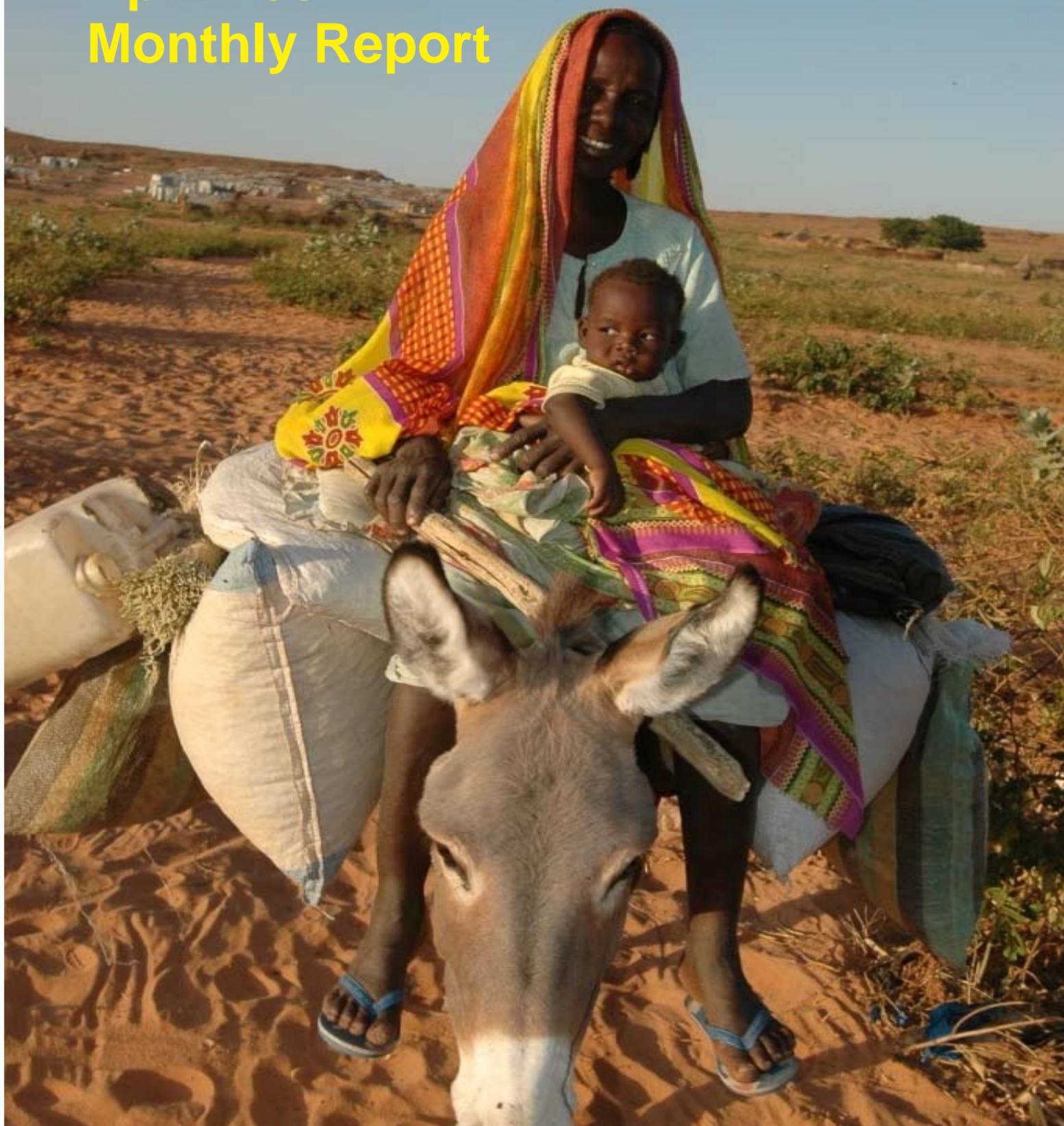


# UNICEF SUDAN

## April 2007

### Monthly Report



For every child  
Health, Education, Equality, Protection  
ADVANCE HUMANITY

unicef 

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This report highlights UNICEF actions in Sudan in April 2007. It covers work throughout the country and focuses on themes and programmes. It does not attempt to report on every activity undertaken but rather to provide an overall picture of UNICEF programming toward its larger vision for Sudan.

Financial summary... attached separately



### Darfur and other areas of the north

Throughout April, the humanitarian context remained a challenge in Darfur and the rest of Sudan, including implementation of the Joint Communiqué for Darfur, signed last month.

In November 2006 it was agreed that a joint AU-UN force would be deployed to Darfur in three stages: a light support package; a heavy support package; and an African Union-UN hybrid force. On 16 April, the Government of Sudan accepted the UN heavy support package for the AU force.

Throughout the month, humanitarian staff were targets on the road, at work, and in their homes - 22 humanitarian staff were abducted during hijacking incidents and two temporarily detained by government authorities. Five physical assaults and two incidents of physical threats on NGO staff were reported. Security guards at humanitarian compounds were assaulted in five different incidents. Sixteen humanitarian vehicles were hijacked - twice as many as in March – with four failed attempts. Seven humanitarian convoys were ambushed and/or looted.

