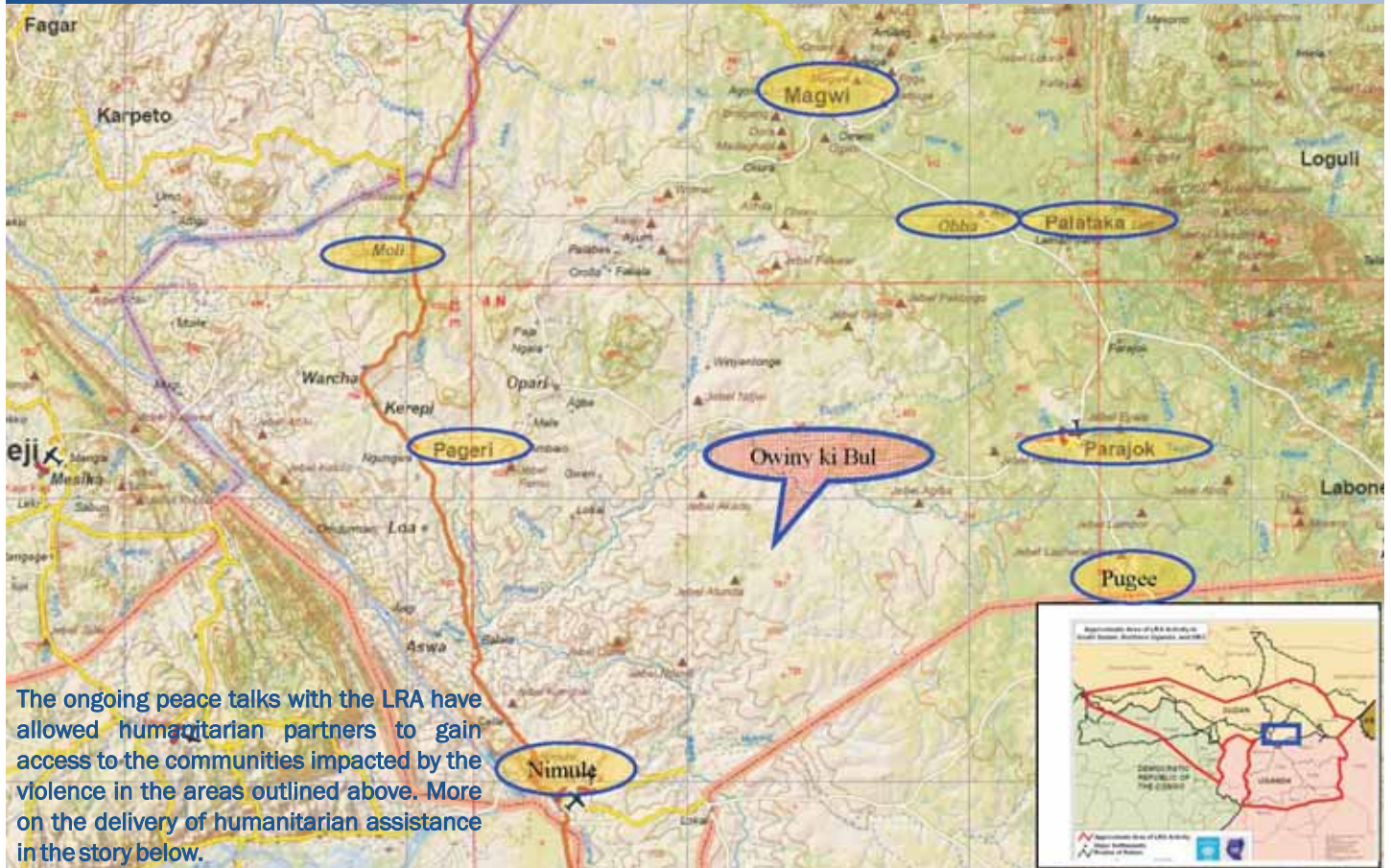


HUMANITARIAN Overview

1 SEPTEMBER - 30 SEPTEMBER 2006



The ongoing peace talks with the LRA have allowed humanitarian partners to gain access to the communities impacted by the violence in the areas outlined above. More on the delivery of humanitarian assistance in the story below.

