humanitarian nature of IDP camps by allowing the heavy presence of armed combatants in and around camps. Civilians have been exposed to serious risk when hostilities between parties have occurred in camps. In Tawilla (North Darfur), an exchange of gunfire between GoS Central Reserve Police and SLA-Minni Minnawi combatants occurred inside Rwanda IDP camp on 23 February and resulted in shrapnel injuries to 13 civilians caught in the cross-fire. There continues to be a high level of incidents targeting IDPs, including killings, physical and sexual assaults of women and girls, attributed to GoS forces, fighting factions, militia and unidentified armed men. Attacks against traditional leaders are of concern. On 17 March an attempt was made against the life of the principal Sheikh in Kalma camp (South Darfur). On 25 February, a Sheikh in Hassa Hissa camp (West Darfur) was killed when three armed men entered his residence and fired upon him.

In South Darfur, GoS authorities have repeatedly turned new IDP arrivals away without conducting vulnerability assessments and without providing alternative locations for IDPs to settle or seek assistance. In addition, large populations of IDPs who have been able to enter camps have not been allowed by the GoS to register for assistance. In Al Salam camp in particular, which was closed by GoS authorities in February, approximately 1,040 households remain unregistered, leading to increasing problems related to health and malnutrition. In March 2007, 17 deaths were reported in Al Salam amongst non-registered IDPs.

There is increased displacement linked to crop failure and poor harvest. Recent post-harvest assessments have highlighted crop failures and suggest more displacement due to poor harvest can be anticipated in coming months. Of serious concern is the recent tendency by GoS authorities to insist on clear differentiation between 'conflict-affected' and 'harvest-affected' groups, with only conflict-affected individuals considered eligible for assistance as IDPs. Given the generalized insecurity prevailing throughout Darfur and the protracted nature of the conflict, many coping mechanisms and survival networks that sustained populations through poor harvest periods in the past are no longer functioning. Allowing assistance to be provided only to 'conflict-affected' IDPs could leave thousands vulnerable.

Returns continue to be promoted by the GoS despite widespread insecurity and continued displacement, with ongoing pressure on the humanitarian community to assist movements, including in areas where humanitarian access is restricted due to security concerns. While there have been some reports of IDP leaders actively discouraging returns, the majority of IDPs engaged by the international community stress that insecurity is the greatest impediment to their return.

22. **Child protection:**

In February 2008, in response to attacks by JEM on SAF military installations, the Government of Sudan (GoS) forces attacked Sirba, Sileia and Abu Surouj villages in the North of West Darfur. This led to the displacement of many children and separation of others from their

families. Humanitarian agencies provided support to ensure the care of separated/unaccompanied children and family reunification and psycho-social support for affected children and advocacy with relevant actors against child recruitment.

The National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW) and UNICEF, in partnership with Save the Children-Sweden, has supported the orientation and training of 178 Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) officers on child rights and protection in February. The NCCW, SAF and UNICEF are working on developing a comprehensive and long term tripartite programme of collaboration to strengthen the protection of children in Sudan.

In March, the Committee for the Eradication of Abduction of Women and Children (CEAWC) resumed operations to retrieve and return children and women abducted during the civil war. UNMIS and UNICEF monitored the operations in South Darfur where by mid April, CEAWC returned around 320 persons, mostly children and women, to Northern Bahr El-Ghazal and Warrap State in Southern Sudan. This operation was funded by the Government of Southern Sudan.

On 20 January, the UN Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General and UNICEF Representative met with GoS representatives to initiate dialogue, follow up and address the recommendations of the Secretary General's Report on Children and Armed Conflict in Sudan. It was agreed to establish a coordination committee on Security Council Resolution 1612 between the Government and the UN. The UN is represented by UNICEF, UNMIS and UNAMID and the Government is represented by the National Council for Child Welfare, North Sudan DDR Commission, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense. In view of this, the first meeting took place in March 2008 and participants discussed the impact of the fighting in West Darfur and the need for increased training on child protection for the Sudan Armed Forces and Popular Defence Forces.

Six Sudanese children involved in attempted trafficking from Chad in 2007 were returned to their families. UNICEF is providing technical and material support for their successful reintegration in their home communities. UNICEF, in partnership with Terre Des Hommes supported the Ministry of Social Welfare in training four government social workers to specifically address the unique circumstances and needs of the children and their families.

On 24 March, West Darfur State Police opened its first Family and Child Protection Unit with the technical and financial support of UNICEF. Its aim is to provide one-stop-shop of specialist services for children and women who are victims of abuse, exploitation, sexual and gender-based violence.

23. Refugees:

UNHCR continues efforts to provide protection and multi-sector assistance to some 47,500 refugees from Chad and the Central African Republic. In terms of health care, UNHCR has continued to assist refugee patients with cash for food and, when transportation for referral is required, cash for transport. Since January, UNHCR has aided the referral over 14 patients from Um Shalaya camp to Mornei or Geneina hospitals. UNHCR also provided a donkey cart ambulance to assist travel to the Um Shalaya clinic. Hygiene promotion campaigns have also occurred, with NGO partners receiving soap for distribution in IDP and refugee camps. In Mukjar, at the end of January, a day-long hygiene educational campaign was held, with large sections of the community participating in street theatre and rubbish collection. Sanitary material/wear was also distributed to over 13,400 women and girls during the first quarter of 2008.

24. Summary

Despite major access constraints, restrictions on humanitarian space and heightened levels of insecurity causing massive new population displacements, some 17,100 humanitarian workers, 95% of whom are Sudanese nationals, continue to effectively assist the 4.25 million conflict-

affected people, including 2.45 million IDPs in Darfur. Humanitarian assistance has resumed in the Golo area in Jebel Marra, which has been largely cut off since 2006. Recently concluded post-harvest assessments in Darfur indicate that cereal production in Darfur is lower than last season's, raising serious concerns for the nutrition status of the conflict-affected populations in the months to come. Furthermore, reports indicate that poor families affected by food shortages are being drawn to IDP camps in the hope of being provided assistance. These movements further worsen conditions in already constrained camps while there are serious concerns that the nutritional status of the conflict-affected populations might significantly deteriorate especially during the hunger season from June to August.
