

# HUMANITARIAN

## Overview

1 APRIL - 30 JUNE 2009



Akobo in Jonglei State, where tens of thousands displaced civilians are in need of help as a result of the violence in the area between the Murle and Nuer tribes.

(Timothy McKulka/UNMIS/2009)

## SOUTHERN SUDAN

**Humanitarian Context:** The humanitarian situation in Southern Sudan during the second quarter of 2009 deteriorated sharply as a result of inter-tribal fighting and violence associated with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Clashes with the LRA in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have caused further refugee influxes into Western and Central Equatoria States. Epidemic diseases and the challenge of reintegrating internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees returning home to Southern Sudan have also been major humanitarian priorities.

**Humanitarian Access:** On 12 June, barges carrying 735 metric tons (MT) of World Food Programme (WFP) food intended for 18,000 IDPs in Akobo in Jonglei State were attacked outside Nasir in Upper Nile State. Tens were killed during the attack and virtually all of the food was lost. In response to the attack, the United Nations Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator, Lise Grande, Upper Nile State officials and the four County Commissioners along the Sobat agreed on a nine-point access framework for the corridor. The Sobat Corridor is a major route for humanitarian cargo to surrounding areas within Upper Nile and Jonglei States.

### THIS ISSUE'S HIGHLIGHTS:

- Southern Sudan Update
- USG/ERC Mission to Sudan
- Darfur Update
- The Three Areas & Eastern Sudan Update
- Funding Overview/Update

Welcome to the second issue of the Sudan Humanitarian Overview (SHO) for 2009. The SHO aims to provide an overview of humanitarian trends and activities in Sudan, along with a focus on particular issues of interest.

### For questions and comments, please contact:

Orla Clinton, Head Advocacy and Public Information/RC/HC Spokesperson, United Nations, Khartoum, Sudan  
 Email: clinton@un.org, Telephone: +249-9-12174454  
 Cecilia Attefors, Public Information Officer, United Nations, Khartoum, Sudan  
 Email: attefors@un.org, Telephone: +249-9-12179084  
 Imad Hassanein, Media and Public Information Officer, United Nations, Khartoum, Sudan  
 Email: hassaneini@un.org, Telephone: +249-9-12178035  
 Nahla Zarroug, Information Analyst, United Nations, Khartoum, Sudan  
 Email: zarroug@un.org, Telephone: +249-9-12160065

The SHO can be found online at [www.unsudanig.org](http://www.unsudanig.org)



1 APRIL - 30 JUNE 2009

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

**Conflict and Humanitarian Consequences:** Between January and June 2009, more than 214,000 people were displaced by conflict within Southern Sudan. The number of IDPs affected by conflict during this half year is almost two and half times higher than that of 2008.

#### IDPs & refugees displaced by conflict, January - June 2009

STATE	IDPs	REFUGEES
Western Equatoria	63,384	12,842
Upper Nile	51,867	-
Jonglei	45,351	-
Warrap	24,453	-
Eastern Equatoria	13,400	-
Lakes	9,788	-
Central Equatoria	5,043	5,796
Western Bahr el Ghazal	812	-
Northern Bahr el Ghazal	-	-
Unity	-	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>214,098</b>	<b>18,638</b>

(Source: SSRRC, OCHA, UNHCR, Joint Assessment Reports)  
Visit [www.unsudanig.org](http://www.unsudanig.org) for a map showing LRA affected Refugees/IDPs.

Western Equatoria State registered the largest number of IDPs during the reporting period, largely due to ongoing LRA attacks. Fighting between two units of the uniformed forces in Malakal in February 2009 accounted for most of the IDPs in Upper Nile State. Jonglei State has been worst affected by inter-clan fighting. Since February 2009, attacks and counter

attacks involving the Murle, Lou Nuer and Jikany clans have been reported. Hundreds of people were killed, several children abducted and herds of cattle raided. No reports were received from Northern and Western Bahr el Ghazal.

