

HUMANITARIAN

Overview

1 MAY - 1 JUNE 2006



Photo credit: UNICEF Southern Sudan / 2006 / Mariella Furest

THIS ISSUE'S HIGHLIGHTS

- JAN EGELAND VISITS DARFUR
- ACCESS ISSUES IN THE EAST, ABYEI AND DARFUR
- OVERVIEW OF FIRST RETURNS SEASON
- GO TO SCHOOL INITIATIVE IN SOUTHERN SUDAN

Welcome to the fifth issue of Sudan Humanitarian Overview. 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 to focus on particular issues of interest. Send comments, suggestions and contributions to sho@unsudanig.org

RAINY SEASON BEGINS IN SUDAN

May is the official beginning of the rainy season and with it the usual challenges for humanitarian operations. From this point on, roads will become continually more impassable and some key aspects of the humanitarian operation will slowly grind to halt, while others will continue with only very much more expensive options, such as using air instead of ground transport.

Restricted road movement is already occurring. For example, Northern Bahr el Ghazal State has been effectively cut in half by the rising levels of the Loll River. Vehicles will be unable to cross the river until December, significantly impacting the operations of agencies, such as transportation and distribution of seeds and tools by FAO.

In Darfur, there is a rush to drill boreholes now before the rains make moving cumbersome drilling rigs impossible. A cholera outbreak has already been declared in South Darfur, and it will be

Young people call for action at the launch of the Go To School Campaign (see page 4 for story)

important to ensure the access to potable water. Funding for operation and maintenance of water points, drilling of new water points, installation hand pumps and general chlorination of water supply is especially required during the rainy season, when water-borne diseases peak.

UN-supported organized returns have stopped until the next dry season (aside from a small caseload of Dinkas in Yei, see full story inside) and spontaneous returns are expected to slow down. Even so, this month saw several groups getting stranded as a result of the rains. There is concern that those returning now will not be able to plant since cultivation has not already started nor will they be able to construct shelter as the local building materials is now not available.

Another serious rainy season concern is the increased mine threat. Mines in areas where the ground is sandy - such as the East - can shift. In the South, rainfall softens road surfaces, sweeping off soil from the roads and deepening vehicle tracks. Mines and UXOs that have been buried can become exposed putting frequently traveled roads into an at risk category.

On a positive note, the start of the rainy season is likely to see a reduction in tribal conflicts over grazing land and water points that have plagued areas in the South, reducing the cycle of conflict, forcing population movement, and consequently emergency humanitarian assistance needs. In many areas receiving returnees, Bentiu for example, communities including returnees have started planting early this year for example. (See more detailed account of the food security situation in the Southern Sudan section).



EAST

Humanitarian partners remain concerned about instability and lack of access in the Eastern regions of Sudan. The SPLA withdrawal from Hamesh Koreib enclave is planned for mid-June, a potentially inflammatory activity that we hope will be uneventful. The UN and partners continue to advocate for free, unimpeded access humanitarian actors need to monitor the situation and guarantee continuation of programmes and appropriate humanitarian response should a conflict erupt. While the SOFA has been signed and agreed, it is not being honoured or implemented (see more on SOFA violations in Darfur section) and the level access has been consistently and significantly deteriorating since March. By the beginning of May, access to food distribution sites, IDPs and refugee camps, food security, water and sanitation, health, education projects in areas outside of Port Sudan or Kassala towns had been severely curtailed.

Food assistance for some 62,000 IDPs and more than 50,000 refugees, suspended since March, tentatively resumed after WFP submitted activity plans (in writing) to local authorities. Still, lack of access has hampered UNHCR from ensuring safe and fair access to asylum procedures, assistance and care for refugees. Border monitoring is particularly important to prevent refolement and maintain secured sites for emergency reception should a regional crisis occur. Investigation and protection activities involving the Rashaida people and asylum seekers prevented from crossing the border into Sudan have also been curtailed. Concern exists regarding the consistent delay in the building works on the Gash River, and the potential flood threat for the Kassala town and neighboring villages.

ABYEI

The situation in Abyei is in constant flux. While access issues were somewhat resolved for UN agencies at the beginning of the month, UNMIS staff still faced restrictions. This, compounded with the continuing absence of local administration, is complicating humanitarian and recovery operations. During May, tensions resulted in accusations from both Dinka and Misseriya communities respectively of partiality and meddling into politics.