Travel outside of the state capital of Kassala is difficult for UN and NGOs alike. Three UN missions were turned back due to alleged lack of travel permits - documents not required under the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA). Some NGOs have even found travel to Kassala town difficult.

UNMIS is still prohibited from traveling outside Abyei by both the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). This has been the case since 28 February.

As of 21 April, over 26,000 internally displaced people from Khartoum and other Northern States have been assisted in returning to Southern Sudan and the 'Three Areas' of South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Abyei within the joint returns plan of the UN, the Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan.

### Southern Sudan

The situation in Juba remains stable. However, militia to the east of Juba, violent criminals inside Juba, and the presence of the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) to the south of Juba remain a threat to humanitarian staff and operations. UN staff movement to the east and south of Juba is only allowed with armed escort.

After a five month hiatus, the LRA Peace talks resumed in Juba on 26 April. UNICEF continues its role in advocating for and ensuring the rights and protection of children associated with the LRA.

Areas affected by the presence of LRA members remained tense with continuous reports of LRA movement around Lasu, Morobo and Yambio-Maridi and in areas within proximity to the Uganda-Sudan, DRC-Sudan borders.

All roads and locations in Western Equatoria were reassessed by UN security and were cleared for less restricted movement, with the exception of Rikwangba, which still requires UN staff to travel with an armed escort.

#### Preparation for the rainy season

Throughout Sudan, UNICEF and other agencies are pre-positioning supplies like soap and mosquito nets in preparation for the rainy season when travel by road becomes difficult.

### Routine immunisation

In Southern Sudan, number of people reached through routine vaccination activities continued to improve in April. Although the overall reporting rate dropped during the month, from 70 per cent to 62 per cent, the number of children under one year of age vaccinated more than doubled for all antigens (DPT\*1 - from 9,818 to 20,015; DPT3 -from 2,411 to 6,914). Vaccination of pregnant women with a second dose of Tetanus Toxoid increased from 4,698 to 11,495.

An Inter-agency Coordinating Committee (ICC) for the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) in Southern Sudan was inaugurated by the Minister of Health on 16 April, paving the way for submission of the first ever independent application to the GAVI board for immunization funding support by Southern Sudan.

New cold chain stores being constructed in Warrap and Northern Bahr el Ghazal should be complete by the end of May. County cold chain stores are also being established in Twic, Gogrial, Ikotos and Mundri. This bolstering of vaccine storage capacity in Southern Sudan is a major boost EPI activities in the region, where vaccination coverage has been extremely low.

### Polio National Immunisation Days (NIDs)

In the first round of the 2007 NIDs campaign in March, a total of 6,137,068 children under five were vaccinated in North Sudan. This is over 100 per cent of the targeted number. In Southern Sudan, a preliminary report indicates that a total of 2,845,072 children were reached.

In Darfur, a special effort by UNICEF zonal offices resulted in children in inaccessible areas receiving polio vaccination for the first time. Political factions were mobilized to facilitate polio activities in areas under their control and assistance was provided for air transportation of vaccines to hard-to reach areas. As a result, in West Darfur, a total of 14,422 children under-five were reached for the first time in the Gordo area.

The second round was conducted at the end of April and results are being collated. UNICEF

\* DPT is a mixture of three vaccines that immunize against diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus.

has supported the Federal Ministry of Health with the required vaccines, support for social mobilization and operational support costs.

See page 5 for NIDs results.

### **Meningitis response**

In Southern Sudan, a total of 28 cases of meningitis were reported in four health facilities in Western Equatoria during the first week of April with a downward trend for the rest of the month. In Upper Nile and Unity States there was one suspected case of meningitis while in Lakes State no new cases were recorded during the month. In Central Equatoria State the number of cases has also dropped to levels below the epidemic threshold and Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria state did not report cases reaching epidemic levels.

According to WHO meningitis surveillance, the cumulative number of cases stood at 11,447 with 632 deaths from 1 January to 22 April 2007 in Southern Sudan. The case fatality is 5.62%, whilst the downward trend in both cases and deaths continues.

A mass meningitis A & C vaccination campaign was conducted in five counties—Rumbek central, Wulu, Yirol, Cueibet and Maper—with a total target population of 780,007 attaining a 54.5 per cent coverage rate. Meningitis vaccination activities were reduced in April following the drop of disease levels to below epidemic threshold.

In South Darfur, UNICEF provided 200,000 syringes to complement the vaccine provided by WHO in response to the 45 cases reported in two internally displaced camps: Selehah and Yassen.

In all other areas of Sudan, a total of 625 meningitis cases and 40 deaths were reported including the areas of Kassala, Gezira and Sennar states. UNICEF is providing 300,000 doses of A&C meningitis vaccine to support the outbreak response. About 70,000 people had been vaccinated by the end of April.