**Epidemic Diseases and Health Situation:** Disease outbreaks including meningitis, acute watery diarrhoea, cholera and new polio cases were reported during the reporting period. Outbreak surveillance remained a challenge throughout the ten states. On average, only 20-30 counties out of 79 in total sent reports weekly. The Ministry of Health in June requested NGOs to report disease outbreaks directly to its offices in Juba to improve the reporting mechanisms.

**Cholera:** Isolated cases of cholera were reported in Aweil East and South Counties as well as in Aweil Town. The cholera problems have persisted since September 2008 when widespread flooding affected the area.

**Meningitis:** New cases were reported in Ruweng County (Unity State), Kapoeta South County (Eastern Equatoria State), Raja County (Western Bahr el Ghazal State), Yei County (Central Equatoria State), Aweil East County (Northern Bahr el Ghazal State) and Gogrial West County (Warrap State). Specimens confirmed *Neisseria meningitidis serotype A*. Surveillance and sample collection was strengthened at state level and a vaccination campaign was carried out in affected *payams* by the State Ministry of Health and NGO partners MSF-France and Medair in April.

**Polio:** An additional two cases of Polio were confirmed in April bringing the total number of cases to 50 since June 2008.

## THE EMERGENCY RELIEF COORDINATOR VISITS SUDAN

Between 6 and 10 May, John Holmes, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), visited Sudan for the second time in six months and for the fourth time since taking office in 2007. His visit, the first following the 4 March Government decision to close three national NGOs and expel 13 international NGOs, aimed to review the humanitarian situation.

Mr. Holmes visited Southern Sudan and Zam Zam IDP Camp in Northern Darfur. The ERC co-chaired with the Government of Sudan (GoS) the first meeting of an expanded High Level Committee (HLC), where members underlined the need to maintain an efficient aid operation in Darfur. The meeting agreed that humanitarian action, including relief and early recovery programs, needs to take place in a rules-based environment in the letter and spirit envisaged in the 2004 Moratorium and the 2007 Joint Communiqué, and as reaffirmed by the Ministerial Decrees issued on 16 April and 2 May 2009.

Agreement was reached that in addition to standard monitoring of programs, there is a necessity to have joint monitoring by GoS, donor and UN teams to provide an overview of needs and programs to address them, of staff safety, and of the operational environment.

In Southern Sudan, Mr. Holmes visited Akobo in Jonglei State, where tens of thousands of recently displaced civil-



ERC John Holmes in Akobo, Southern Sudan, talking to civilians recently displaced by the violence between the Murle and Nuer tribes.

(Timothy McKulka/UNMIS/2009)

ians are in need as a result of the violence in that area between the Murle and Nuer tribes. Agencies are estimating that the number of at-risk people will increase by as much as 20 to 30 percent during the second half of the year.



### SUCCESS, ONE BOWL AT A TIME

Just along the side of the road in the dusty town of Ajakuac, Warrap state in Southern Sudan, Mary Aguek gives the pot of *fuul masri*, Egyptian-style beans, a stir before ladling them into a bowl to serve with bread. The head of the *Al Hayat* (The Life) Women's Association, Aguek is running a successful restaurant, something that would have been all but impossible a few years before. "I was in Khartoum during the war," she remembers. "I only came home in 2007."

In the aftermath of a civil war, a once-divided society faces the critical task of finding a way to rebuild. However, this is more complicated than it might initially seem. In addition to the devastating human toll, there are other victims, including people's knowledge, their capacity for innovation, and businesses that may once have thrived, but no longer exist. Southern Sudan suffered all of these effects and more following a 23-year long war that ended in 2005. An already inhospitable land, little was left for those returning to their homes when the violence stopped.

It was in this environment that Mercy Corps arrived in Ajakuac and other communities to help reconstruct what had been destroyed. Beginning in July 2008, the NGO has used the Twic Agriculture, Livelihoods and Micro-Enterprise (TALME) program to develop more than 30 women-owned small business associations in and around Warrap state. The TALME program, funded by the European Union, is scheduled to continue through at least 2011. It aims to build on the entrepreneurial skills of people in the community, as well as provide them with vocational training, business planning skills, and financial management tools.

Aguek spent several years in Khartoum as an internally displaced person. As she recalls, the situation was grim when she arrived in Ajakuac. "It was very bad when I returned," she says. "There were only drunk people around, and there was no market."

