



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

Darfur Humanitarian Profile No. 29



Situation as of 01 October 2007

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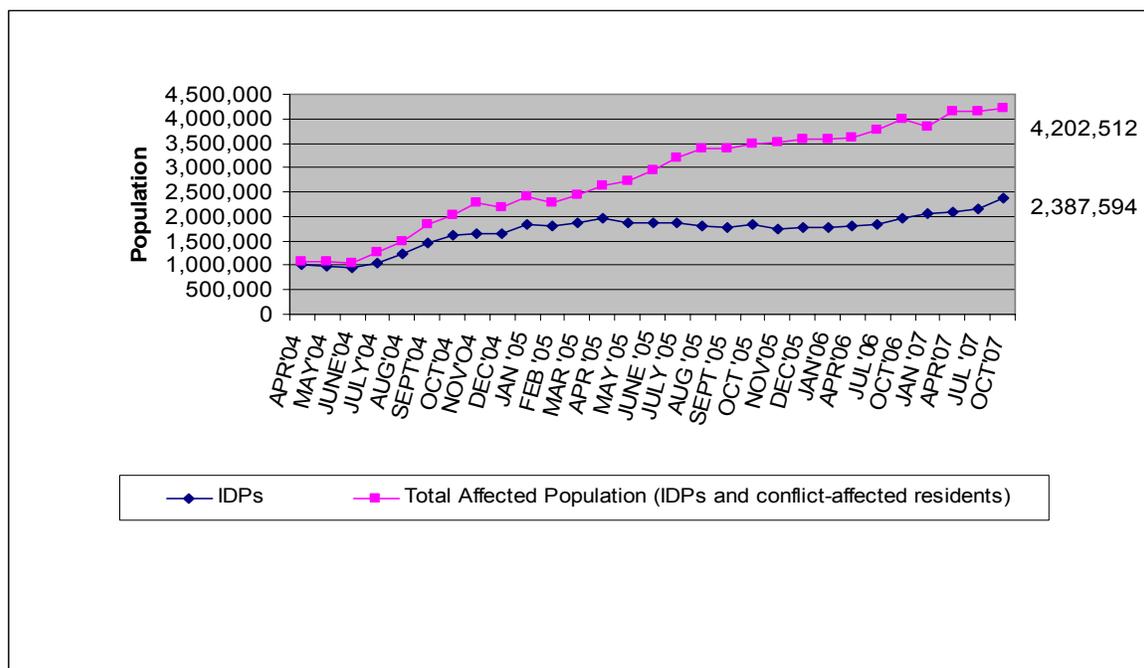
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All maps provided by the Humanitarian Information Centre for Darfur (HIC).

I. Affected Population – trends and analysis

1. The humanitarian situation in Darfur continued to steadily deteriorate during the third quarter of 2007, with non-stop armed clashes causing massive population displacements, several restrictions on humanitarian access, increased unrest and violence inside the IDP camps, and a high incidence of targeted attacks against humanitarian workers and their assets. By 1 October 2007, over 2,387,000 people were displaced, while another 1.8 million were seriously affected by the ongoing crisis and considered in need of humanitarian aid. On the positive side, the number of aid workers in Darfur has risen to over 13,300 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)**

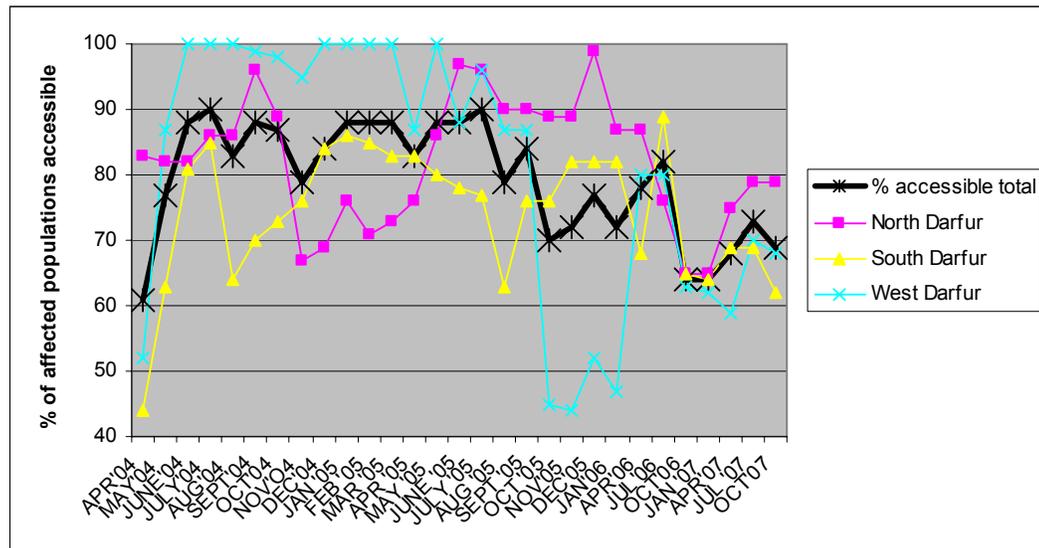


II. Humanitarian Access

2. Humanitarian access in Darfur is primarily determined by a combination of 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;
 - 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.