Furthermore, politically-motivated returns are resulting in high expectations from returnees. Although there has been a significant increase in UN and NGO capacity in Abyei, current programs are unable to entirely fulfil these needs. Delegations of returnees protested against SRRC & SPLM who in turn accused humanitarian organizations of diverting assistance meant for the Dinkas to the Misseriyas. Following accusations of wrongdoing and partiality towards one or another tribal group, at the end of May SRRC requested the expulsion of two WFP and one OCHA staff. A team from Khartoum visited Abyei and discussion on the issue has started. A follow up high-level mission including UN, SRRC and HAC senior staff is planned in June.

Despite these setbacks, the increase in implementing capacity of humanitarian agencies is having an affect. Food has been delivered to returnee and vulnerable populations to cover the hunger gap. Seeds and tools to promote self-reliance have also been distributed. UNICEF and NGO drilling programs have greatly improved access to clean water. MSF started operating in Abyei hospital enhancing health services. Inter-agency coordination has allowed for an integrated approach focused on schools.

BLUE NILE STATE

Humanitarian access has improved in Kurmuk, Blue Nile State, following the declaration of the commissioner giving instructions to all soldiers at check points not to restrict movement of any humanitarian or development organizations.

KHARTOUM

Early in May, WHO reported a total of 123 cases of cholera, including eight deaths, concentrated in the Gerif area, Khartoum North. WHO is following up with health authorities, and has provided emergency kits. Compelling factors that need to be addressed include the poor living conditions in the camps, especially where demolition has taken place, lack of hygiene practices and health education, and the level of funding and staffing for NGOs running health facilities. There is also no 24/7 referral system for emergency cases.

Bird flu cases continue to be reported in poultry farms of Khartoum and Gezira State. The bird flu has devastated poultry stocks in 176 farms in Khartoum and Gezira States with an estimated loss of USD \$32 million. FAO is supporting the National Veterinary Research center with lab kits and two consultants from FAO and USAID arrived in the country to support the Government. The authorities in Gezira State have started distributing pamphlets, and FAO and UNICEF have produced some briefing materials on bird flu to raise public awareness. Although the Government has engaged, there have been seven epidemics in the past six months and Bird Flu, with so far very few human cases, risks being marginalised.

SOUTHERN SUDAN

Generally, the security situation in Southern Sudan remained relatively stable during the month. Most significantly, alleged LRA activities which have severely hampered humanitarian assistance to populations and restricted road movement have decreased since Vice President of Southern Sudan Riek Machar Teng met with Joseph Kony, the leader of the LRA in Western Equatoria on 3 May. Nevertheless, there were reports received that some LRA-suspected looting took place in Gangura south of Yambio which resulted in community displacement.

SPLA efforts to disarm groups in Jonglei and Upper Nile are continuing, but are having a knock-on effect on the security situation. Disarmament efforts have led to significant tension between the groups (Lou Nuer/SSDF) and SPLA. Additionally, poor management of the disarmament process at the GoSS-level in Juba has significantly impacted humanitarian operations. Six locations in Jonglei State (Old Fangak, Motot, Walgak, Waat, Walgak, Lankien and Kaikuny) and one location in Upper Nile (Mading) have had to be raised to Level 4 due to tensions resulting from DDR. Despite the short-term insecurity and restricted humanitarian access brought about by the recent SPLA disarmament exercises, in the long run it is hoped that it will bring benefits to the region and Southern Sudan in general in both Upper Nile and Jonglei.

Humanitarian operations were also restricted in some areas of Bahr el Ghazal due to inter-tribal fighting linked to cattle issues. The authorities have deployed SPLA soldiers and have started sponsoring mediation talks between local chiefs/traditional leaders of the two warring factions. Most recently, the area of Billing was raised to Level 4 after a spate of security incidents, but agencies have been able to access



surrounding areas to assist communities in need. A convoy of trucks was ambushed and looted between Mvolo and Wulu and the humanitarian situation in both locations is reported to have deteriorated considerably. One of the ambushed trucks was ferrying medicines, medical supplies and equipment for health facilities in Rumbek and Biling.

The most serious concerns related to security in the South are the continued reports of lawlessness by the SPLA, particularly in Yei town, much of it related to non-payment of salaries. Despite high level GoSS engagement on the issue, lawlessness in Yei has been on the increase. On 25 May the Deputy County Health Officer was killed on the Yei River bridge at 8 o'clock in the evening. Following the murder, over 100 demonstrators entered the OCHA compound to protest the crime levels in Yei town. Since the SPLA is associated with the Dinka ethnicity and most IDPs are Dinkas, some of the local population are blaming the IDPs. A tense ethnic dynamic has resulted and the group of 5,600 Dinka IDPs currently in Yei are being prioritised for organised return, given the current insecurity in which they are living.