A small market began to develop within a short time, however, and Aguek quickly started selling tea to earn a small amount of money for her family. It wasn't enough though, and there was little opportunity to earn a profit. With support from Mercy Corps, Aguek was able to form the *Al Hayat* association, which today boasts 11 other women as members, most of whom are also former tea sellers.

As the organization grows, it is providing its members an opportunity both for long-term employment, and self-reliance. In December 2008 Mercy Corps provided seed funding so that the women could purchase plastic chairs and tables, kettles, building materials and other supplies.



Mary Aguek prepares *fuul masri* for a customer.

(Nathaniel Tishman/Mercy Corps/2009)

Armed with these supplies, several of the women opened small restaurants along the side of the road, strategically positioned for the regular convoys of vehicles passing through. According to Aguek, Mercy Corps has played a major role in her success, enabling her to construct a place where she can prepare food for her customers.

"Business is going well, because we have shade," she says, gesturing at the roof of the small restaurant. "Before we were only serving tea under the trees." The beginning of the rainy season once meant the end of her livelihood for several months.

Each member of the association, Aguek included, places a portion of their weekly profit into a cash box held by the organization's head. As their contribution builds over time, the women can withdraw portions of their share to further invest in their business. According to Aguek, most of the women save an average of 11 Sudanese pounds (roughly \$4.78) per week, an amount that can quickly build. She says that the women have saved a total of 820 pounds (\$357), 110 of which are hers.

Aguek clearly possesses a measure of resilience few in the developed world can match. And while she undoubtedly would have found a way to survive on her own, Mercy Corps' work has been an important step on her personal road to recovery, and her shop proves that efforts such as these can create both peace and economic dividends. "Mercy Corps has been very helpful," she says. "Look at me: I started with selling tea, and now I have my own restaurant."

Nathaniel Tishman, Mercy Corps

### UNITED NATIONS SUDAN INFORMATION GATEWAY

The OCHA Information Management Unit (IMU) provides a range of services to the humanitarian community. More than 1,000 maps of Sudan in a variety of sizes and formats are available free of charge to Government, donors, and humanitarian organizations. The IMU is located in the basement of the OCHA Office, House 23, Block 11, Riyadh, Khartoum and is open Sunday – Thursday, 09:00 – 15:30. Maps are also available online at [www.unsudanig.org](http://www.unsudanig.org) as are a full range of information products and a contact database. Please direct any inquiries to: [ochasudan@un.org](mailto:ochasudan@un.org)



## DARFUR

Over the past months, sector leads ensuring life-saving food, health care, shelter, and water and sanitation services have reprogrammed many of their activities to cover the gaps created by the expulsion and dissolution of NGOs in March. However, most sectors face serious gaps in funding and capacity. The onset of the rainy season and the annual hunger gap – from late May to the harvest in October – and its potential impact on the humanitarian situation add to these concerns. WHO stated that the risk of a cholera outbreak this year is higher in Gereida, Kalma, Al Salam, Otash and Kass in South Darfur. The sanitation and hygiene gap due to the expulsions of NGOs was highlighted as one of the main reasons for the increase in water and sanitation related diseases in the camps. It was recommended that WASH activities in the IDP camps should be resumed and enhanced to reduce the risks. NFI assessments and distributions for the upcoming rainy season are ongoing.

Since the expulsion of the NGOs in March 2009, WFP has ensured the continuity of food distributions to over one million people in areas formerly covered by the expelled NGOs. This was initially made possible by WFP carrying out direct distributions supported by local Food Relief Committees. However, crucial programme activities such as vulnerability assessments and analysis, targeting and monitoring have been affected by the departure of technical and experienced partners. WFP is engaging new and existing partners to cover the gap areas. There are plans to set up infrastructure and capacity building to support re-establishing a comprehensive and accountable food assistance programme in Darfur. Through General Food Distributions WFP was able to deliver nearly 90,000 metric tons of food during the second quarter of 2009 reaching three million people per month.