Chart 2 shows the trend of the affected populations accessible according to UN security standards since April 2004. On 1 October 2007, overall UN accessibility in Darfur once again dropped to below 70%. 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



3. The third quarter of the year continued to witness the same pattern of armed confrontations between GoS forces (and their proxies) and the non-signatory movements which included the use of aerial bombardments, militia attacks on unarmed citizens, inter-tribal fighting and frequent incidents of road banditry. Since the beginning of the year, over 260,000 have been newly displaced. New armed movements continued to emerge causing major difficulties in obtaining guarantees of safe humanitarian passage. During the third quarter, due to overall insecurity, humanitarian workers had to be relocated on 12 occasions and humanitarian operations were temporarily suspended on numerous occasions with an obvious detrimental effect on humanitarian assistance.

4. Humanitarian operations suffered from serious forms of aggression and harassment by different actors, including bandits, armed movements, Government officials and IDPs. Between July and September, one humanitarian worker was killed and seven wounded, while three others were physically attacked. During the same period, armed men assaulted 29 humanitarian centres/compounds. Five Sudanese humanitarian workers were temporarily detained by GoS authorities and three detained by SLA-MM. In addition, 10 AU military were killed during a vicious assault on their group site in Haskanita.

5. The high incidence of violent hijackings of humanitarian vehicles noted during the first half of the year continued invariably between July and September 2007. During this period, 35 humanitarian vehicles have been hijacked or stolen, during which 18 humanitarian staff members were temporarily abducted. Six hijacking attempts failed. In the same period, 24 humanitarian convoys were assaulted and/or looted. Since the beginning of the year, 105 humanitarian vehicles have been hijacked and 64 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. Humanitarian activities in the IDP camps have also been increasingly hampered by

incidents of violence inside the camps. The Government pressure on returns, which is being resisted by a majority of IDPs, the increased presence inside the camps of armed groups of different affiliations and the increased politicization of the IDPs are the main underlying causes of the heightened unrest and violence inside the camps. As a result of demonstrations, hijackings of humanitarian vehicles and physical assaults on aid workers, humanitarian activities have been suspended on numerous occasions in several IDP camps.

7. Despite the 2007 Joint Communiqué, GoS authorities continued to randomly or even consistently deny humanitarian access, including to large parts of the Jebel Marra and the Adilla - Haskanita area. In addition, SLA-MM elements, different armed groups as well as militias have restricted humanitarian operations on various occasions. Moreover, bureaucratic constraints persist, especially regarding entry visas and stay and work permits for international humanitarian staff. Disturbingly, in August, the GoS expelled the Country Director of a large international NGO contrary to the letter and spirit of the Communiqué.

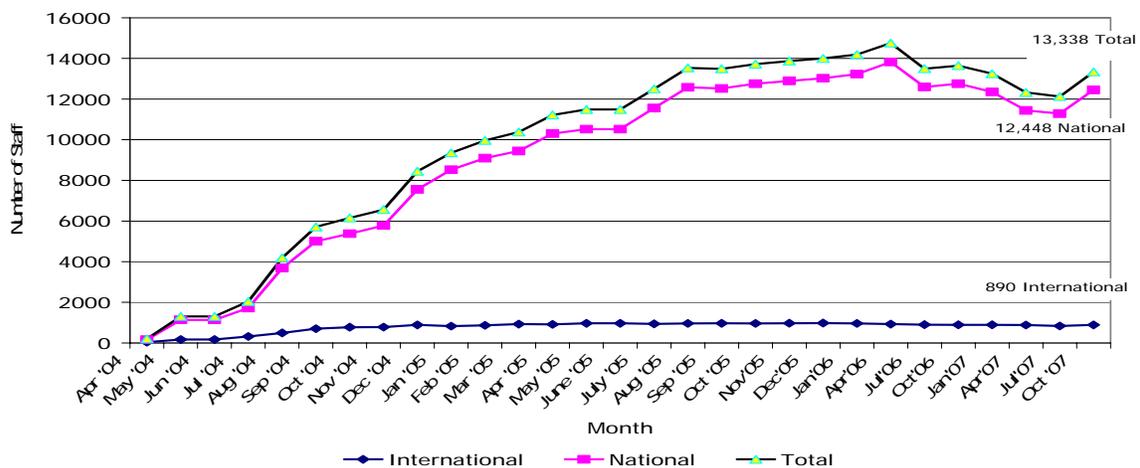
8. Through an increased use of air transport and locally recruited volunteers and community workers, humanitarians have been able to maintain access to the conflict-affected populations, but the quality of the operations has suffered significantly. In view of the unpredictable security situation, hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people are only receiving minimal and sporadic assistance. Monitoring and overview of activities has likewise reduced as a result of fewer aid workers and time spent in the field.

