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BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

***DARFUR – Humanitarian Emergency***

Fact Sheet #6, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

May 21, 2004

*Note: This report updates the last fact sheet dated May 14, 2004*

**BACKGROUND**

- The humanitarian emergency in Darfur is a direct result of violence and harassment directed toward the Fur, Zaghawa, and Masaalit civilian groups by Government of Sudan (GOS) forces and GOS-supported militia groups collectively known as *Jingaweit*. In early 2003, the Sudanese Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) stated that they would engage in armed struggle to achieve full respect for human rights and an end to political and economic marginalization in Darfur. On April 24 and 25, 2003 the SLM/A attacked GOS military forces at El Fasher in North Darfur.
- Following this attack, GOS military forces and *Jingaweit* militia initiated a more coordinated campaign of violence against civilian populations, including aerial bombardments to kill, maim, and terrorize civilians who the GOS claimed were harboring opposition forces. Conflict-affected populations have described recurrent and systematic assaults against towns and villages, burning of buildings and crops, destruction of water sources and irrigation systems, murders, gang rape, and looting. Throughout late 2003, armed conflict intensified, as GOS military and *Jingaweit* clashed with the two main opposition groups – the SLM/A and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) – in Darfur.
- According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), out of an estimated population of 6.5 million in Darfur, more than 1 million people are internally displaced and more than 120,000 people have fled across the border into neighboring Chad.
- Following U.S. Government (USG) and European Union (EU)-facilitated negotiations in N'Djamena, Chad, the two main opposition groups and the GOS signed a renewable 45-day humanitarian ceasefire on April 8 that took effect on April 11. This agreement included a GOS commitment to disarm *Jingaweit* militia groups and a protocol on providing humanitarian assistance in Darfur.
- Despite the ceasefire, reports from the field indicate that GOS and *Jingaweit* violence and harassment against civilian populations has continued in all three states of Darfur. Many conflict-affected persons remain virtual prisoners in internally displaced person (IDP) camps and in the towns where they have sought refuge with friends and relatives. Relief workers report that IDPs who venture from their settlements are often subject to *Jingaweit* attacks.
- Due to GOS impediments blocking official access and relief operations in Darfur, humanitarian access to conflict affected populations outside of the state capitals of Geneina, El Fasher, and Nyala has been extremely limited. USAID, U.N. agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have deployed personnel to the region, but the GOS has restricted relief workers' access to major population centers and has required daily travel permits for relief workers to conduct activities in the IDP camps located in GOS-controlled areas.

**CURRENT SITUATION**

*Fighting and Insecurity Continue Despite Ceasefire*

- Reports from the field indicate that GOS military and opposition forces are still active throughout the three states of Darfur. Relief agencies report that GOS-supported *Jingaweit* militias have increased attacks against civilians, resulting in increasing numbers of IDPs. On May 15, GOS military helicopters made several passes over Thabet, south of El Fasher, and the road between El Fasher and Nyala is now impassable due to insecurity and banditry.
- The Sudanese border with Chad north of Geneina has become increasingly unstable. International media sources and other field reports indicate concentrations of *Jingaweit* and regular GOS forces, including military helicopters, in the area. Reports also indicate that Chadian forces have mobilized along the Chad side of the border. Due to escalating insecurity, many humanitarian organizations in eastern Chad have moved personnel away from the 600 km border. Local media reports indicate that diplomatic efforts to reduce the tension are underway between the Government of Chad (GOC) and the GOS.

*Revised U.N. Figures for Internally Displaced and Conflict-Affected Persons*

- According to the Office of the U.N. Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (UN RC) in Khartoum, as of May 1, there are now more than 2 million conflict-affected persons in Darfur compared to 1.1 million in April 2004. Of this number, approximately one million are IDPs.

*Humanitarian Access*

- According to international media reports, the GOS announced on May 20 that permits for relief workers to travel to Darfur will no longer be required as of May 24. The reports stated that humanitarian personnel will be allowed access to Darfur as long as they have standard Sudanese visas issued from GOS diplomatic missions abroad.