**The Emergency Relief Coordinator** Mr. John Holmes arrived in Sudan on 6 May. During the five-day visit he assessed the humanitarian situation, in particular following the expulsions of the INGOs and the resultant gaps. He met high-level GoS officials, donor representatives and the humanitarian community. An Expanded High Level Committee (HLC) met for the first time on 7 May, co-chaired by John Holmes. An agreement was reached that joint monitoring needs to be done of the Darfur operational environment. On 15 June, OCHA facilitated a High Level Committee visit to El Fasher with a delegation of 17 officials from various government Ministries, Embassies and the United Nations. The delegation visited Zam Zam camp and was provided with a humanitarian update on North Darfur by the various state ministries, departments and UN agencies and NGOs. The HLC met again in Khartoum on 17 June where it was agreed to include the priority sectors of education, agriculture including animal resources, livelihoods and protection.

To enhance the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance, a Global Cluster Lead mission visited Sudan between 12 and 18 June. The mission conducted a series of short trainings, workshops and bilateral meetings in the three Darfurs and Khartoum. The mission's aim was to complement the work already done on the ground by the Humanitarian Country Team and cluster lead agencies, and to develop more accountability through enhanced monitoring and coordination of humanitarian partners at state and federal levels.

The Presidential Adviser Dr Ghazi Salah Al-Deen, the new State Minister Abdulbagi Galini and HAC Commissioner Hassabo visited the three Darfurs between 11 and 13 June to get a first-hand overview of the current humanitarian situation. During their tour, they had frank and constructive discussions with UN and NGO representatives.

Targeted attacks against humanitarians continued at high levels. The two international aid workers seized at gunpoint on 4 April from their guesthouse in Ed Alfursan, South Darfur, were released after having been held hostage for almost a month. Between April and June, three humanitarian workers were killed and five injured. Twenty-nine humanitarian vehicles were hijacked and seven humanitarian convoys stopped and looted. During the same three months, 38 humanitarian premises were broken into. In May, the crew and passengers of one UN helicopter flight landing in Um Shalaya, West Darfur, were assaulted and robbed upon arrival by a group of armed men.

**On a positive note**, a ministerial decree from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs to facilitate deployment of NGOs was issued on 16 April. It states that NGOs registered in Sudan with valid resident permits should be granted one year multiple re-entry visas; all staff of registered NGOs are allowed to move to and within Darfur states using notification only.

Local National Security officers occasionally stopped humanitarian missions asking for travel permits, no longer required under Ministerial Decree No. 3. The May food distribution for IDPs in Mukjar was stopped on 12 May by National Security (NS), who claimed that procedural standards had not been followed. After receiving a written note from HAC Geneina, the distribution resumed on 13 May. On 13 May, an NGO was denied access by NS to the rural areas of Ed El Fursan, South Darfur where they operate. On 12 May, 12 staff members from various national NGOs were stopped at the helipad in Zalingei upon arrival from El Fasher and questioned about the cash they had received for the Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) from UNAMID. NS confiscated the funds and told the staff members to get the money from the HAC Commissioner the next day. On 14 May, two NGO national staff members were arrested by NS in ForBaranga for not having a travel permit. On 18 May, two UN vehicles travelling to Kalma, South Darfur, with one UN international staff and two national staff from an expelled NGO, who had HAC ID cards from the previous expelled NGO and a valid travel permit, were denied access by National Security officers at the first checkpoint.

**In addition, the humanitarian situation** in Kalma camp continued to bring challenges but also showed signs of improvement. Three of the four NGOs planning to provide aid in Kalma received Government authorization, covering water and sanitation, nutrition, food distribution, NFI, and health sectors. Two former NGO clinics were assessed as ready to function. Seasonal Supplementary Feeding Programmes were suspended in November 2008 with no plan to resume in 2009. Therefore, increase in the admission criteria to the Out Patient Therapeutic Feeding Program and a Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme for all children under 5 are currently being implemented to address this lack of seasonal programme. The admission trends are similar to those of last



## BAMBOO CLINIC SAVES LIVES IN DARFUR

Perched on her pregnant mother's lap, two-year-old Nawal turns, scratches her face and lets out a dry cough. Nawal is waiting for treatment at the World Vision clinic, the only health centre, in Duma camp, one of Darfur's settlements for displaced and war-scarred people.