9. 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' project and an increased dialogue and engagement with all parties to the conflict.

III. Response Capacity – aid workers in Darfur

10. The numbers of national and international humanitarian workers in the region have increased again for the first time in 1 ½ years. Darfur remains the world's largest humanitarian relief operation with over 13,300 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.

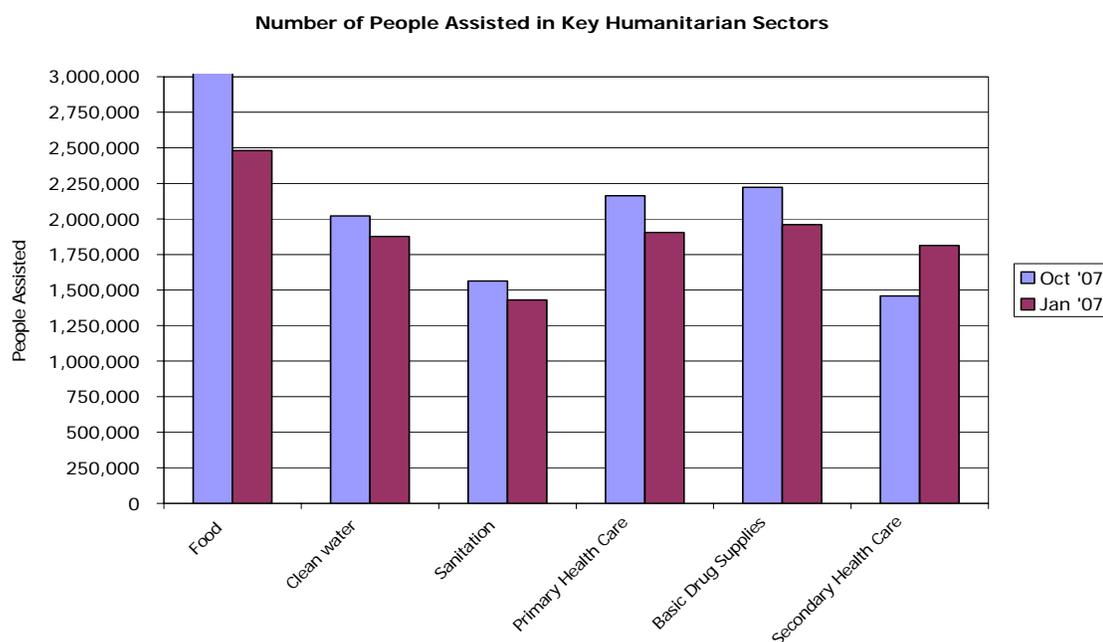
Chart 3. Trend of Humanitarian Staff Working in Darfur (April 2004 – October 2007)



11. 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 few months from 12,300 to some 13,300, mainly due to this trend. 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'. Current court-cases over pay for volunteers might force some NGOs with limited resources to decrease their operations.

IV. Provision and Quality of Assistance

CHART 4. Number of People Assisted in Key Humanitarian Sectors January 2007 – October 2007



An in-depth sector update as per 1 July 2007

12. Food:

During this quarter, WFP, ICRC and Cooperating Partners reached an average of 3.3 million people per month, with a peak of 3.4 million people in August. The worsening security situation resulted in a significant increase in the numbers of people not reached, from 60,000 in July to 122,000 in September.

At the same time, during this quarter food assistance expanded to reach vulnerable resident populations in rural food insecure areas during the hunger gap, resulting in a 40 percent increase compared to the previous quarter. However, a decline in these numbers was noted in September, following the start of the harvest season in some parts of Darfur.

WFP also provided targeted food assistance to malnourished women and children through supplementary feeding programmes, as well as to school children through the emergency school feeding programme.

