



THE WEEK In Focus

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE UNMIS NEWS BULLETIN AND RADIO MIRAYA 20 -26 Apr 2007

SG's quarterly report on Sudan raises concern

The Secretary-General's quarterly report on Sudan, issued on 20 April, says that the parties have continued to make progress in implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, including steps towards the redeployment of Sudanese Armed Forces from Southern Sudan. However, it notes that several key issues, including the status of Abyei and the management of Other Armed Groups, remain unresolved. There are also concerns about the delay in preparations for elections scheduled in 2009. The DDR programme and demarcation of the 1 January 1956 border also remains way behind schedule.

The report also includes information on implementation of UNMIS mandate in support of the CPA. The Security Council discussed the report on Monday 23 April 2007.

The quarterly report is available at: <http://www.un.org/Docs/>

UN High Commissioner for Refugees visits Sudan

The UN High Commissioner for refugees, António Guterres arrived in Khartoum on 23 April, on a four-day visit to Sudan, where he met with senior government officials, including the Ministers of Foreign Affairs; Interior; and Humanitarian Affairs. He also met UN officials to discuss expansion of UNHCR operations for the internally displaced in Darfur.

The High Commissioner visited West Darfur on 24 April, where he met with local authorities in El Geneina and discussed UNHCR's future role in the region. He announced that the Government of Sudan (GoS) had agreed to an expansion of UNHCR's work in West Darfur where it is responsible for coordinating protection for about 700,000 displaced, but does not have access to many of them because of insecurity. Mr. Guterres urged local authorities to improve security, pointing out that many aid agencies are only able to move by helicopter in much of West Darfur because roads are unsafe.

The High Commissioner also appreciated GoS for accepting some 25,000 Chadian refugees in West Darfur where more than 4,800 of them are in Um Shalaya camp, besides makeshift settlements near the border. Meeting IDPs in Krinding Camp, near El Geneina which has some 31,500 IDPs Mr. Guterres stated that a political solution was the most important first step. Camp leaders expressed concern about security and women asked for more income-generation activities.

On 25 April, Mr. Guterres met with Chadian refugees who have fled to Darfur over the past 18 months from eastern Chad. On 26 April he visited refugee

HEARD on RADIO MIRAYA:

On possible formation of a Transitional Civil Administration (TCA) in Abyei

"A final agreement on details of the TCA in Abyei, and the Authority's jurisdiction has not been reached yet. A meeting between the Presidents of the NCP and SPLM on 27 April will try to resolve issues."

Deng Alor

State Minister and SPLM member (25 April)

On American and British threats of sanctions...

"Sudan's agreement to the UN's heavy support package in Darfur reflect its willingness to find a peaceful solution. On the other hand, actions of the US and UK show that they have an agenda of their own...."

Ali Al-Sadeq

Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson (24 April)

Inaugurating the Transitional Darfur Regional Authority

"It was an opportunity for Governors of the three Darfurian States, the Commissioners, and the General Secretariat to familiarize with the Authority's core work agenda, and harmonize work between the three states."

Mohamed Suleiman

Secretary General, TDRA

camps for Eritreans and Ethiopians in Kassala, eastern Sudan. The camps were established nearly 40 years ago – in 1968. East Sudan hosts approximately 136,000 refugees. UNHCR is working with the government to guarantee a durable solution for these refugees, through local integration, increased self-reliance and resettlement in special cases.

Over 26,000 Sudanese IDPs assisted to return

The Joint UN, Government of National Unity and Government of Southern Sudan plan for returns have so far assisted over **26,000** IDPs to return to their homes since road convoys started in February 2007. A total of **12,523** returnees (3,401 households) went from Khartoum to Lakes, Unity, Warrab, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Western Bahr el Ghazal and Southern Kordofan states, while **6,569** returnees (1,637 households) were transported to the Equatorias, within Blue Nile and from Wau to Warrab. In addition, a total of **7,182** IDPs (1,680 households) were transported from Southern Darfur to Northern Bahr el Ghazal.

Five major convoy routes are currently being used to get the IDPs back home. IOM assisted the returns with transport, medical screening, overnight accommodation en route and escorts. From early May, road convoys will end to most states, only continuing to accessible parts of South Kordofan, Upper Nile and Unity States. In May, some barge movements are planned to states not fit for road convoys: Upper Nile, Jonglei, and Lakes states. Air operations to the Equatorias are also planned in May.

Around 100,000 IDP households have registered in Khartoum for return before December 2007.

