



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

# Darfur Humanitarian Profile No. 28



**Situation as of 01 July 2007**

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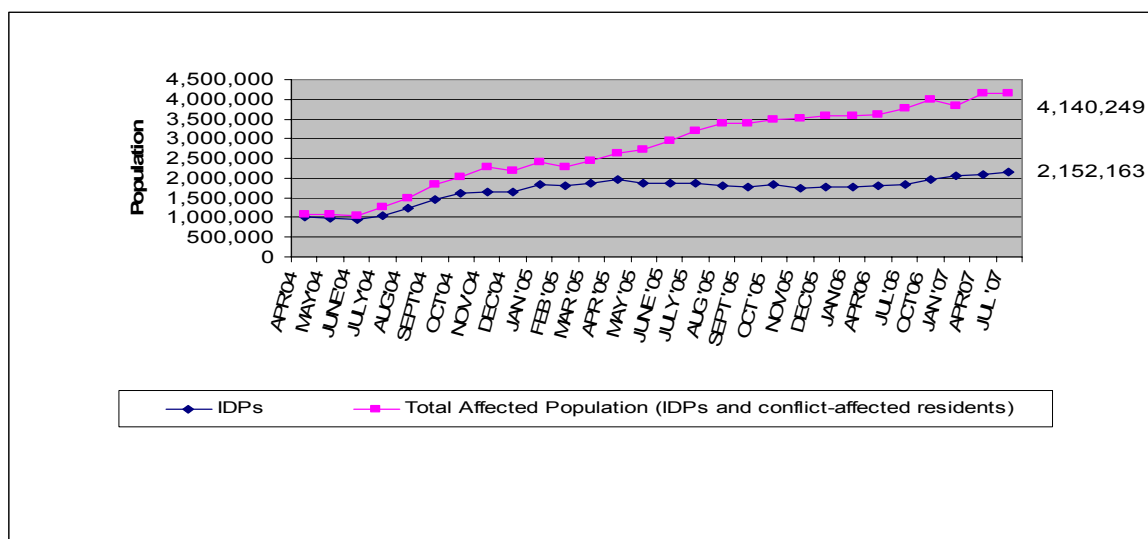
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All maps provided by the Humanitarian Information Centre for Darfur (HIC).

## I. Affected Population – trends and analysis

1. Throughout the second quarter of 2007, armed clashes continued, driving thousands of civilians from their homes each week. The newly displaced often arrive in an appalling state into the already overcrowded IDP settlements after weeks of travelling through the bush. Malnutrition rates have risen well above emergency thresholds in several camps. The rains add to the IDPs' misery, with the breakdown of sanitary infrastructures and the spreading of water-borne diseases. Never before have there been so many IDPs in Darfur, currently some 2.2 million, and every month their numbers continue to grow. Between April and June 2007, an additional 90,000 people have been newly displaced throughout Darfur, over 170,000 since the beginning of the year<sup>1</sup>. The continuous influx of thousands of IDPs has put some tremendous pressure on existing camps throughout Darfur in terms of space and delivery of humanitarian aid. With the exception of Zam Zam (near El Fasher), all the camps in or near the three Darfur capitals had attained maximum capacity by the end of June. Continuing humanitarian access constraints and targeted attacks on aid workers compound the situation, whereby humanitarian outreach and quality of the operations are seriously jeopardized.

**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 two 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;

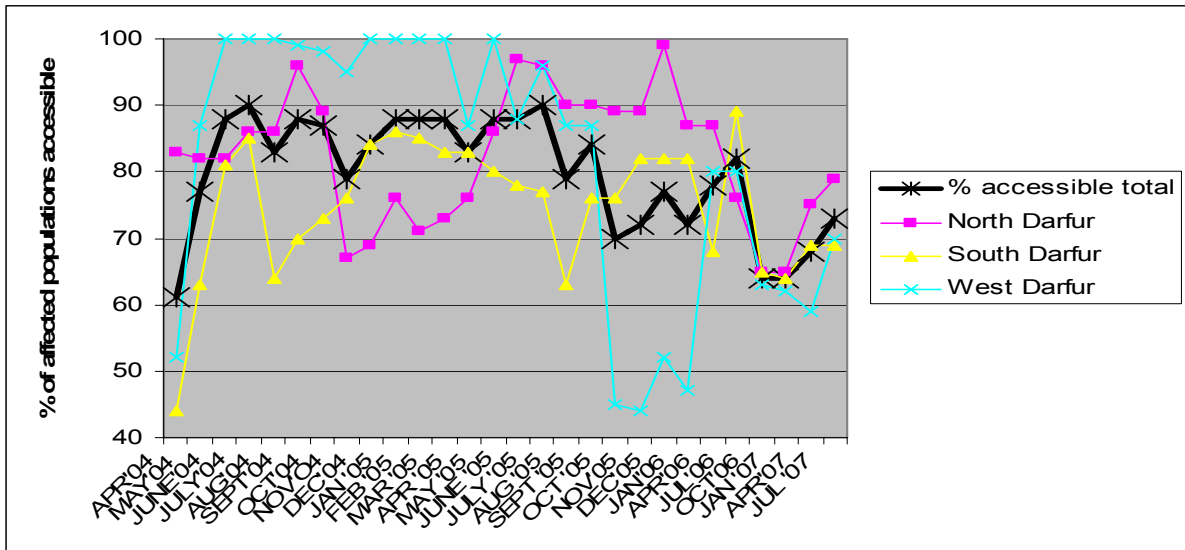
<sup>1</sup> Not all of these new displacements add up to the existing caseload of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) registered in camps and informal settlements given that some temporarily hide in the bush, await registration or are displaced for the second or third time. Since the beginning of the year, over 72,000 IDPs have been newly registered in the camps.

- Random 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.

It should be noted that since the signing of the new Joint Communiqué at the end of March 2007, access denials by GoS authorities have significantly reduced.

