

HUMANITARIAN Overview

1 JANUARY - 31 JANUARY 2007



Photo Credit: Derk Segaar/OCHA/2006

IDPs from Abu Sakin displaced to Lumbati as a result of the fighting that took place early December 2006. Humanitarian agencies were able to access the Jebel Marra area in January following months of negotiations. Preliminary estimates indicate at least 30,000 were displaced because of the fighting.

DARFUR

New population displacements were registered weekly in January as attacks on villages, sexual violence and intimidation continued to force large numbers of people to move throughout Darfur. Generalised violence, attacks on humanitarian assets

and bureaucratic impediments continued to affect humanitarian operations throughout Darfur. While humanitarian access was regained in some long cut-off areas, key locations such as Gereida still remain out of bounds for most agencies. In this fluid context, humanitarian organizations remain on high alert to immediately respond to the emerging gaps.

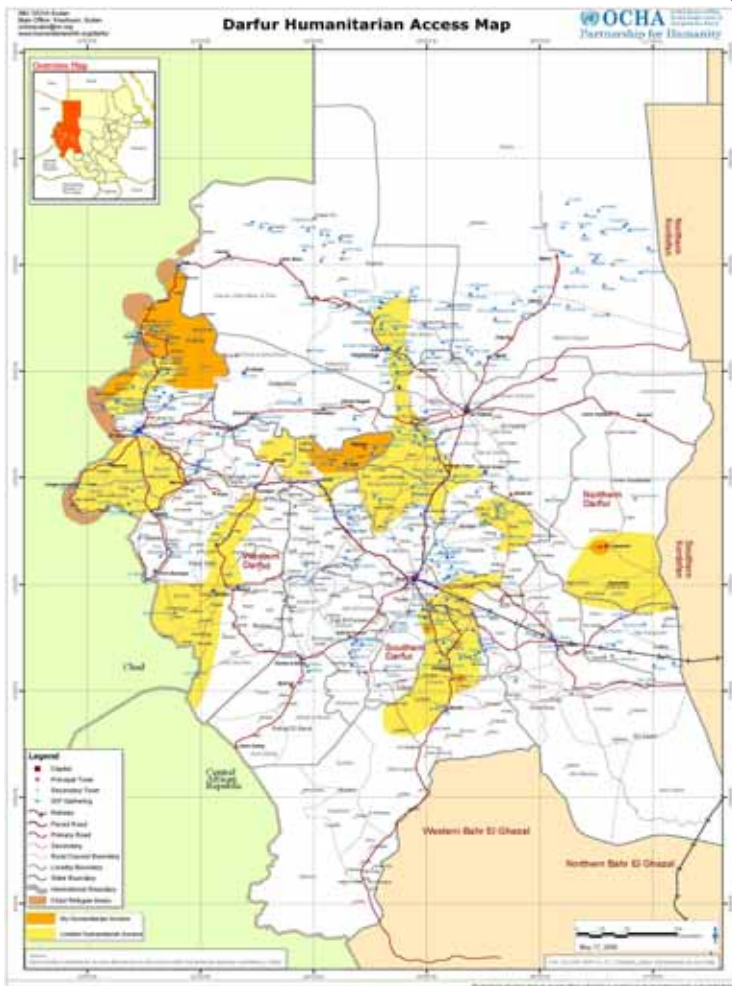
THIS ISSUE'S HIGHLIGHTS:

- REFUGEE AND IDP RETURNS TO SOUTHERN SUDAN
- CHF ALLOCATIONS FOR 2007
- DARFUR ACCESS MAPS - MAY 2006 vs JANUARY 2007
- MEETINGS & EVENTS IN FEBRUARY 2007

Welcome to the first issue of Sudan Humanitarian Overview (SHO) for 2007. Produced by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), in collaboration with other UN agencies and partner NGOs, the SHO aims to provide an overview of humanitarian trends and activities in Sudan, as well as focus on particular issues of interest. Send comments and contributions to sho@unsudanig.org

New **displacements** of villagers towards IDP camps continued relentlessly through the month as a result of GoS/militia and SLA-MM (Minni Minawi) attacks - especially in North Darfur where there were reports of GoS aerial bombings in many locations - and attacks and intimidation by Arab militias. In January, an estimated **46,000 people** were newly displaced throughout Darfur. Insecurity and displacement were compounded by a worrisome spread of inter-tribal conflicts in Southern and Eastern West Darfur.