Aside from insecurity, WFP operations were further complicated by delays in food deliveries into Darfur caused by government-imposed military escorts on all trucks travelling into Darfur. While a waiver on trucks carrying WFP food was negotiated, this did not result in an immediate

acceleration of WFP food into Darfur. The situation was kept under control as a result of earlier pre-positioned food in Darfur. While the military escort requirement remains in place, food deliveries into Darfur have since improved, but not at the previous momentum.

Localized nutrition surveys by NGOs showed high General Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates, mostly in larger IDP camps near Geneina, El Fasher and Nyala as well as some surrounding localities of Kabkabiya and Ed Daein, ranging from 17.2 to 30.4 percent, above the levels observed in 2006. Insecurity leading to population movement, diminished services, lack of water and sanitation were some of the contributing factors assessed in coordination with other agencies and NGOs in the nutrition and food security/livelihood sector. The Darfur-wide Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (EFSNA), undertaken in August, is expected to give a broader indication of malnutrition levels in Darfur. WFP continues to support on average 25,000 malnourished people per month, providing a total of 580 MT of food through supplementary and therapeutic food assistance, during this quarter.

Emergency school feeding is another avenue through which WFP and partners reach food insecure children with a daily school meal. The programme aims to support national goals of increasing access to education, encouraging enrolment and attendance, while alleviating short-term hunger to improve concentration and participation of school children. During July and August (1) an average of 88,000 children were assisted with 693 MT of food.

13. **Agriculture:**

No new data are available for this period.

14. **Non-food items:**

In the third quarter of the year, the Non Food Items sector focused on providing shelter against the seasonal rains. In order to meet this requirement, 25,825 plastic sheets were distributed in West Darfur, 32,235 pieces in North Darfur and 20,273 in South Darfur. Overall, the NFI common pipeline has provided 81,934 households with Non Food Items. Of this, 26 % was in North Darfur, 34 % South Darfur and 40 % in West Darfur.

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 out and acted upon. Although commercial transporters are largely still able to move across the region to deliver items, actual distributions by NGOs are being curtailed due to insecurity. In North Darfur, the Tawila and Korma areas continued to be problematic for the humanitarian community. Haskanita and its surrounding area were of special concern following the GoS-rebel fighting and attack on the AU compound at the end of September. In West Darfur, the security situation in Sirba, Seleia, Kulbus, Masterei and Abu Saroug improved in September. NFI dispatches were conducted for Seleia locality and Mornei Camp during the last week of September. The deteriorating security situation in South Darfur had a serious impact on humanitarian movement, with car hijackings starting to occur inside Nyala town.

In the 3rd quarter of 2007 important steps were taken towards further cooperation within the sector, reflected in the UN and partners Work Plan 2008. As NFI and Emergency Shelter Sector Lead, UNJLC recruited a Sector Strategy and Coordination Adviser to facilitate this process. A workshop was held on 8 August for UNJLC field staff as re-familiarization of the Work Plan process. A total of 22 project sheets from the Darfur region have been submitted. This is a significant increase, compared to seven project sheets submitted to the 2007 work plan. This increase points to improved collaboration and coordination with partners, as well as more stakeholder interest in the Work Plan process.

The NFI and Emergency Shelter Sector continued also to support community-based projects such as health centres/clinics and schools. These requests are approved on a case by case

¹ September figures are not available.

basis.

The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) teams, made up of CARE staff and tasked by UNJLC, were fully functional and did their first monitoring exercises. Despite serious challenges in accessibility as a result of insecurity and seasonal rains, M&E activities have been taking place over the reported period in all three states: Post Distribution Monitoring, On-Site Monitoring sessions as well as Market Surveys. On a monthly basis an M&E Report is being produced by UNJLC from CARE reports and shared with the partners in the NFI and Emergency Sector.

15. Water and sanitation:

In Darfur, the rainy season and insecurity in the region slowed progress in the sector during the months of July, August and September. Floods in Bindizi (West Darfur) affected 500 families who received emergency assistance from the NGO Triangle with support from UNICEF. While drilling activities were reduced due to the rains, access to safe drinking water was increased for 85,500 persons in IDP camps and conflict-affected communities through the construction of new facilities. Safe water points were repaired for 121,250 people.

During the reporting period, UNICEF and partners provided access to safe means of excreta disposal for 173,118 persons in IDP camps and host communities through the construction of household, communal and school latrines, in addition to health facilities latrines.

Government WES projects in the three states in cooperation with NGO partners distributed soap along with house-to-house hygiene promotion activities for over 558,000 persons. Some 308 hygiene promoters, 417 community leaders and 1,003 school children were trained to further disseminate messages and enhance awareness on hygiene among communities. In addition, nine cleaning campaigns were conducted to improve the environmental sanitation in the camps.

