

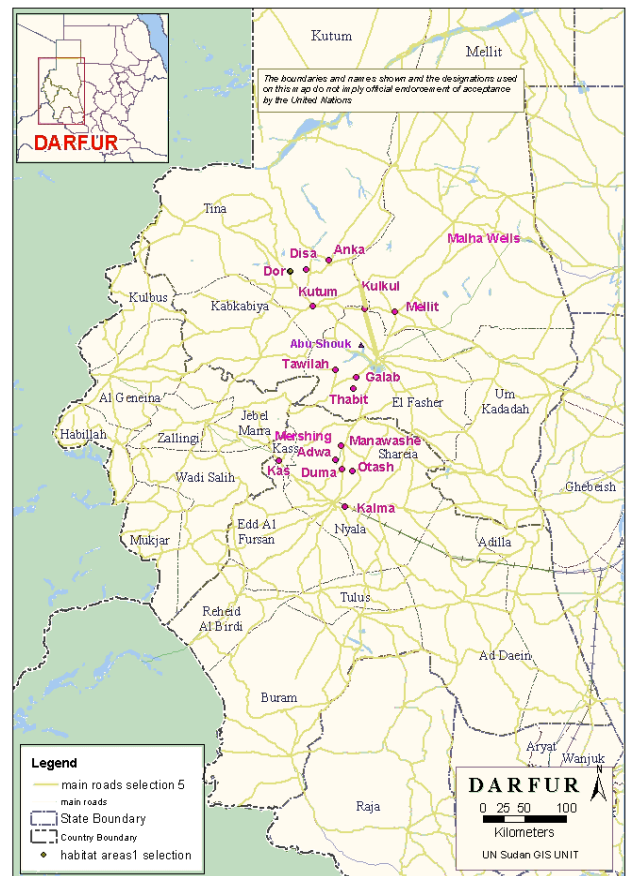


## United Nations Sudan Situation Report

14 December 2004

### Key Developments:

- Save the Children-UK (SC-UK) released a statement on 13 Dec. announcing that two of its national staff members were brutally killed while travelling in a clearly marked convoy on the main road between Mershing and Duma in South Darfur. The agency further stated that it has suspended its operations in South Darfur, including its operations in Duma where it runs a feeding centre and medical clinics, while it reviews the situation. The AU is investigating the incident.
- The Nov. edition of the Darfur Humanitarian Profile was released on 14 Dec. The report estimates the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) at 1.65 million and puts the total of conflict-affected persons at 2,279,266. The report gives an overview of humanitarian assistance provided to the affected population as of 1 Nov. and finds that food was delivered to 57% of the estimated conflict-affected population; shelter and NFI distributions had reached 61% of IDPs and that 43% of the conflict-affected population had access to clean water and 52% of IDPs were covered by sanitation activities. Primary health care coverage for the conflict-affected population was deemed at 60%, and 52% for secondary health care coverage. For more information, please refer to the full report at: <http://www.unsudanig.org/emergencies/darfur/profile/index.jsp?fid=oct-dec>.
- DSRSG/RC/HC Aranda da Silva travelled to West Darfur on 12-13 Dec. In El Geneina, he was accompanied by IOM and UNHCR, where the team clarified for the authorities, UN agencies and INGOs the roles of the two organisations regarding return and relocation. Discussions were held with the Wali who promised no return or relocation would take place without consultations with the stakeholders as per the agreement with IOM and the MoU under negotiation with UNHCR. The DSRSG also



visited Morni camp where it appeared as though the humanitarian situation had stabilised. However, the DSRSG remains concerned with the security situation in the surrounding areas which prevent IDPs from returning to their own villages.