By month's end, two-thirds of the Kass population (South Darfur) was made up of IDPs. New arrivals continued to stream into Kalma camp from Muhajiriya and other nearby areas. In As Salaam camp (North Darfur), the current IDP population of 44,000 surpassed camp capacity of 38,000 and while short-term steps are being taken to meet the increased demands, humanitarian agencies were discussing with local authorities a



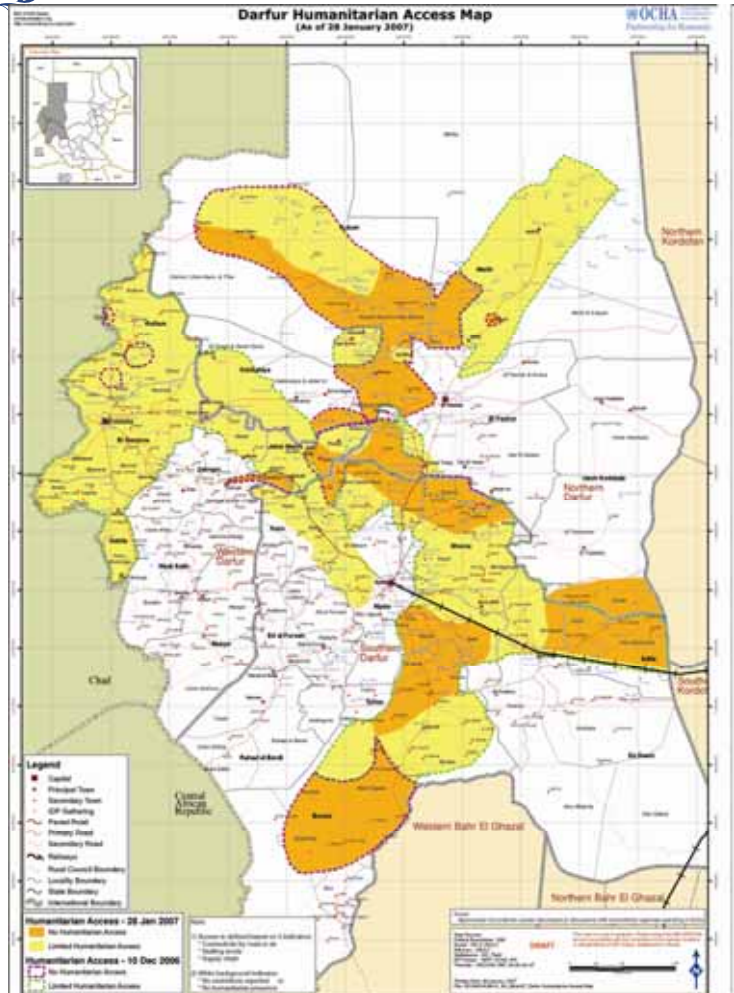
May 2006

suitable new site. Over 5,000 new IDPs arrived in Otash camp from Goz el Gharbi (Boram, South Darfur). Hundreds of new IDPs continue to stream into the Zalingei camps from Abaata and Jebel Marra (eastern West Darfur). In Gabral Ghanam (North-East of Kafod, North Darfur), an inter-agency assessment mission identified a caseload of 5,000 villagers who had dispersed into the surrounding hills after the 6-8 January SLA-Minawi attack on their village. In Bahar Omdurma (East of Shangil Tobayi, North Darfur), a humanitarian mission found that the entire population of 4,000 to 4,500 people had returned following the same series of attacks.