**Chart 2** shows the trend of the affected populations accessible according to UN security standards since April 2004. On 1 July 2007, overall UN accessibility in Darfur further improved to 73% as a result of improved access to parts of West and North Darfur. However, it should be noted that access is still below what was obtained during most of the period 2004-2006, and that the improvement is not a result of better security conditions on the ground but of increased use of air transport and the utilization of alternative strategies to reach the conflict-affected people. It is also 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. In May 2007, it was estimated that some 566,000 conflict-affected people out of the 4.1 million could not be reached by any humanitarian agency due to insecurity.

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



3. The second quarter of the year continued to witness the same pattern of armed confrontations between GoS forces (and their proxies) and the non-signatory movements, including the use of aerial bombardments, militia attacks on unarmed citizens, confrontations between SLA signatory and non-signatory groups, increasingly violent inter-tribal fighting and frequent incidents of road banditry. Non-signatory movements continued to splinter or newly emerge causing major difficulties in obtaining guarantees of safe passage as it becomes increasingly unclear who is in command where. Due to overall insecurity, humanitarian organizations were temporarily relocated on eight occasions and humanitarian operations were temporarily suspended on eight other occasions during the second quarter of 2007, with an obvious detrimental effect on humanitarian assistance.

4. Humanitarian operations suffered from other forms of aggression and harassment by different actors, including bandits, armed movements, Government officials and IDPs. Three of

the eight humanitarian relocations during this period were a direct result of armed assaults on humanitarian workers and their assets. Between April and June, four humanitarian staff members were killed, while 15 others were physically assaulted. Humanitarians have been assaulted or threatened by IDPs on six occasions. Two NGO clinics and an NGO centre in IDP camps were entirely or partially destroyed by arson, while one arson attempt of an NGO clinic in another IDP camp was thwarted. During the same period, armed men broke into 11 humanitarian compounds, while six break-in attempts were prevented. Seven Sudanese humanitarian workers were temporarily detained by GoS and six by SLA-Minni Minawi elements. In addition, one UNMIS and seven AU military have been killed during this three-month period.

5. The major debilitating factor for humanitarian outreach remained the intolerably high incidence of violent hijackings of humanitarian vehicles. Between April and June, 46 humanitarian vehicles have been hijacked or stolen, during which 77 humanitarian staff members were temporarily abducted. A further 12 hijacking attempts were thwarted. In the same period, 19 convoys were ambushed and/or looted. Five humanitarian staff members were wounded by gunshot during the hijacking or ambush incidents. Since the beginning of the year, 67 humanitarian vehicles have been hijacked – an increase of 65% with respect to the same period last year - and 40 humanitarian convoys ambushed. 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.

6. The combination of armed clashes and attacks on humanitarians has had a devastating effect on humanitarian access and the quality of humanitarian interventions. Overland humanitarian field visits have been reduced as a result of the many hijackings and road ambushes and have frequently been replaced by quick in-and-out air missions.

7. Following the signing of the new Joint Communiqué by the UN and the Government on 28 March, a Joint Technical and High Level Committee have been established to put into practice the 'fast track procedures' foreseen in the Communiqué. As a result, bureaucratic impediments have diminished during the reporting period, allowing for a smoother and more efficient implementation of the Darfur humanitarian operation, although some hitches remained especially regarding entry visas and stay and work permits for international humanitarian staff. A number of stay visas for international staff have not been renewed, thereby depriving the humanitarian community of some experienced staff and institutional memory.

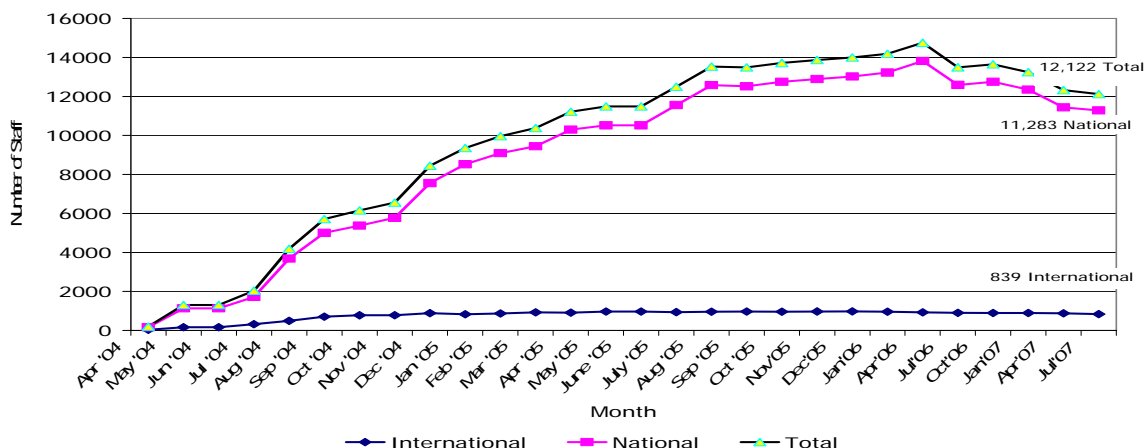
### **III. Response Capacity – aid workers in Darfur**

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8. The numbers of national and international humanitarian workers continue to decline, but Darfur still remains the world's largest humanitarian relief operation with around 12,070 national and international aid workers. Some 75 NGOs and Red Cross/Crescent Movement and 14 UN agencies continue to support the affected populations in Darfur.

9. With respect to April 2006, there are some 2,630 aid workers less (-18%), while during the same period, the caseload of conflict-affected populations has increased by over 520,000 people (+14%). Together with the access constraints, humanitarian presence in outlying areas and oversight of programmes has diminished.

