



Office of UN Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sudan  
UN Resident and Humanitarian Co-ordinator

# Darfur

## Humanitarian

### Profile No. 30



**Situation as of 01 January 2008**

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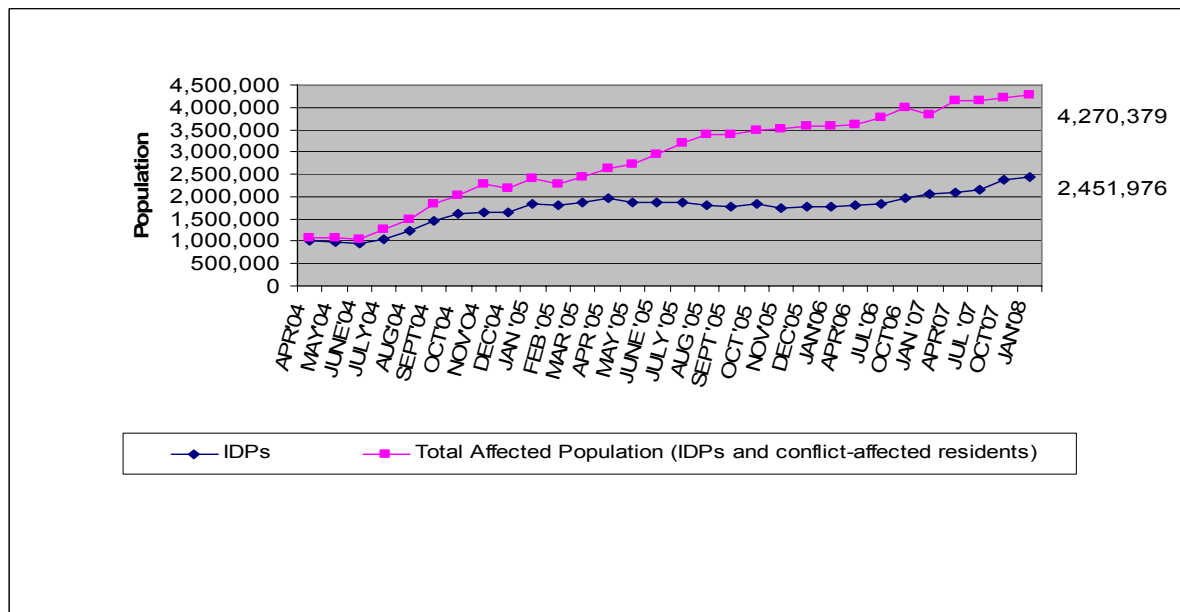
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All maps provided by the Humanitarian Information Centre for Darfur (HIC).

## I. Affected Population – trends and analysis

1. The last quarter of 2007 continued to be extremely fragile, characterized by non-stop armed clashes causing massive population displacements, serious restrictions on humanitarian access, increased violence inside the IDP camps, and a high incidence of targeted attacks against humanitarian workers and their assets. By 1 January 2008, over 2,450,000 people were displaced, while another 1.8 million were seriously affected by the ongoing crisis and considered in need of humanitarian aid. On the positive side, the number of aid workers in Darfur has risen to over 14,700 in order to effectively respond to the increased humanitarian needs.