Throughout Darfur, groundwater depletion is an issue of serious concern for the humanitarian actors. In June, consultants were hired and well loggers to monitor ground water were ordered. State Steering Committees were formed in the three states to guide the planning, implementation and management of ground water management systems. Thirty-five NGO, Government and UNICEF staff members were trained on a WES database, ground water loggers' installation and ground water monitoring. As of September, 34 digital loggers, provided by UNICEF and OXFAM, were installed in the three states and data collection is being carried out in various locations by the partners involved. In addition, manual ground water measurement of water levels is being carried out by OXFAM, IRC CARE and WES. Data analysis will start and continue throughout the last quarter of the year, and recommendations resulting from this analysis will be widely shared as well as implemented.

During the reporting period in Darfur, water samples were being tested for both contamination and free chlorine residue and indications are that many well owners are now chlorinating their sources. Soap distribution, hygiene promotion and vector spraying continued to be done in the camps to support the control efforts. Over 800 new latrines were constructed for newly displaced people. Hand pump mechanics, hygiene promoters and water chlorinators were trained to sustain the services. In West Darfur, some 115 hand pump mechanics, 135 hygiene promoters and nine chlorinators were trained as part of UNICEF's acute watery diarrhoea preparedness and response planning. Despite the heavy rains and the poor environmental conditions in camps, the acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) situation in Darfur is reported to be stable. Regular chlorination adequately controlled the spread of AWD and only a few cases were reported in Zalingei in West Darfur. UNICEF and partners continued to sustain water and sanitation services in addition to soap distribution and hygiene messages to approximately 800,000 persons in and out of the IDP camps.

16. Health:

WHO reported confirmed cases of the wild polio virus in Chad and DRC in July. This led to

intensified surveillance activities and social mobilization in all the border areas with Sudan. Following discussions with UNICEF and WHO regional offices, another round of National Immunization Days (NIDs) is planned for 22-25 October 2007 in view of the reported outbreaks.

Meanwhile, in collaboration with WHO and other partners, UNICEF supported the Federal Ministry of Health and state ministries of health in carrying out a round of the polio NIDs during 6-8 August in the northern states of Sudan. Some 4,460,000 (82%) children under five years of age were targeted.

UNICEF supported an accelerated immunization campaign in the Jebel Moon area of West Darfur targeting an estimated 7,000 people. Some 1,500 long-lasting insecticide-treated nets were also distributed in the community to assist in malaria prevention.

In North Darfur UNICEF distributed 54,000 bed nets (LLITN) and received an additional 15,000 nets for distribution next month. As a result of scaling up of LLITN distribution and availing of ACT, the malaria incidence rates in Darfur have been kept at manageable levels compared to other non-Darfur states. All of Darfur incidence rates are below the epidemic threshold.

To improve and expand health coverage, this quarter, the three Darfur states were provided with an additional 600 PHC (Primary Health Care) kits and 200 IMCI (Integrated Management of Childhood Illness) drug and equipment kits.

In South Darfur, a total 29 suspected cases of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) were reported between 5 May and the end September. The laboratory results of all these suspected cases revealed negative result for vibrio cholera.