**Chart 3. Trend of Humanitarian Staff Working in Darfur  
(April 2004 – July 2007)**

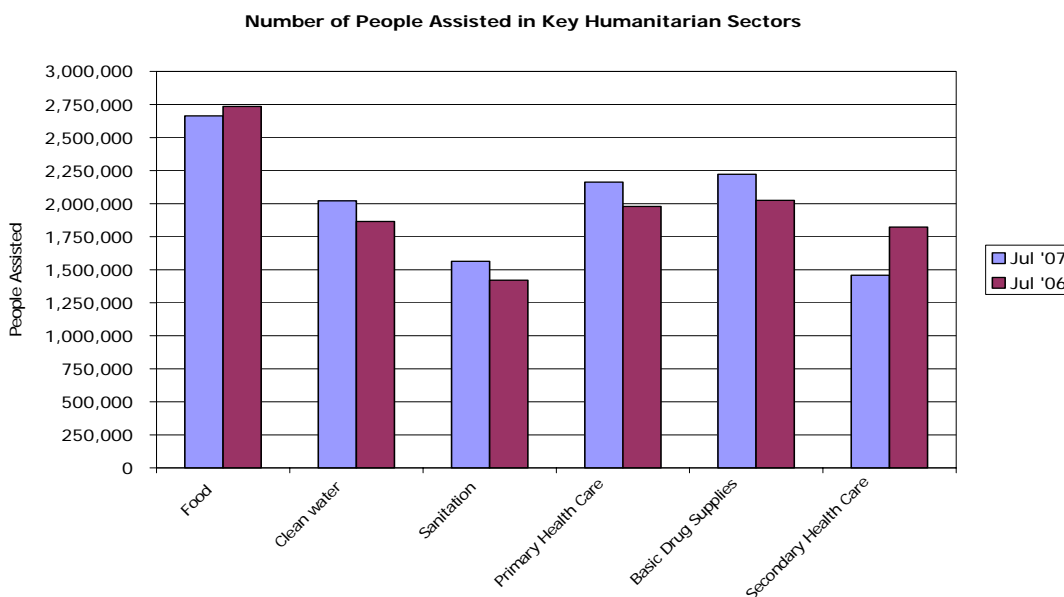


#### IV. Provision and Quality of Assistance

10. In view of the decreased humanitarian access and general insecurity, humanitarians have been continuously seeking alternative ways to reach those in need of humanitarian assistance. One of these includes the increased use of air transport, allowing to overcome impassable roads during the rainy season and to avoid using routes through conflict areas or plagued by banditry. The down-side of this option, however, is that missions are often reduced to quick in-and-out visits to the detriment of the quality of the humanitarian operations impairing the ability to undertake proper assessments, monitoring and oversight. As the protracted conflict in Darfur is leading to a further erosion of the populations' coping mechanisms, the vulnerable populations will require additional humanitarian support.

11. As a result of contingency preparedness, to date major epidemics have been avoided through timely and concerted interventions, and continuous efforts have been made to maintain the minimum humanitarian standards and to access conflict-affected people previously cut off. WFP provided monthly food rations to protect seeds from being consumed and help farmers plant and increase productivity. The food assistance will complement agricultural projects that provide seeds and tools as an introduction of best quality seeds and agricultural practices. Almost 1,600 MT of agricultural inputs have been delivered to the field offices. In addition, FAO has launched a seed multiplication project in South Darfur, funded in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture. Humanitarian activities have expanded to some areas in the Jebel Marra which have been cut off from aid for a long time. In North Darfur, GAA has completed a food and NFI distribution to approximately 35,000 persons in southern Dar Zaghawa for the first time since 2005. Steps have been undertaken to guarantee long-term humanitarian presence in Tawilla (North Darfur), where humanitarian activities have been restricted since 2006. An NFI distribution has taken place in Sisi (West Darfur) for the first time since the conflict began. A joint UN/NGO mission negotiated safe access for humanitarians with SLA-MM commanders to the Haskanita area (south-east North Darfur), in a bid to restart full-scale humanitarian operations which were halted at the end of 2006. However, a full resumption of humanitarian activities in the Haskanita area cannot be guaranteed given the volatile situation.

**CHART 4. Number of People Assisted in Key Humanitarian Sectors July 2006 – July 2007**



**An in-depth sector update as per 1 July 2007**

**12. Food:**

WFP continues to provide much needed food assistance in Darfur through its Emergency Operation. In 2007, WFP aims to reach 5.5 million people in Sudan with 682,000 MT of food through general food distributions and recovery activities, with 70 percent of the planned requirement earmarked for the response in Darfur. WFP’s response in Darfur seeks to meet the food needs of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and vulnerable populations affected by conflict.

During the second quarter of 2007, WFP and its partners provided 95,000 MT of food to an average of 2.3 million people per month, with a peak of 2.6 million people reached in June. However, the number of people not reached rose sharply from 63,000 in April to 172,000 in June, due to escalating insecurity hampering access to vulnerable people and in some cases resulting in suspension of activities in volatile areas. In addition, ICRC continues to provide food to the 122,000 IDPs in Gereida (South Darfur).

As part of the strategy for the hunger season, WFP and Cooperating Partners are expanding food assistance coverage to include more vulnerable rural households through general food distributions or recovery activities, depending on vulnerability levels. Food security assessments carried out in Darfur in May concluded that food assistance to rural vulnerable households should be provided through the Food For Seed protection modality during the hunger season, June - October 2007. The overall objective is to prevent the seeds from being consumed and rather help farmers plant and increase productivity. In this regard, food assistance complements agricultural projects that provide seeds and tools as an introduction of best quality seeds and agricultural practices.

**13. Agriculture:**

FAO and partners opted for strategies supporting IDP and resident communities in specific areas, to maintain at least minimum standards of food security and livelihoods in the region. Focus has been given to four areas: support for small-scale crop and vegetable production; for livestock production; for rehabilitation of the natural environment and finally for other means of agricultural income generation, including activities which mitigate natural resource degradation and alleviate women’s work at household level. Emphasis has been placed on the latter given pressure on female heads of household to support family income generation as well as

household activities.