**CHART 1. Estimated Number of IDPs and Total Affected Population  
(UN estimates since April 2004)**

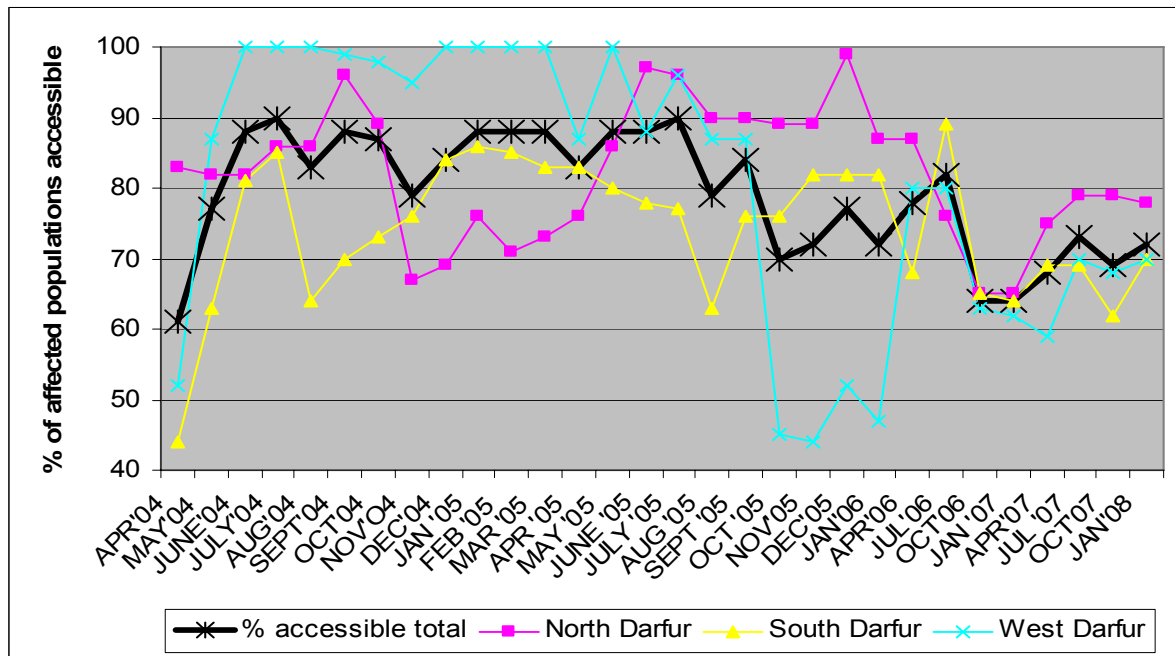


## II. Humanitarian Access

2. Humanitarian access in Darfur is primarily determined by a combination of two factors:
- The degree of general insecurity, which may require the United Nations and other humanitarian partners to suspend or limit operations in certain unsafe areas for a certain amount of time;
  - Random targeted attacks on humanitarians and their assets, including hijacking of cars and abduction of personnel, physical violence directed towards humanitarian workers, road ambushes, destruction of NGO assets and armed break-ins in humanitarian compounds/centres.

**Chart 2** shows the trend of the affected populations accessible according to UN security standards since April 2004. On 1 January 2008, overall UN accessibility in Darfur slightly increased to 72%. It is important to underline that NGOs and Red Cross/Crescent Movements may assist people in UN no-go or limited access areas, but they have become similarly cautious to access areas with a high risk of targeted road banditry and armed confrontations.

**CHART 2. Percent of Affected Population Accessible to UN Humanitarian Aid since April 2004**



3. The last quarter of the year continued to witness high levels of violence in many parts of Darfur causing the displacement of some 40,000 people. In 2007, over 300,000 people have been newly (re-)displaced. Government and militia attacks accounted for almost two-thirds of these new displacements, while inter-tribal fighting caused the displacement of some 75,000 people. Over the last three months of the year, due to overall insecurity, humanitarian workers had to be relocated on nine occasions and humanitarian operations were temporarily suspended several times with an obvious detrimental effect on humanitarian assistance. In total this year, humanitarian organizations relocated on 36 occasions due to insecurity.

4. Humanitarian operations suffered from serious forms of aggression and harassment by different actors, including bandits, armed movements, Government officials and IDPs. Between October and December, eight humanitarian workers were killed and 10 wounded, while three others were physically attacked. During the same period, armed men assaulted 23 humanitarian centres/compounds. Nine Sudanese humanitarian workers were temporarily detained by GoS authorities, one by SLA-MM and four by SLA-AW.

5. The high incidence of violent hijackings of humanitarian vehicles continued during the last three months of the year. During this period, 32 humanitarian vehicles have been hijacked or stolen, during which 30 humanitarian staff members were temporarily abducted. Three hijacking attempts failed. In the same period, 13 humanitarian convoys were assaulted and/or looted. In total, 137 humanitarian vehicles have been hijacked in 2007 and 77 humanitarian convoys ambushed. Various factions of the rebel movements as well as militias and Chadian rebels have been involved in the hijacking of humanitarian vehicles, to be used in combat.

6. To add to the complexity of the Darfur crisis is the increased penetration of armed men from all parties to the conflict jeopardizing the security of the IDPs. This, in combination with Government campaign for returns to the villages of origin has led to widespread violence amongst the IDPs along tribal lines. In October, long simmering animosity amongst IDPs in

Kalma camp burst into a spike of violence leading an estimated 10,000 IDPs to flee to nearby camps and Nyala town. The camp remained virtually closed for humanitarian operations for a week. In November, NGOs were denied access to Kalma camp on several occasions, putting serious constraints to humanitarian services in the camp. Especially the verification of the number of IDPs following the October violence in the camp, and therefore the food distribution as well as fuel supplies to run the water systems were affected. In Zalingei, clashes in October between IDPs and GoS soldiers led to the imposition of a week-long embargo on humanitarian services to all Zalingei camps in October.

7. Despite the 2007 Joint Communiqué, GoS authorities continued to randomly or even consistently deny humanitarian access, including to large parts of the Jebel Marra, Adilla – Haskanita, and at the end of the year the northern corridor of West Darfur. Moreover, bureaucratic constraints persist, especially regarding entry visas and stay and work permits for international humanitarian staff. In November, the Wali of South Darfur expelled the head of the OCHA Nyala office from the state.