### **Security Issues:**

- **North Darfur:** The security situation over the past week seemed to have subsided with no incidents reported since those of 7 and 8 Dec. UN officials conducted an assessment of the Thabit – Shangil Tobayi – Abuserega – El Fasher road and cleared it for UN operations. UNMAS and OCHA subsequently travelled to some of the areas on 12 Dec., including to Gallab and Thabit. UNMAS is clearing the area of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and OCHA is undertaking a humanitarian assessment. The teams report that the approximately 16,000 IDPs that had fled the 22 Nov. attacks on Tawilla to Thabit have now scattered in the surrounding areas after the 7 Dec. attacks on Thabit. However, the IDPs that had fled Gallab fearing a potential attack on 8 Dec. have subsequently returned to the camp. The fighting in Thabit on 7 and 8 Dec. had reportedly resulted in 4 civilian fatalities and 20 injuries. One civilian was reportedly arrested by the GoS troops. GoS troops were also reported to have attacked Gerib Shama in the Dar es Salaam area on 8 Dec.
- **South Darfur:** Fighting continues in areas east and southeast of Nyala town. In addition to the incident involving SC-UK staff members, fighting was reported in the villages of Bashom, Eida, Ishma, Um Zehefa, Reil and surrounding areas to the east of these locations on 12 and 13 Dec. Moreover, the reported build up of rival armed groups in these areas have raised serious concerns in the international community. UN operations and movements have been suspended in these areas due to the insecurity. Two international NGOs report that they have relocated staff from Muhujariya to Sheriya due to uncertainty about the security situation in the area.
- Humanitarian agencies report that Arab militias had entered some sections of Kalma camp in the evening of 13 Dec., randomly shooting into the air, and looted personal items from some huts and livestock belonging to some new arrivals.

### **Protection Issues:**

- **South Darfur:** A national staff member of an INGO was reportedly arrested in Manawashi on 13 Dec.
- Agencies are working within the framework of the Management and Coordination Mechanism (MCM), the operational arm of a GoS-IOM MoU on voluntary return, in order to conduct voluntary and appropriate relocation of some of the IDPs in Kalma and El Geir camps. IDP leaders, GoS authorities, and humanitarian agencies are currently working together to identify potential sites and assess the sites both in terms of the social composition of the areas and the technical aspects of the sites.
- **Greater Equatoria:** An Inter-Agency Assessment was conducted in the southern Sudanese counties of Morobu, Yei and Lainya from 13 - 18 Nov. in response to reports of Sudanese refugees returning from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda due to security concerns. Reports had indicated that Sudanese refugees, who had been living in the DRC for the last 20 years, were beginning to return due to having been caught between inter-tribal fighting and having been directly targeted by local militias. Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) activities have also forced some Sudanese refugees to return from Northern Uganda. The Assessment

found that 8,404 people had returned to Equatoria from the DRC and Uganda between July and Nov 2004.

### **Political Affairs:**

- SRSNG Pronk today condemned “in the strongest terms” the “brutal” murder of two SC-UK workers in South Darfur, and called on GoS, the rebel movements and militias to respect the principles of international humanitarian law. “The fact that the workers themselves seem to have become the target of fighting poses severe difficulties for humanitarian access, with grave consequences for assistance in the future,” the SRSNG was quoted as saying. SRSNG Pronk reminded the Sudanese Government of its responsibility to protect humanitarian workers in its territory.
- The Darfur peace talks resumed today in Abuja, Nigeria with the participation of both rebel groups (JEM and SLM) and GoS. The parties heard from the AU CFC on the current security situation in the three Darfur states and the list of cease-fire violations allegedly committed since the signing of the Abuja Protocols on 9 Nov. 2004. The AU proposed to the parties to discuss the security situation prevailing in the Darfur region before opening discussion on political issues (DoP). The meeting was adjourned for 24 hrs at the request of the movements and is expected to continue tomorrow.
- The Naivasha peace talks re-started today after a brief pause with the return of VP Taha to the conference site. The delegations from both GoS and the SPLM continue to work towards a comprehensive peace agreement by the end of 2004.
- Local Press: *Al-Ray Al-Aam*, *Al-Ayam*, *Al-Sahafa*, *Akhbar Al-YoM* papers all reported that a senior GoS negotiator, Dr. Ameen Hassam Omar, believes that the outstanding issues between the GoS and the SPLM/A are now very small, He added that the two sides are expected to end their remaining differences before the end of the current month. Dr. Ameen described the atmosphere in talks as being excellent. *Al-Sahafa*, *Akhbar Al-YoM*, *Al-Ray Al-Aam* reported that the Chadian President, Idris Deby, met separately with the NMRD and the GoS delegations for a new round of talks in Chad on 13 Dec. Mr. Deby urged the two sides to make intensive efforts to facilitate the access of humanitarian relief to the affected people in the area.