Activities undertaken to support these key areas during this period included the distribution of procured agricultural inputs (agricultural seeds and tools, including tools to improve irrigation systems), the procurement and distribution of veterinary supplies and equipment (veterinary vaccines, drugs, veterinary and community animal health equipment etc), support to livestock health care through the installation of 16 solar fridges to create a cold chain across Darfur along with training of community and local veterinary staff, the provision of basic livestock services (vaccination and treatment, livestock restocking and support to livestock feeding), the provision of training for Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs), the training of women in fuel efficient stove (FES) production and use in and around the IDPs camps, and the production and planting of tree seedlings.

FAO procured and pre-positioned a total of 1,569 MT of crop seeds this year. Seeds were tested for quality in the main towns of the three states and are being distributed to areas most in need. The distribution of vegetable seeds ahead of the winter production season is ongoing. About 16,000 pieces of hand tools produced by local blacksmiths have also been released to implementing partners for distribution to beneficiaries. Training has included seed multiplication and quality testing in South Darfur, where 43 participants from Government and NGOs were trained on a range of issues in the field of seed technology including technical aspects of seed testing in laboratories.

FAO has also supported the rehabilitation of tree nurseries and production of tree seedlings for distribution to beneficiaries. In West Darfur, four tree nurseries were rehabilitated and produced 425,000 tree seedlings for distribution in the areas of Geneina, Zalingei and Mukjar.

In the livestock sector, 1,200,000 doses of HS, Anthrax, Sheep pox and PPR vaccines have been procured and are currently being distributed.

WFP, UNICEF and FAO have kicked off the preparation for the Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (EFSNA) for Darfur. Training of staff involved in the EFSNA 2007 is about to commence and data collection will occur from the second week of August to the second week in September.

The ongoing general insecurity in many parts of Darfur, including the increase in carjackings and abduction of aid workers, has affected project implementation, with partners unable to access some areas. Funding delays this year translated into the late procurement and distribution of agricultural inputs, while FAO has so far only received 45.5% of the total budget submitted to the 2007 Work Plan.

#### **14. Non-food items:**

Decreasing humanitarian space due to insecurity continued to be a major obstacle in reaching and assessing vulnerable populations, although windows of opportunity are continually being sought and used. The Darfur NFI Common Pipeline was able to reach over 209,000 vulnerable households in Darfur in the months of April, May and June, with a total of almost 974,000 NFIs distributed, the majority of which were in South Darfur and which included blankets, women's clothing, jerry cans, plastic sheeting, sanitary material and sleeping mats.

In May and June, distributions of plastic sheeting increased significantly across the region in preparation for the upcoming rain season, with a total of almost 150,000 pieces being distributed. Blankets are also a vital commodity during this time and across the three Darfur states, over 104,000 blankets were distributed to vulnerable populations during May and June, of which Save the Children-US distributed over 61,000. In North Darfur, a May assessment in Kutum resulted in key distributions by GOAL of approximately 5,000 replenishment NFIs to 1,200 households in Fata Borno Camp and 18,000 NFIs to 6,000 households in Kassab Camp. The ability to conduct assessments in North Darfur was severely hampered by a spike in insecurity in June, although opportunities to distribute NFIs were seized upon, allowing a

distribution to take place in Dar Zaghawa by GAA to over 6,100 households as part of a food distribution. In South Darfur, 2,600 households taking part in IOM organized returns to South Sudan received NFIs. In West Darfur, although NFI dispatches to some areas had to be temporarily suspended to Masteri, Sirba, Kulbus and Sileia due to insecurity, some distributions did take place in Ardamata and Kerenek camps, and in Sisi camp by HelpAge where over 1,500 households were given NFIs for the first time in two years.

Consultative meetings were held in April in each of the UNJLC Darfur Sub-Offices between Common Pipeline partners (UNJLC, UNICEF, CARE and OCHA) and distributing partners, with a view to better responding to the needs of the affected population in Darfur and to strengthen cooperation with NGOs that are currently or who may wish to distribute NFIs from the Darfur Common NFI Pipeline.

The NFI sector continued to support community based projects such as health centres/clinics, schools, distribution centres and food stocks protection. These requests are approved on a case by case basis.

In May, the Common Pipeline Management Team appointed UNJLC to take the lead in Monitoring and Evaluation activities with CARE continuing to provide the logistical and the human resources support. Training was conducted in South Darfur in June.

The second UNJLC-coordinated light vehicle convoy of 2007 left Khartoum for Darfur in May. The convoy was organized in conjunction with UNDSS and provided with armed escort by AMIS. Sixteen vehicles participated from UNDP/RC office, FAO, ACT/NCA, Danish Refugee Council, Samaritans Purse and the Spanish Red Cross.

During the reporting period, UNJLC facilitated the Common Surface Transport to Darfur available for all humanitarian agencies, with approximately 550 MT capacity being used in pre-positioning relief goods in the light of the upcoming rainy season.

#### **15. Water and sanitation:**

In North Darfur, UNICEF, IRC, Spanish Red Cross, WES and OXFAM conducted a water management survey in Abu Shouk on 6-14 March. The key findings show a per capita consumption of 24 litres per day, and that more than 50% of the water is used for livelihood and other non-domestic purposes mainly brick making and selling.

Groundwater depletion due to the continuous influx of new IDPs to highly concentrated areas in many parts of Darfur is of increasing concern. Initial studies by UNICEF, OXFAM and Tearfund in the main IDP camps in North, South and West Darfur indicate that only Abu Shouk and As Salaam camps in North Darfur are facing short-term ground water depletion problems while there is insufficient evidence in other areas. All studies recommended that a groundwater monitoring system should be immediately established in all three Darfur states. Based on these recommendations, UNICEF and OXFAM are partnering to hire two experts to support the state governments to establish a groundwater monitoring system. As part of the system, initially 55 digital loggers will be installed in major IDP locations. Manual groundwater monitoring will be introduced in some areas. To avoid duplication and maximize the efforts of all sector partners, UNICEF and partners have established Task Forces in each of the states to plan and implement interventions.