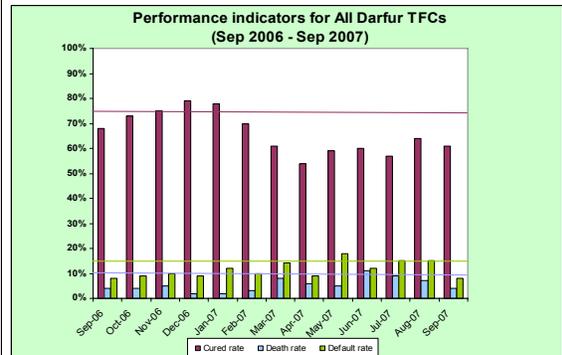
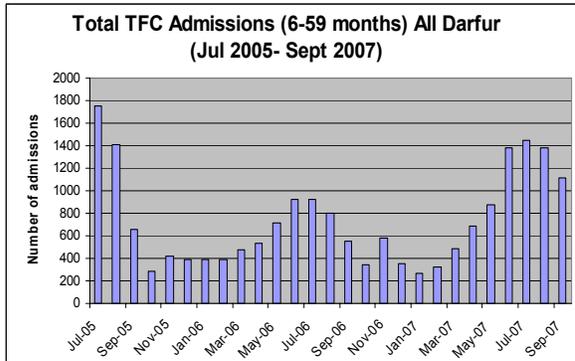
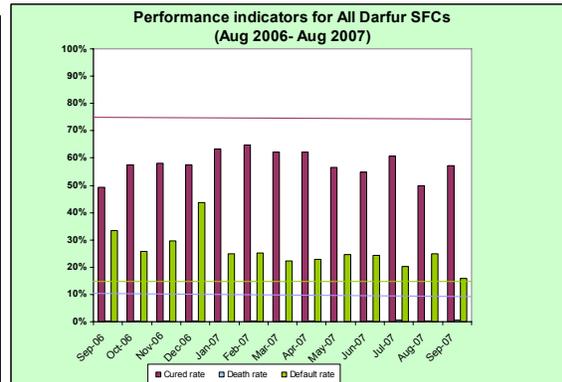
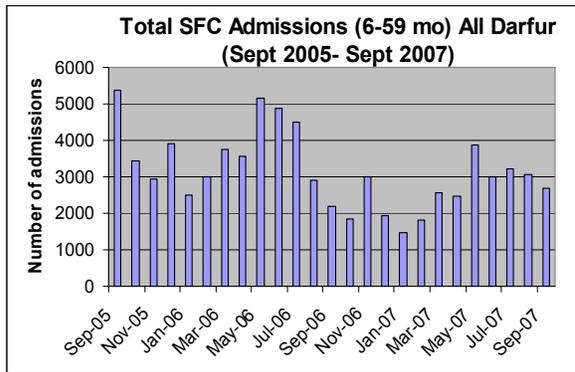
In South Darfur 100 volunteers were trained on hygiene promotion and health education for rapid response to any outbreak. In addition, with support of UNICEF, 60 community health promoters in three IDP camps of Nyala were trained on the community component of IMCI.

17. Nutrition:

UNICEF continued to support the 65 Therapeutic Feeding Centres (TFC/CTC) and 78 Supplementary Feeding Centres (SFC) run by NGOs and Ministry of Health.

Admissions into SFCs and TFCs have begun to decline at the end of the quarter, in line with seasonally observed trends in increased access to food and reduction in incidence of endemic diseases. Access to services has been reduced due to temporary suspension of programmes in some areas following insecurity, as well as challenges of movement in the rainy season. Overall, SFC/TFC admissions were attributed to increased morbidity, siblings being left to care for siblings while the adults are cultivating, and the physiological stress of population movement. There is a continued need to strengthen efforts to address diarrhoeal diseases, as well as to ensure the rapid identification and registration of new displaced for the general food distribution in order to prevent further deterioration in nutrition status.

Performance indicators for SFCs and TFCs remain below SPHERE standards. In particular, the elevated levels of defaulting and poor recovery observed in SFCs and TFCs are attributed in large part to increased time costs of agricultural and livelihood activities during this time of the year.



Four localized nutrition surveys were conducted during the third quarter, one in North Darfur and three in South Darfur. Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates exceeded the emergency threshold of 15% (ranging from 15.9 to 29.4 percent). Rates of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) ranged from 1.2 per cent to 4.4%. Three other localized nutrition surveys were conducted (two in South Darfur and one in West Darfur), but dissemination of results is pending government approval.

Relief International carried out a nutrition survey in Zam Zam Camp (15-23 August 2007). Tearfund in collaboration with Cordaid, UNICEF, SUDO/NCA and MOH carried out two nutrition surveys, one in Adilla locality (10-19 June) and one in Abu Matariq, El Ferdous, El Neem and Khor Omer IDP camps in Ed Daein and Abu Matariq localities (26 June-2 July). An interagency meeting was held in Nyala on 13 September with representatives from Government, NGOs and UN agencies in several sectors in order to review underlying causes of these two surveys in order to define action for the coming months. Primary constraints include limited availability of partners on the ground and security constraints. ACF carried out a nutrition survey in Seleah (7-13 August), an area in South Darfur to which people have been moving since October 2006 following tribal conflict in Muhajiriya.

Malnutrition rates in three of the surveys reported GAM higher than that found during the same period in 2006. In the fourth survey, there was no comparable information from the same period in 2006. Under-5 mortality rates and crude mortality rates were below emergency levels in all four surveys. The rate of GAM for children 6-29 months continues to be elevated in comparison to children 30-59 months, indicating that sustained efforts are required to address sub-optimal infant and young child care practices. Agency recommendations included continued nutrition services in order to ensure adequate treatment, as well as strengthening efforts in the prevention of malnutrition, including community nutrition and health education (including prevention and control of diarrhoea), social mobilization (including nutritional screening), vaccination campaigns and ensuring access to food distributions where appropriate.