SOUTHERN SUDAN

Humanitarian partners finally have the opportunity to reach and assess the needs of communities in areas most impacted by the violence wrought by Uganda's Lords Resistance Army (LRA) incursion into Southern Sudan. Following the signing of a Cessation of Hostilities at the end of August, and the previous reduction of security incidents in the Western and Eastern Equatoria, OCHA Emergency Preparedness and Response (EP&R) team led assessments to the LRA-affected areas Magwi County in Eastern Equatoria and Yambio, Ibba and Maridi County in Western Equatoria in late September. Visits were also conducted to the two LRA assembly sites of Owiny-Kibul and Ri-Kwangba. The UN and partners are now moving ahead with supporting the communities and LRA-affected areas in Southern Sudan.

THIS ISSUE'S HIGHLIGHTS:

- HUMANITARIAN IMPACT IN LRA AREAS
- OVERVIEW OF DARFUR
- CHOLERA/AWD OUTBREAK MAP SUDAN
- CHF FUNDING OVERVIEW; EVENTS CALENDAR

Welcome to the eighth issue of Sudan Humanitarian Overview (SHO) 2006. Produced by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), in collaboration with other UN agencies and partner NGOs, the SHO aims to provide an overview of humanitarian trends and activities in Sudan, as well as focus on particular issues of interest. Send comments and contributions to sho@unsudanig.org

"This is our opportunity to get into those areas where we have not been able to work for a long time," noted Southern Sudan Deputy Humanitarian/Resident Coordinator for Southern Sudan David Gressly. Some areas of the so-called "LRA triangle" - the region demarcated in the area between Nimule, Labone and Juba (see map above) have not had regular access to humanitarian services in more than a decade since the LRA expanded their presence into Southern Sudan. The humanitarian impact on Western Equatoria, particularly around Maridi County, where the LRA expanded roughly twelve months ago, is more recent.

Common Humanitarian Funds (see related box on CHF page 6) of US\$775,000 have been made immediately available to start urgent activities in Magwi County, the longest effected area in the East. Emergency Response Fund monies will be mobilised for Western Equatoria, where the needs are not expected to be as severe. Later, when broader-based humanitarian interventions such as repair of school facilities, health training on HIV, demining and mine risk education take place, further funding will be sought from the CHF or the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

According to the assessment team in Magwi County, urgent needs are water, seeds and tools, medicines and educational materials. While there are many boreholes in the area, most of them are in need of repair. It is too early to bring in drilling equipment due to the rainy season conditions, but repair and maintenance would have an immediate effect on local communities which currently rely on water from the local streams.



Since the area is fertile and has received good rain, food aid is not an urgent requirement. However, insecurity in the area has prevented families from moving beyond their villages to plant areas large enough to support themselves. Distribution of seeds and tools was recommended as another immediate intervention. Thirdly, while there are some health posts, they have little staff and have had only erratic access to drug supplies. UNICEF will coordinate the delivery of Primary Health Care Kits.

Discussions are also on-going regarding support to 'non-essentials' - LRA non-combatants such as women, children, elderly and the disabled. UNICEF has proposed a basic package for care and protection of vulnerable populations, including psycho-social activities. Large numbers of women and children are not expected to arrive in gathering areas for a matter of weeks. While the relocation of the non-essentials has not yet been agreed upon, if and when it does take place, humanitarian assistance will be provided using funds from the Uganda Country Team.

Support for the LRA combatants themselves will be organised by the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) with support from the Ugandan government, which has already pledged US\$1 million in funds. The assessment team noted that those who have already reached gathering points appear to have resources and have been purchasing food and other commodities from local communities. "Our intent is to provide support to those communities in LRA-affected areas," noted Gressly. "We are not providing direct support to the LRA, either in terms of food or other humanitarian assistance. We will provide support on a humanitarian basis to relocated non-combatants, if and when that process takes place."

The humanitarian community is well aware that, given the unpredictability of the talks, it must act fast as the political environment could change at any moment. Delivery of assistance will begin in early October.

Security: Largely due to the LRA agreement, security incidents in Southern Sudan have reached a record low. At a press briefing on 18 September, Humanitarian Coordinator/Deputy to the Special Representative of the Secretary General Manuel Aranda da Silva noted the recent period has been the best period since the signing of the CPA. By the end of September, there was only one village in Southern Sudan that was not accessible (due to cattle raiding) and no humanitarian staff needed to be relocated during the month. Areas in Equatoria that had been raised to Security Phase 4 due to LRA incursions and violence have now been reduced to Phase 3, reducing the need for armed escorts in many areas. This move has increased humanitarian access to areas previously inaccessible and therefore underserved. In addition to the recent progress with the LRA, the GoSS response to the security concerns of the humanitarian community must be credited.

