



UN Secretary-General to visit Sudan this week

The United Nation Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon arrives in Khartoum on 3 September for a four-day visit to Sudan, followed by Chad and Libya.

Outlining a three-part strategy to deal with the Darfur crisis by ensuring that peacekeepers are deployed quickly and effectively, humanitarian aid and development is available easily and the peace process moves forward, the SG would seek full support of the Sudanese Government when he meets with President Omar al-Bashir in the capital, Khartoum.

Mr. Ban is visiting Sudan and some of its neighbors "to go and see for myself the very difficult conditions" under which the hybrid UN-African Union peacekeeping force will operate in Darfur from the start of next year.

The Secretary-General said that the deployment of the new hybrid force – to be known as UNAMID – will require a massive logistical effort, especially in providing adequate communications, water, food, supplies and infrastructure for the mission. The SG also hopes to announce a replacement to Jan Pronk as his Special Representative for Sudan before leaving for Khartoum. On his return he will co-chair – along with AU Chairperson Alpha Oumar Konaré – an Enlarged Contact Group meeting for Darfur on 21 September.

Wad Banda army base attacked

UNMIS has expressed concern over the attack on the Wad Banda Sudanese army base in Kordofan for which the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and Sudan Liberation Movement – Unity (SLA) have claimed responsibility. The attack represents an escalation and an expansion of the Darfur conflict and threatens to destabilize other regions of Sudan. UNMIS warns that the attack could undermine the efforts of the UN and AU Special Envoys on Darfur towards a political negotiation with the rebels. UNMIS has called on JEM and SLA-Unity, as well as others to abide by their commitments to a cessation of hostilities and bring peace to Darfur and to Sudan as a whole.

UN appeals \$20.2 million for flood relief

The United Nations and its partners launched a Flash Appeal on 28 August, requesting \$20.2 million to support aid to over three million flood-stricken people in Sudan. "These funds will enable us to save lives, to prevent deadly epidemics, and to help children get back to school", said John Holmes, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC). On 17 August, the ERC had approved a grant of

HEARD on RADIO MIRAYA

The AU Special Envoy to Darfur, denying reports that he was not well received by the people in the IDP camps during his visit to Darfur

"It is not true that I was chased. There were two contradicting positions, the Spokesperson of Abdel Wahid said that I should not go to the IDP camp, .. the representative of the IDPs said that they can only meet me in the IDP camp, so I didn't know which advice to follow...the IDP representatives were in the meeting which I had with the full community."

Salim Ahmed Salim

AU Special Envoy to Darfur
29 August

On the International day for the remembrance of the slave trade and it's abolition marked on 23 August

"Slavery no longer exists in Sudan ..Any reference to its existence would be an exaggeration. What we can say instead is that there is a culture of slavery.. unequal treatment among different ethnic groups."

Dr.Haidar Ibrahim

Head of the Sudanese
Studies Center
23 August

\$8.7 million for the emergency, from the Central Emergency Response Fund.

Since the beginning of July, torrential rains have caused flash floods in many parts of the Sudan, many say the worst in living memory. The areas worst affected include the states of Blue Nile, Gedaref, Gezira, Jonglei, Kassala, Khartoum, North Kordofan, Red Sea, Unity, Upper Nile, and White Nile.

Over 410,000 people have been directly affected, at least 200,000 of whom were rendered homeless. The populations of entire regions are and remain indirectly affected by the damage to local livelihoods, which caused the death of at least 12,000 livestock, and the loss of over 42,000 hectares of crops. At least 3.5 million people could be at risk of epidemics, such as acute watery diarrhoea (AWD), which has already killed 57.

Relief Coordinator seeks return of CARE Director

John Holmes, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and ERC, has expressed concern at the departure from Sudan of Paul Barker, Country Director for CARE, one of the world's largest international non-governmental organizations.

"I very much hope that this is actually a misunderstanding that can be resolved as soon as possible so that Mr. Barker may resume his vitally important humanitarian activities," Holmes said. CARE has been working in Sudan for over a quarter century now and is a significant provider of humanitarian assistance to some four million people across Sudan.

Displacement and returns

According to data compiled by International Organization for Migration (IOM) and its partners at 21 tracking points strategically located across northern and Southern Sudan, 68,870 IDPs were recorded traveling to Southern Sudan over the first six months of 2007. Over the same period, IOM also tracked 99,291 IDPs who had actually arrived in their villages of origin in the states of Lakes, Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, South Kordofan, Warrap, and Western Bahr el-Ghazal. Since the launch on 03 February of the Joint Returns Plan a total of 44,610 former IDPs were assisted to return home.

