



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

***DARFUR – Humanitarian Emergency***

Fact Sheet #7, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

May 28, 2004

*Note: This report updates the last fact sheet dated May 21, 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*

- *Jingaweit* violence against civilians continues in all three states of Darfur, including reports of killings, rapes, beatings, looting, and burning of property. These attacks cause increasing displacement, and because victims are displaced and vulnerable, they become targets of further violence. This vicious cycle prevents many IDPs from safely returning home, trapping them in camps or informal settlements for the foreseeable future.

*Attacks against Civilians*

- On May 24, international media sources reported that *Jingaweit* killed at least 56 civilians during a May 23 raid on Abga Rajil, located 48 km south of Nyala, South Darfur.
- According to a May 25 report from the Office of the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (UN RC) in Khartoum, continued *Jingaweit* attacks on villages near Nyala have increased the numbers of war-affected persons seeking refuge in Kalma Camp. To date, relief agencies have registered approximately 20,000 IDPs in the camp, where an influx of IDPs arrived last week after *Jingaweit* attacked villages south of Nyala.
- In West Darfur, most insecurity flashpoints continue to be concentrated along the Chad border. The USAID/DART reported that IDPs continue to arrive at the settlements around Geneina, and the mixing of IDP populations with local residents has increased the difficulty of identifying IDPs and providing humanitarian assistance to some of the most vulnerable populations. In addition, field reports indicate that *Jingaweit* in West Darfur have begun to demand a share of humanitarian assistance. On May 17, approximately 15 *Jingaweit* stopped a U.N. World Food Program (WFP) vehicle between Foro Baranga and Habila and requested to be registered for upcoming food distributions.
- Although relief agencies report that the security situation in North Darfur remains relatively stable, observers indicate that *Jingaweit* attacks on villages have decreased in the region because a significant number of non-Arab villages have

already been destroyed. IDPs in camps are still subject to attack, and areas of North Darfur, including Tawilah, west of El Fasher, remain tense. The Irish NGO GOAL reports high beneficiary withdrawal rates from supplementary and therapeutic feeding centers due to continued population displacement and IDP migration towards safer areas.

#### *Reports of Forced Returns of IDPs*

- According to the USAID/DART and humanitarian agencies operating in Darfur, a pattern of GOS-supported involuntary returns of IDPs to their home areas is emerging in all three states of Darfur. In West Darfur, relief agencies reported that the GOS forcibly replaced an existing village committee with a committee that was willing to organize IDP returns. In Habila Kanari, near Geneina, field reports stated that the GOS forcibly returned IDPs to their home village and then ordered local security forces to prevent the involuntary returnees from leaving the area. U.N. agencies have also reported instances of GOS-sponsored "clustering" of IDPs into villages near one another in South Darfur.

#### *Humanitarian Access*

- As a result of intense international pressure, the GOS lifted restrictive travel permit regulations and announced a series of measures, effective May 24, to facilitate humanitarian access to Darfur. The USAID/DART and several humanitarian agencies plan to deploy additional staff to Darfur to increase emergency response capacity. Despite these positive changes, some obstacles remain. In particular, the GOS requires 72-hour advance notification for passengers intending to travel on WFP flights. WFP is petitioning the GOS to remove this restriction, as this measure remains an impediment to the rapid deployment of emergency staff and equipment.
- The humanitarian community in Sudan expressed concern this week over GOS interference in humanitarian activities in Darfur. GOS officials have questioned relief workers on their reporting of human rights abuses, told relief agencies not to carry out any protection activities, and threatened to expel persons or organizations that fail to comply with GOS restrictions. A U.N. Humanitarian Affairs Officer was expelled from South Darfur earlier this month.
- Procedures have not yet been defined for travel within areas controlled by the SLM/A. A draft Code of Conduct for humanitarian operations in Darfur was circulated at a May 24 meeting of humanitarians in Khartoum. The Code of Conduct includes a statement of principles emphasizing human rights, humanitarian access, independence and impartiality, monitoring, and accountability. It also includes specific operating guidelines for humanitarian agencies concerning information sharing, coordination, and identifying and responding to needs. Relief agencies are currently the procedures.

#### *Food Assistance*

- According to WFP, distribution capacity in Darfur continues to be significantly constrained due to continued insecurity, banditry and harassment of WFP drivers, limited transport capacity, increasing trucking costs, and government regulations, including the GOS insistence that WFP use the Sudanese Red Crescent rather than international NGOs to implement distributions. Additionally, the GOS has prevented other WFP implementing partners from carrying out distributions in key areas and forced WFP to initiate delayed distributions on their own. During May, WFP had planned to provide food assistance to 800,000 beneficiaries; however, as of May 26, WFP reported food distributions to only 328,546 beneficiaries.
- According to the UN RC, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is pre-positioning 680 metric tons (MT) of cereal seed for distribution through partner organizations to nearly 78,000 households in Darfur. Of this total, 371 MT will be distributed in North Darfur, 195 MT in South Darfur, and 86 MT in West Darfur by the end of May. FAO plans to coordinate the seed distribution with WFP food distributions to prevent beneficiaries from eating the seeds.

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

- The first distribution of USAID commodities took place through Médecins sans Frontières-Holland (MSF-H) on May 19. On May 25, the ninth USAID/DART airlift arrived in Nyala carrying 20,000 blankets for conflict-affected persons in Darfur. Offloading, warehousing, and onward distribution of USAID NFIs are coordinated by a USAID/DART Field Officer with partners UNJLC, UN OCHA, and CARE.
- Despite ongoing NFI airlifts, the USAID/DART reports a critical need for the procurement and distribution of NFIs to conflict-affected populations in Darfur before mid-June, when the rainy season will significantly restrict road access. As rains move northwards to more densely populated areas, the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC) expects that air drops will be required to reach these isolated settlements. WFP, NGOs, and donors have begun discussing contingency plans for air operations to assist vulnerable populations to survive the rainy seasons.