Unfortunately, tribal violence has been rife, causing insecurity and requiring the provision of humanitarian assistance. In Lakes State, tensions were high after 12 people were killed and 23 injured in the unrest following the killing of a tribal chief in Akot. While in Jonglei State, approximately 4,400 arms have been voluntarily handed over in Akobo, Wuror and Nyirol, the Deputy Governor visited the areas and reported that clashes during disarmament prevented people from cultivating their farms. State authorities are requesting humanitarian agencies to establish presence in the three affected counties.



Rainy season: During the wet season, agencies focused on planning and pre-positioning supplies for underserved areas and returns. While access throughout Southern Sudan has continued to improve generally, the wet conditions have hampered the provision of humanitarian assistance to communities in need.

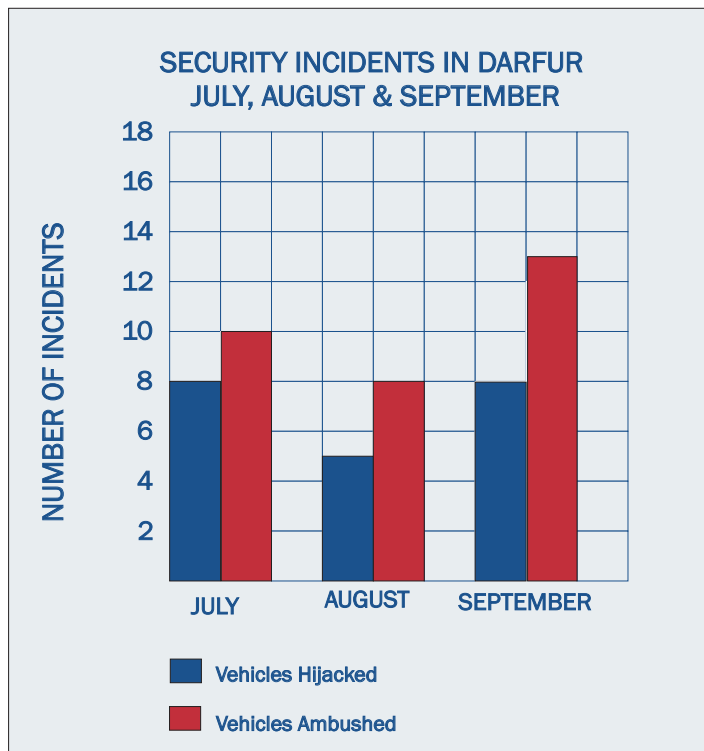
During September, four separate flood assessments led by OCHA EP&R unit have taken place covering different areas of the Nile and tributaries. CARE assessed and responded with relief items in Maiwut in early September. Joint assessments of areas along the Sobat corridor were also conducted. Although no extreme flooding was found, the heavy rains have resulted in displacement of population and exacerbated the health situation. Findings from an assessment of Old Fangak reported between 400 to 500 households scattered in several Payams and in and around the town. Most urgent needs include provision of NFIs. OCHA EP&R is working with partners to respond. Heavy rains in Northern Bahr El Ghazal also destroyed dozens of tukuls and flooded roads temporarily cut off Aweil town.

Returns: Returns slowed down during the rainy season, though some spontaneous returns to state capitals have been reported. Both spontaneous and organised are expected to pick up speed in early November with the start of the dry season. Operational plans for organised and assisted returns will be finalised at a joint HAC/SRRC/UN meeting on 4 October. Levels of needed assistance, particularly for return communities, are expected to be at least equivalent to 2006.

Meanwhile, UNHCR have so far repatriated 13,200 refugees from Central African Republic, Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda. In addition, some 100,000 refugees who returned spontaneously have been provided with food, seeds and non-food items. Refugee return is expected to increase in the coming dry season, although numbers of refugees repatriated will depend on the funding received. UNHCR's South Sudan operation is currently only 60% funded.

Also of note:

- Cases of avian influenza have been confirmed in Juba among poultry. The Avian Flu Task Force is coordinating response.
- 516 cases of acute jaundice have been reported in Wau County since February 2006. Center for Disease Control advised the Ministry of Health on adequate measure to tackle the disease.



Security incidents decreased in August, when humanitarian access hit a low. Although there was some improvement in humanitarian access in September, there was also an increase in incidents - mostly related to attack, hijacking and looting of vehicles in areas where there is insufficient control over security.