### *Reports of Forced Returns of IDPs*

- According to the USAID/DART, GOS pressure to forcibly return IDPs to their home areas has been reported from all three states of Darfur. Relief agencies are concerned that poor response capacity due to GOS travel restrictions and continued insecurity may jeopardize the humanitarian community's ability to monitor involuntary relocations.

### *Think-Tank Calls for Increased International Action on Darfur*

- On May 16, the International Crisis Group (ICG), a Brussels-based think-tank, stated that the U.N. should authorize military intervention based on "responsibility to protect" principles if the GOS continues to violate international humanitarian law and target civilians populations in Darfur. ICG urged the U.N. Security Council to pass a resolution that condemns the GOS for atrocities committed in Darfur, imposes an arms embargo against the GOS, and authorizes a high-level team to investigate possible war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Darfur.

### *Food Assistance*

- According to the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC), the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has reported difficulties in reaching vulnerable populations in Darfur. During April 2004, WFP provided assistance to 500,000 people. During May, WFP had planned to provide food assistance to 800,000 beneficiaries; however, as of May 17, WFP had distributed food to only 126,000 people. According to WFP, security concerns are impeding the delivery of life-saving food rations. Although WFP estimates they will eventually distribute food to 450,000 to 500,000 beneficiaries during May 2004, the conflict-affected population's food requirements are far greater than access currently allows.

### *Distribution of Non-food items (NFIs)*

- Implementing partners have established coordination committees in the three state capitals of Darfur to develop distribution plans for essential NFIs to conflict-affected populations. From May 25 to June 2, the NGO GOAL plans to distribute 24,000 blankets to IDPs and other vulnerable civilians in Kutum, North Darfur. From May 27 through June 3, Save the Children/US (SC/US) plans to distribute 26,000 blankets and shelter materials for 64,617 targeted beneficiaries in West Darfur. Additional distributions in all three Darfur States by SC/US, Medair, and Concern have been scheduled for the first week of June.
- According to the USAID/DART, UNJLC reported that the availability of NFIs is inadequate to meet the immediate humanitarian needs of more than two million conflict-affected civilians in Darfur. As rains move northwards to more densely populated areas, many settlements will not be accessible by road, and UNJLC expects that air drops will be necessary to reach these isolated populations. WFP, NGOs, and donors have begun discussing contingency plans for air operations to assist vulnerable populations to survive the rainy seasons.
- USAID/OFDA implementing partner CARE has established offices in Nyala, South Darfur, and El Obeid, a logistical hub for Sudan in Southern Kordofan. CARE also plans to open offices in Geneina and El Fasher. USAID/OFDA has provided funds to CARE to receive, store, and transport NFIs for vulnerable populations in Darfur.

### *Health*

- On May 20, Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) released the results of a nutritional survey of five sites in West Darfur (Garsilla, Mukjar, Bindissi, Deleij, and Um Kher) where nearly 100,000 IDPs have sought refuge from violence. According to the survey, the mortality rate for children under five years of age is 5.2 deaths per 10,000 persons per day, and the crude mortality rate is 3.2 deaths per 10,000 persons per day. The emergency threshold for crude mortality is 1 death per 10,000 persons per day, and for children under five the emergency threshold is 2 to 4 deaths per 10,000 persons per day. In addition, MSF reported alarming malnutrition rates among the affected population. MSF stated that most of the children under five who have died did so due to starvation, diarrhea, or malaria. Continued violence against civilians accounted for nearly 60 percent of the deaths among people over five years of age, according to MSF.
- According to the USAID/DART, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the GOS Ministry of Health (MOH) have postponed the start date for the planned measles vaccination campaign for Darfur from May 22 to June 5. The current schedule for the campaign is set for June 5 to 14 in South Darfur and June 12 to 22 in West and North Darfur. The current target population in South Darfur is 1.3 million children from nine months to 15 years of age, which is more than the original target population of 1.1 million. The target population for North Darfur and West Darfur is 500,000 and 461,000 children, respectively. Vitamin A supplementation will also be provided to all children under five in the measles campaign. According to this latest plan, polio vaccine will only be included in areas along the Chad border. The previous plan included all children under five years of age in Darfur.
- Donors have expressed uncertainty over UNICEF and WHO's ability to launch an effective measles campaign and reach the target population, particularly in South Darfur. According to the USAID/DART, approximately five percent of the target beneficiaries in South Darfur are living in Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A)-held areas. UNICEF has not yet received agreement from the SLM/A for access to these areas during the measles vaccination campaign.
- According to the USAID/DART, WHO plans to introduce a malaria surveillance system in all three states of Darfur. WHO reported that MOH epidemiologists are investigating reports of a malaria outbreak affecting very young children in a community in West Darfur. Funding for the surveillance system has been provided through a grant to WHO from USAID/OFDA.