RETURNS

The returns season is essentially over for this year, mainly due to the start of the rains: many roads are now impassable, there is no grass to build shelters with and it will soon be too late in the planting season for people returning now to sow.

Summing up the achievements of the current returns season at a press conference in early June, UNMIS Returns & Reintegration Chief Bob Turner noted the process went smoothly. Organised returns by the UN are expected to be nearly double the planning figure of 10,000.

The return of the community of 34 Bor Dinka cattle camps - about 12,000 people - from Western Equatoria to Jonglei state was completed in April. The UN provided assistance to 4,000 vulnerable women and children and elderly, in the form of shelter, food, water, sanitation, health and transportation. The vulnerable groups were moved from Western Equatoria to Juba by truck, then from Juba to Bor on an IOM barge and onward from Bor to home payams by UNHCR. The organised return of 9,700 vulnerable Dinka IDPs from South Darfur returning to Northern Bahr El Ghazal was completed mid-May. Due to the ethnic tensions in Yei (see section on Southern Sudan), there is still a planned organised return for up to 5,600 IDPs living in conditions of insecurity. The majority will go to Jonglei state.

The vast majority of returns have been spontaneous and while there are no exact figures, the numbers are estimated in the hundreds of thousands with approximately 175,000, Southern Kordofan experienced the greatest number of returnees.

The number of returnees to Northern Bahr El Ghazal, was significantly higher than the UN planning figure of 27,000. Because this area suffers from chronic food insecurity and water shortages, monitoring during the months of the rainy season will be a priority so that possible problems can be identified and responded to quickly. Response capacity exists if the needs are identified early enough.

Another key concern has been the level of informed choice: while the UN understands and supports IDPs and refugees' desires to return home, the decision should be based on information that is as accurate, relevant and as up-to-date as possible. The current UN policy is not to encourage returns because of the current conditions in the areas of arrival, particularly during the rainy season, but should people decide they want to return they will be assisted on route and in arrival areas.

Assistance being offered to returnees and resident communities included:

- Food: Food assistance to all returnees from WFP.
- Non-Food items: Distributed according to community needs. Some IDPs/returnees are well-equipped, while the inhabitants of the community are not.
- Water: Installation of new boreholes.
- Transportation: For organized returns, transportation from area of displacement to home area.

As announced previously, the GOSS plans to allocate \$24 million for the return of 150,000 people, mainly from Khartoum. While some of this budget may be used for transport, the UN has been advocating with the GOSS to invest the bulk of resource into reintegration in home communities. The operation has been put on hold until October (after the rainy season). In the meantime, the UN plans to provide 'returns training' for state and government authorities to improve the efficiency of the returns process next year, while at the same time ensuring the respect of principles concerning returns.

While the returns process has received much good attention, reintegration is by far the more important and challenging aspect of UN activities and funding in the season to come.



Jan Egeland talking to newly arrived IDPs in Gereida (see page 8 for story)



GETTING CHILDREN TO SCHOOL IN SOUTHERN SUDAN

Southern Sudan's education indicators are among the worst in the world: only one in every five children is in the classroom; barely 1 per cent of girls complete primary school; many schools consist of little more than a chalkboard propped up under a tree; and almost all teachers are untrained volunteers.

The 'Go to School' initiative, launched on 1 April 2006 by the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) with support from UNICEF, aims to put 1.6 million children in school by the end of 2007 and restore the basic building blocks of education destroyed by the war. Four million textbooks have been bought and are being distributed across all ten states by river barges, trucks, airplanes, helicopters and even donkeys. Some 1,500 new learning spaces, tented schools, are going up to accommodate the massive influx of students. The goal is to supply every pupil in Southern Sudan with basic school supplies, where only 13 per cent of children had access to learning materials before.

A key element of the campaign is the reconstruction of the education systems. Through a Rapid Assessment of Learning Spaces exercise, the first of its kind in Southern Sudan, survey teams in every state are recording even the smallest schools under trees in order to produce a list of comprehensive baseline data. Accelerated training is underway for teachers and classroom facilitators, with special emphasis on intensive English language training. Major support is being provided to boost the efforts of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST) in the GoSS, and public awareness campaigns are mobilizing communities to send children - especially girls - to school.

The goal for 2006 is to enrol an additional 700,000 children. As of early May, a total of 558,713 students had registered, against a previous baseline of 343,000. Unofficial reports show even higher statistics: in UNICEF

focus areas, early reports show enrolment increasing up to 75 per cent.



