



**Humanitarian Action in Darfur**  
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**Key overall developments**

- According to the World Food Programme (WFP), plans to gradually increase the ration size for Darfur beneficiaries will not materialise in October as hoped due to supply gaps in vegetable oil as well as continuing transport difficulties, caused by insecurity. This makes the total kcal provided 65% of the 2,100 kilo/calorie recommended. WFP and its partners are carrying out information campaigns to advise beneficiaries of this change and the extenuating circumstance. The reduced rations will only affect general food distribution beneficiaries, while supplementary feeding and school feeding programmes will not be affected.

**Needs and response by sector**

***Education***

South Darfur

- According to UNICEF, the State Ministry of Education (SMoE) completed the rehabilitation of 20 classrooms, four (4) offices and four (4) latrines in Otash IDP Camp, benefiting 1,038 children. The NGO Humedica established three (3) Children's Clubs in Al Salaam and El Serif schools, to increase the participation of children and parents in the activities of the schools. More than 5, 000 children will benefit from this initiative.

West Darfur

- The WFP held meetings with representatives of the SMoE, school administrators and parent-teacher associations of ten (10) schools in Mornei. The meeting discussed the feasibility of initiating Food for Education Programmes in these schools. WFP currently supports 87,000 school children in 140 schools in the state.

***Food Security and Livelihoods***

North Darfur

- With the start of the second school term, WFP has begun food dispatches to 402 schools in North Darfur under the Food for Education programme. Some 171,000 children in these schools will benefit from a daily school meal, aimed at alleviating short-term hunger and encouraging enrolment and regular attendance.
- Oxfam and the local Veterinary Department in Kabkabiya have continued the campaign to vaccinate animals against common diseases including sheep pox and anthrax. A total of 1,265 households were reached in nine (9) rural villages in the area, including Marlong, Gemeza, Sanabeel and Elhara. Households in the towns of Saraf Omra and El Serif were also give vaccines for their sheep, goats, camels and cattle.
- A one-off emergency distribution of 750 metric tons (MT) of food was provided by WFP to support 60,000 people in Um Kedada, following the recommendations of a rapid food assessment carried out in late August.
- WFP Blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP) distributions planned for September were completed, reaching over 100,000 children under-five.

South Darfur

- An interagency mission to assess the flood impact on residents of Buram locality found no urgent need for food support, but infrastructure rehabilitation projects as well as school feeding were recommended. WFP is discussing with partners on the possible implementation of the recommendations.

West Darfur

- On 21 September, Mercy Corps commenced a two-month skills training programme in several activities of radio and watch maintenance; shoe-making; food processing; and pasta and biscuit making. For the training 60 IDPs were selected, plus ten (10) refugees from Mukjar Camp – four (4) men and six (6) women.
- UNHCR Mukjar assessed the need for fencing 80 of the seedlings recently planted around the periphery of Mukjar refugee camp so as to provide a wind-break. The seedling fences will be made from local natural materials (dry sticks/wood) and will be constructed by the refugee youth who are being mobilized to promote environmental preservation activities in the refugee community.

***Health and Nutrition***

North Darfur

- This week Oxfam conducted training sessions on malaria prevention and awareness in Shangil Tobayi IDP Camp. The training was attended by 84 participants, who in turn will pass on the information within their communities.

West Darfur

- A routine immunization campaign in Zalingei, implemented by the State Ministry of Health (SMoH) supported by UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO), was extended to Um Kheir and the surrounding areas of Deleij, Nertiti and Kutum in an effort to increase coverage rates.

## ***Non-Food Items (NFIs)***

### South Darfur

- As NFI and Emergency Shelter (ES) sector Lead, the United Nations Joint Logistic Center (UNJLC) is coordinating the sector response to flooding and worked closely with Oxfam this week to respond to needs in Kalma IDP Camp. The 7,000 flood-affected households were supported with blankets, jerry cans, sleeping mats, plastic sheeting, and women's clothing. All distributions were based on needs assessments, targeting extremely vulnerable individuals.