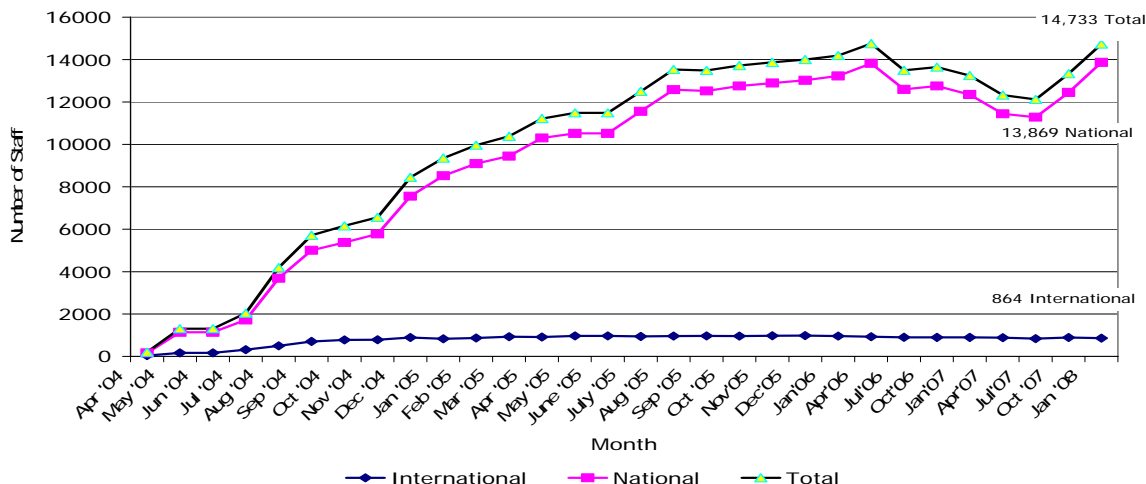
8. Through an increased use of air transport and locally recruited volunteers and community workers, humanitarians have been able to maintain access to the conflict-affected populations, but the quality of the operations has suffered significantly. In view of the unpredictable security situation, hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people are only receiving minimal and sporadic assistance. Monitoring and overview of activities has likewise reduced as a result of fewer aid workers and time spent in the field.

9. To counter the negative trend in access limitations, over the past months the UN and NGO partners have defined a strategy to regain humanitarian space in Darfur. This strategy includes a consolidation of the joint UN/NGO working group, the monitoring of the implementation of the 2007 Joint Communiqué, the promotion of the ‘Saving Lives Together’ project and an increased dialogue and engagement with all parties to the conflict.

### III. Response Capacity – aid workers in Darfur

10. The numbers of national and international humanitarian workers in the region have increased further to reach the highest number ever in almost five years of conflict. Darfur remains the world’s largest humanitarian relief operation with over 14,700 national and international aid workers. Some 80 NGOs and Red Cross/Crescent Movement and 14 UN agencies continue to support the affected populations in Darfur.

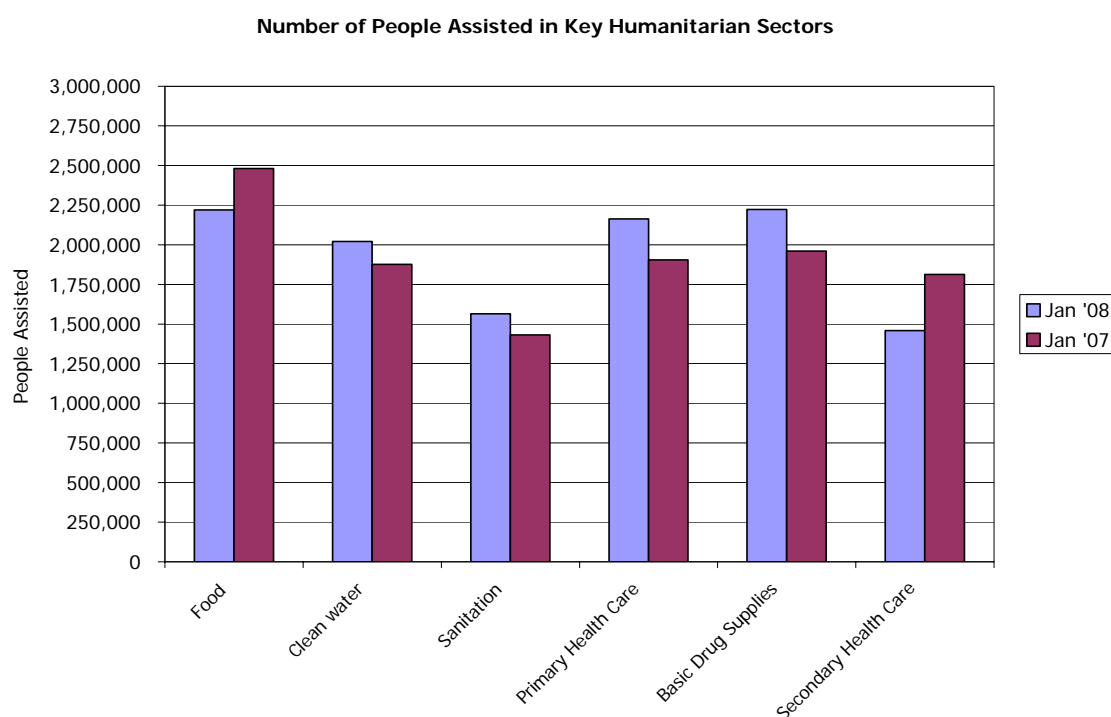
**Chart 3. Trend of Humanitarian Staff Working in Darfur (April 2004 – January 2008)**