On a typical day, up to 80 patients, mostly women and children under five, gather and wait for the small group of World Vision healthcare professionals and community volunteers to open doors. The clinic's three bamboo structures encompass a registration room, an examination and vaccination room, and a pharmacy and maternity room. They tend to the patients in just five hours and close up to make it back to Nyala, the capital of South Darfur, 40 km away.

Until two years ago, the clinic was open for eight hours a day every day. But banditry and two armed attacks on the clinic staff at their nearby team house forced World Vision to relocate them to Nyala. Now, the seven-member team drives the Nyala-Duma road three times a week to meet the health needs of Duma's 14,000 residents. "We are the only aid organization operating in the area. We have to assist these people," said Jalal Adam, the pharmacist.

Duma is one of four settlements in South Darfur where World Vision is the sole provider of primary healthcare.

"We have nowhere else to go," says Nawal's mother, 22-year-old Husseina Mohammed, who has been displaced for four years. "Once I am here, I know my baby will be fine," she says, as she waits to get treatment. "She's been coughing for two days," she says referring to her daughter Nawal who gets to see a doctor and is then diagnosed with a respiratory infection and receives medication.

Husseina's first child died two years ago after suffering from diarrhoea. The pain of losing her baby always nudges her to bring Nawal to the World Vision clinic at the slightest hint of ill-health. Nawal and Husseina are just two of the people for whom the clinic is the only primary healthcare option. They come seeking treatment for a number of ail-



A World Vision nurse vaccinates a child at the Duma clinic.

(Dan Teng'o/World Vision/2009)

ments, including malaria, respiratory illnesses, diarrhoea and reproductive complications. The clinic's life-saving function is not only hamstrung by its staff members' security concerns, but also funding constraints. It lacks a test laboratory so diagnoses are made on the strength of symptoms. Patients often wait under the scorching sun because space is at a premium inside. The clinic's structures are semi-permanent and are susceptible to damage by the elements.

But for the residents of Duma, it is infinitely better than any other option they have available to them; a makeshift store that sells a collection of drugs over the counter, or an expensive and difficult emergency journey to the district hospital in Nyala. World Vision also distributes monthly food rations to people most in need in Duma and has rehabilitated a primary school for more than 1,000 boys and girls. Other projects include distributing seeds and tools to support small-scale farming in the camp, as well as constructing water hand pumps, a water distribution system and more than 100 latrines in the settlement.

*Dan Teng'o, Communications Coordinator, World Vision Northern Sudan*

year. A further concern is the onset of the rainy season. The UN and partners have been working with UNAMID on flood mitigation measures. Authorities in South Darfur have not given authorization to IOM to transport NFIs from Nyala to El Fasher. IOM has also been facing problems in North Darfur where local GoS authorities have denied travel permits to the agency.

The HAC Commissioner in West Darfur issued a letter which will further clarify Decree No. 3 and help the NGOs travelling to the field to avoid misunderstandings with HAC and National Security officials on the ground. The letter re-confirms that NGOs do not need travel permits to conduct field missions. North Darfur authorities at the highest level, including the Wali and the Head of National Security, stated on 11 and 13 June that only notifications are needed for the movement of international and national staff as well as humanitarian goods and that demands for travel permits at checkpoints are individual mistakes. Fruitful discussions are ongoing with authorities to put a system of focal points at checkpoints in place linked to a "hotline" with National Security in El Fasher and bi-weekly monitoring meetings to resolve any movement obstruction.