### *Refugees in Eastern Chad*

- As of May 21, the U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) had relocated approximately 58,000 Sudanese refugees away from the volatile Chad-Sudan border to six camps in eastern Chad. UNHCR reported that an additional 10,000 refugees have traveled to the camps on their own upon hearing that assistance is available away from the border. To date, UNHCR has registered approximately 124,000 refugees in the camps and along the border area of eastern Chad.

### **U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE**

- Over the past year, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) has deployed field staff to Sudan specifically to assess the extent of the Darfur crisis. On April 11, to respond to the increasing scale of humanitarian needs, USAID/OFDA mobilized a USAID/DART. USAID continues a phased deployment of humanitarian personnel as official access and improved security allow for an increased presence in Darfur. The USAID/OFDA-led USAID/DART is complemented by a Response Management Team (RMT) in Washington that is supporting field operations and providing a point of contact for coordination and information regarding the USG's humanitarian response in Darfur.
- From May 14 to 20, four USAID/OFDA airlifts 2,500 rolls of plastic sheeting from pre-positioned stockpiles in Dubai arrived in Nyala, South Darfur. Based on data collected during MSF's recent nutritional survey, the average family size among the conflict affected population in Darfur is seven persons. In compliance with Sphere standards for humanitarian assistance, each roll of plastic sheeting can provide adequate shelter for nine families, and USAID's contribution of 2,500 rolls of plastic sheeting will provide shelter for nearly 160,000 beneficiaries. The total value of the commodities, including transportation costs, was approximately \$840,000. This is in addition to USAID/OFDA's airlift from May 4 to 10 of plastic sheeting, blankets, and water containers worth more than \$750,000. USAID staff on the ground in Nyala has met the airlifts and overseen arrangements for the items to be distributed through implementing partners in Darfur.
- On May 21, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$1.8 million to Save the Children-U.S. (SC-US) for health, nutrition, and shelter activities for more than 215,000 conflict-affected beneficiaries in West Darfur.
- USAID/OFDA recently provided \$650,000 to WFP to provide air transport for relief workers and donors operating in Sudan. USAID/OFDA also provided \$150,000 through WFP to the UNJLC for logistics and coordination of humanitarian operations in Darfur.
- Since February 2003, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$10.6 million to the UNICEF, UNJLC, the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), UN OCHA, the U.N. Security Coordinator (UNSECOORD), WFP, WHO and NGOs, including CARE, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Medair, and Save the Children-U.K. (SC-UK) and SC-US for emergency humanitarian activities. New proposals from additional relief organizations are under review.
- On May 20, a ship carrying 30,000 MT of USAID/FFP food assistance, valued at approximately \$27.1 million, arrived in Port Sudan. The 30,000 MT of wheat is part of USAID's contribution to WFP relief operations in Darfur. Approximately 15,000 MT of wheat will feed 1 million beneficiaries for one month. Since October 2003, USAID/FFP has provided more than \$67.1 million to WFP for Darfur for 74,000 MT of food commodities, including cereals, cooking oil, pulses, and blended foods.
- USAID/FFP has also contributed \$4.8 million to WFP for Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad, including 7,040 MT of mixed commodities already in the region.
- USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) has provided more than \$96,000 to IRC for IDP assistance activities in Darfur. In addition, USAID/OTI plans to deploy an IDP advisor as a member of the USAID/DART.
- On May 21, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) approved an additional contribution of \$1.2 million to UNHCR in response to its emergency appeal for Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad. This brings State/PRM's total contribution to date to the Chad appeal to \$6,912,972, including \$712,972 provided during FY 2003.
- To date in FY 2004, State/PRM has provided \$11.5 million to UNHCR, WFP, the International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Society (IFRC), AirServ International, International Medical Corps (IMC), and IRC for emergency refugee assistance activities.