11. One of the solutions to offset the serious access constraints has been the increased use of local community workers and volunteers. The number of humanitarian workers in Darfur has increased over the past year from 12,300 to over 14,700, largely due to this trend. The numbers international workers remained stable at around 860. However, a number of NGOs are finding it increasingly difficult to cope with the implications of legal or other challenges by former employees, incentive workers or volunteers. The most serious challenge for many NGOs is that the concept of volunteers for non-profit organizations has not been recognized under Sudanese labour law and, as a result, NGO volunteers are treated as if they are full employees for 'profit' organizations after they have completed three months of 'employment'.

#### IV. Provision and Quality of Assistance

**CHART 4. Number of People Assisted in Key Humanitarian Sectors January 2007 – January 2008**



#### **An in-depth sector update for 2008 with emphasis on the last quarter**

##### **12. Food:**

In 2007, WFP and ICRC assisted 3.4 million people in Darfur with food. Up to 75 percent of WFP's resources were used to meet the immediate food needs of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and vulnerable communities, preventing a drastic deterioration of their nutritional status. Insecurity was WFP's main operational challenge, often impeding access to targeted beneficiaries. The number of beneficiaries who were not reached due to insecurity peaked at 200,000 people in October 2007, with over 110,000 people not reached on average per month during the year. Furthermore, the increased incidence in the targeting of commercial trucks including those carrying WFP food was a major concern. From September 2007 to mid February 2008, 30 trucks carrying food have been stolen. Of these, three drivers were killed and 18 are still missing. In spite of this trend and increased attacks on humanitarian aid workers, WFP, ICRC and partners maintained assistance to 2.6 million Darfurians on average each month, with a peak of 3.4 million people during the hunger season.

The last quarter of 2007, the tail end of the hunger season, saw a decline from 3.3 million beneficiaries in August to 2.8 million beneficiaries in October due to a gradual cutting back of seasonal support with the start of the harvest season. During the quarter, food assistance continued to IDPs residing in camps, the newly displaced and other vulnerable groups. Import restrictions in Corn-Soya Blend (CSB), a micronutrient fortified food component of the food basket, resulted in half ration cuts in October and full ration cuts in November, prioritizing limited stocks for therapeutic feeding and supplementary feeding programmes. Increased rations of pulses were used as a supplement, while alternative solutions are being sought for 2008.

A general decline in the nutrition situation of conflict-affected Darfurians was noted in 2007 relative to 2006. For the region as a whole, a 16.1 percent Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate exceeded the emergency threshold of 15 percent, but was significantly lower than the 2004 rate of 21.8 percent. Continuing population displacements, insecurity diminishing access to services and a lack of proper water and sanitation facilities were contributing factors. Due to its more arid geography, North Darfur saw higher GAM rates, in line with previous trends.

While WFP assisted 23,000 malnourished women and children under-five, a lack of partner capacity, further constrained by insecurity, curtailed the expansion of nutrition intervention programmes.

In 2008, further expansion of the Food for Education (FFE) programme is planned in partnership with State Ministries of Education in Darfur. Through the FFE programme, children in food insecure areas receive additional support through the one meal a day at school, to encourage enrolment and attendance. In North Darfur for example, from January 2008 the programme will be expanded in more rural areas (such as Kabkabiya rural, Serief Bin Hussein, Kutum rural, Mellit rural) where the need is greatest, adding roughly 35,000 new beneficiaries in 140 new schools. This will increase the programme's coverage to approximately 130,000 children in 280 schools across the state.

In 2007, 808,000 children, 41 percent girls, benefited from the Food for Education programme.

### **13. Agriculture:**

At the end of 2007, FAO and partners continued to deliver essential services and inputs, in spite of an increasingly volatile security situation, which has led to the displacement of populations and loss of economic assets amongst vulnerable populations.