The fourth Darfur Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment, an inter-agency effort led by the Federal Ministry of Health, the Humanitarian Aid Commission and Ministry of Agriculture with support from UNICEF, FAO and WFP, was conducted this quarter. The results

of the assessment are an essential tool for tracking progress in the delivery of services over the past year. They also form the basis for planning and resource mobilization for humanitarian and development programming in 2008 for a wide variety of Government, UN and NGO actors. Training for Team Leaders was held from 1-2 August in El Fasher, where operational issues, as well as tools themselves (community questionnaire, household questionnaire, focus group discussions) were reviewed. The training of Team Leaders was followed by the training of data collectors through state level trainings during 5-8 August, which included both theoretical and practical work. The field work began on August 12, and ended 5 September. The data collection was carried out by eleven teams of 10-12 staff representing State and Federal Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, HAC, FAO, UNICEF, WFP and NGO. Results are expected in early November.

18. Education:

In North Darfur, following UNICEF and partners' continued advocacy for more teachers in basic schools, the State Ministry of Education (SMoE) recruited an additional 100 new teachers with secondary school certificates for nomadic schools. Four new schools for nomadic children were opened, enabling 5,000 children to avail quality education and 200 children will have access to quality school environment respectively.

The Girls Education section in the State Ministry of Education, with support from UNICEF, conducted community mobilization campaigns on the value and importance of girls' education and awareness on HIV/AIDS and prevention in eight villages in Mallit locality benefiting 100 headmasters from both girls' and boys' schools and 250 women from the Women Union. Around a thousand leaflets on HIV/AIDS awareness were distributed covering 9,857 girls in eight villages and 441 girls in Abassi IDP camp.

19. Protection:

Reports of attacks on villages in North Darfur decreased during June to July, but there were renewed aerial assaults by GoS forces in late August and September. Repeated bombings in the Silo area were reported from May to mid-July, coupled with ground attacks on villages by militias in which 12 civilians were reported killed. Violations against IDPs were reported by armed groups fleeing violence in the Dobo area in June. Some 100 families fled to Shangil Tobayi camp. Confirmed violations included six rapes, including against girls under the age of 18, beatings with whips against some 11 children aged between 6 months and 10 years, and the abduction of a 5-year old boy, allegedly perpetrated by militias in Dabaneira. GoS aerial bombings in Jad El Sid, Al Mazrub and Ta'alba in the Adilla area (South Darfur) were reported between 25-31 August, resulting in two reported civilian deaths and displacement. GoS forces reportedly attacked Haskanita (North Darfur) with air and ground forces on 10-11 September. Some 49 civilians and 200 combatants from both sides were reported killed but are not confirmed due to restricted access. GoS forces bombed the Birmaza area on 19 September in which 10 civilians were reported killed. UXOs (Unexploded Ordnance) were confirmed present and a 17-year old later lost both hands by handling one.

Security of IDPs steadily worsened with the increasing presence of armed groups in camps. In Al Salam camp (South Darfur), armed men linked to the Sudan Liberation Army-Minni Minawi (SLA-MM) were accused of sexual violence, abduction, theft and illegal taxation. There were reports that persons who refused to pay illegal taxes were illegally detained and put before an SLA-MM court, where they were beaten, ordered to pay fines or forced to provide labor. Reports indicated that SLA-Peace Wing (SLA-PW) recruited children in Dereig camp and abducted those who refused to relocate. In Kalma camp (South Darfur), violations against civilians by armed groups were regularly reported in July. These included killings, sexual violence, physical assault and theft. Intimidation and harassment by militias were reported in IDP camps in West Darfur in September, resulting in heightened tension. Incidents included random gunfire, illegal taxation, harassment, physical abuse and injury, and abduction of IDPs.

Several serious incidents involving unidentified armed men were reported between May-July in Kassab camp (North Darfur), including armed robbery and assaults, and two killings. Security deteriorated in Fato Borno camp (North Darfur), with four incidents of attacks by militias reported against IDPs in gardens and farms in early July. Following the UN Secretary-General's visit to a Child Friendly Space in As Salaam camp (North Darfur), tensions between the pro-government Kinin tribe and other IDPs resulted in looting and destruction of the site. Young children were evacuated and stopped using the site after the incident. Road blocks were established and monitored by Kinin in key areas in the camp and tensions between tribal groups reportedly increased in Abu Shouk and As Salaam camps. A series of high-level visits to camps appear to have prompted attempts to intimidate IDPs and exacerbated tensions.