The Go to School Initiative was launched on 1 April 2006.

FOOD SECURITY

A VAM **food security** report released in April 2006, at the start of the traditional hunger period, identified Northern Bahr el Ghazal (NBeG) State and Gogrial County in Warrap State as highly food insecure areas. Twic and Tonj Counties also in Warrap State and Eastern Equatoria State were classified as food insecure. Parts of Lakes, Jonglei and Upper Nile States are vulnerable to food insecurity because of escalating conflicts.

In NBeG, the large number of returnees from South Darfur, as well as spontaneous and GoSS assisted returnees from Khartoum, have depleted the little food stocks available in the state. Tribal conflicts in Mvolo (mentioned above) in Western Equatoria, Rumbek, Cuibet and Yirol Counties in Lakes State, Tonj and Gogrial in Warrap State, and Yambio and Mundri in Western Equatoria have exacerbated the food situation by restricting access to markets and limiting coping mechanisms. Escalating conflict in eastern parts of Jonglei State due to the

disarmament of armed militias in Wuror, Diror and Nyirol in April and May severely disrupted collection of wild foods, fishing and access to traditional livestock and grain markets in Bor County. But communities are coping in a variety of ways. In NBeG, poor households, especially returnees, have resorted to selling assets and labour to buy food, while residents relied heavily on kinship support. In Eastern Equatoria, livestock have now returned from distant grazing lands hence improving access to milk and meat.

On a positive note, the Sudan AgroMeteorological Update (VAM Unit, WFP) of 24 May 2006, reported rainfall in most parts of Southern Sudan in April while in May all parts of Southern Sudan received evenly spread rainfall. This resulted in enhanced vegetation and pasture for animals especially in the worst hit Eastern Equatoria State and as well as vegetables for the population. The planting season is now underway in most areas. A FEWSNET report of 31 May 2006 warns that the hunger season will peak between May and August and end in September.



TRANSITION FROM HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO RECOVERY: THE CASE OF MALAKAL



Barge transporting IDPs from Malakal down the Nile to Juba.

Photo credit: UNOCHA MALAKAL/2006

The phasing out of OCHA in locations that have long been areas of humanitarian concern is just one indicator signaling the transition of the humanitarian phase to the recovery and development stage. At the end of June 2006, OCHA coordination in Malakal will be replaced by UNDP as the town moves from humanitarian response to recovery planning.

Concerns regarding the steady influx of returnees and insufficient aid still persist in Malakal, as well as the rest of Upper Nile, which is considered one of the most deprived states in Sudan. The SRRC has reiterated that agencies operating in Malakal need to continue to respond together to these challenges if returnees - as well as host communities - are to receive the assistance they require. FAO warned that the food situation inside Malakal is worrisome, with prices rising and seemingly no control by the government. Despite warnings that a food shortage might occur, no action has been taken.

A serious issue of concern is the lack of humanitarian presence outside Malakal. With no roads out of the town centre, agencies rely on river corridors to reach beneficiaries in villages. While the town itself is developing slowly, there is little progress in the surrounding areas. Many returnees are leaving north Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya for Upper Nile to areas where basic social services are feared insufficient to ensure a sustainable re-settlement.

The sectoral set-up OCHA leaves behind will continue to maintain the coordination of assistance to returnees who are transiting through Malakal or wishing to resettle in the area. Agencies involved in the sectors of rule of law, health, nutrition, education, food security and agriculture, mine awareness, water and sanitation, non-food items and shelter, protection and displacement met regularly and discussed their activities in meetings chaired by OCHA before they were implemented. SRRC will be assuming chairing duties of these regular meetings, and OCHA is confident that the Commission will keep the humanitarian community in Malakal strong and united and take things forward. OCHA will remain ready to respond to any new humanitarian emergency through the deployment of its Emergency Response and Preparedness Team, based in Juba.