The tangible impact of the escalation in violence has been lack of access for communities to agriculturally viable land and for humanitarian agencies to areas of need, restrictions on movement of livestock owned by pastoralists and disruption in nomadic migration as well as problems in the transport and delivery of goods and services. For instance, agricultural inputs that have been invested during the winter planting season in certain areas have been destroyed or wasted as farmers were fearful of returning to insecure areas to harvest their yield. Limited access to grazing areas and animal health services have affected the health and productivity of livestock and derailed some vaccination and treatment campaigns.

To counteract the effects of this instability and help create more resilient livelihoods prospects for the long-term, FAO and partners focus on three major areas of intervention: to help communities with agricultural inputs and technical training, to protect existing livestock assets and help create more, and promote the protection and sustainable use of natural resources.

Towards this end, by the last quarter of 2007, FAO had helped over 116,781 households in 25 localities in Darfur with a combination of immediate food security assistance as well as initiating durable livelihoods projects. Of these, almost all households have received some form of agricultural support, which forms a core intervention in Darfur. Over 2,000 MT of crop seeds such as sorghum, millet, maize and vegetable seeds and over 40,000 hand tools have been

distributed over the year to encourage people to establish long-term food security coping mechanisms.

In terms of animal health, over 500,000 animals have been treated or vaccinated by FAO staff and Community Animal Health Workers. Additionally, more than one million doses or vaccines have been provided to partners accompanied by equipment and apparatus such as syringes and solar fridges.

More than 2,000 people were encouraged to participate in natural resource interventions, related to the management and sustainable use of natural resources. Some examples are community nurseries which have produced over 425,000 tree saplings, training of 527 women on fuel efficient stoves to reduce environmental pollution as well as minimize GBV, and implementation of various school garden projects.

For 2008, FAO and partners' interventions aim to secure existing assets and resources and help create structures for new economic and natural resources for over 200,000 households. Plans include distribution of approximately 2,600 MT of seeds as well as tools and ploughs to ease manual labour required for agricultural production and increase agricultural efficiency.

Preventative and curative measures form the main activities for livestock support by targeting four million animals for vaccinations and a further 500,000 to be treated against common, yet fatal diseases such as Anthrax and Sheep Pox. FAO and partners will also build community support networks for essential animal health services in areas that suffer from gaps in veterinary support through the training of 750 Community Animal Health Workers. Once trained and equipped by FAO, these CAHWS strengthen existing services whilst building a support system for new areas of operation.

So far, planning has begun in preparation for the coming rainy season with pre-positioning of seeds and tools from available stocks. However, movement of inputs has been problematic due to prevailing security conditions.

#### **14. Non-food items:**

In 2007, UNJLC, UNICEF, CARE, and cooperating partners supported 431,084 households with approximately 2.6 million non-food items (NFIs) provided through the Darfur Common Pipeline. IDPs requiring replenishment was the largest beneficiary group served, followed by newly displaced populations. Blankets, sleeping mats, and jerry cans were the most distributed items with approximately 600,000 units distributed each.

Distributions peaked in May and June, reflecting preparations for the on-coming rainy season, during which jerry cans and sleeping mats were distributed in large quantities. Activities then fell dramatically between August and October as the rainy season and insecurity affected access by closing roads. Assessment activity picked back up in November and distributions subsequently began rising shortly thereafter, especially replenishing blankets prior to the cold season.

The Common Pipeline comprises approximately 90% of activities for the NFI & Emergency Shelter Sector in the Darfur region. Coordinating partners are encouraged to submit their activity information to UNJLC for inclusion and creation of a comprehensive sector overview.

Distribution activities in October were low, primarily due to insecurity related access restrictions across all three Darfur states. Replenishment distributions dominated activities for November and December, as preparations for the up-coming cold season were being made. Zalingei, Seleia, Kulbus, Zam Zam, Fata Borno, and Kassab were the primary camps and localities supported. However, newly displaced populations continued to arrive at camps and continued to require significant support. New arrivals included approximately 1,200 households in Al Salam Camp in South Darfur, 215 households in As Salaam Camp in North Darfur, and approximately 3,200 households in Um Dukhun, West Darfur.



Cooperating partners making beneficiary support possible during the period of October through December included African Humanitarian Action, CHF International, Concern, CRS, El-Ruhama, GOAL, Great Family, Humedica, International Aid Hand, INTERSOS, IRC, IRW, Mercy Corps, MSF-Holland, OXFAM, PDNO, PODR, Rehaid El-Fursan Rural Development, Samaritan's Purse, SCF-US, Solidarité, Spanish Red Cross, SPRC, Sudan Red Crescent, TDH, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, and WID.

**15. Water and sanitation:**

In 2007, coordinated efforts by humanitarian agencies working in the water and sanitation sector led to increased access for the conflict-affected people to safe water and excreta disposal systems. The Annual Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Survey indicated that 76% of conflict-affected people have now access to safe water, up from 73.3% in 2006 and 62.5% in 2005. Likewise, 67% of conflict-affected people have now access to latrines, up from 60.1% in 2006 and 57.6% in 2005.