In the meantime, UNICEF donated two new water well drilling machines to the South Darfur State to deal with the surge in safe water demand. The Supplier provided technical training to the WES field staff, which enabled them to operate these machines independently. As of mid-April 2007 – prior to the rainy season – the two machines had sunk 21 shallow wells in two weeks. Two wells were fitted with motorized pumps and 19 with hand pumps and now provide access to safe water to a total of 19,500 people. With these machines it is possible to sink 30 wells per month and provide safe water to a minimum of 15,000 people per month if all wells are fitted with hand pumps. Also in South Darfur, UNICEF and its counterpart WES completed the

construction of a 45 m<sup>3</sup> elevated water tank, a 1.2 km distribution network and four water points in El Neem camp to serve 10,000 new IDPs. WES constructed a water tank in Khor Omer camp, Ed Daein locality to increase access to 2,000 newly arrived IDPs. In El Furdous, WES installed a new pump to the existing borehole and constructed three water bladders to improve water supply and benefit the 1,500 new IDPs. WES drilled five hand pumps in Shearia, three in El Radoum, one in Edd el Fursan and two in Kubum for a total of 5,500 people. The drilling of a deep borehole at Goghana has reached a depth of 170m where the expected total depth is around 220m. IAS has returned back to East Jebel Marra and resumed its operation. So far, one shallow well has been drilled and fitted with a hand pump to give access for 500 people in Deribat. WES rehabilitated two hand pumps in Nyala rural and restored access to 1,000 returnees. WES replaced the generator of Kass water supply scheme with a bigger one to enhance operation of the boreholes and to increase boosting time. This has contributed in ensuring adequate and sustaining water supply for 30,000 IDP and host community.

In the field of sanitation, the WES team in Kassab camp mobilized IDPs to clean 2,160 jerry cans and visit 196 households to deliver hygiene messages. Soap was provided to WES for 42,000 IDPs in Zam Zam for April and May 2007. In West Darfur, WES hygiene promoters visited 6,706 households in three IDP camps and held discussions on Acute Watery Diarrhoea prevention and hygiene issues. WES hygiene promoters mobilized the community members and ensured weekly camp clean-up campaigns were conducted in nine IDP camps. WES established School Hygiene clubs in two schools of Mornei IDP camp. In South Darfur, WES distributed 135,000 bars of soap to 67,500 IDPs in El Neem, Al Salam and Otash camps.

#### 16. **Health:**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the 16<sup>th</sup> Polio vaccination campaign started on 30 April 2007 following a first round in March. East Jebel Marra had not been covered during the first round due to insecurity. Results for the second round show coverage of 96% in West Darfur, 94% in North Darfur and 92% in South Darfur. In East Jebel Marra, the first round has been implemented and a total of 66,692 children under the age of five were immunized against polio with an estimated coverage rate of 95 %.

UNICEF provides support to Primary Health Care centres which are usually managed by NGOs or the Ministry of Health. These PHCs provide a package of essential health care interventions which include the integrated management of childhood illness (IMCI), prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of malaria, immunization services for children and pregnant women, growth promotion and monitoring of children and pregnant women, and health information and education for mothers and child care givers who attend the health facilities. Surveillance for diseases such as poliomyelitis, acute watery diarrhoea, cholera, viral hepatitis, measles and other vaccine-preventable disease is also conducted in all PHC facilities and through outreach and mobile health services. According to reports from the PHC centres, the major causes of morbidity in South and North Darfur among children under five years of age are Acute Respiratory Infections (17% - 20%), malaria (7%) and bloody diarrhoea (3%). In the second quarter of 2007, a total of 45 PHC Kits were distributed to health facilities in West Darfur, 30 kits to the Jebel Marra and 10 in South Darfur. To reactivate the primary health care services in North Darfur, medicines for 20,000 beneficiaries for two months have been supplied, along with Health Supplies to the State MoH and NGOs. The SMoH has implemented three training courses for 20 Community Health Workers each in Kass, Alwihda West (a residential area in Nyala with a big number of IDPs staying with relatives) and Al Sereif IDP camp.

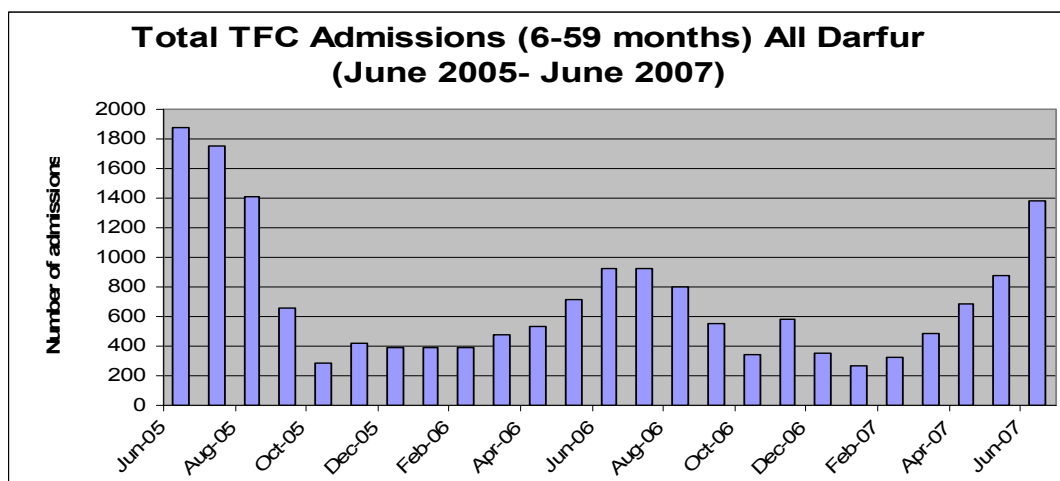
Training of 48 graduating midwives on basic EPI has started on 12 May for 10 days. The SMoH has agreed to conduct refresher training courses in the four main areas of the Jebel Marra (Feina, Saboon, Deribat and Kutrum) and two qualified and experienced health visitors were nominated. In each of the four locations, 25 Traditional Birth Assistants will be trained for 45 days and then equipped with delivery kits. UNICEF supported the refresher training of 28 IDP midwives for six days.