North Sudan Coverage Polio NIDs 26- 28 March 2007					
State	Target	Total Vaccinated	%	Zero Dose	%
Blue Nile	152,597	158,031	103.6	3,686	12
El- Gadaref	380,257	376,475	99.0	4,124	6
El-Gazira	783,193	796,830	101.7	12,063	9
Kassala	264,556	275,363	104.1	3,068	6
Khartoum	985,046	986,745	100.2	10,346	6
N.Darfur	335,423	343,557	102.4	6,919	13
N.Kordofan	583,174	604,433	103.6	18,702	20
Northern	84,211	86,996	103.3	2,677	18
Red Sea	141,078	144,710	103	1,524	6
River Nile	209,501	212,531	101	633	2
S.Darfur	768,184	787,683	103	13,370	9
S.Kordofan	441,530	383,467	87	12,668	17
Sennar	238,802	243,564	102.0	5,094	12
W.Darfur	326,328	374,297	115	7,753	10
White Nile	355,371	362,386	102.0	5,700	9
<b>Sudan Total</b>	<b>6,049,251</b>	<b>6,137,068</b>	<b>101.5</b>	<b>108,327</b>	<b>10</b>

### Mass measles campaign (MMC)

As part of the ongoing MMC in Southern Sudan, an additional 212,002 children were vaccinated in April, bringing the total in 2007 to 575,854. The MMC has now covered over 2.1 million children (over 50% of the target), since the beginning of the campaign in 2006.



### **Primary Health Care**

#### Malaria control

UNICEF provides long lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLITNs) to mothers in malaria-prone areas of the country not covered by support from the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM). Each bed net is large enough to protect a mother and two children. During April, some 135,000 LLITNs were distributed in South Kordofan, North Kordofan, Abyei, Blue Nile, Red Sea, River Nile and in Khartoum internally displaced camps to protect as many as 400,000 children and women against malaria. During the UNICEF-supported celebration of Africa Malaria Day in White Nile State another 30,000 LLITN were distributed to IDPs in Kosti.

In Southern Sudan, 500 LLITNs were provided to health centres in Lakes State, and 1,000 to the paediatric ward of the Rumbek Hospital, providing protection for over 4,000 women and children.

Drugs for malaria control are usually provided as part of primary health care kits to functioning health centers. In Southern Sudan,

UNICEF distributed 10 primary health care unit kits and 10 tins of fansidar to facilities in Nzara Payam to ensure access to basic primary health care services for 50,000 people over the next three months. 250 parachek kits were supplied to health centres in Lakes State, while 2,000 oral rehydration salt sachets, 100 units of ringer lactate, 3,000 caps of vitamin A, 5,000 tablets of fansidar, 5,000 tablets of paracetamol and 250 parachek kits were delivered to the paediatric ward in Rumbek Hospital.

UNICEF also supported the State Ministry of Health in conducting a training of trainers on Malaria Control Strategies for twenty health workers at the Maridi medical training school in Western Equatoria, Southern Sudan.

#### Emergency preparedness and response (EPR)

EPR health activities in North Sudan included training of 48 state focal persons on disease surveillance, preparedness actions ensuring appropriate response to the ongoing meningitis outbreak, and readiness activities in anticipation of possible Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) outbreaks during the rainy season. Adequate supplies have been provided to nine AWD-prone states and the Epidemiology Directorate of the Federal Ministry of Health.

### **Nutrition update**

#### Micronutrient supplementation

The first round of vitamin A supplementation linked to the polio national immunization days in North Sudan was postponed to allow UNICEF to procure adequate amounts of vitamin A to reach the target of 95 per cent of children under five in the targeted areas. Supplementation was done instead with the second round of the immunization days at the end of April. Health workers were trained on the importance of vitamin A supplementation prior to the campaign.

In Southern Sudan, over two million children received vitamin A during the second round of the polio immunization days conducted during the last week of April. In addition to this, 30 lactating mothers received vitamin A in health facilities run by IMC/county health department in Yambio. UNICEF also supported the health department with ferrous sulphate which benefited 177 pregnant women.