In absolute figures, access to improved water supply facilities was increased for 395,390 people and 14,000 school children in 35 schools, re-established for 408,340 people and sustained for 784,000 people in the emergency areas of northern Sudan, including the Darfur region. Access to safe means of excreta disposal was provided for 294,140 people and 39,100 school children in 98 schools and re-established for 121,090 people. Hygiene education was provided for 1.14 million people through house visits by health promoters and reached over 3 million people through radio programmes. Soap was provided on a continuous basis to encourage hygienic practices. In addition, vector control spraying and garbage disposal in all major IDP camps benefited over 1.5 million people. With UNICEF-WASH emergency supplies, cash and technical expertise, 2.64 million people were provided with chlorinated water. Water chlorination interventions directly contributed to a dramatic reduction in the reported Acute Watery Diarrhoea/Cholera cases from over 10,138 cases in 2006 to some 1,705 reported cases this year.

UNICEF is supporting a sector-wide groundwater monitoring and evaluation operation for IDP locations in Darfur. The aim is to identify groundwater capacities and vulnerabilities due to excess pumping, to identify mitigating actions and to develop plans to manage water as a resource. The final results are due in early 2008.

In support of the greater sector policy and planning, 14 guidelines for the construction of Water and Sanitation Facilities have been developed, of which 11 were finalized and three will be finalized in 2008.

**16. Health:**

All accessible conflict-affected people in Darfur were reached Primary Health Care (PHC) services provided by GoS and NGOs. Some 3,700 PHC kits and 435,900 mosquito nets (LLITN) were distributed, and eight health institutions rehabilitated. For the first time in years, 14,716 children under five years of age in Jebel Marra received a package of health interventions including polio and measles vaccines, LLITN and essential medicines.

Sudan remained polio free from June 2005 to September 2007 when an imported case appeared in South Darfur. The polio free status was largely due to improved surveillance, improved routine immunization, plus four polio campaigns covering about 6.1 million children under five years, including 56,255 in Jebel Marra who were reached with two rounds of polio vaccines. Polio campaign coverage ranged between 98 per cent and 101 per cent. By September, 593,968 children under one year of age had received three doses of DPT (DPT3 annualized coverage of 86.2 per cent, compared to 75.8 per cent for the same period in 2006) and 604,101 children under one had received measles vaccination (annualized coverage of 75.1 per cent compared to 70 per cent for the same period in 2006). Hepatitis B is now provided in all northern Sudan with an annualized coverage of 86.2 per cent by September. The EPI

programme has effectively reduced the burden of vaccine preventable diseases in Sudan. For example, measles cases decreased from 9,562 cases in 2004 to 493 cases in 2006 and 392 by October 2007. An integrated measles campaign (measles vaccination, de-worming, hand washing and breast feeding promotion) targeting 1.5 million children in six northern Sudan states was undertaken in November as part of the ACSI 'Jump start' with a coverage of 96%.

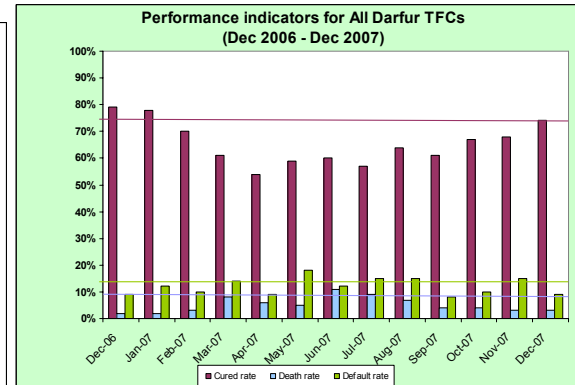
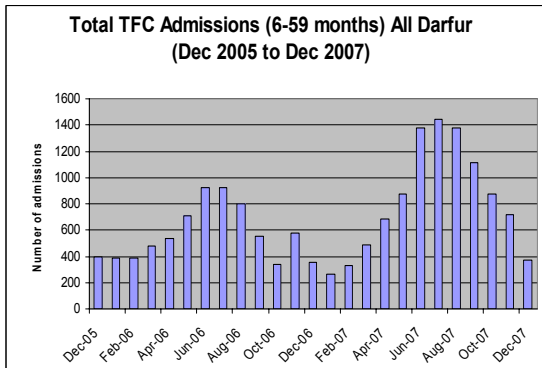
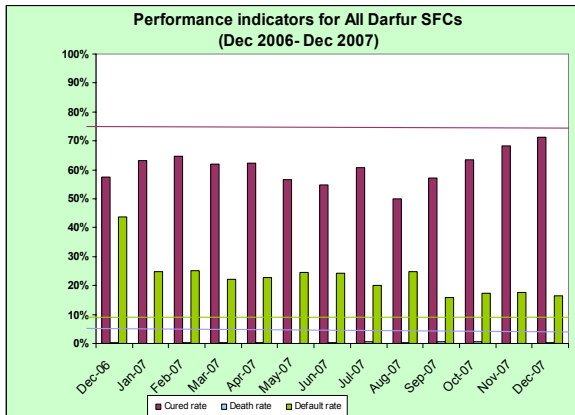
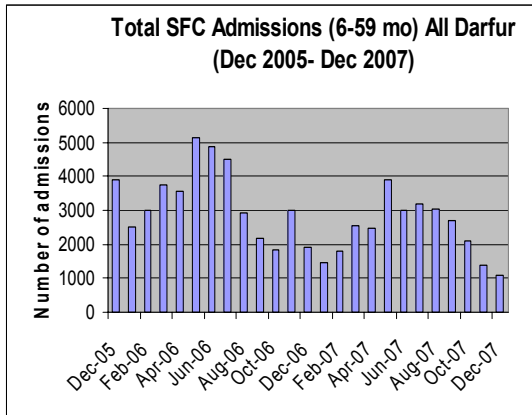
**17. Nutrition:**