### **Humanitarian Affairs:**

#### **Food/NFIs**

- North Darfur: Agencies have agreed to use Thabit as a central distribution point to reach the approximately 16,000 IDPs that were dispersed to surrounding areas after the attack on Thabit on 7 Dec. A distribution of NFIs will be carried out from 16 to 18 Dec. and MSF-Spain will carry out a health screening on these same dates. The local area commander and community leaders were requested to inform the IDPs of these distribution plans. Further, the German technical assistance agency, THW, has repaired the water pumps in Thabit with the support of UNJLC.
- Agencies report that new IDPs continue to stream into Abu Shouk camp. Meanwhile, negotiations with local GoS authorities to secure a site to accommodate the 20,000 or so new arrivals in the past two weeks are ongoing. Agencies hope that the decision to set up an Abu Shouk II will be granted as rapidly as possible to allow for the adequate establishment of water supplies and the planning of the lay out of the camp.

- In response to WHO reports that some children were getting their fingers amputated while using some of the hand pumps in IDP camps, Spanish Red Cross, UNICEF and other agencies have assessed the hand pumps and are planning to bring in 36 covers developed by the Spanish Red Cross to Abu Shouk and 14 to Zam Zam camp.
- South Darfur: As a result of ongoing violence, WFP and its implementing partners have restricted their movements into areas north and east of Nyala. However, food convoys have been dispatched to Kass, Kubum, Ed Daein and to West Darfur without security incidents. WFP is also preparing to assist the approximately 2,000 new arrivals into Kalma camp and the approximately 1,000 recent arrivals in Beliel camp.
- In response to a request to improve rapidly the water and sanitation facilities in Marla, Samaritan's Purse, Action Contre la Faim (ACF), and Merlin report that they have repaired the damaged water bladder and resumed water trucking in the area.
- West Darfur: WFP reports that it completed distribution of food to affected populations in Garsilla, Deleig and Um Kheir and plans to distribute another round of food rations before the end of the month of Dec. Intersos, Oxfam, NCA, IRC, Solidarites all plan to increase their interventions in the Zalingei corridor, covering Garsilla, Deleij, Mukhjar, Bindisi, Um Kher, Um Dukhum, Nertiti and Zalingei.
- Khartoum: Demolitions in the camps and squatter areas in greater Khartoum have created the need for shelter and NFIs. Currently, 20,000 HHs in Soba Aradi, El Salaam and Wad el Beshir are in need of shelter. It is expected that this need will increase throughout the cold season. FAR will distribute 6,000 blankets and 6,000 pieces of plastic sheeting to the most vulnerable families affected by the demolition in el Salaam and Wad el Bashir camps.
- Greater Upper Nile: Food production and, thus, the livelihoods of much of the population in the surrounding areas of Bentiu/Rubkona have been severely affected by cattle raiding and forced taxation on fishing by local militias. The cattle stolen by local militias have been forced to graze in the vicinity of Bentiu/Rubkona, which has destroyed the rice fields resulting in rice crop failure for this year. Militias demanding high and illegal taxes at fishing sites have discouraged significant numbers of people from fishing as an alternative to depending on livestock.
- In early Nov. 2004, the State Ministry of Agriculture (SMOA) in Upper Nile reported that crop production this season is not as strong as last season's due to drought and insecurity. Reports from Nasir, Fangak, Akobo and Bor all indicate that drought has caused a food gap, while in Pibor and Tonga localised floods and insecurity are considered the main factors affecting food security. In Malakal, prices of grains and other commodities are high. FAO is launching a programme to increase fruit production in Upper Nile and Jonglei States that includes a training seminar for fruit tree growers in Malakal which began in late Nov.

## Health

- South Darfur: As a result of the attack on the SC-UK convoy, the agency has temporarily suspended operations of its clinics in Mershing, Manawashi and Duma.
- International Medical Corps (IMC) and Care report an increase in the number of malnourished children in El Geir camp. The IDP population in the area have not received food since GoS forces raided the camp in early Nov.
- Victims of violence from the Um Zehefa and surrounding area reportedly travelled to Muhujarija in the hope of getting treatment at a clinic set up by an INGO, but found

that the INGO had relocated its staff to Sheria due to the precarious situation in the area. 12 burn victims from Um Zehefa reportedly died on 13 Nov. in Muhajarija.