## TRAINING PROGRAMMES TO IMPROVE SAFETY PRACTICES OF HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS IN DARFUR

RedR UK is committed to promoting a culture of responsible and safe practice in the humanitarian community working in Sudan. This is done by providing training to aid workers that will equip them with skills essential to working in insecure environments. RedR offers two streams of training in Sudan – Staff Safety and Staff Welfare – across El Fasher, Nyala, and Khartoum. For a full schedule of trainings in July and further information about RedR services, please contact: [sudanadmin@redr.org.uk](mailto:sudanadmin@redr.org.uk)



## THREE AREAS AND EASTERN SUDAN

Significant gaps in peace-building, recovery, conflict prevention programmes and the delivery of basic services continue to be felt in the Three Areas and Eastern Sudan in the second quarter following the expulsion/dissolution of the operating licenses of 13 international NGOs and three national NGOs. Efforts continue to be made to address these gaps, through capacity building programmes, proposals to ensure a better operating environment for remaining NGOs, and continuing negotiations on practical measures to complete ongoing and proposed projects supported by the expelled NGOs. During 31 March – 12 April, joint technical assessments to specify the gaps have been conducted by the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC)/Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the Three Areas Committee and the UN.

### Abyei

Abyei remains affected by tension between various groups. Additionally, the Joint Integrated Police Unit (JIPU) did not deploy to critical areas to support implementation of the Abyei Roadmap Agreement of June 2008 yet, while the appointed Abyei Area Administration (AAA) is lacking capacity and a budget. Sectoral groups addressing immediate humanitarian and recovery issues were also adversely impacted by the departure of the NGOs particularly on ensuring a peaceful seasonal migration of nomadic Misseriya through areas inhabited by Dinka, which commenced in May and is on-going. Tensions over water resources are frequent and are also fuelled by the expectations in the awaited decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration. The inter-communal clashes of 24-25 May near Meiram and Shagida on the border of South Darfur and South Kordofan with reportedly over 100 fatalities show how volatile the situation is.

### Blue Nile State

The Resident Coordinator's Support Office (RCSO) continues to facilitate the implementation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Threat and Risk Mapping Analysis activities on project monitoring with a workshop during 15-17 June. The revocation of IRC, PADCO and SUDO left Geissan locality without any international presence. Local authorities invited a United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) mission on 17 June to learn about the humanitarian and recovery needs of the area. Malaria according to WHO is still the main cause of medical consultations at 17.4 percent. In comparison waterborne diseases (Typh. F & BD) account for 1.3 percent and 1.6 percent respectively. UNICEF reports that there are four voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) on HIV/AIDS facilities in Blue Nile. Initial testing results continue to be alarmingly high with seven (36.8 percent) out of 19 testing positive during the week 15-21 June.

### Southern Kordofan

Rural areas continue to bear the brunt of the expulsion of the NGOs with little or no basic services provided by the Government. Whereas Kadugli, Dilling and Kauda benefited from early recovery programmes, rural areas such as Talodi, El Salam, north of Abyei protocol area, Abu Jubeiha, and some areas formerly administered by SPLM suffer from the absence of NGOs and Governance. The situation in Abu Junuk/

Al Sunut which has been dominated by conflict between Nuba and Misseriya remains tense and unpredictable.

### Eastern Sudan

The States of Eastern Sudan, Kassala, Gedaref and Red Sea are strongly influenced by the border situation to Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia. UNHCR and the Government have developed a "Solutions Strategy for the Protracted Refugee Situation in Sudan", which addresses durable solutions to the current situation and the development of an asylum system that is able to ensure the fulfillment of Sudan's obligations to protect individual refugees. A Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) of UN/Government/NGOs for all refugees' camps in the region was conducted in April/May 2009.

Following the finalization of the Country Analysis and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), RCSO supports the Walis of Kassala, Gedaref and Red Sea as well as Government ministries/departments, UN agencies and NGOs to further incorporate the results into the planning.

To mitigate the effects of floods during the rainy season and other possible natural hazards, an inter-agency group supported by OCHA updated the Kassala Contingency Plan which is planned to be finalized by 1 July. The contingency plan for Red Sea was reviewed and updated on 1 June.

Landmines and unexploded ordinances (UXOs) remain a threat in Kassala State. The results of a road assessment by UN and Government partners are expected soon.

Since the beginning of April WFP in partnership with the Sudan Red Crescent Society (SRCS) is providing food aid to IDP camps in Kassala State. From a total of about 68,000 IDPs in the State, the distribution is targeting 38,080 individuals during food shortages from April to September 2009.