Humanitarian access continues to be compromised. The latest January humanitarian access map shows Darfur-wide access is about 64%. While access has improved in some areas, windows have closed again in others. Aid agencies are relying on a flexible quick in-and-out approach to service populations in many areas. (For a copy of the latest Darfur humanitarian access map go to: www.unsudanig.org and click on Library - Map Catalogue).

On a positive note, humanitarian presence has been re-established in **Tawilla** (North Darfur) after an absence of five months. Food distributions in **Nertiti** that had been called off in November due to violence were also able to go forward. The November distribution had been interrupted by people throwing stones and protesting the rations. Some NGO staff were injured, and the rubhall looted and destroyed.

Following months of negotiation, the UN finally managed to reach the **Jebel Marra** mountains and the area around Abu Sakin (North Darfur). Some areas in the Jebel Marra had been



January 2007

deprived of assistance for over a year and many of these people had suffered from attacks by Arab militia in November and early December 2006. The interagency mission estimated about 30,000 to 35,000 had been displaced from the attacks and were dispersed in the mountains.

Another positive development was that 500 MT of food were successfully trucked to the northern corridor in West Darfur, an area which for months has been the scene of wide-spread insecurity. Humanitarians have resumed operations in other areas such as Khor Abeche (South Darfur). Food distribution to the affected populations in Mellit locality (North Darfur) has also been successfully completed. An inter-agency mission was able to visit the **Birmaza** area (North Darfur) for the first time since November last year. Preparations are underway for food and NFI distributions.

However in **Gereida**, despite ongoing negotiations between the humanitarian community and the Minawi wing of the SLA for safe access, humanitarian activities have not yet resumed due to insufficient safety guarantees by the SLA commanders. The NGOs working in Gereida were forced to temporarily pull out in December after targeted attacks on their compounds, including the theft of cars and other assets, and the beating, harassment and sexual assault on aid workers. Steps are being taken to address the most urgent needs of the affected populations and the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) agreed to take over the food assistance, therapeutic feeding and water and sanitation activities in the town which has an IDP population of 130,000. Elsewhere in South Darfur, food distributions to areas south of the railway (Yassin, Dito and Morro), also to be postponed due to insecurity.



HUMANITARIANS SPEAK OUT AMID GROWING CONCERNS IN DARFUR

The UN and NGOs spoke out in January in strongly worded public statements, warning that gains made in the humanitarian situation are at risk of roll-back given the rising levels of insecurity and target violence against aid workers.

The humanitarian community has been working in Darfur for three years, providing food, water, shelter and medical care to millions of people – roughly two million IDPs in camps and almost as many vulnerable people living outside camps. Without question, the extensive humanitarian operation and billions of dollars in funding have saved the lives of hundreds of thousands of civilians caught up in the region's conflict. During this time mortality rates were brought below emergency levels, global malnutrition was halved from the height of the crisis in mid-2004 and nearly three-quarters of all Darfurians now have access to safe drinking water.

"In the face of growing insecurity and danger to communities and aid workers, the UN and its humanitarian partners have effectively been holding the line for the survival and protection of millions," the statement read, further warning that for progress to be sustained, "Solid guarantees for the safety of civilians and humanitarian workers are urgently needed."

The statement, endorsed by 14 UN agencies with operations in Darfur, noted that 12 relief workers have been killed in the past six months – more than in the previous two years combined. In the same time period, 30 NGO and UN compounds were directly attacked by armed groups and more than 400 humanitarian workers were forced to relocate 31 times from different locations throughout the three Darfur states – government and rebel-controlled areas alike. These attacks are having direct consequences on the Darfur humanitarian operations. For example, global acute malnutrition, which was halved from nearly 22% at the height of the crisis in mid-2004, to 11.9% in 2005, started edging up again over 13 per cent, perilously close to the emergency threshold of 15 per cent.