ACTIVITIES CURRENTLY UNDERTAKEN IN MALAKAL:

- UNMIS RRR is providing returnees on their way to Juba with water, food and non-food items.
- UNDP is conducting rule of law projects in Malakal working closely with law enforcement bodies. In the last month UNDP organised training courses on human rights. One project, a joint activity with UNMIS, involves relocating the Malakal abattoir, the current location of which is a serious environmental concern. In terms of its future activities when it takes over from OCHA, UNDP will be coordinating local government programmes, providing legal and policy framework, technical assistance to county councils and support to county planning as well as gauging civic confidence in local government capacity.
- GOAL conducted health campaigns across Upper Nile and is currently working with UNHCR to prepare for the upcoming rainy season. GOAL warned that the population pressure within Malakal is becoming unsustainable, particularly in regards to health concerns those vulnerable due to lack of shelter.
- MDM has planned a project to build mobile clinics in five locations across Upper Nile set to start in a few weeks.
- Islamic Dawa has provided iron sheeting for Kanal school and its feeding programme in Malakal school feeding is in progress.
- OXFAM is operating in rural areas in animal stocks, health and bush pharmacy.
- A local women's NGO, Labina, is looking to establish itself in Malakal. It will be operating in four programmes: female adult education, health education, capacity-building and computer training.
- WFP is continuing to support groups of returnees with food rations.
- The Sudan Council of Churches conducted activities with Ministries to promote counseling. One aim is to target returnees with HIV who may require support to deal with their illness.
- Quick Impact Project Programmes (QUIPs), are UNMIS programmes where projects that are deemed to be useful to the community are financed. Previous projects in Malakal include adult education, rehabilitation of structures, road improvement and building a basketball court for youths.



LATEST FIGURES FROM THE DARFUR HUMANITARIAN PROFILE

The most recent Humanitarian Profile on Darfur was released in May, showing the trends in needs and assistance from 1 January to 1 April 2006. The number of 3.6 million conflict-affected people has not diminished, despite favourable conditions such as the post-harvest season. While the total number of IDPs remains at an estimated 1.8 million, many of these people have been displaced or redisplaced several times over in the first three months of the year. There were 150,000 new displacements between January and March 2006. More representative of the general situation in Darfur, are the numbers of affected residential populations, which continue to grow, albeit slightly, reflecting an emergency situation that is far from resolved (see chart below).

Remarkably, the funding shortages have not yet had a commensurate impact on the number of humanitarian personnel in Darfur: while there has been a slight decline in the number of aid workers, there are still more than 13,000 international and national staff, representing 84 NGOs and 13 UN agencies are present on the ground in Darfur. Emerging gaps in humanitarian assistance in practically all the life-saving sectors have been covered so far by an extraordinarily flexible response on the part of the humanitarian community. However unless conditions on the ground change soon-reduction in hostilities, more administrative cooperation, as well as improved funding - the situation may well deteriorate over the coming months.

SECTORAL UPDATES AS OF 1 APRIL 2006:

Food: WFP and ICRC assisted an average of 2.2 million beneficiaries per month in Darfur. The insecure environment of the region prevented WFP and partners from reaching an average of 200,000 of the target population during the months of January, February and March.

Funding was also a limiting factor, forcing WFP to reduce food rations to mitigate the effects of anticipated commodity shortfalls.

WatSan: During the first three months, 281,000 people have been provided with improved water supply

Nutrition: UNICEF is supporting 208 PHC facilities serving an estimated 2.2 million people. During this quarter, six new PHCs have been established in SLA-controlled areas.

Health: Funding shortages are seriously undermining activities in the health sector, as there has been a significant reduction in the number of the implementing partners and health care providers whilst national health authorities have limited capacity to cope with this new challenge.

Protection: The combination of insufficient protection staff and restricted access has translated in significantly less protection capacities, while an increased number of reports of gross human rights violations are being received.

OVERVIEW OF PRIORITY ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT PERIOD