DARFUR

Some improvements in the security and access situation in September allowed humanitarian assistance to get to populations in Darfur which had been cut off for the previous two months. However, the progress in September was only in comparison to the alarming deterioration witnessed in July and August, when humanitarian access hit the lowest point since the large-scale humanitarian operation started in 2004 (see comparative maps on next page). In September, the NGO German Agro Action was only able to reach 70% of their target figure of 540,000.

But still, the on-going fragmentation of rebel groups continues to exacerbate the already complex and volatile security situation. Humanitarian access has become a daily challenge for aid workers as territory is changing hands frequently. Risk of being caught in the crossfire of ongoing aerial bombings has forced some humanitarian organisations to suspend all activities near frontlines. Civilian populations and humanitarians are being caught between proliferating groups on one side and armed militias and bandits on the other. This has been particularly a problem in North Darfur, which previously was the most accessible state of the three Darfurs.

Following ethnically motivated militia attacks in late August and early September in the area of Buram, agencies conducted a joint assessment of the village of Seisabana which confirmed as many as 3,400 people - mainly women and children - displaced, 75 civilians killed, destruction and burning of homes and properties, looting of livestock and the forced abandonment of agricultural activities during the crucial rainy season. Four hundred people were missing and those who fled to safety in

nearby villages of Amoud Akhtar and Gerba were reportedly attacked in those locations. OCHA and humanitarian partners struggled for a week to gain access to the population - both due to security constraints and to lack of a helicopter.

Lack of air assets will be somewhat alleviated soon with the allocation of US\$4.5 million from the CERF to fund two more helicopters for the Darfur operation, announced by the HC/DSRSG da Silva on 18 September. "The helicopters will enable us to be able to carry out security and humanitarian assessments more quickly, which will in turn allow us to operate in a more efficient manner," noted da Silva. "This will allow us to have a more flexible response to the changing environment in Darfur." Reliance on air assets is a temporary and expensive solution to the dangerous conditions for road travel outside urban centers.

Hijacking of vehicles - NGO, AU and UN Agency alike - has been one of the greatest hindrances. Overland access is no longer possible on the Zalingi-Nertiti Road. Seven humanitarian vehicles and an AMIS car were hijacked in September, primarily in North Darfur and 13 vehicles were ambushed and looted (see graph).

Humanitarian organizations providing essential water and sanitation as well as health needs were forced to suspend activities due to these hijackings and unacceptable levels of harassment. Approximately 15,000 people, already under extreme stress, with bombardments and fighting over the preceding weeks, could not get basic health services. Several hundred IDPs sought refuge outside the AMIS camp where WFP distributed food aid. However, basic sanitation measures and other services were not in place.

The AMIS mandate, set to expire on 30 September, was extended until the end of the year. However, the political debate over the issue created an unstable climate within which to operate. There were many protests, most of them peaceful, but with much aggressive language.

In general, the atmosphere of fear and insecurity in camps appears to be growing. IDPs in several locations complained about the presence of armed men in and around their camps. Several assaults have been reported in and on the perimeter of IDP camps. In West Darfur, militias intimidated the IDPs and in some instances beat children. The aggressors appear in the evenings when there is no international presence in the camps. Also, in South Darfur, Kalma Camp is once again without a camp coordinator after the Government suspended Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). The new agreement had been renegotiated only in May. This is the sixth time that NRC activities in Kalma have been suspended. Access for NRC staff to Kalma, as well as other parts of South Darfur where they have operations, was also blocked by the Government.

The toll of humanitarian workers killed in Darfur in the past two months rose to 12 on September 1 with the tragic death of a 37-year-old nurse working for International Rescue Committee. The health centre where the victim worked in Hashaba, North Darfur, about 100 km north of El Fasher was also looted, along with a pharmacy and guesthouse also managed by IRC. The NGO had been the sole health care provider in the Hashaba area.

In his monthly report on Darfur to the Security Council, the Secretary-General noted even though the suffering of the Darfuran population has lasted far too long, humanitarian needs are expected to continue unabated for the rest of 2006 and 2007.



measures such as the chlorination of public water supplies geared up and active hygiene promotion intensified to ensure interruption of the chain of transmission of the outbreak. The reduction in cases in the South indicates the outbreak is under control and the focus is on prevention of new cases through hygiene improvement. The task force in Southern Sudan is also closely monitoring and evaluating the efficiency of the ongoing response efforts being carried out to contain the outbreak.

KHARTOUM

Update on flood response: OCHA and the NGO Fellowship for African Relief (FAR) have led the flood response for NFI and mobilized resources for the affected population of El Salaam and El Fateh camps. Completely damaged households were targeted and covered by the humanitarian operations. The Government provided NFIs to some affected population in Um Badda and El Bashir camps.