Primary enrolment 1.2 million in Southern Sudan

In Southern Sudan, estimated Gross Enrolment (GE) in primary schools has reached 1.2 million children, including 400,000 who have enrolled in 2007. Since 01 January, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has provided 11,378 student kits, 13,718 teacher kits, and 9 million exercise books, to support the increased demand for primary education. A total of 150 program trainers and tutors were trained for fast-track training of teachers, 1,300 teachers were trained, and 1,100 teachers also received English language training. With the double aim of supporting nutrition among children, and encouraging school attendance, UNICEF and the World Food Program (WFP) are supporting nearly 60,000 children in Darfur.

On the recurring clashes between Arab tribes in Darfur...

"The issue is not whether the tribes are Arabic or African. When there is no opportunity for political action and discussion the phenomenon of tribalism becomes magnified and conflicts take on ethnic dimensions. It's because a political void prevents people from expressing their views....."

Dr.Haidar Ibrahim
Head, Sudanese Studies
Center
23 August

On AU Special Envoy to Darfur holding talks with officials in Khartoum in preparation for the upcoming negotiations in October between GoS and the rebels...

"The discussions focused on: the location, the timing, and the agenda for the negotiations. The location should be an African country that the A buja non-signatories agree on, and we would rather that it took place at the soonest time possible....."

Ali Al Sadiq
Foreign Affairs Ministry
Spokesperson
22 August

Security and Humanitarian developments

North Darfur

UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the local community will construct 16 classrooms and eight offices for two schools in Shangil Tobayi.

The security situation in and around Tawilla has become increasingly unpredictable over the past weeks. On the positive side, an NGO resumed its mobile clinic services in the Korma area, after these services were suspended due to violence in June 2006.

South Darfur

Medical agencies in Al Salam camp confirmed 12 deaths due to watery diarrhea. The camp has also seen an outbreak of jaundice.

Almost 1,100 IDPs have arrived in Sakele camp (Nyala, South Darfur) this week as a result of the inter-tribal conflict in the Bulbul area.

On 26 August, returning to Nyala from a joint field mission to Bulbul (7 km North West of Nyala) four UN vehicles were stopped by five armed men. One of the cars was taken away and valuables of staff stolen.

West Darfur

MSF-F announced 96 cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition in Zalingei hospital, mostly IDPs from Hamadiya and Hassa Hissa camps.

IMC received 41 cases of diarrhea in its clinic in Hamadiya, 18 bloody diarrhea.

Some 123 households from Tereij and Jebel Marra fled to Hassa Hissa camp and some 860 IDP families from the Shawa area to Taiba camp, both in Zalingei.

In Nertiti (Jebel Marra), the GoS Security Committee has suspended all humanitarian movement into the SLA-AW controlled areas of Golol and Kwilla in Jebel Marra from 16 August, due to insecurity.

IDPs belonging to African tribes from Hassah Hissa, Khamsa Degaig and El Hamadiya IDP camps protested against the visit of Dr Salim Ahmed Salim, during a visit to Zalingei on 27 August.

Southern Sudan and Transitional Areas

On 26 August, UN Co-Locators conducted joint foot and mobile patrols in Abyei market and the village of Naser accompanied by a local Police Officer.

In Southern Kordofan State a JMT conducted a patrol to Kauda to update information on the UN agencies in the area.

A tribal clash in Tong Village, Upper Nile State led to four persons suffering from stab wounds.

MIRAYA HIGHLIGHTS

LIVE debates and call-ins

Nuer Tribe

Chief John Jok, of the Nuer tribe discussed the Nuer traditions, beliefs, system of marriage and way of life.

Role of Parents in the family

Hon. Rose Baako, of the committee of Natural Resources and Environment, in the Central Equatoria State Legislative Assembly, discusses.

Right to Education

Law promoters Benjamin Laduro and Louise Koropo of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) discussed the right to education and needs of elderly people.

Gender Based Violence

Dr. Robert Patrick and Dr. Bojo Samuel, Lab technologists the Juba teachings Hospital explained the role of health sectors and worker towards sexual Gender Based Violence (GBV).

UN Mirror

Interview with Ayman al Sheikh from the UNDP Resident Coordinator's Office. The programme also had reports from Ed Damazin about school closures as a result of the recent floods.

Darfur: Road to Peace

Darfurian artists and performers describe how they use their craft to promote peace and inter tribal relations.