The month of August saw considerable civilian death, injury and displacement due to tribal conflict. While tribal clashes are generally more pronounced during the migratory season, there was greater loss of life compared to previous years. In South Darfur, inter-tribal clashes between Rezeigat Abbala and Tarjam were reported in late July and August in the Bulbul and Kass areas. According to the Darfur Transitional Authority committee, some 470 Tarjam people were killed, including women and children, and 250 people wounded. Casualties among the Rezeigat Abbala tribe are unknown. Some 109 households fled to Sakali camp (South Darfur), with 28 separated children reported. Rezeigat Abbala militia also reportedly prevented movement from the Sania Deleba area to Nyala, with some residents unable to flee. IDPs interviewed complained that GoS army and police in some villages failed to protect the civilian population and took no action during the attacks.

In West Darfur, Abbala Rezeigat attacked various villages near Zalingei, reportedly to loot cattle from predominantly Baggara tribes residing there. Seven people were reported killed, four injured and 22 went missing following attacks on Geinoh Shawa, Helabano and Dabaneira villages in early August. At least 100 families were displaced to Taiba IDP camp in Zalingei. Insecurity in Taiba camp was reported, including Abbala incursions, theft of livestock, random shooting and harassment of women and girls when collecting firewood. Local police allegedly did not respond to reported incidents.

A number of clashes between Ma'alia militiamen and Zaghawa involving cattle looting were reported in South and North Darfur in August, causing displacement of some 250 households from Sineit (north-west of Muhajariya) and some 15,000 Zaghawa residents from Kilikil Abu Salam village. Meanwhile tensions between Habaniya and Salamat tribes were reported northwest of Buram (South Darfur) following cattle raids, in which four Salamat and 21 Habaniya were reported killed.

Against this backdrop of insecurity, the Wali of North Darfur stated in July that IDP return was at the top of the government agenda, while security officials presented the situation as considerably improved. IDP representatives stressed the current environment is not conducive for return, noting continued insecurity in areas of origin, failure to disarm militias and distrust of GoS police. Harassment of IDPs linked to return was reported in August in Abu Shouk camp (North Darfur), where armed men reportedly broke into IDP dwellings and threatened that people will be forced to leave the camp. Various peaceful demonstrations by IDPs across Darfur took place in late July and August following the President's visit protesting against return under the current circumstances.

20. Child Protection:

During the month of September several trainings on sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) and ways to provide emotional support to victims of SGBV were conducted in the Darfur States. In South Darfur, 30 Sheikat women from 18 IDP camps in the Kass area were trained as trainers on SGBV. In Kalma Camp, 22 teachers from eight basic schools in the IDP camp attended a workshop on sexual exploitation and code of conduct, and in West Darfur, 20 animators working in child friendly spaces were given orientation on child protection and SGBV. The trainings are aimed at enhancing the psycho-social capacity of those who come into contact with survivors and helping to challenge discriminatory and stigmatizing attitudes towards

survivors. This includes capacity building of educators, community leaders and authorities to address gender based violence.

In early September, UNICEF and UNDP jointly undertook the training of 45 social workers from the Department of Social Welfare, National Council for Child Welfare, The Commission for Women and Children and Curia Prison in South Darfur. The training aimed at building the capacity of the social workers to follow up on individual cases of juvenile justice offenders. Results from the pre- and post-training tests, showed that the participants had gained an increased understanding of juvenile justice including the need to ensure the well-being of the child and their specific role as social workers in ensuring the protection and well-being of children during juridical proceedings. There are currently more than 30 social workers in South Darfur but follow-up has not been systematic for cases of juvenile offenders. Social workers have an important role in the supervision, follow-up and psycho-social evaluation of children in contact with the law. According to the Child Act 2004, social workers must be present during interrogations of minors by the police as well as during trials. Social workers are obligated to provide courts with pre- and post-trial reports on the psychological and social condition of the child. The social workers play a key role in minimizing the trauma incurred by a child facing judicial proceedings. In addition, the assessment of psycho-social condition of the child feeds into the consideration of the court in terms of the degree of severity and type of sentence.

Following the successful implementation of a Unit for Child and Women Protection within the Police in Khartoum, a decree was issued in August by the Director General of the Police, requesting all states in Sudan to establish similar units. As a result, in West Darfur, UNICEF supported the establishment of the first Darfur-based Child and Women Protection Unit within the police. The building and staff have now been identified, and the building is being renovated for opening in the near future. The police unit will provide a one-stop service to children and women who are victims of abuse and violence, and will include medical care, social workers, a psychologist, and police who are trained on investigation techniques for children and women.

21. Summary:

The humanitarian situation in Darfur continues to be extremely precarious. 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 wide-spread violence and insecurity. 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. Humanitarians are in constant danger of being attacked. In this climate, significant returns of the displaced to their villages of origin cannot be expected.