Six of the main NGOs working or who have worked in Darfur – *Action Against Hunger*, *CARE International*, *Oxfam International*, *Norwegian Refugee Council*, *World Vision* and *Save the Children* – said aid workers are facing violence on a scale not seen before in Darfur, leaving access to people in need at the conflict's lowest point at a time when the humanitarian need is greater than ever.

In a joint statement issued on 28 January, the NGOs called for action from the African and global leaders at the AU Summit to end rising violence against civilians and aid workers and warned the enormous humanitarian response in Darfur risks threat of paralysis. "Attacks on civilians are again rising and forcing even more people to flee their homes, and a breakdown of the aid response will leave millions in even greater danger. The worsening four-year-old crisis must not be allowed to deteriorate any further," the NGOs warned.

In another incident of brutality against aid workers, an NGO compound in **Nyala** was raided and 20 UN, NGO and AU staff temporarily arrested. While under arrest the staff were harassed, physically beaten and there was one case of attempted sexual assault. The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon formally and publicly protested the treatment of the UN and NGO staff. Of continuing concern, is the official handling of the incident. The UN Humanitarian Coordinator/Deputy Special Representative to the Secretary-General Manuel Aranda de Silva, together with senior representatives of UNICEF, World Food Programme and OCHA travelled to Nyala to discuss the issue with local authorities and investigation is still ongoing.

In addition to the violence, bureaucratic issues continue to impede humanitarian work. The deadline of 31 January – when stay visas and work permits of the vast majority of NGO expatriate workers were due to expire – passed without the renewal of these documents. By early February, the local HAC offices in Darfur were temporarily extending the travel permits of the NGO staff to allow them more time to get their paper work done in Khartoum but a longer term resolution was still needed.

SOUTHERN SUDAN

Stalled peace talks and serious attacks resulting in two UN fatalities, marred the security situation in Southern Sudan in January. As Sudan marked the second anniversary of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement on 09 January, peaceful disarmament remains a high priority and on going activity. The onset of the dry season has allowed road repair and reconstruction to move forward and improved access to markets. The dry season has also seen the restart of organised return operations, as well as more spontaneous returns. Work continues in all areas of return to strengthen the receiving capacity of local communities and support the successful reintegration of returnees. Humanitarian partners have



Photo Credit: Elena Rice / UNMAO /2007

A mine risk reduction briefing, held at the Juba way station



responded to outbreaks of meningitis and cholera as well as conducted measles and polio vaccination campaigns.

While the security in Southern Sudan remains generally stable, the situation deteriorated in some parts of Central and Eastern Equatoria during January. The first month of the year was marred by grave incidents, including an ambush on 10 January on the road between Juba and Torit, leading to the death of one World Food Programme (WFP) driver; and an ambush on 26 January near the town of Magwe, which resulted in one fatality and two casualties among United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) peacekeepers. The UN imposed strict movement restrictions on a number of roads in Eastern and Western Equatoria. Roads between Magwe to Nimule, and Magwe to Owiny Ki Bul are level 3; any movement of the UN agencies and NGOs must be undertaken only in emergencies and with an armed escort.

Contributing to the uncertain security situation, **peace talks** between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) remain stalled. Despite a visit to the region by the new Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for LRA-affected areas, Joaquim Chissano, during the month, both parties disagree on the relocation of the talks to a country other than Sudan.

As part of efforts aimed at improving security, the Sudan People Liberation Army (SPLA) has conducted searches for illegal weapons in several areas. While past attempts of forced civilian **disarmament** in 2006 have resulted in fighting and increased insecurity, two house-to-house searches on 28 January, peacefully rounded up 155 firearms in Rumbek and 67 in Bor. Following a successful disarmament process in Akobo county in July 2006, the GoSS requested a similar exercise be conducted in Pibor county. UNDP and the UN Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme, in conjunction with the Southern Sudan DDR Commission, are supporting the authorities to engage in a comprehensive community security and arms control process.