- West Darfur: IMC plans to take over MSF-H operations in Deleij. MSF-H currently provides medical services to the conflict-affected populations in most of the areas in the Zaleingi corridor, including Deleij, Garsilla, Mukjar, Bindisi, Um Kheir and Um Dukhum. MSF-F runs feeding centres and a clinic in Nertiti.
- Khartoum: The general health situation in IDP camps, which has been deteriorating steadily since 2000, has worsened dramatically in the past few months given that most INGOs originally providing services have pulled out except for some such as Medair and the local NGOs currently operating generally lack the capacity and resources to continue the provision of health services. Moreover, the process of demolitions ongoing since Sept. 2003 has had a pronounced effect on sanitation conditions in the camps. As a result, the incidence of tuberculosis, diarrhea, malaria and malnutrition has been on the rise. SIDO has reported that pregnant women are at significant risk due to poor ante-natal, delivery, and post-natal services. Local NGOs are awaiting the results of the recent Rapid Assessment Survey in order to decide where they should intervene. However, given their lack of capacity and resources, this is not expected to reduce the widening gap in this sector in the near future.
- Greater Equatoria: There has been an increase in cases of malnutrition recently in Bahr el Jebel most likely due to crop failure and the lack of safe drinking water. This situation is expected to worsen as the failed harvest season continues and no additional food assistance is delivered. ACF reported that 17 new cases of severe malnutrition were recently identified, with 10 children brought to Juba's Therapeutic Feeding Centre (TFC), five waiting in Lafon for transport to Juba and two children having died. Three hundred-thirty-three moderately malnourished children are in the Secondary Feeding Centre (SFC) in Lafon. ACF is planning to build SFCs in five villages in Lafon as well as a TFC in Lafon garrison, which will later be moved to Juba.
- Greater Upper Nile: The number of admissions in the Action Contre la Faim (ACF) TFC and SFCs has dramatically risen in Bentiu/Rubkona over the last month. Admissions in the TFC increased by 24% and in the SFCs by 27%. The new admissions are comprised of both residents and newcomers in the area who have arrived as part of their seasonal migration within Unity State. Two assessments are being conducted to determine the cause of the rise in malnutrition cases. A beneficiary profile was undertaken to determine the origins of new arrivals on 7 Dec. and a vulnerability survey will be conducted to determine the socio-economic profiles of the children admitted.
- The twelfth round of National Immunisation Days (NIDS) was conducted during Oct./Nov. in Upper Nile State, resulting in 92% coverage of targeted children under five, along with 79% coverage with regard to vitamin A distribution.

## Access

- Greater Upper Nile: Humanitarian assistance into the areas surrounding Bentiu could be a problem in the rainy season due to the bad condition of the runway and at the present time it continues to be impeded by the suspension of flights to Bentiu/Rubkona. One airstrip in Rubkona, which is operated by the Ministry of Defence, has been inaccessible to humanitarian flights. The second airstrip, previously used for humanitarian flights, was abruptly shut down in the beginning of Nov. by local authorities citing concerns for the local population as the reason for

shutdown. The humanitarian community has addressed this issue with the Governor, Minister of Engineering Affairs, Minister for Social Affairs, Head of National Security, camp manager of Rubkona airstrip, and security of Rubkona airstrip. All of whom have given assurances that flights could resume. However, WFP conducted a test flight on 8 Dec. and they were refused landing permission. In a meeting between HAC and OCHA on 9 Dec., HAC gave assurances that humanitarian flights would be allowed to land in Rubkona.

#### **Sustainable Returns Team (SRT)**

- Many IDPs and refugees have been encouraged by the relative calm and promising prospects for a comprehensive peace agreement between the GoS and the SPLM/A to begin returning to their areas of origin. So far in 2004, some 420,000 displaced persons and some 130,000 refugees have returned to southern areas, including transitional areas (Abyei, Nuba Mountains, Southern Blue Nile).