As a key component of the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement, on 21 May in Diem Sawakin area of Port Sudan the UNDP Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration Unit (DDR) in collaboration with North Sudan Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (NSDDRC) launched the second phase of the DDR in Eastern Sudan. In phase two, an additional 2,254 ex-combatants from the Sudan Army Forces (SAF) and the People's Defence Forces (PDF) will undergo demobilisation and reintegration processes similar to the first phase in which 1,700 members of the Eastern Front ex-combatants were demobilized and reintegrated in their communities in Eastern Sudan.

## UNITED NATIONS OBSERVANCES - INTERNATIONAL DAYS

July	11	World Population Day
August	9	International Day of the World's Indigenous People
	12	International Youth Day
	23	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition
September	8	International Literacy Day
	15	International Day of Democracy
	21	International Day of Peace



## WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2009

The theme for this year's World Refugee Day was "Real People, Real Needs". The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) on World Refugee Day 20 June, turned our attention to the millions of refugees worldwide who – because they have lost the protection of their home countries – are often without material, social and legal protection.

According to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, a refugee is a person who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of her or his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail herself or himself of the protection of that country".

Refugee situations are usually depicted in their mass proportions – throngs of destitute people fleeing fierce fighting or huddling in makeshift shelters at the mercy of the elements.

One rarely gets a glimpse of the personal dramas that the individuals and families who make up those masses endure day by day.

Salwa (not her real name) lives with her family in Um-Gargour camp in eastern Sudan. She arrived there from her native Eritrea in 1971 at the age of sixteen. She is now a 54-year-old wife and mother of six. Her husband is mentally ill. Salwa earns a living selling traditional food and handicrafts. She is the main breadwinner of the family.

On World Refugee Day, Salwa spoke to UNHCR staff member Fatima El Tom about missed opportunities for her children. Her eldest child, a son, is 21 years old. He was not able to complete his secondary school this year to go to university. Salwa did not have the money to pay his school fees. The young man works as a casual labourer to supplement the family's income.

Salwa's two daughters passed their primary school examinations. They were supposed to join secondary school as boarders in Es-Showak town, but the family has no means to pay their school fees.

Salwa is distressed. She considers education to be a privilege, the best gift she can offer her children. "With education, they can have a better life." She asked Fatima, "Can't UNHCR support refugee children to attend secondary school? It is not only my children who are without help. Most of the children in

refugee camps have the same problem: lack of finances for secondary education."

For each of the thousands of refugee women of Salwa's generation, there are four to six offspring who face a grim future in the arid desert-like surroundings of refugee camps. Against this backdrop, an unquestionable trend has emerged. Frequent "disappearances" from camps attest to an irrefutable reality: many young people are defying governmental restrictions on movement outside of refugee camps. Poor living conditions leave refugees in a desperate

situation. Enticing dreams of life in the city or overseas are difficult to resist.

Despite ample anecdotal evidence of the phenomenon of secondary movements, the scale of refugee involvement remains unclear. Nor is it clear whether refugee camps are being used as staging grounds for onward travel. Recently UNHCR learned of an incident in which two pick-up

trucks loaded with refugees were chased by security forces while heading north of Kassala towards the Egyptian-Sudanese border. The smugglers reportedly escaped. Twenty-eight passengers fell off the vehicles during the chase. Two died. Four were hospitalized. Twenty-two were held in police custody, among them young women and children. The intended destination was Israel. Indications are that the passengers, who were Eritrean and Ethiopian, could not have come directly from their home countries. They must have traveled from within Sudan. In such cases, UNHCR engages legal counsel to represent detained refugees.

Travelling long distances in irregular circumstances is an expensive affair for refugees, and a lucrative business for preying human traffickers. Death lurks along the clandestine journey across the Sahara Desert to North African countries that sit astride sea routes to Europe and the Middle East. Occasionally, the saga comes to light when authorities arrest would-be migrants or boats capsize and drown their load, and bodies wash up along the coast.

Such incidents in turn give rise to debates about clandestine travellers and illegal migration. Too often the human face of refugees is obscured. So too is the reality that, after all is said and done, the refugees are real people with real needs who, through no fault of their own, have lost everything.



Refugee Salwa lives with her family in Eastern Sudan.