Feeding programmes

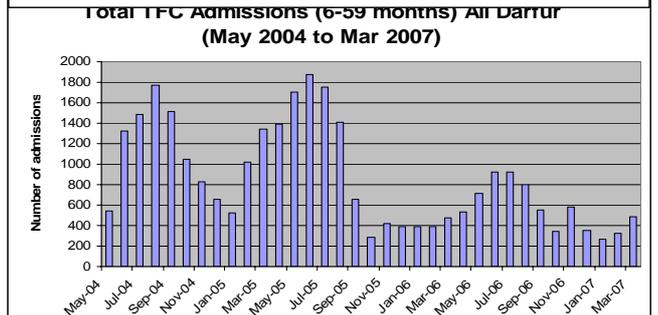
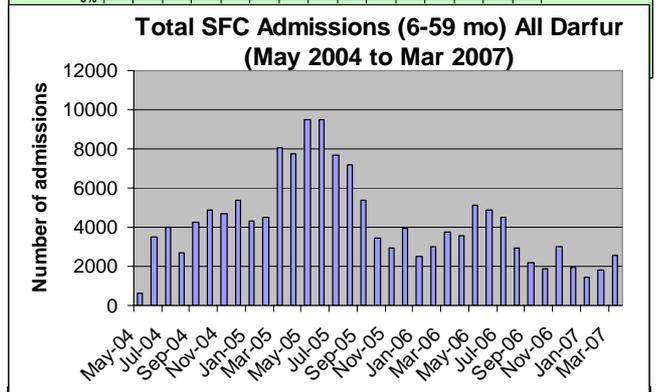
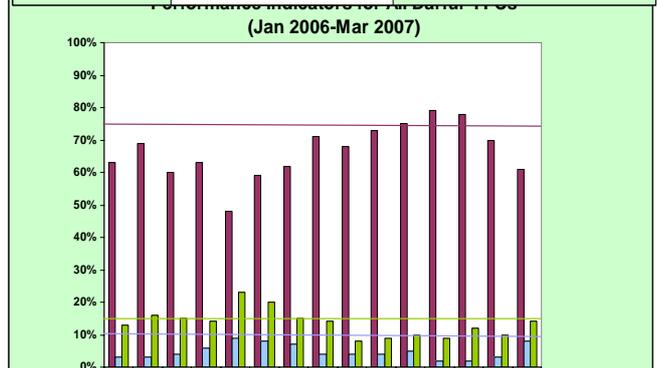
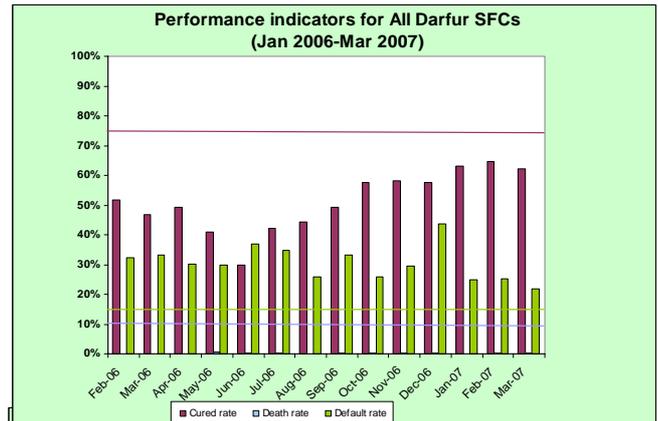
UNICEF continued supporting 56 Therapeutic Feeding Centres (TFCs) and 84 Supplementary Feeding Centres (SFCs) run by NGOs and the Ministry of Health in Darfur. Total admissions of children 6-59 months into SFCs and TFCs decreased in January relative to December figures, and rose again in February. For SFCs, this was due to increases in admissions in North and South Darfur, and for TFCs this was due in large part to increases in admissions in West and South Darfur. This increase in admissions is in line with the seasonal trends in admission noted over the past three years.

Performance indicators for SFCs are below SPHERE standards in terms of cure rates and default rates, though default rates improved relative to February. Performance indicators for TFCs met SPHERE standards in terms of death and default rates; however cure rates decreased relative to February figures. This is due in large part to the decrease in cure rates observed in North Darfur.

In Southern Sudan, UNICEF plans to support a Tearfund project to strengthen the capacity of peripheral health units and communities in Aweil East, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, to enable better response to the needs of 3,500 malnourished children during the months of the year when food resources are low, sometimes called the "hunger gap". Support will also be provided to ACF-F to maintain a TFC in Bentiu, Unity State, capable of serving an estimated 6,000 severely malnourished children.

The Diocese of Rumbek TFCs in Rumbek and Mapourdit and two TFCs in Juba Teaching Hospital and El Sabah pediatrics hospital were provided with F75, F100, high energy biscuits and plumpynut. The TFCs in the hospitals were also provided with soap and UNIMIX.

The renovation of the TFC at Torit Hospital is progressing well and UNICEF has planned nutrition training and nutrition surveys in the three counties that will access the hospital.



### Improved access to water in North Darfur camps...

In a water management survey in North Darfur conducted by UNICEF in collaboration with IRC, the Spanish Red Cross, government partners and OXFAM, 95 per cent of internally displaced people indicated that more water is available in Abu Shouk and Al Salam camps than in the villages in which they lived before being displaced. The volume of water used by each household is 220 litres/day and more than 50 per cent of the water is used for non-domestic purposes including brick making for income generation. Some 82 per cent of people surveyed spend more than two hours per day fetching water. Most of the internally displaced people surveyed at the household level had no idea about water depletion; 25 per cent are willing to contribute to operation and maintenance of water facilities in Abu Shouk although almost no one indicated being willing to contribute in Al Salam.

### Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) and Cholera

In an effort to prevent outbreaks of AWD during the rainy season, government WES teams in Darfur have been mobilizing communities through household visits promoting AWD prevention and hygiene issues. In North Darfur, the WES team in Kassab camp visited 196 households and WES hygiene promoters in West Darfur visited 6,706 households in three internally displaced people's (IDP) camps. School Hygiene clubs were established in two schools in the Mornei IDP camp. Weekly clean up campaigns were conducted in nine camps. Soap was provided to 42,000 IDPs in Zam Zam camp (N. Darfur) and 67,500 IDPs in El Neem, Al Salaam and Otash camps (S. Darfur)

In Southern Sudan, cholera cases dropped steadily throughout April due largely to the efforts of the Cholera Prevention and Manage-

ment Task Force, comprising UNICEF and the County Water Department, County Health Department, other UN agencies and NGOs.

A cholera outbreak in Tonj, Warrap State was contained, with cases decreasing from 488 to 345 by the end of April. UNICEF provided water and sanitation supplies including a generator, pump, jerry cans, filters, water bladders, ringer lactate and oral rehydration salts to the Warrap State Ministry of Health.

MSF-Spain formally closed down its cholera treatment center in Juba at the end of April and the few remaining patients were moved to the Juba Teaching Hospital. UNICEF distributed its remaining cholera control/prevention supplies. Forty water filters were provided to the Ministry of Health and payam administrators to be installed at locations where oral rehydration therapy is planned and 20 cartons of chlorine tablets were given to the Swedish Free Mission to continue chlorination activities.

To ensure containment and prevention, safe water provision in April included installation of two high pressure collection points for water tankers and 10 m<sup>3</sup> litre capacity bladder tank in Juba and Central Equatoria State cholera treatment centres.

UNICEF continues to support hygiene promotion campaigns in the cholera-affected areas of Juba, Yei, Jonglei State, Upper Nile State, Lakes State and Tonj (Warrap State). Sixty high level officials from five payams were trained in Juba in April

Finally, schools and trained hygiene promoters have been supported with information and communication materials.



Need for more water sources as IDPs move  
 As the conflict in Darfur continues, people are being forced to leave their homes or change IDP camps in search of security. This has intensified the demand for water supply in some areas. In response, UNICEF has provided two new, fully equipped medium-sized water well drilling machines in South Darfur State to increase the drilling capacity of the state WES units in order to meet demands for new water sources in newly established concentrated settlements and at existing safe camps. The drilling rigs can sink up to 30 wells per month, which, when fitted with hand-pumps can provide access to safe water for some 15,000 people.

As of mid April 2007, the two machines had sunk 21 shallow wells. Two of these wells had been fitted with motorized pumps and the rest with hand pumps. These wells and pumps are now serving some 20,000 people in South Darfur. In addition, technical training was provided to counterpart field staff, enabling them to operate these machines independently.

UNICEF will formally hand-over the rigs to the South Darfur State government in May.

Water access increased in Southern Sudan  
 UNICEF activities in April resulted in over 82,000 more people in Southern Sudan being able to access safe water. Thirty-eight new water sources were constructed and 126 water points were repaired and/or rehabilitated in schools, health facilities and communities across seven states. Additionally, 113 latrines were constructed and 63 hand-washing facilities were installed at various community sites.

In Juba, UNICEF is supporting the Urban Water Corporation for the construction of 20 public water stand posts (each with four taps) along the Urban Water pipe network to increase availability of water for communities within Juba Town. Nine were completed by end April.

Capacity building of WES government staff also continued, with 15 people trained in Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation; 35 in GPS-based database for water sources; and eight on stores management. Some 60 pupils and teachers were oriented in management of water sources.



*UNICEF drilling rig*

## Support to returning communities in Southern Sudan

### Assessments

A joint returnee impact assessment (comprising SSRRC, IOM, UNICEF, UNMIS RRR, WFP and the Red Cross) was conducted in Yirol County covering the payams of Lekakudu, Adior, Yali, Yeriol Town and Pagara. Recommendations following the assessment included immediate, mid term and long term measures to facilitate reintegration/coping mechanisms of the returnees, absorption capacity of the receiving and host communities, and provision of basic services including child protection and general protection issues.

### Non-food items (NFI)

UNICEF provided 67 NFI kits to the Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) for distribution to returnees at the Way Station in Wau. These returnees were part of a group of 155 people repatriated by UNHCR from Mboki, Central African Republic.

UNICEF provided a set each of NFI kits complete with kitchen utensils to 146 families comprising 732 persons (340 adults, 60 youth, 191 children and 141 infants) repatriated from Marial Agith in Wau to Luanyaker in Warrap State. The returns were organized by IOM in collaboration with the SSRRC, WFP, UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Development & Welfare.

### Protection

UNICEF provided family tracing forms to partners in all ten states in Southern Sudan, while the major family tracing agencies were provided with scanners to facilitate electronic transmission of forms. UNICEF continues to assess/identify protection needs of returnees and guides its programmes towards meeting those needs. Returnees in Bentiu will soon be allocated land and the plan for transporting returnees from Bentiu to Panyijar, in Unity State, has been revised to include a route using air transport

UNICEF's education/mine risk education partner in Upper Nile State, Handicap International, has distributed mine risk education leaflets to newly arrived returnees.