**U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DARFUR EMERGENCY**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>DARFUR, SUDAN</b>			
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
CARE	Logistics, Coordination	Darfur	\$397,952
IRC	Health, Water and Sanitation	North Darfur	\$473,736
Medair	Health, Water and Sanitation, Non-Food Commodities, IDP Assistance	West Darfur	\$1,103,000
SC-UK	Water and Sanitation	North Darfur	\$605,602
SC-US	Health, Nutrition, Shelter	West Darfur	\$1,794,794
UN FAO	Food Security, Agriculture	Darfur	\$465,000
UNICEF	Health, Water and Sanitation	Darfur	\$724,830
UNJLC	Coordination	Darfur	\$150,000
UN OCHA	Coordination	Darfur	\$500,000
UNSECOORD	Security Officers	Darfur	\$400,000
WFP	Flight Operations	Darfur	\$900,000
WHO	Health, Coordination	Darfur	\$250,000
Various	NFI Commodities	Darfur	\$1,262,500
Various	Airlift Operations for NFIs	Darfur	\$490,300
	Administrative Expenses	Darfur	\$1,118,227
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA .....</b>			<b>\$10,635,941</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			
WFP	73,700 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Darfur	\$67,106,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP .....</b>			<b>\$67,106,000</b>
<b>USAID/OTI ASSISTANCE</b>			
IRC	IDP Assistance	North Darfur	\$96,205
<b>TOTAL USAID/OTI .....</b>			<b>\$96,205</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DARFUR.....</b>			<b>\$77,838,146</b>
<b>EASTERN CHAD</b>			
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			
WFP	7,040 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Eastern Chad	\$4,800,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP .....</b>			<b>\$4,800,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHAD.....</b>			<b>\$4,800,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
AirServ	Refugee Assistance	Eastern Chad	\$1,590,350
IFRC	Refugee Assistance	Eastern Chad	\$400,000
IMC	Refugee Assistance	Eastern Chad	\$877,098
IRC	Refugee Assistance	Eastern Chad	\$432,552
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Eastern Chad	\$6,912,972
WFP	Refugee Food Assistance	Eastern Chad	\$2,000,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM.....</b>			<b>\$11,500,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHAD.....</b>			<b>\$17,012,972</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DARFUR EMERGENCY<sup>3</sup>.....</b>			<b>\$82,638,146</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DARFUR EMERGENCY<sup>3</sup>.....</b>			<b>\$94,851,118</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents committed amounts as of May 14, 2004.<sup>2</sup> State/PRM figures do not include un-earmarked Africa-wide contributions to ICRC and UNHCR.<sup>3</sup> Total funding dates from February 2003, including total contributions to Darfur, Sudan and to Chad for the Darfur emergency.**PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION**

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for their humanitarian emergency response efforts in Darfur, Sudan can be found at [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org).

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance)

- USAID encourages cash donations because they: allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information on making donations and volunteering can be found at:
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org)
  - InterAction: [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org) -> “How You Can Help”
- Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.org](http://www.reliefweb.org)