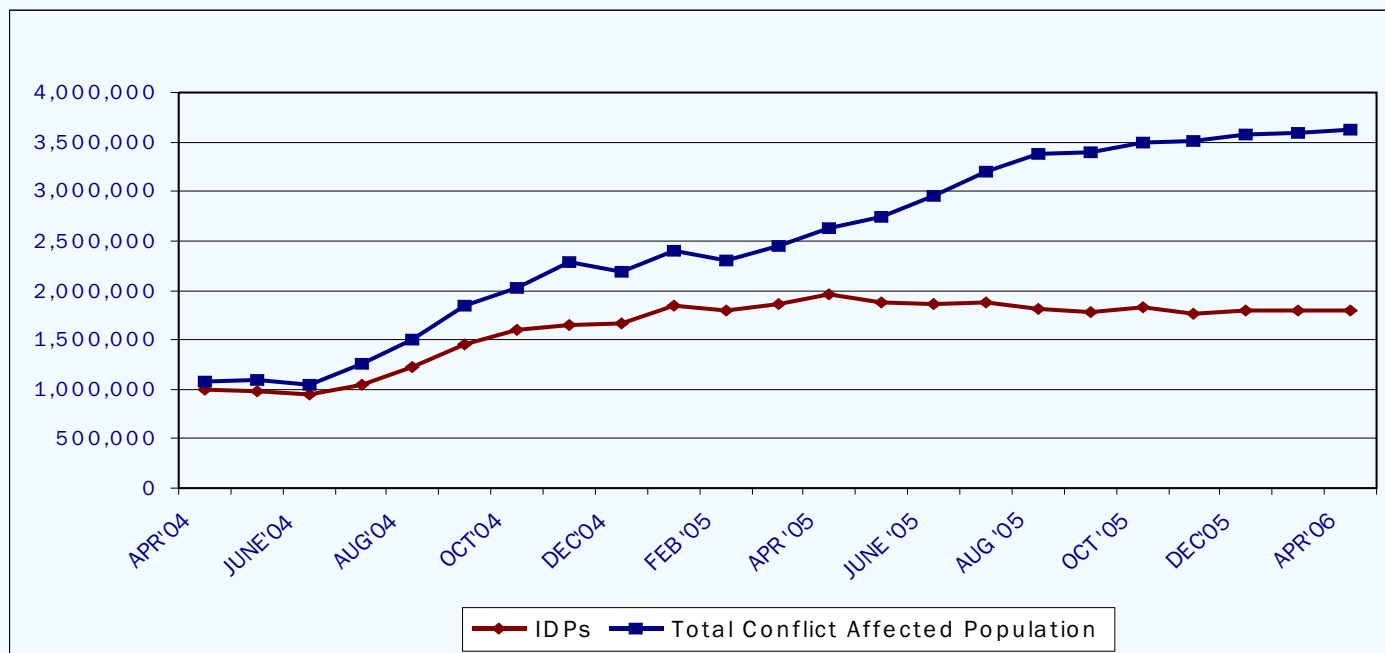
Food: From May, WFP had to reduce food rations to its beneficiaries in view of pipeline shortages, however new funding should ameliorate the severity of the cuts. The national nutritional surveillance mechanism will be strengthened to identify immediate repercussions.

NFI: Increased insecurity will result in further displacement of populations, increasing the need for NFI distributions. While the 2006 Work Plan targeted 240,000 beneficiaries, new displacements in 2006 will exceed these planning figures.

Nutrition: Although rations in feeding centres will not be affected, the reduction in food aid, medical services and water and sanitation facilities will impact on the nutritional status of the vulnerable groups.

Watsan:

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF IDPs AND THE TOTAL CONFLICT AFFECTED POPULATION





DARFUR

The signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) in Abuja on 5 May was undoubtedly a major political step forwards but concerns remain as to when and whether the agreement will translate into an improved humanitarian situation on the ground. Throughout the month, attacks by different warring factions continued to be reported, although in early June there was a significant drop in reported clashes. Because all parties did not sign, deepening political divisions among the various factions may fuel suspicions, potentially adversely impacting humanitarian operations.

As expected, there have been many organized protests by detractors of the DPA, many of them peaceful. However, in Kalma and Kass Camps in South Darfur, Zalingei in West Darfur, Tawila and Abu Shouk camps in North Darfur, anti-DPA demonstrations turned violent with two fatal casualties (AU translator in Kalma and one civilian in Kass) and several wounded including six AU, two CivPol, four civilians have been reported. (See section on visit of Jan Egeland for more on demonstration in Kalma Camp). The SRSJ Jan Pronk visited West Darfur to explain and promote the DPA, as well as meet with local authorities, IDPs, the Arab/nomadic and humanitarian communities. He also urged the AU to resume its patrol activities as IDPs are becoming more vulnerable. However, AMIS is reluctant to resume its activities as they feel directly targeted by the IDPs. Meetings between AU, Sheiks and UN are being organized to manage specific situations.

Access remains the primary constraint for humanitarian operations throughout Darfur. Less than 80 percent of the 3.6 million affected people are accessible according to UN standards. Jebel Marra (West Darfur) remains largely off-limits for all humanitarian actors, while access to other areas in West Darfur (north and south of Geneina), North Darfur (mainly around Tawilla-Shangil Tobayi and the Haskanita area) and South Darfur (between Nyala and Gereida) remains problematic. The low rates of access are primarily due to the continued insecurity.