This began with a civilian disarmament exercise, which collected over 240 small arms through January at 12 locations in the county. The programme aims to mobilize traditional authorities including local leaders, and civil society at large.

A survey by the Geneva-based Small Arms Survey in the last quarter of 2006, funded in part by UNMIS, UNDP and the Canadian Government, found that disarmament, gun control and security sector reform were civilians' most pressing concern—outranking even access to education (for more information see www.smallarmssurvey.org).

With the onset of the dry season, road (re)construction and repair have restarted, improving traffic and transport. According to OCHA reports from the field, access to several areas of Northern Bahr el-Ghazal State, largely isolated during the rainy season, has improved. This has revived local commerce, with positive effects on prices, and has also eased access for assistance activities. Nevertheless, insecurity such as on the Juba–Torit road - mentioned above - has hampered progress in road reconstruction on some routes.

Organized voluntary repatriation of **refugees** is ongoing from CAR (1,858 individuals during January) and Kenya (476), and is due to restart soon from both DRC and Ethiopia. Repatriation from Uganda has been suspended following outbreaks of meningitis there, and will not be resumed until the disease can be contained. Repatriation from Ethiopia to Blue Nile State was on hold due to mine threats, pending the clearance of the road between Kurmuk and Chali, and other possible routes are awaiting mine assessment. Meanwhile, spontaneous returns from CAR (11), DRC (415), Egypt (90), Ethiopia (1,555), and Uganda (5) continue and are being assisted.

Five **organized return** operations for internally displaced persons (IDPs) are planned for the current dry season: from northern Sudan to Southern Sudan and the three areas; from South Darfur to Northern Bahr el-Ghazal State; from Wau County (Western Bahr el-Ghazal) to Warrap State; from the



Photo Credit: Elena Rice/UNMAO/2006

Ammunition recently recovered from the February 2005 stockpile explosion at the Juba Custom Market, cleared of UXOs in January 2007



Welcome to the UN Common Map Shop !

The Map Shop is a joint effort of several UN agencies, created with the intention of providing map products to the wider humanitarian community. We have over 450 different maps of Sudan in a variety of sizes and formats, available free of charge to humanitarian organizations, donors, and government. We are located on the first floor of the OCHA office, Bldg. 290 in Garden City, Khartoum (across from UNMIS). We are open Sunday - Thursday, 9:00 - 15:30.

You may view and download most of our maps at:

<http://www.unsudanig.org/library/mapcatalogue/sudan/index.php>

Equatoria states to Jonglei State; and internally within Blue Nile State.

The registration of IDPs in Khartoum is ongoing, along with information campaigns, with roughly 500,000 IDPs registered in Khartoum by January. While the authorities in Unity State are preparing to receive the first returns ever from northern Sudan, the UN and partners are working to ensure that the conditions are in place for a smooth reception, including at the Bentiu way station.

In January, some 2,000 southern Sudanese IDPs from South Darfur have returned to Northern Bahr el-Ghazal. Meanwhile, as violence persists in Darfur, more people have been displaced and have travelled south over the last three months, to locations in Northern and Western Bahr el-Ghazal states. As of January, around 16,000 IDPs from Darfur are reported to be in the Majok Yitheu area and 840 in Raja County, in Northern and Western Bahr el-Ghazal, respectively.

In Wau County (Western Bahr el-Ghazal), an IOM survey indicated that over 65% of IDPs have expressed a desire to return. They will be resettled over the coming months, mainly to Warrap State.

In the Equatorias-to-Jonglei return operation, over 700 ethnic Dinka IDPs have signed up for return to the Bor area, and have been hosted at the Lologo way station near Juba. A first return movement was conducted by barge, with 263 individuals return home in January. This will be followed by two or more similar operations, after which the way station will be closed.