Malaria remains one of the major public health problems in Sudan including Darfur. In North Darfur, it contributes to a proportional morbidity of 2%. UNICEF continued to provide through NGOs long lasting insecticide-treated nets and medicines to protect mothers and children in malaria-prone areas. In South Darfur, the Malaria department of the SMOH has trained 30 laboratory technicians from the nine localities on Malaria Microscopic Rapid Diagnostic Tests. To avoid duplication and get maximum benefit from limited available supplies, a new arrangement for the distribution of Artesunate was developed and agreed upon.

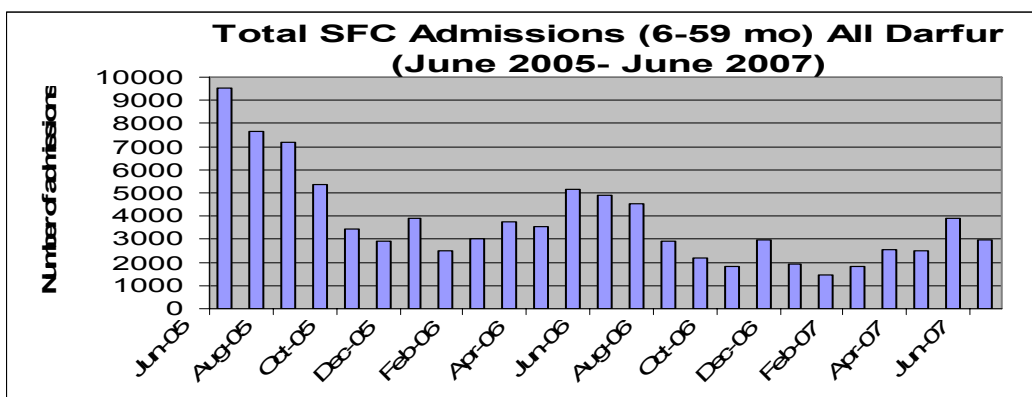
During the second quarter of 2007, there were three reported cases of suspected meningitis in West Darfur and two in North Darfur. A total of 85 cases of suspected meningitis including four deaths have been reported since January 2007 among IDPs and host communities in six out of the nine South Darfur localities. In response to the meningitis outbreak in South Darfur, UNICEF provided 200,000 syringes to complement the vaccines provided by WHO. MSF-Holland conducted a campaign in Seleah where a total of 9,377 people aged between 2 and 30 years were immunized. A reactive immunization started in Ed Daein locality on 28 May, targeting 51,103 persons (from 2 to 30 years of age).

**17. Nutrition:**

Admissions into feeding centres continued to increase in line with seasonal trends. However Therapeutic Feeding Centre (TFC) admissions were higher than those in 2006, indicating a worsening of the nutrition situation. Localized nutrition surveys reported Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) above emergency levels and above the levels observed at the same time last year. Population movements, insecurity leading to diminished access to services, and shortfalls in water and sanitation contributed to the high levels of malnutrition. Programmatic recommendations included strategic mobilization of resources to support nutrition programming, pre-positioning of nutrition stocks, implementation of blanket feeding activities in the Supplementary Feeding Centres (SFCs) to prevent increases in moderate malnutrition, as well as further cross-sector efforts to address shortfalls in services related to the underlying causes of malnutrition, as well as advocacy for the timely identification and inclusion of new IDPs.



Admissions into Supplementary Feeding Centres (SFCs) in April-June across Darfur increased in comparison to January-March, in line with seasonal trends. However, the absolute number of admissions into SFCs is lower than during the same time period in 2006, with the exception of West Darfur. The reduction in admissions in SFCs may be partly due to the closure of some SFC programmes that had high caseloads in the past.



Performance indicators for SFCs across Darfur remain below SPHERE standards (2) with low rates of recovery and high default rates. Transfer rates from SFCs to TFCs, which indicates the deterioration of individual children's nutrition status while participating in the supplementary feeding programme, has increased from 4.5 % in April to 8.3 % in June. The sharpest decline in performance was observed in West Darfur. Continued lack of progress in meeting SPHERE standards underlines the need to strengthen interventions that address the underlying causes of malnutrition, as well as increase acceptability of the programme. There is also a need to strengthen the referral system between SFCs and TFCs.

Performance indicators for TFCs improved in terms of recovery rates (60 per cent in June versus 54 per cent in April), but remain below SPHERE standards. The death rate rose from 5 per cent in April to 11 per cent in June. Defaulting rates rose in May (up to 18 %) but fell to 12 % in June. Defaulting rates are attributed to insecurity as well as agricultural activities preventing participation in feeding programmes.

The increased death rate and decreased recovery rate in TFCs is partly due to the extremely poor condition in which some children are admitted as a result of insecurity delaying access to services, or poor physical condition of IDPs and refugees. In one instance in Ed Daien, the increase in mortality was due to the replacement of qualified staff with untrained staff. This in part has led to inadequate identification and treatment of underlying illnesses prior to treatment in TFCs. The increased demand for services also stretches available resources. Action has been taken to address quality of care.

The Federal Ministry of Health's global ban on the use of F100 and F75 therapeutic milk, following concerns about the quality of stocks in Khartoum, has also negatively affected the situation. The ban was not systematically applied but reports were received of increased diarrhoeal disease where therapeutic milks were not being used, as this required the use of alternatives that increased exposure to water borne diseases. This ban, introduced on 7 April 2007 was finally lifted on 4 July 2007.

Recent data from the field has shown that there are fewer operational SFCs than in the Darfur Nutrition Summary (May/June 2007), which may in part contribute to the decreased admissions during this period relative to the same period in 2006. There are 69 SFCs in June 2007 compared to 86 in June 2006, and 63 TFCs in June 2007 compared to 61 in July 2006. The caseload also varies between programmes, so the total number of centres is only part of the issue. For example, in West Darfur, where admissions have increased, the number of TFCs has decreased. Thus the overall changes in numbers of centres cannot by itself explain increases in admissions to TFCs.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

The main constraints faced by NGOs and the Federal Ministry of Health who are implementing the nutrition programmes have been humanitarian access and the inability of beneficiaries to access services due to insecurity. There is an urgent need to increase coverage of nutrition programmes.