Relocations: Following the forced relocation of inhabitants of Dar es Salaam (Gezira State) and despite negotiations between HAC and the Wali of Gezira State, the assessment mission has still not been authorized access. The Dar as Salaam Committee confirms that the local land authorities dispossessed plots from residents without notice on the ground that nobody was present by the plots.

In early September, the Government started conducting an organized relocation for the residents from Sareha to be transferred south east of Arahama block at El Salam camp. The first part of the relocation process targets families affected by the rain and whose homes have been partially or fully destroyed. The relocation site can accommodate 1,000 families, and 500 plots were already demarcated.

The relocation of the resident from Sareha proceeded without incident; trucks transported families to the relocation site and in Sareha heavy machines are excavating the main drainage channel and taking down walls of empty houses. More that 1,200 families were allocated with plots and the government will provide free transport from the relocation site to schools so that the pupils can continue their school year. At the relocation site, the construction is ongoing, a water tank delivers free water to houses. The community expressed the need for a clinic, a school, a local source of water and shelter materials.

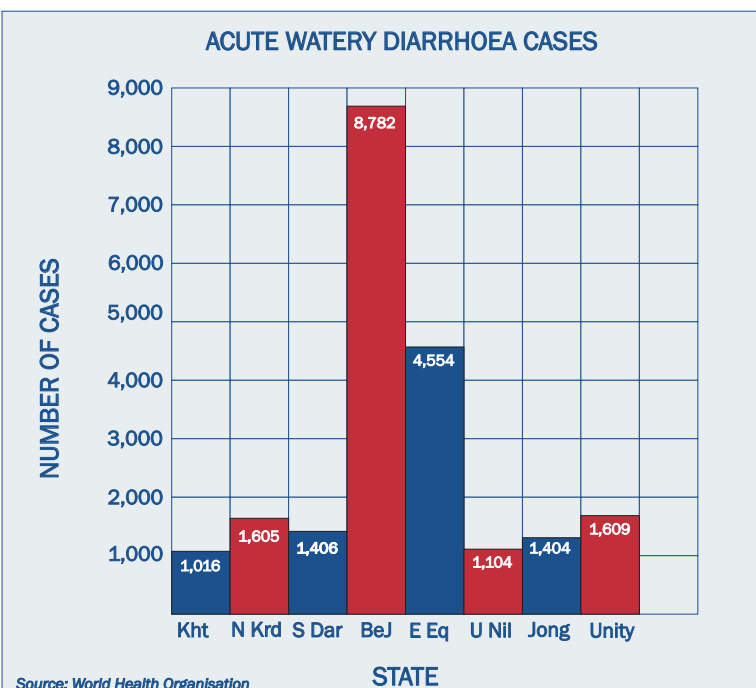
UPDATE: CHOLERA/ACUTE WATERY DIARRHOEA OUTBREAK

Between 21 April - 1 October 2006, the Federal Ministry of Health reported a total of 8,203 cases including 239 deaths from Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) in Northern Sudan. The overall case fatality rate during the reporting period remains at 2.9%. Broken down by state, the death rate ranges between 1% - 5 %. The Ministry has formed a cholera task force to coordinate the overall public health response to this outbreak. WHO is actively participating in this task force assuming the overall responsibility for epidemic risk assessment, surveillance and standardizing case management.

Except in Darfur region, where the outbreak is still spreading, there has been a perceptible decrease in the number of reported cases of AWD from most of the states in the North, signifying that, though not fully stopped, the transmission of the disease is weakening nearly 23 weeks after the outbreak started. The challenge remains to prevent deaths at the community level, particularly in some of the very inaccessible and remote pockets of Darfur region where the worsening security situations and escalation of violence are making it difficult for the health services providers and the humanitarian health workers to reach out to those in acute need and patient care.

In Southern Sudan, between 28 January and 24 September 2006, a total of 18,021 cases and 539 deaths with an overall case fatality rate of 2.9% have been reported from the outbreak. The outbreak began in Yei on 28 January 2006 and rapidly spread to Juba by road. The outbreak has been confirmed in 8 of the 10 states in Southern Sudan.