The UN and partners are also caring for 225 vulnerable people of the M'bororo ethnic group. The group, who lived in the area around Rokon (Juba county), is currently hosted at the way station in Juba, where they were moved in December due to concerns for their safety. Humanitarian organisations are discussing their movement to Blue Nile State with authorities there, but a date for the operation has not yet been set. This vulnerable group (mainly widows and children) are due to be returned by air, while the non-vulnerable group (mainly men) will travel overland with their cattle.

WFP continues to provide food to all new returnees at full rations (cereals, beans, vegetable oil, and salt), as part of a three-month reintegration package. While **food security** continues to be a priority for humanitarian action in Southern Sudan, WFP has started to phase out general food distribution (GFD) as a major programme component in 2007, and replace it with a Food for Recovery (FFR) approach: food aid will be

provided to beneficiaries in return for minor community works.

With returns ongoing, the rising numbers in cases of **meningitis** are a serious concern. In January, 780 cases were reported, leading to 76 deaths. Mass vaccinations campaigns are continuing in areas of high alert in Central Equatoria and Warrap states, with the World Health Organization (WHO) providing essential drugs, emergency supplies for outbreak investigation, as well as technical guidance on outbreak control and case management. Through January, the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) provided support to a mass vaccination through the provision of 95,000 doses of vaccines to Kajo-Keji (Central Equatoria), and 16,000 to Western Bahr el-Ghazal.

Meanwhile, 438 cases of **cholera** have also been reported, leading to 19 deaths. Most cases are in Central Equatoria, but Upper Nile State is also affected, with 15 reported cases leading to two deaths. There were 1,206 reported cases in the last two months of 2006.

The **measles mass vaccination** campaign resumed in the third week of January. Six UNICEF teams were deployed to six counties, targeting 634,696 children; WHO polio vaccination teams will be deployed to provide measles vaccinations to a further 880,361 children in six other counties. January also saw the start of tetanus vaccination campaigns in Lakes State (targeting 150,000 women of child-bearing age), in Western Bahr el-Ghazal (30,000), and in Upper Nile (25,000).

KHARTOUM

Unpredictable demolitions and poor consultation with the affected populations have been the main problems affecting **Khartoum IDPs**. Established procedures for relocations continue to be disregarded. A joint UN mission to Aligedat village (South of Omdurman) on 31 January found that police entered the village without prior notice and demolished some 50 dwellings, despite the fact that the local population had agreed to a re-organization of the area according to the 2001 aerial map. During the Police raid, 26 community members were arrested and temporarily detained.

Following the 18 December inter-agency needs assessment in Dar el Salam (Gezira State), where IDPs had been forcefully relocated in August 2006, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator sent a letter to the Wali of Gezira informing him of the key findings and of the UN readiness to deliver assistance to the relocated people. There still has been no official go-ahead granted for humanitarian intervention in the area.

ONLINE CONTACT DATABASE

The online contact database for the UN, NGOs and key government authorities, launched by the OCHA Information Management Unit (IMU), is available at:
<http://www.unsudan.info/contacts/>

The database can be searched by various fields, such as name, job title, organisation, acronym, sector and state, and query results can be printed or saved in a variety of formats. There is also a link for updating or correcting existing information. Please direct your inquiries to:
ochasudan@un.org



COMMON HUMANITARIAN FUND FOR SUDAN - FIRST ALLOCATION ROUND FOR 2007

The first tranche of the Common Humanitarian Fund for the Sudan in 2007 of US\$80 million was allocated in January. Based on preliminary indications from donors, the notional figure of US\$80 million was used while waiting for firm written pledges by donors who have indicated their commitment to the CHF. An emergency reserve of 10% will be set aside.