Activities for Darfur states focused on maintaining and improving existing Therapeutic Feeding Centre (TFC) and Supplementary Feeding Centre (SFC) capacity and coverage. Financial support has been provided for the rehabilitation of TFCs in South and North Darfur. Ministry of Health staff members have been trained in the facility based treatment of acute malnutrition in North and South Darfur. In 2007, over 9,900 severely malnourished children under-five were treated in the 65 TFCs run throughout Darfur. During the same time period, 28,700 moderately malnourished were treated through 78 targeted SFCs.

The Federal Ministry of Health, with financial support from UNICEF, conducted a Training of Trainers for 24 state level nutritionists during the period of 12 to 20 November on the use of the new WHO growth curves. Growth monitoring and promotion, which is a key part of the Minimum Nutrition Package to be rolled out in 2008, utilizes the new growth curves as the reference population against which individuals are compared to assess their nutritional status. Federal Ministry of Health and UNICEF also conducted a Training of Trainers for 30 representatives from state level media outlets (TV and radio) and State Ministries of Health. The objective of the training was to orient communication staff in the media and State Ministry of Health in the development of media spots in relation to the support of the Universal Salt Iodization campaign, which will start in 2008.

Vitamin A supplementation through the polio National Immunization Day in April/May 2007 reached 1,295,142 children under five in Darfur. The second round of NIDs in Darfur in December 2007 reached 1,285,753 children under five.

The 2007 Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment of the conflict-affected populations in Darfur (EFSNA) was conducted in August and early September by the Ministries of Health and Agriculture, and the Humanitarian Aid Commission with the support of FAO, UNICEF, WFP and CDC. The aim of the assessment was to provide an integrated analysis of food and nutritional vulnerability in the three States of Darfur and to monitor the trend since the September 2004, 2005 and 2006 assessments. On 9 December, preliminary results of EFSNA were presented through a joint technical briefing by Government and the UN to the humanitarian community. Government concerns in terms of methodology and process were also raised and discussed. Global acute malnutrition has increased at regional level compared to 2006 figures. Global acute malnutrition rates from North Darfur consistently reported higher than other states. Severe acute malnutrition rates remain stable at regional level. Young children (6-29 months) are consistently at greater risk of malnutrition. There is a small increase in morbidity in 2007 in comparison to previous years. Mortality rates remain below the emergency threshold. Coverage of feeding centres remains low and inadequate to meet needs. Micronutrient supplementation of children and mothers, as well as measles vaccination coverage is improving. Overall, the level of food insecurity in Darfur remains very high, with little improvement compared to last year. Food security among IDPs in host communities has deteriorated compared to last year. At the State level, overall food security in North and West Darfur has deteriorated compared to last year. Information from the assessment is forming the basis for activities in the first quarter of 2008 to monitor the nutrition situation, prevent and treat malnutrition, in particular in terms of prepositioning adequate nutrition rehabilitation supplies prior to the hunger gap.



**18. Education:**

The quality of education has improved for 127,000 children in Darfur through a better trained teaching cadre of volunteer, nomadic and Ministry of Education teachers. The number of children reached in Darfur is lower than the 210,000 planned largely due to insecurity and access problems. Some 100 basic school teachers for children with special needs in six IDP camps, eight host and returnee communities in North Darfur have increased their knowledge on child-friendly teaching methods and principles for teaching children with special needs.