#### *Health*

- The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), and the GOS Ministry of Health (MOH) are finalizing plans for the measles vaccination campaign in South Darfur. Vaccines will be sent to Nyala in the coming days along with materials for community mobilization activities. MOH supervisors from Khartoum plan to travel to Nyala to assist in the planning and execution of the campaign. The 10-day campaign is now scheduled to start on June 5 in South Darfur and on June 12 in North and West Darfur. All children between the ages of 9 months and 15 years will be targeted for the vaccine. Children under the age of five will also receive vitamin A supplements.
- The disease early warning surveillance system for Darfur being implemented by WHO and the MOH should be operational by the end of May. The system is intended to provide enhanced surveillance for communicable diseases in IDP settlements. The surveillance system will provide weekly reports on 11 diseases and conditions as well as laboratory confirmation of local outbreaks.

### *Water and Sanitation*

- The provision of safe drinking water and access to sanitary facilities remain well below humanitarian standards in Darfur. According to UNICEF, approximately 700,000 conflict-affected people in Darfur lack access to safe water. Supplies of potable water remain very limited with respect to the number of IDPs, and the trucking of water supplies will be disrupted during the rainy season as roads become impassable from June to August.
- According to the U.N. Darfur Humanitarian Profile for May, only 8 percent of the assessed IDP population has access to a sanitary latrine. Oxfam has recently completed 1,500 latrines in Abu Shouk camp near El Fasher and is planning on constructing 1,000 latrines in Kebkabiya prior to the onset of the rainy season in mid-June. The rains will increase the potential for outbreaks of diarrheal diseases, including dysentery and cholera. Construction of new water points and emergency sanitation facilities as well as distribution of soap and jerry cans is urgently needed.

### *Refugees in Eastern Chad*

- The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has opened a seventh refugee camp in Breidjing, eastern Chad to support Sudanese refugees fleeing violence in Darfur. On May 28, UNHCR reported that the seven camps have a combined population of 78,000 refugees. UNHCR has registered nearly 125,000 Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad.
- On May 25, UNHCR began a second wave of emergency airlifts of relief items for Sudanese refugees living in the seven camps in eastern Chad. In the next week, UNHCR plans to transport 500 metric tons of NFIs, including plastic sheeting, tents, blankets, and jerry cans, that are urgently needed to meet the needs of the refugees.
- The water situation is also of serious concern in the seven refugee camps operated by the UNHCR in eastern Chad. In one of these, Kounoungo Camp, the water manager reported that there is only enough water to provide each camp resident with seven liters per day (less than half of the recommended Sphere<sup>1</sup> minimum standard of 15 liters).

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

- Over the past year, USAID 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 mobilized a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART). USAID continues a phased deployment of humanitarian personnel as official access and improved security allow for an increased presence in Darfur. The DART, led by personnel from USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), 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.
- In May 2004, USAID delivered a total of 3,900 rolls of plastic sheeting, 57,500 blankets, and 600 jerry cans via nine airlifts to Nyala. 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 3,900 rolls of plastic sheeting will provide shelter for nearly 245,700 beneficiaries. The total value of the commodities, including transportation costs, was more than \$1.7 million.
- USAID recently provided \$1 million to UNICEF to pay for vaccines and cold-chain equipment for the upcoming measles vaccination campaign in the three states of Darfur, and more than \$1.1 million to CARE for water and sanitation and mobile emergency health programs in South Darfur
- Since February 2003, USAID has provided more than \$13.2 million to UNICEF, UNJLC, 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 Food for Peace (FFP) commodities, 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 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 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 (OTI) has provided more than \$96,000 to IRC for IDP assistance activities in Darfur. Such initiatives may include support for peace and reconciliation interventions and strengthening of Sudanese civil society organizations. In addition, OTI has deployed an IDP advisor as a member of the 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.

<sup>1</sup>The Sphere Project was launched in 1997 by ICRC, the U.N., NGOs, and donors to develop a set of universal minimum standards for humanitarian assistance and thereby improve the quality of assistance provided to disaster-affected persons and to enhance the accountability of humanitarian agencies.

## 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	Health, Water and Sanitation, Logistics, Coordination	Darfur	\$1,513,957
IRC	Health, Water and Sanitation	North Darfur	\$473,736
Medair <sup>2</sup>	Health, Water and Sanitation, Non-Food Commodities, IDP Assistance	West Darfur	\$1,103,000
SC-UK <sup>2</sup>	Water and Sanitation	North Darfur	\$605,602
SC-US	Health, Nutrition, Shelter	West Darfur	\$1,794,794
UN FAO <sup>2</sup>	Food Security, Agriculture	Darfur	\$465,000
UNICEF	Health, Water and Sanitation	Darfur	\$1,724,830
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	\$1,599,898
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA .....</b>			<b>\$13,233,617</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>\$80,435,822</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>3</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 <sup>2</sup>	Refugee Assistance	Eastern Chad	\$6,912,972
WFP	Refugee Food Assistance	Eastern Chad	\$2,000,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM.....</b>			<b>\$12,212,972</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHAD.....</b>			<b>\$17,012,972</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DARFUR AND EASTERN CHAD<sup>4</sup> .....</b>			<b>\$85,235,822</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DARFUR AND EASTERN CHAD<sup>4</sup> .....</b>			<b>\$97,448,794</b>

<sup>1</sup>USAID/OFDA funding represents committed amounts as of May 28, 2004.<sup>2</sup>Totals include some funding obligated during FY 2003<sup>3</sup>State/PRM figures do not include un-earmarked Africa-wide contributions to ICRC and UNHCR.<sup>4</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 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)