The allocation of the funds were prioritized in two ways. The first \$40 million was allocated to regions in the same proportion as the humanitarian funding requirements of the UN Work Plan for Sudan. The remaining \$40 million was prioritized to regions of heavy return and where rainy season constraints require early funding. The areas with time critical priorities for the early months of 2007 -- Southern Sudan, as well as Southern Kordofan, Blue Nile and Abyei -- received a large percentage of this round of allocation to support to the returns process and implement activities that need to be undertaken before the onset of the rainy season.

Area and regional coordinators in consultation with sector leaders and Work Plan partners, under the guidance of the Humanitarian Coordinator, will be responsible for outlining the proposed distribution of resources between sectors.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS OF NOTE IN FEBRUARY 2007

*For full information on meetings go to the meeting schedule on www.unsudanig.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				01 FEBRUARY 11:00 Common Pipeline Management Meeting, OCHA 11:00 Cooperating Partner Coordination Meeting for Central, East and three areas, WFP	02 FEBRUARY	03 FEBRUARY
04 FEBRUARY	05 FEBRUARY	06 FEBRUARY	07 FEBRUARY	08 FEBRUARY	09 FEBRUARY	10 FEBRUARY
12:00 Return and Reintegration WG, OCHA	12:00 SGBV Core Group, UNFPA 13:00 UN Sector Coordinators RoS, UNDP, TBC 14:00 UN Sector Coordinators Darfur, UNDP 15:15 UN Donor briefing, UNDP 16:30 Inter-Agency Coord, UNDP	11:00 IAWG, OCHA	08:30 UN Security Brief for NGOs, UNDSS 11:00 KPSG, OCHA 15:30 WATSAN, UNICEF	12:00 Child Protection, National Council for Child Welfare 14:00 Logistics meeting for Darfur & RoS, UNDP		
11 FEBRUARY	12 FEBRUARY	13 FEBRUARY	14 FEBRUARY	15 FEBRUARY	16 FEBRUARY	17 FEBRUARY
12:00 Return and Reintegration WG, OCHA 15:00 Health, WHO	10:00 Food Sector Coordination Darfur/RoS, HAC 11:00 KHT State Inter-Agency, FAR	13:00 KHT Protection WG, UNHCR UN Special Envoy Jan Eliasson & AU Special Envoy Salim Ahmed Salim Mission 13-17 February	08:30 UN Security Brief for NGOs, UNDSS 11:00 KPSG, OCHA UNMIS/IOM press visit, to the Departure Centre in Dar El Salaam IDP Camp	11:00 Nutrition, UNICEF 11:00 NFI Coordination meeting - Darfur, OCHA 19:00 USG Jan Eliasson & AU Special Envoy Salim Ahmed Salim Press Briefing, UNMIS, Garden City		
18 FEBRUARY	19 FEBRUARY	20 FEBRUARY	21 FEBRUARY	22 FEBRUARY	23 FEBRUARY	24 FEBRUARY
12:00 Return and Reintegration WG, OCHA	12:00 SGBV Core Group, UNFPA 13:00 UN Sector Coordinators RoS, UNDP, TBC 14:00 UN Sector Coordinators Darfur, UNDP 15:15 UN Donor briefing, UNDP 16:30 Inter-Agency Coord, UNDP	11:00 IAWG, OCHA	08:30 UN Security Brief for NGOs, UNDSS 11:00 KPSG, OCHA 11:00 Food Security and Livelihoods sector, FAO	11:00 NFI Coordination meeting - RoS, OCHA 12:00 Child Protection, National Council for Child Welfare		
25 FEBRUARY	26 FEBRUARY	27 FEBRUARY	28 FEBRUARY	29 FEBRUARY	30 FEBRUARY	31 FEBRUARY
12:00 Return and Reintegration WG, OCHA 15:00 Health, WHO	11:00 KHT State Inter-Agency, FAR	13:00 KHT Protection WG, UNHCR	08:30 UN Security Brief for NGOs, UNDSS 11:00 KPSG, OCHA 11:00 Education, UNICEF Darfur Emergency Coordination Office			