**19. Protection:**

The period from October to December 2007 was characterized by increasing instability and continued violations against civilians in the main IDP camps throughout Darfur. The presence of arms and armed men inside and around camps increased steadily through 2007 and included GoS, armed movements and other unidentified armed men. Reports of violations against civilians by these groups included physical assaults and killings, sexual and gender-based violence, theft and looting of property. IDPs in camps under the control of various fighting factions reported illegal taxation, arbitrary arrest and detention, harassment and recruitment of children.

Ongoing hostilities between parties to the conflict throughout Darfur and tribal fighting in South Darfur involved attacks in which civilians were killed and injured, faced sexual and gender-based violence and had their homes and property looted or destroyed. Substantial civilian displacement occurred, including separation of children from their families during flight. Over 300,000 persons were displaced over the course of 2007 due to continued insecurity.

Fighting between Fallata and Gimir tribes in the Tullus and Goz Al Gharbi areas (South Darfur) resulted in civilian deaths, injury and displacement. Fighting between Tarjam and Abbala in Sania Deleba caused serious displacement. IDPs near Wad Hajjam reported an attack by Habaniya tribesmen in November, during which villages were burned, animals looted and women raped. In October, an attack by Salamat militia on Al Nadif (Boram area) prompted Birgit

households to flee, while tribal conflict in Um Dukhun (West Darfur) between Massalit and Salamat tribes also caused displacement. In October, alleged Ma'alia militiamen attacked Al-Munger (Ed Daein area) targeting Burgo tribal members, with two deaths and five rapes reported. Houses were burned and property looted prompting civilians to flee.

Muhajiriya (South Darfur) was attacked on 8 October during a militia offensive against SLA-Minni Minnawi forces. The attackers allegedly targeted the civilian population with 30 civilians reported killed and 60 wounded. Fighting between SLA-Free Will and Justice and Equality Movement forces against nomads supported by GoS forces around Um Dukhum in October also provoked significant displacement. In mid-October fighting erupted in Kalma IDP camp (South Darfur) between supporters of SLA-Abdul Wahid and SLA-Minni Minnawi factions, prompting a Government of Sudan operation in the camp that resulted in exchange of fire between all parties, civilian casualties and substantial displacement to areas around Nyala.

A disturbing development was the forced relocation of some IDPs by South Darfur authorities following the unrest in Kalma. On 28 October, Kalma IDPs that had sought refuge in Otash were surrounded by heavily armed government forces and forcibly moved to Amakassara, north-west of Nyala, though only a handful of households were observed there. Households that had settled in the Majok area were given deadlines by GoS Police to leave the area. The majority later moved to Sakali South, some reportedly by force. No services were in place in Sakali South although the Wali of South Darfur promised Kalma IDPs they would be resettled and provided with land, schools and a permanent clinic.

#### **20. Child Protection:**

During the year, a monitoring and reporting mechanism was established in Darfur. Some 530 NGO and UN staff members in the three Darfur states were trained on Security Council Resolution 1612 and the procedures for collecting data. A total of 1,306 African Union Troops in Darfur were trained on child rights and child protection within the Inter-Agency Capacity building programme for AMIS Troops. A total of 868 community stakeholders were reached through awareness on gender-based violence. Some 204 humanitarian workers and community members increased their capacity to provide psychosocial/emotional support for survivors of gender-based violence in the three states of Darfur. An Action Plan for the release of children associated with the SLA-MM was signed following advocacy efforts by UNICEF.

Bi-weekly Child Protection Working Group Meetings were regularly conducted in the three states of Darfur and reports were prepared to coordinate efforts on child protection priorities, covering gaps, setting standards and developing referral pathways, etc. A comprehensive Awareness Campaign was launched on the Day of the African Child together with the National Council for Child Welfare all over Sudan. The campaign covered a range of communication channels; including radio, TV, community activities, posters, leaflets, stickers, banners on overall child protection issues primarily addressed to parents and service providers (social workers, police, teachers). The launching ceremony of the campaign took place in Nyala. Field work for the Youth Study was completed in the three states of Darfur.

#### **21. Summary:**

Despite many constraints, some 14,700 humanitarian workers, including some 860 internationals, continue to assist the 4.27 million conflict-affected people, of whom 2.45 million are IDPs. Major epidemics continued to be avoided and vaccination campaigns have been implemented successfully. However, due to the prevalent insecurity, general deterioration of living conditions and continuous population movements, malnutrition rates have increased this year. Results of the annual Food Security and Nutrition survey showed a global malnutrition rate of 16.1% among the conflict-affected populations. For the first time since 2004, the rates are above the emergency threshold of 15%. This is in contrast to improved humanitarian services, as indicated by increased access to safe water and excreta disposal systems, and lower mortality rates. Food security remains the major humanitarian problem, with only 30% of the conflict-affected people considered food self-sufficient. More worryingly, end of year harvest

assessments indicated that the current crop yields will be below expectations due to general insecurity and harvest failure. As a result, more Darfurians than usual will be entirely dependent on food aid from as early as January 2008.

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