Six localized nutrition surveys were conducted during the reporting period, two in North Darfur, three in South Darfur and one in West Darfur. Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates exceeded the emergency threshold of 15 per cent in all six. Rates of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) ranged from 1.4 per cent to 2.8 per cent. In three of the surveys (North and West), GAM rates are higher than those found during the same period in 2006. In the three surveys in South Darfur there was no comparable information from the same period in 2006. While an increase in GAM rates is in line with seasonal trends, the underlying causes are being investigated at state level in order to identify responses.

Crude and under-5 mortality rates in Otash Camp were reported above alert levels, while crude and under-5 mortality rates in Kass were reported above emergency levels. The primary causes were reported to be diarrhoea (watery and bloody) and Acute Respiratory Inflammation.

The rate of GAM for children 6-29 versus 30-59 months continues to be elevated, indicating that sustained efforts are required to address infant and young child care practices.

In response, WFP provided supplementary and therapeutic food assistance to malnourished children, disabled, elderly, pregnant and lactating women. In 2007, WFP plans to reach 51,000 vulnerable people with some 4,406 MT of food. During the second quarter of 2007, WFP was able to reach some 16,700 beneficiaries providing 536 MT of food through supplementary and therapeutic feeding activities.

#### **18. Education:**

Free primary education continued to remain high on UNICEF's agenda. The children in Darfur continue to meet direct and indirect costs, such as parent contributions for the payment of volunteer teachers. These contributions are barriers not only to enrolment but also school completion. In 127 schools in Kabkabiya, Saraf Omra and El Sireaf localities in North Darfur UNICEF is ensuring that preventive measures are put in place to implement the Government of Sudan Decree that prohibits deprivation of children from attending school due to school fees and corporal punishment. At least 50,000 children stand to have an improved chance of completing school with the free primary education drive and the recruitment of teachers.

In East Jebel Marra (South Darfur), due to on-going violence and conflict, the communities had expressed concerns about the safety and well-being of the students who would be going to Kass for examinations. UNICEF followed the issue with appropriate political and administrative authorities in the state. Consequently, the grade 8 examinations were organized in Nyala town for the East Jebel Marra students and all other insecure locations in South Darfur state. Some 456 students (98 girls) from nine different schools in East Jebel Marra appeared in the grade 8 examinations that were held at centres established in Nyala town.

UNICEF supported the State Ministry of Education Nomadic Department for the 16-day training of 100 nomadic teachers, 50 each in Kabkabiya and Kutum localities. The teachers were trained on child-centred teaching approaches and multi-grade teaching and when completed, over 5,000 children will benefit from quality basic education. With UNICEF support, the State Ministry of Education Nomadic Department began to establish 10 parents-teachers committees and train 110 committee members on co-management of nomadic schools. Ten hygiene committees were established in Kabkabiya to improve knowledge and skills in nomadic school management and school hygiene in 10 schools which will also benefit over 2,000 children in the respective schools. Al Safi community in Buram locality of South Darfur took the initiative to construct their school from locally available materials. UNICEF provided them with 164 steel poles for 8 classrooms and 2 offices benefiting some 450 children. In West Darfur, Parent-

Teacher Committees (PTCs) are beginning to participate more actively and take charge of the children's education. To strengthen community leadership and ownership in education, UNICEF helped to establish ten PTCs in nomadic communities training 110 PTC members on child-friendly school management, HIV/AIDS prevention awareness and the value of girls' education.

In addition, WFP supports primary schools through its Food for Education (FFE) programme, with an aim to support national goals of increasing access to education, encouraging enrolment and attendance. In 2007, WFP plans to reach some 150,000 students with 6,264 MT of food in more than 250 primary schools across Darfur. In the second quarter of 2007, some 16,700 students were provided with 60 MT of food assistance through the FFE programme. The number of students assisted remained relatively low throughout the quarter, due to the closure of most schools for summer break (schools resume in June/July.)

#### **19. Protection:**

The Government of Sudan military attacks with support from their proxies against non-signatories to the DPA have continued. Of particular concern were the reports of renewed air attacks on villages in the Dar Zaghawa area, North Darfur. The latest bombings have left civilians in the region highly traumatized. Many told the UN that "the biggest threat [to their lives and livelihoods] now comes from the air". Families have fled their homes and are living in the surrounding hills and wadis, without adequate shelter and water supplies. The risk of air attacks has also caused the closure of health posts and schools. Women collect water only at night, fearing targeted day-time aerial raids on water points. Tensions also have increased within rebel factions, with constant clashes resulting. Militia attacks on civilians have continued throughout the second quarter of 2007. Inter-tribal fighting was particularly intense in South Darfur, leading to a high number of new displacements. It is more than evident that the ongoing conflict, against a backdrop of increased banditry, continues to disrupt normal civilian activity, causes further destitution and the loss of many more lives.

Sector leads continue to investigate violations and advocate and intervene with parties. Reports of rape and physical assault on women and young girls both around IDP camps and in villages continue to be received from all parts of Darfur. Efforts by IDPs to minimize attacks on women while fetching firewood include the use of young children to carry out these tasks. Women also often prefer to venture outside of camps individually rather than in a group, as they can hide more easily. These coping mechanisms show the pressure that wide-spread attacks upon women and girls have placed upon communities.

UNICEF and NGOs continued supporting mine risk education (MRE) activities to populations at risk in different areas throughout the country. In February, MRE teams specifically focused on targeting returnees. The teams will continue to work in IDP camps, way stations, and communities in affected areas to which IDPs/refugees will return.