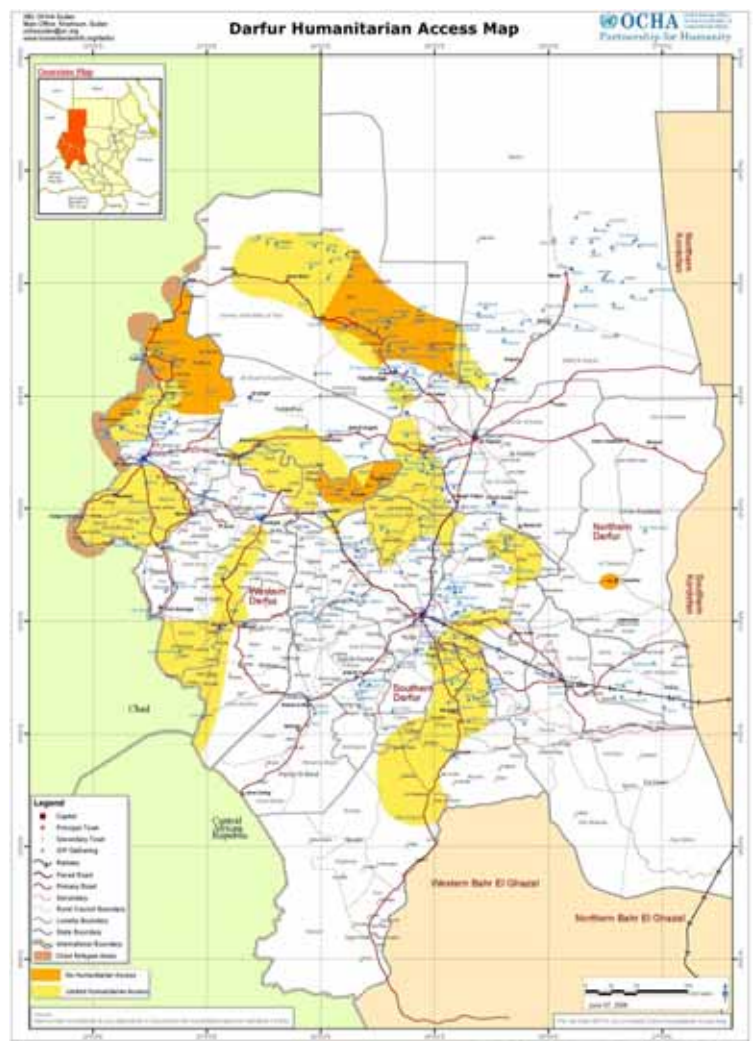
Humanitarian access continues to be further restricted by Government bureaucratic obstacles contravening agreements. For example, UN missions have been denied access to Tawila on three separate occasions by Government authorities at the Zam Zam checkpoint, limiting the UN's ability to assess the humanitarian situation and organize assistance for newly arrived IDPs. In North Darfur alone, 11 SOFA violations have been recorded over the last past weeks, all of which involved the prevention of freedom of movement at GoS checkpoints. Needless to say, such arbitrary cancellation of UN missions can have potentially serious humanitarian consequences. In June, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs confirmed to the United Nations that the SOFA will be respected for UN funds and programmes under paragraph 64 of the SOFA. The UN Humanitarian Coordinator welcomed this. Where possible, OCHA is ready to offer assistance to ensure that this is also brought rapidly to the awareness of relevant actors in the field.

The overall climate of insecurity has caused major displacements over the last few months. So far, it is estimated that around 250,000 people have been newly displaced in 2006, often for the second or third time.

In terms of attacks targeting humanitarian, several security incidents happened throughout Darfur. NGO vehicles continue to be carjacked, most egregiously inside Ardamata IDP camp in Geneina in daylight hours and near Saraf Omra in North Darfur. In West Darfur, death threats were made against ambushed NGO staff.

Humanitarian agencies were advised to withdraw from large swathes of SLA-held territory north of Kutum due to continuing build-up and mobilization of militias and further attacks on villages in the area are expected. Harassment, abduction and looting by militias around IDP camps continue to be of serious concern. Several villages under SLA control were attacked by militia. The GoS authorities in Kutum claim to take strong measures to control the activities of the militias however, with the evidence of attacks on seven villages and the increasing activities of the militia such as their presence in Kutum town during market days, and with the imminent planting season it is likely that problems will persist if not worsen.

DARFUR HUMANITARIAN ACCESS MAP





1 MAY - 1 JUNE 2006

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5

JAN EGELAND VISIT TO DARFUR

The Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. Jan Egeland, returned to Sudan 7-10 May, to visit Khartoum and Darfur and continued onward to Abeche and N'Djamena, Chad. The mission was the second half of an overall trip to Sudan which began in Southern Sudan in April, but had to be cut short after the Government did not grant access to Mr. Egeland to travel to Darfur or Khartoum. Egeland was in Darfur to advocate for the protection of civilians and humanitarian space, as well as raise funds for the response to the humanitarian crisis.