(F. El Tom/UNHCR/2009)

UNHCR Sudan



### 2009 WORK PLAN MID-YEAR REVIEW: MORE THAN HALF FUNDED

The mid-year review of the Work Plan finds the humanitarian community at a critical juncture. The expulsion or dissolution of 16 NGOs in March had serious consequences on efforts to assist the people of Sudan in reducing hunger, poverty and disease.

The 2009 United Nations and Partners Work Plan called for \$2.18 billion in support from the international community for humanitarian and early recovery programmes. Nearly half of the funding requirement – \$1.05 billion – was for programmes in Darfur.

The impact of the expulsions was most profound in Darfur, where the loss of 3,142 technical staff affected more than a million people receiving assistance, but much of northern Sudan saw a drop in delivery of services. Humanitarian needs remain high in many areas, with ongoing cases of displacement, chronic poverty and underdevelopment, instability and risks of natural disaster. In Southern Sudan, the budget crisis and continuing inter-ethnic violence and displacement has created an urgent need to continue providing a humanitarian safety net.

Within this complex operating environment, the United Nations and Partners have reiterated their commitment to help the people of Sudan. Agencies and NGOs have stepped in with life-saving assistance to fill the gaps created by the expulsions, in the process strengthening ties with government counterparts. They have also pledged to improve coordination with increased accountability and predictability.

In Darfur the water, sanitation and health sectors are a critical concern, and the need for greater capacity is urgent. Throughout Sudan, support for livelihoods and education is key. With more than 250 projects revised, the Work Plan update demonstrates how the humanitarian community has adapted to changing circumstances. In the face of increasing challenges, the objectives foreseen at the beginning of the year – meeting humanitarian needs and responding to crises – remain the same. So far, the international community has generously contributed 56 percent of 2009 funding requirements, a hopeful sign that the remaining requirement of \$980 million will be met.

### WORK PLAN FUNDING OVERVIEW PER REGION

Category	Original Requirements	Revised Requirements	Funding	Percent Covered	Unmet Requirements	Uncommitted Pledges
Abyei	31,100,233	34,237,605	18,430,471	54	15,807,134	-
Blue Nile	44,652,066	34,333,546	17,889,977	52	16,443,569	-
Darfur	328,473,881	327,073,609	144,290,057	44	182,783,552	655,000
Eastern States	39,755,575	39,343,130	7,465,140	19	31,877,990	-
Khartoum & Northern States	44,017,766	36,443,252	7,247,347	20	29,195,905	-
Multiple Regions	1,179,287,849	1,051,339,907	773,089,172	74	278,250,735	-
National Programmes	36,394,037	30,283,504	11,050,905	36	19,232,599	-
Southern Kordofan	51,941,927	53,385,558	10,736,112	20	42,649,446	-
Southern Sudan	433,545,708	483,017,074	155,564,755	32	327,452,319	-
Not Specified	-	-	28,114,891	0	(28,114,891)	1,097,878
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>2,189,169,042</b>	<b>2,089,457,185</b>	<b>1,173,878,827</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>915,578,358</b>	<b>1,752,878</b>

Sudan Work Plan 2009 (Humanitarian/Early Recovery Component) as of 24 June 2009. Summary of requirements, commitments/contributions and pledges (grouped by priority) in US dollars. Compiled by OCHA on the basis of information provided by donors and appealing organizations.

Priority	Original Requirements	Revised Requirements	Funding	Percent Covered	Unmet Requirements	Uncommitted Pledges
Early Recovery	787,416,186	769,819,932	301,242,225	39	468,577,707	655,000
Humanitarian	1,401,752,856	1,319,637,253	844,521,711	64	475,115,542	-
Not specified	-	-	28,114,891	0	(28,114,891)	1,097,878
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>2,189,169,042</b>	<b>2,089,457,185</b>	<b>1,173,878,827</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>915,578,358</b>	<b>1,752,878</b>

NOTE: "Funding" means contributions + commitments + carry-over. The table above is a snapshot as of 24 June 2009. Source: [www.reliefweb.int/fts](http://www.reliefweb.int/fts)