### Education

Several areas of Southern Sudan are reporting significantly increased enrolment numbers as a result of returning students and the 'Go to School' campaign. UNICEF has provided 30 classroom tents in Western Equatoria State, where enrolment has tripled, to accommodate the overflow. Additional school tents, textbooks and exercise books have been pre-positioned at supply hubs within Southern Sudan including Juba, Malakal, Rumbek, Yambio and Wau, and distribution is ongoing.

### Free primary education

The issue of free primary education remains high on UNICEF's agenda, especially in Darfur where parents continue to meet direct and indirect costs of schooling for their children. This includes contributions for the payment of volunteer teachers, school uniforms, books etc. Together with school fees, these costs become a barrier to both enrolment and completion.

As people around the world invest in the education of the children of Darfur, UNICEF continues advocating for the implementation of a Government of Sudan decree that ensures that a lack of money for fees does not keep prohibit children from attending school. This advocacy activity continued in April in 127 schools in Kabkabiya, Saraf Omra and El Sereaf localities in North Darfur and will benefit at least 50,000 children.

### Encouraging enrolment for new school year

In April, enrolment drives were high on the education agenda in North Sudan - aimed at engaging community leaders on ways to influence their communities to enroll and keep their children, particularly girls from nomadic communities, in school. UNICEF is supporting enrollment drives in Kassala, Gedarif, Red Sea and South Kordofan particularly in the low enrolment nomadic areas. So far about 20,140 children have been enrolled as a result of the on-going campaigns in the eastern states.

### Education Day celebrated in Southern Sudan

The 'Go to School' initiative celebrated its first anniversary along with the opening of the new academic year, on 1 April 2007. At a major event at the Juba Football Stadium, Education Day was celebrated with speeches by government educational officials, whilst creative performances by young people conveyed the energy and enthusiasm the 'Go to School' initiative has evoked in its first twelve months.

*Speeches and celebration marked the first anniversary of the "Go to School" campaign in Southern Sudan.*

### 'Go to School'—Success and Challenges

Since the 2006 launch of the 'Go to School' initiative, over 4,000 metric tonnes of school supplies have been distributed and over 2,500 teachers have been trained. Enrolment has risen to 850,000 from an estimated 343,000 during the civil war. Over one-third of students are now girls – far from the rate needed to achieve gender parity, but a dramatic increase from the abysmally low levels before 2005.

The major challenge to the 'Go to School' initiative is learning spaces. In an environment where building materials are scarce and skilled labor hard to find, the construction of permanent, child-friendly schools remains a challenge. However, the intensive planning process initiated during 2006 has paid off during the first dry season of 2007. Over 200 new permanent classrooms are being developed, 300 classrooms are being rehabilitated and emergency classroom tents have been distributed to ensure shelter for outdoor learning spaces. In Lakes State, the superstructures for seven new schools have been delivered. Six schools are under construction in Unity State. In Central Equatoria State, floors have been completed at two schools and water is being provided on-site through a partnership with Islamic Relief. Five schools are under contract for Warrap State. Materials have been purchased for one school in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State and plans are in advanced stages to construct permanent Community Girls' Schools in Western Equatoria State.

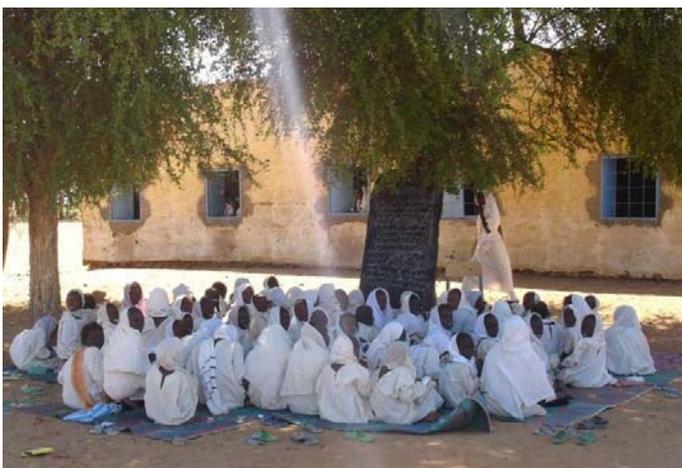


### Girls' Education Movement (GEM) and training

The first GEM training of 2007 took place in Juba, reaching over 60 teachers and young people and inaugurating an intensive drive to reach 400 teachers and young people by early May, so that as many school-based GEM clubs as possible can be formed during the first months of the school year. The initiative also supported its first comprehensive life-skills training, reaching 30 young people from all ten states of Southern Sudan. The training, which took place in Yambio, will enable life-skills education to reach a further 300 young people (35 per cent of them female) in the next phase of the project. Finally, 'mop-up' efforts were concluded for Phase II of the fast-track teacher training programme. A total of 120 tutors (12 for each state) have now been trained and will roll out the programme at state level.

### Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP)

The ALP, launched in 2006, provides second chance learning opportunities for children affected by conflict and other vulnerable groups. In Kassala, UNICEF is supporting 200 teachers in-service who are participating in an intensive Training programme to enable them to provide this service for at least 3,000 school children (adolescents and youths) in urban and rural settlements. In Kadugli, South Kordofan, at least 2,000 children (currently out of school) will benefit at the beginning of the new school year from 40 teachers who recently completed their training.



## Child Protection

### Legal Protection

Courts in Southern Sudan continue to try cases under the 1991 Penal Code adopted in Khartoum, which allows for corporal punishment of children. Young offenders continue to be detained in prison alongside adults for often minor or petty crimes. Street children are routinely detained for loitering in the local market and glue sniffing. In April, nine children were detained for stealing in Malakal. UNICEF is supporting Ministry of Social Development social workers to visit these detained children and their families weekly to ensure that they are properly cared for and released as soon as possible.

In Lakes State, UNICEF negotiated the release of a separated child who had been mistakenly detained and ensured reunification with his family.

UNICEF and other child protection partners continue to advocate for the immediate adoption of the new Child Bill and fair treatment of children under existing law. The Bill outlines internationally accepted policies and procedures for dealing with children in conflict with the law. During April the Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs resubmitted the draft Child Bill to the Minister of Legal Affairs for consideration by the Council of Ministers.

### Demobilisation, Disarmament and Reintegration

UNICEF is supporting Save the Children-US social workers to care for 211 de-mobilised children and 200 vulnerable children in South Kordofan. During a recent workshop, the social workers received refresher training to strengthen monitoring and follow up services for the returned children and brainstormed on opportunities for informal skills training of the children.

In Southern Sudan UNICEF and the Southern Sudan Demobilisation, Disarmament and Reintegration Commission (SSDDRC) met with 34 NGOs/CBOs, UN Agencies, UNMIS and Government Ministries in Bentiu, Unity, Malakal, and Upper Nile State to clarify child DDR processes. A new identification and verification team was trained in Bentiu to register and demobilise children associated with armed forces and groups and assist them to register children associated with the SPLA. The Northern Sudan DDR Commission will trace the families of these children and reunify them with their families in northern Sudan.

UNICEF supported the Naath Community Development Services, in Nyal, Unity State, to conduct a three day family tracing and reunification workshop for community leaders in April in preparation for the expected demobilisation of nearly 100 children from the SPLA during the coming few months.

#### Advancing child rights in Southern Sudan

The Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs and State Level Ministries are increasing their promotion of child protection. More resources have been allocated to the protection of children's rights which have been given a higher profile within the media. Children's issues have also been included in the agenda of workshops on the implementation of the Code of Conduct, Gender Issues and within meetings of other related working groups such as the Rule of Law and the Protection Working Groups.

Child Protection Working Group meetings held in Upper Nile State, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria and Northern Bahr el Ghazal and at the central level in April provided an opportunity to identify gaps in services and coordinate programming and an opportunity to follow up on action points established during the Southern Sudan Child Protection Working Group meeting held in March.

In Western Equatoria, Child Welfare Supervisors have been appointed in all 10 counties to monitor and report child welfare concerns to the Director of Child Welfare and follow up on projects and programmes implemented by other child protection agencies.

The Department of Child Welfare and a local youth group in Lakes State have been allocated air time to discuss weekly, issues related to gender and child protection on the local radio station.

UNICEF together with Islamic Relief Worldwide, and the Upper Nile State Department of Youth and Sports are supporting youth leaders in Renk, Nasir and Khorfulus counties to implement a series of youth sports tournaments. The Department of Youth and Sports identified play-ground spaces for youth tournaments and UNICEF and UNMIS provided bulldozers to level the ground.

#### Protection of IDPs in Khartoum

This month, the "Guiding Principles on Relocation" was signed following intensive advocacy by the international community with the Government. It was signed by Manuel da Silva (UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator) and His Excellency, the Wali of Khartoum State, and will serve as a guide for the Government in cases of planned relocation of Khartoum IDPs. It also provides a framework of protection for the IDPs.

Also in April, the Task Force on IDPs conducted a workshop on the protection of IDP children in Khartoum state, which was attended by the Ministry of Social Welfare (Khartoum), NCCW, Ministry of Justice, HAC (Khartoum), the Center for IDPs and Return and various NGOs.

An action plan was developed during the workshop that includes regular visits by the Task Force to IDP settlements in Khartoum. Community policing was identified as a possible solution to protection concerns in the settlements. To support the action plan, UNICEF contributed to three workshops in April conducted by UNMIS police and UNDP and facilitated sessions on the protection of children in these settlements and during the returns process.

#### UN mission on sexual violence in Darfur

An inter-agency mission (UNFPA, UNICEF, UNMIS, OCHA, UNDP, UNHCR, UNIFEM) took place during April and looked at strengthening UN actions towards prevention and response to sexual violence in the three states of Darfur. Between 14-26 April the mission met with government, UN and NGO actors, including human rights and women's rights organisations, and reviewed the Gender Based Violation (GBV) coordination mechanisms and identified best practices on creating a better balance between day-to-day response and overall prevention strategies and advocacy issues. Other issues addressed included support to government for prevention and response to GBV through an approach based on rule-of-law and access to justice, promotion of gender equality and civilian protection, and reduction of risk and vulnerability.