Russian wheat to feed 284,500 Sudanese kids

The UN's World Food Programme (WFP) welcomed a US\$2 million donation of wheat from Russia to support the agency's recovery and development operations in Sudan. The 4,205 metric ton shipment, which arrived at Port Sudan, will be used to feed 284,500 children enrolled in WFP's school feeding programmes across the chronically food insecure states of Kassala, Red Sea and North Kordofan; as well as 6,000 people engaged in food-for-work projects.

WFP's recovery and development operations, gathered in its Country Programme, provided food assistance last year to about 275,000 children at 1,347 schools. The aid helped boost overall enrollment by 24 per cent in 2006 and raised attendance from 86 to 91 per cent. Among nomadic girls, attendance was close to 100 per cent.

WFP's three-year US\$66-million Country Programme is separate from its much larger emergency operation in Sudan, which expects to reach 5.5 million people this year with 682,000 metric tons of food costing US\$685 million.

MIRAYA HIGHLIGHTS

Interviews and Features

WFP changes policy in Southern Sudan

Simon Crittle and Martin Missani of WFP explain the policy shift from emergency food aid to food assistance. This includes Food for School and Food for Community work programmes.

Africa Malaria Day

A curtain raiser interview with Hilary Maju and David Mukadi of Population Services International (PSI), and Dr. Othuwon Tabu, Ministry of Health. The feature also included latest developments in medication and prevention of Malaria. 21 April

Public Safety and Road

Usage: In the weekly Road Safety and Policing programme Major General Bol John Akot Kon of the South Sudanese Police took questions from the public. 22 April

Edification on Malaria:

Interview with Dr. Richard Fuli.

Empowering youth:

Interview with upcoming musician Lam Twungwa.

Child Protection: Feature on issues related to Child Protection in North Sudan.

Returnees from CAR: Featuring returnees from the Central African Republic, now residing near Jebel Kujur in Juba.

Security and Humanitarian Developments

North Darfur

19 April An INGO driver and vehicle went missing while waiting behind a guesthouse in El Fasher. The vehicle and the driver are still missing. In another incident armed men broke into an INGO compound in El-Salaam IDP camp and looted several items.

24 April The Ceasefire Commission Chairman said that Government forces carried out aerial bombings in Jira and Amry villages in North Darfur on 19 and 21 April respectively. The "unprovoked attack" happened at a time "when the Sudan Liberation Army – Non Signatory Factions (SLA-NSF) had invited the international community to attend a Commanders' Conference."

A fire in Tawilla IDP camp (4 km W of El Fasher) destroyed about 25% of the homes, affecting 1,300 families and injuring some IDPs.

Two armed men took away a vehicle and staff at gun point from an INGO guesthouse in Birmaza (70 km North of Kutum). Later both the staff and vehicle were returned.

25 April A national driver who was hijacked with an INGO vehicle on 19 April was released near the Chad/Sudan border. The vehicle is still missing.

Six national INGO staff and their privately rented vehicle were hijacked by three armed bandits in Agro IDP camp, near Tawilla (50 km W of El Fasher). The staffers were released later.

South Darfur

21 April Three armed men entered an INGO compound in Kalma IDP camp (15 km E of Nyala) and forced a driver to drive out with a vehicle. The driver is still missing.

An interagency team, accompanied by the Humanitarian Affairs Commission, visited Marla (86km SE of Nyala) on 19 April where some 2,500 persons had returned following reconciliation between the Zagawa Um Kamalti and Zagawa Ratana tribes. Acute water shortage, heat and lack of adequate shelters, could put the population at serious risk, the mission warned.

Some 81 cases of acute jaundice were reported in Otash camp between 8 March and 19 April.

23 April Unknown armed men shot at an INGO vehicle on near Marla (55 km SE of Nyala), injuring two staffers.

20 April SLM/M. Minawi sources informed that a fire destroyed 2,500 huts in Muhajariya (South Darfur), rendering 20,000 people homeless and without food. OCHA is following up.

Darfur, Road to Peace

Women and the DPA

Ms. Bedria Abdul Rachman Yousef discusses how women have been incorporated into the Darfur Peace Agreement.

UN MIRROR

World Health Day

Interview with Huda Asaad Isma'il, coordinator for Chronic Diseases, World Health Organization, with reports covering World Health Day and testimonies from Darfuri women describing how their lives has been affected since the start of the conflict in Darfur.

We are on-line:

www.unmis.org