In March, the inter-agency project for the Capacity Building of the AU in Darfur completed an internal rapid assessment to measure progress against objectives. The general findings of the assessment showed that the project's training enhanced and broadened the knowledge of the AU forces on their role. It has also increased the confidence of AU personnel to implement their mandate and assisted them to identify the most vulnerable persons in the Darfur conflict and their protection needs. The fact that AU personnel carried out further trainings in their group sites with minimum support from inter-agency trainers was a significant achievement. However, there were also prevalent challenges that compromise the application of the trainings, including language constraints in view of the shortage of translators, the unstable security environment, and problems created when working with the DPA non-signatory factions. Recommendations from the assessment included the development of a similar training programme to all warring parties as well as local communities to allow an effective communication between the AU and parties involved in the conflict on protection and violation of human rights, and the undertaking of a comprehensive review to improve the current reporting and documenting formats of the AU on human rights violations, gender based violence and child rights violations.

Between 14 and 26 April 2007, UN agencies participated in an inter-agency mission aimed at building on and strengthening UN Actions to prevent and respond to Sexual Violence in Darfur. The mission reviewed the Gender Based Violation (GBV) coordination mechanisms and identified best practices on creating a better balance between day-to-day response and overall prevention strategies and advocacy issues. The mission also reviewed the support to government for prevention and response to GBV through an approach based on rule-of-law and access to justice, promotion of gender equality and civilian protection, and reduction of risk and vulnerability. The tasks of the mission also included a review of the implementation of IASC GBV guidelines and advocacy initiatives and recommendations for national and community-level strategies for policy and programme promotion, accountable results-oriented implementation and resource mobilization as well as review of data and information collection and suggestions for modalities for strengthened protection and evidence-based action, including through strengthening monitoring and tracking systems, analysis of trends and dissemination of analyses and information. The mission visited the three states of Darfur and met with the GoS, UN and NGO actors, including human rights and women's rights organizations.

**20. Child Protection:**

On 11 June 2007, UNICEF and SLA-MM signed an Action Plan for the handover of children attached to the SLA in Darfur. The Action Plan was signed by the UNICEF Representative and Minni Minawi during a ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Khartoum. The Action Plan is a result of UNICEF's ongoing advocacy work with armed groups and forces in Darfur on child rights and the involvement of children in armed conflicts and aims to develop concrete action plans to stop recruitment and exploitation of children. The SLA has indicated that it has already identified a number of children attached to its forces in South and North Darfur and that a formal process of identifying all children associated with its armed groups will start within the next month. As part of the Action Plan, SLA-MM has committed to identify the locations of children while UNICEF, in collaboration with the Government and local and international NGOs will support the provision of family tracing and community reintegration programmes, along with training of SLA field commanders on international child rights and protection standards. As part of the long-term reintegration planning, the demobilized children will benefit from life skills and vocational training opportunities, education support, recreation activities, sports and career guidance, as well as the assistance of social workers who will monitor and ensure follow-up of children during the reintegration process.

UNICEF has responded immediately to provide emergency support to the new displaced people in South Darfur, mostly women and children, following a wave of violence which has involved grave child and human rights violations. UNICEF and NGO partners have focused on assessing the situation of families, especially the families recently arrived in Al Salam IDP camp. Over 90 % of these families were headed by women. Children have been exposed to many grave violations including killing and injury. Many children have arrived unaccompanied, girls have been raped, often repeatedly, and other children are missing. In addition, the families have reported dead and missing fathers. Registration of the families has been accelerated by NGO partners in order to urgently distribute non-food items such as plastic sheeting for shelter, and a 14-day food ration, as well as to improve the quantity of potable water especially to the newly settled areas of the camp. UNICEF is also working with partners to ensure the access of children, youth and women to psychosocial services through Child and Youth Friendly Centres. Unaccompanied and separated children were identified by UNICEF and partners and ICRC will continue to conduct family tracing and reunification.

**21. Protection of humanitarian workers:**

Between 10 and 28 May 2007, a joint UNDSS-OCHA headquarters mission in cooperation with Interaction and ECHO representatives visited Khartoum and Darfur to verify the appropriateness of a number of initiatives aimed at further enhancing the safety of NGO and United Nations staff and operations in Sudan. In addition to Government officials and the AU, the mission met with UN, NGO and donor representatives. The team was particularly pleased by the strong interest of the NGOs, who undertake some 80% of the field work and suffer the

lion's share of security incidents. Through in-depth consultations with these groups and first hand observations, the mission verified the urgent need for a multi-faceted approach to enhance the safety of humanitarians in Darfur, including the deployment of UNDSS officers dedicated to support NGOs, stress management and critical incident stress counselling to UN and NGO staff, Darfur-specific Safety Training to UN and NGO staff, increased donor support for NGO Darfur-specific Safety Training and safety and communications equipment, and NGO safety coordination mechanism to identify priorities and coordinate with UN security.

The Mission confirmed the universal agreement on the level of threat and risk for the United Nations and NGOs operating in Darfur. There was both consensus and commitment among all concerned to improve the collaboration on staff safety under the "Saving Lives Together" framework. In the light of the strong response it was considered critical that UNDSS and OCHA work together to rapidly put into effect all the recommendations, in particular the deployment of the UNDSS teams dedicated to the NGOs, who serve as the foundation for all these initiatives. The urgency of these initiatives cannot be overemphasized, as they are critical to the fulfilment of the United Nations and humanitarian mandate in the Darfur. On the basis of all stakeholders' qualified approval, it is expected that the initiative will rapidly translate into the implementation of the multifaceted approach by end-August 2007.

## **22. Summary:**

The humanitarian situation in Darfur has never looked as bleak as now. The numbers of IDPs are at the highest level ever, whilst there are good reasons to assume that these will continue to rise over the next few months given the continuous new displacements triggered by widespread violence and insecurity. The camps are packed, the rainy season is adding to the misery of the internally displaced people, and some people who have fled their villages are arriving in an appalling condition after weeks in the bush. At the same time, the four years of conflict have seriously drained the coping mechanisms of the non-displaced resulting in ever-increasing numbers of people in need of external aid.

For the first time since late 2004, malnutrition in many camps is above the emergency threshold. The humanitarian community, itself victim of continuous targeted attacks, is struggling to cope.