The mission also reviewed implementation of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee GBV guidelines and advocacy initiatives and recommendations for national and community-level strategies and suggested modalities for strengthened protection, including strengthening monitoring and tracking systems, and dissemination of information.

### Mine Risk Education (MRE)

In North Sudan, UNICEF, the Ministry of Education (MOE) and the National Mine Action Center (NMAC) embarked on a new initiative through which a total of 2,500 teachers will be trained on Mine Risk Education (MRE) and equipped with required materials. In its first stages, the project focuses on Blue Nile, South Kordofan and Kassala, which are among the most mine- and UXO-affected states in Sudan. Through a two-day workshop in Khartoum that was officially opened by State Minister of Education and the State Minister of Interior Affairs, some 40 participants, including people from the three target states, discussed and agreed up on roles and responsibilities for implementation of the project. At the end of the project, which will take six months, two teachers will have been trained in each of the primary and secondary schools in the three target states. The trained teachers will in turn provide mine risk education to an estimated 300,000 students using materials that will be provided by UNICEF

On 4 April in Southern Sudan, UNICEF and other partners celebrated the International Day for Mine Awareness in Juba and Malakal. Activities included radio and TV interviews, public presentations, drama, songs and the distribution of mine risk education materials.

In April, 12,897 people (mainly children and returnees) benefited from mine risk education sessions in Jonglei, Warrap, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Eastern Equatoria, Central Equatoria and Western Equatoria.

### HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control

UNICEF and SNAP trained 30 peer-educators in West Darfur during the month. The youth peer-educators subsequently organised 21 awareness-raising sessions in IDP camps reaching more than 3,000 people with HIV information. In Southern Sudan, UNICEF continued its focus on facilitating Government commitment to the prevention of HIV/AIDS. A National HIV/AIDS Policy and HIV/AIDS Strategic Framework exercise is planned to begin in mid-May. UNICEF has seconded a national officer for the five week exercise to assist with the development of policies and guidelines related to pediatric treatment and care, Prevention of Mother to Child Treatment protocol and follow up care and social services to children affected by HIV.

In Southern Sudan, UNICEF is supporting the development of a BCC Strategy which will help to ensure that prevention efforts are effective and contribute towards national and global goals. In particular they will guide prevention efforts among youth and women of child bearing age. A consultant will be recruited in May to work with a Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) specialist from the Southern Sudan HIV/AIDS Commission for one month to review existing materials, document best practices and develop a BCC strategy that will guide all BCC interventions in Southern Sudan. This is an excellent opportunity for UNICEF to promote proven BCC methodologies, such as Life Skills, that address the needs of children, youth and women throughout Southern Sudan.

Also toward greater behaviour change, 120 types of materials (posters, billboards, leaflets, scripts, songs and comics books) were developed by artists at a materials development workshop organised by UNICEF and SNAP following the endorsement of the BCC Strategy in North Sudan. Themes included: various modes of transmission of HIV, promotion of VCT & ARV centres, ABC, and fighting stigma and discrimination. The materials were pre-tested in April 2007.

### Support to Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) centres in Southern Sudan

In April, 73 people (30 women and 43 men) sought voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) services in the newly opened VCT centres in Kapoeta and Torit. Attendance is poor due to the fact that the population lacks knowledge on HIV and the importance of testing. UNICEF in collaboration with the African Development and Emergency Organisation in Kapoeta and the State Ministry of Health in Torit, is preparing proposals to train peer educators and promote HIV/AIDS education in the communities.

A two day HIV/AIDS Campaign held at Upper Nile University in Malakal was attended by more than 1,000 participants from within and outside the University community. The event included an exhibition of posters developed by university students and a series of public lectures on modes of HIV transmission and prevention, the situation in Southern Sudan, and young people and HIV.

UNHCR is running a programme to strengthen HIV/AIDS services in Kajo Keiji, a town in Central Equatoria near the Ugandan border. UNICEF as a partner is supporting the association of People Living with HIV/AIDS in Kajo Keiji. This is part of a two year collaboration involving Sudan and other Horn of Africa countries to address HIV as a cross border issue, and provide services and information accordingly.

UNICEF is procuring 21,000 HIV test kits to replenish stocks for 18 VCT and PMTCT projects in Central, Western and Eastern Equatoria, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Upper Nile and Lakes States.

### Communication and advocacy

#### Goodwill ambassador visits Leer

UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and actor James Nesbitt visited Southern Sudan in April with the UK National Committee for UNICEF and journalist Ann McFerran.

The visitors met with boys and girls in Leer, Unity State, who are among the many involved with armed forces during the war and saw projects which address their reintegration needs.

More information on the visit can be found in an article in The Independent on 27 April 2007 <http://news.independent.co.uk/world/africa/article2488809.ece> .