Meanwhile, surveillance for acute watery diarrhoea and case management have been strengthened, environmental control





UPDATE ON THE COMMON HUMANITARIAN FUND CURRENT CHF PLEDGES

An allocation of US\$ 8 million of CHF monies to assist reintegration activities in Eastern Equatoria, Warrap, Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Jonglei was finalised on 16 September. These states have been prioritised as areas that have been traditionally underserved areas which are expected to experience high rated of return in the dry season.

As mentioned on page 1, US\$775,000 in CHF monies for Eastern Equatoria has been made available for the communities in LRA-impacted areas.

In addition to an allocation of \$41 million in December 2005, US \$6 million was allocated in mid-July to four priority sectors: health, NFI, support for returns and Food Security and Livelihoods Recovery. A third allocation of approximately US\$10million is expected to take place in mid-October

CHF funds are pooled by participating donors including Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, Ireland and the United

Donor Country	Pledged to CHF
Sweden	\$12,547,051
Norway	\$10,573,248
Netherlands	\$44,100,000
Ireland	\$2,484,472
United Kingdom	\$88,046,631
TOTAL	\$157,751,403

Kingdom and placed under the direct control of the Humanitarian Coordinator. The main objective of the CHF is to support timely allocation and disbursement of donor resources to the most critical humanitarian needs of Sudan. Besides strengthening the UN planning and coordination process, the fund is intended to strengthen humanitarian assistance by channeling funds towards the most urgent needs and by ensuring that funds are available for rapid responses for unforeseen circumstances.

2006 WORK PLAN HUMANITARIAN FUNDING UPDATE:

As of 30 September 2006, donors have pledged \$1,015,795,505 which amounts to 63.3% coverage of the humanitarian funds required by the end of December 2006.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS OF NOTE IN OCTOBER 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 OCTOBER	2 OCTOBER	3 OCTOBER	4 OCTOBER	5 OCTOBER	6 OCTOBER	7 OCTOBER
12:00 Return & Reintegration WG, OCHA			08:30 UN Security Brief for NGOs, UNDSS 09:00 HAC/SSRRC/UN Joint meeting on Returns 11:00 KPSG, OCHA 14:00 Information and Advocacy WG, OCHA	11:00 Child Protection, National Council for Child Welfare 11:00 Nutrition, UNICEF 13:30 NFI user Group, UNDP 14:00 Logistics/Shelter/NFI, UNDP		
8 OCTOBER	9 OCTOBER	10 OCTOBER	11 OCTOBER	12 OCTOBER	13 OCTOBER	14 OCTOBER
12:00 Return & Reintegration WG, OCHA	12:00 SGBV Core Group, UNFPA - TBC 13:00 UN Sector Coordinators RoS, UNDP 14:00 UN Sector Coordinators Darfur, UNDP 15:15 UN Donor Briefing, UNDP 16:30 Inter-Agency Coord, UNDP	13:00 Khartoum Protection WG, UNHCR	08:30 UN Security Brief for NGOs, UNDSS 11:00 KPSG, OCHA 14:00 Darfur NFI Advisory Panel, UNJLC 15:30 WATSAN, UNICEF			
15 OCTOBER	16 OCTOBER	17 OCTOBER	18 OCTOBER	19 OCTOBER	20 OCTOBER	21 SEPTEMBER
12:00 Return & Reintegration WG, OCHA	12:00 KHT State Inter-Agency, FAR 12:30 Humanitarian Press Briefing, UNMIS		09:00 Reproductive Health, UNFPA 11:00 KPSG, OCHA 14:00 Information and Advocacy WG, OCHA	11:00 Child Protection, National Council for Child Welfare 11:00 Household Food Security, FAO 13:30 NFI user Group, UNDP 14:00 Logistics/Shelter/NFI, UNDP		
22 OCTOBER	23 OCTOBER	24 OCTOBER	25 OCTOBER	26 OCTOBER	27 OCTOBER	28 OCTOBER
12:00 Return & Reintegration WG OCHA	13:00 UN Sector Coordinators RoS, UNDP 14:00 UN Sector Coordinators Darfur, UNDP 15:15 UN Donor Briefing, UNDP 16:30 Inter-Agency Coord, UNDP	13:00 Khartoum Protection WG, UNHCR	08:30 UN Security Brief for NGOs, UNDSS 11:00 KPSG, OCHA 14:00 Education, UNICEF Darfur Emerg Coord office	11:00 Return and Reintegration Liaison Group, OCHA		11:00 Cooperating Partner Coordination Meeting for Central, East & Three Areas (CETA/CPS), WFP
29 OCTOBER	30 OCTOBER	31 OCTOBER				
12:00 Return & Reintegration WG, OCHA						