In Darfur, Mr. Egeland conducted a day trip to Gereida, in South Darfur, where he met with the AU mission which has a presence of 200 troops, representatives of the SLA and some of the tens of thousands newly and re-displaced IDPs who arrived in Gereida during the first quarter of the year fleeing violence in the areas south of Nyala. Gereida now has one of the largest IDP concentrations in Darfur.

While in Nyala, Mr. Egeland and his team held constructive meetings with the Wali and Deputy Wali of South Darfur and progress was made in reinstating Norwegian Refugee Council as Camp Coordinator in Kalma. During his visit to Kalma Camp, Mr. Egeland was welcomed by a peaceful demonstration in support of the UN calling for additional protection measures for IDPs. Unfortunately, the visit was marred when some members of the crowd attacked a Sudanese translator accompanying an NGO in the delegation. While the NGO translator emerged physically unscathed, tragically, later that day, a mob descended on the AU compound, staffed by unarmed civilian police, looted the

premises and beat to death a Sudanese national who was working with the AU as a translator. "The acts were unacceptable, namely attacking humanitarian workers and AU colleagues," stated Egeland in a follow up press conference in Khartoum on 9 May. OCHA facilitated meetings the following day between the sheikhs of Kalma and AMIS to begin a dialogue to address the tragedy and find an expedient solution to resuming patrols.

The incident in Kalma, and simultaneous ones the same day in camps in Zalingei and Geneina, indicate the extreme level of tension and how a peaceful situation can be provoked into violence, particularly in the absence of a camp coordinator which can diffuse provocations for the IDP community. The news that NRC would resume its position as Kalma Camp Coordinator as of 5 June was widely welcomed in the humanitarian community.

In Khartoum, Mr. Egeland held constructive meetings with Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Kosti Manibe and Vice President Taha. They addressed the security situation, the continued administrative difficulties for humanitarians operating in Sudan and the implementation of free access under the Status of Forces Agreement. Following Mr. Egeland's call for the government to support the massive food aid effort, Sudan announced it would contribute 20,000 MT of sorghum to the assistance effort.

Egeland also announced the release of US\$21 million dollars from the new Central Emergency Response Fund to cover the needs created from the massive new displacements in Darfur in early 2006 which were not covered in the Work Plan.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS OF NOTE IN JUNE

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
27 MAY	28 MAY	29 MAY	30 MAY	31 MAY	1 JUNE	2 JUNE
						←
3 JUNE	4 JUNE	5 JUNE	6 JUNE	7 JUNE	8 JUNE	9 JUNE
• Joint UNDP/FAO Seminar, "Land & the Root Causes of the Conflict in Darfur" - Nyala	12:00 Return and Reintegration Working Group Meeting, OCHA	• WFP Executive Director Visit			→	→
		←	←	← Security Council Mission		→
		←	←	← Food Forum		→
		• World Environmental Day	← UNDP, Rule of Law Training (IDPs), Khartoum - Jabel Awlia Camp			
				← AU Capacity Building Project: ToT for AMIS Civil Police		
10 JUNE	11 JUNE	12 JUNE	13 JUNE	14 JUNE	15 JUNE	16 JUNE
	12:00 Return and Reintegration Working Group Meeting, OCHA	13:00 UN Sector Coordinators RoS, UNDP	← UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Mia Farrow Visit			→
		14:00 UN Sector Coordinators Darfur, UNDP		14:00 Information and Advocacy WG, OCHA		
		15:15 UN/Donor Briefing, UNDP				
		16:30 Interagency Coordination, UNDP				
17 JUNE	18 JUNE	19 JUNE	20 JUNE	21 JUNE	22 JUNE	23 JUNE
• Official Opening of the Legal Information Centre - El Fasher University	12:00 Return and Reintegration Working Group Meeting, OCHA		• World Refugee Day			
		←	← UNDP, Rule of Law Training (IDPs), Khartoum - Omdurman El Salam Camp	→		
				← AU Capacity Building Project: ToT for AMIS Military		
24 JUNE	25 JUNE	26 JUNE	27 JUNE	28 JUNE	29 JUNE	30 JUNE
	12:00 Return and Reintegration Working Group Meeting, OCHA	14:00 UN Sector Coordinators Darfur, UNDP		14:00 Information and Advocacy WG, OCHA		
		15:15 UN/Donor Briefing, UNDP				
		16:30 Interagency Coordination, UNDP				