### West Darfur

- In response to the Um Kheir floods of 11-12 September, UNHCR – through the NGO Intersos – provided 400 plastic sheets, 1,000 sleeping mats, 750 mosquito nets and 500 blankets to support the 400 affected households.
- Intersos was provided with 4,000 sanitary materials from the common pipeline to be distributed at community-based reintegration project (CBRP) villages in Habila and Forbaranga as well as with ad hoc trainings on menstrual hygiene promotion, as part of campaign on reproductive health and against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).
- On 21–28 September, Mercy Corps carried out a general soap distribution for IDPs and refugees in Mukjar.
- The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Habila assisted three (3) newly returned families at Habila town – one (1) IDP family from Nyala and two (2) refugee families from Chad. All three (3) families were assisted with plastic sheets, kitchen sets, and jerry cans.

## ***Protection and Human Rights***

### North Darfur

- Four (4) children detained after the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) attack on Omdurman and subsequently released were reunified with their families this week in North Darfur, with assistance from UNICEF.

### West Darfur

- Eight (8) children released from detention following the JEM attack on Omdurman earlier this year have been reunified with their families and relatives in west Darfur, receiving assistance from UNICEF.
- As at the end of the reporting month, ten (10) pre-school child friendly centres – funded by UNHCR through implementing partner the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) – are operational in Mukjar town and refugee camp. Rehabilitation is ongoing in two (2) of these centres and UNHCR Mukjar has provided NFI support to enhance the ongoing rehabilitation work. One (1) additional centre is yet to become operational.
- UNHCR Mornei has embarked on a project to compile list of persons with special needs (PSN) in one common database to ensure that the information is available at a glance for purposes of assistance and follow up.

## ***Water and Sanitation***

### North Darfur

- Oxfam has completed its piloting of a new latrine design in Abu Shouk IDP Camp. The new design uses less wood and other natural resources, putting less strain on Darfur's already vulnerable environment. The design is also being piloted in As Salaam and Shangil Tobayi IDP Camps, where beneficiaries will test the latrines and evaluate their effectiveness and appropriateness.
- Oxfam carried out bacteriological analysis of water in As Salaam IDP Camp and 13 of the 16 samples were found to be good quality and free of contamination. The three (3) areas of the camp where the samples showed high risk of contamination have been targeted for increased visits from Oxfam's public health promoters.
- In Zam Zam, As Salaam and Abu Shouk IDP Camps the State Water Corporation (SWC) – supported by UNICEF – has ensured the repair of ten (10) hand pumps to secure continued water supply for residents. Meanwhile, the partners have also supported a six day environmental clean up campaign in both Zam Zam and Abu Shouk IDP Camps. In Zam Zam and Abu Shouk 2,246 communal latrines were cleaned by community members – supported by the SWC and UNICEF.
- The SWC and UNICEF supported 5,725 household visits by hygiene promoters in Zam Zam and Abu Shouk IDP Camps in the last week.

### South Darfur

- Following reports of flooding in the Buram area, UNICEF provided chlorine supplies to local partners to ensure decontamination of dug wells, the main source of water supplies for the local community.

### West Darfur

- On 8-10 September, UNHCR-Mukjar conducted participatory hygiene-promotion sessions for Chadian refugees in Mukjar camp to address hygiene and sanitation concerns, illustrated by cases of diarrhoea & malnutrition for children under 5 (as a result of prolonged diarrhoea) and Acute Jaundice Syndrome (AJS) between May-August 2008. The sessions were based on the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) manual developed by WHO and the System-wide Initiative on Malaria and Agriculture (SIMA), and adapted to reflect the needs and conditions in Mukjar refugee camp. Approximately 40-50 Chadian refugee girls and women (ranging from 15 to 60+ years of age and representing all tribal groups) participated in these sessions.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR Mukjar with Mercy Corps was conducting menstrual hygiene information sessions, including distribution of sanitary materials for girls in five Basic Schools and one secondary school in Mukjar.

***If you have inputs for the next edition or questions and comments on this one, or other media and public enquiries, please contact:***

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