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BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)

Sudan – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #6, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

May 9, 2008

Note: The last situation report was dated April 4, 2008.

BACKGROUND

In 2008, Sudan continues to cope with the effects of conflict, displacement, and insecurity countrywide. In Sudan’s western region of Darfur, fighting among armed opposition factions, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), militias, and ethnic groups is ongoing. According to the U.N., the clashes have displaced more than 90,000 people within Darfur and to Eastern Chad since January of this year. Since 2003, the Darfur complex emergency has affected 4.2 million people, including more than 2.4 million internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The former Government of Sudan (GOS) and the southern-based Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) continue to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) through the joint Government of National Unity (GNU). The GNU was formed in 2005, when the parties signed the CPA and officially ended more than two decades of conflict between the north and the south. During the conflict, famine, fighting, and disease killed more than 2 million people, forced an estimated 600,000 Sudanese to seek refuge in neighboring countries, and displaced 4 million others within Sudan. The U.N. estimates that nearly 2 million people displaced during the conflict have returned to Southern Sudan and the Three Areas of Southern Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Abyei since 2005, taxing scarce resources and weak infrastructure. In eastern Sudan, the GNU and the Eastern Front opposition coalition signed the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement (ESPA) in 2006, but the area remains underdeveloped and slow to recover from the decades of conflict.

The U.S. Government (USG) is the largest bilateral donor to Sudan and has contributed more than \$3 billion for humanitarian programs in Sudan and eastern Chad since FY 2004. The USG continues to support the implementation of the CPA and joins the international community in seeking a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Darfur. On October 11, 2007, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Alberto M. Fernandez renewed the disaster declaration for the complex emergency in Sudan for FY 2008.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
IDPs in Sudan	From Southern Sudan: 2.7 million In Darfur: 2.45 million In Eastern Sudan: 168,000	UNHCR ¹ – November 2007 OCHA ² – January 2008 U.N. – September 2007
Sudanese Refugees	From Darfur: 250,000 From Southern Sudan: 255,000	UNHCR – March 2008 UNHCR – December 2007
Refugees in Sudan	From Eritrea, Chad, Ethiopia, and Others: 215,630	UNHCR – December 2007

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE (FY 2007 AND 2008)

USAID/OFDA³ Assistance to Sudan and Eastern Chad	\$206,308,451
USAID/FFP⁴ Assistance to Sudan and Eastern Chad	\$853,713,800
State/PRM⁵ Assistance to Sudan and Eastern Chad	\$136,659,132
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Sudan and Eastern Chad.....	\$1,196,681,383

CURRENT SITUATION IN DARFUR

In April, interethnic fighting and continued SAF bombing in Darfur resulted in significant new displacement. Banditry and hijacking of relief vehicles throughout Darfur limited humanitarian operations and resulted in decreased food rations for beneficiaries. Targeting of humanitarian staff escalated in April, resulting in the deaths of two individuals.

Security and Humanitarian Access

During the month of April, bureaucratic impediments and insecurity continued to hamper relief efforts and access throughout Darfur. Relief agencies reported visa processing delays and new local government requirements for travel to project sites.

To date in 2008, bandits have hijacked or ambushed 100 humanitarian vehicles in Darfur. In response to

¹ Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

² U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

³ USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

⁴ USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

⁵ U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

increased carjacking incidents, some relief agencies have begun traveling to project sites in rental vehicles. However, the local government in North Darfur is forbidding humanitarian workers traveling in rental vehicles to pass through government checkpoints and is requiring that relief agencies submit travel plans and vehicle ownership information, which is causing delays in access to project sites.

On April 17, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) announced that banditry and hijacking of WFP-contracted vehicles in Darfur has forced the organization to cut monthly rations for Darfuris in half for May and June. According to WFP, bandits have hijacked 64 contracted trucks since January 1. To date, 41 trucks and 28 drivers remain missing. On April 24, assailants killed a WFP-contracted driver transporting food aid on a main transport route between North and South Darfur. The incident was the second killing of a WFP-contracted driver in two months.

On May 1 and 2, assailants killed two USAID partner Save the Children staff members in separate incidents in West Darfur and eastern Chad. To date in 2008, assailants have killed five and abducted more than 90 humanitarian staff in Darfur.

According to the U.N., during the week of April 1, cross-border tensions between armed elements in Beida locality, West Darfur, led to relocation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in the area. On April 15 and 16, the U.N. conducted a security assessment and reported ongoing tensions, extending the “no go” status by an additional week. Despite insecurity, NGOs continue to maintain minimal operations in the Beida area through reduced local staff presence.

On April 21, OCHA reported that clashes between the SAF and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) armed opposition group had resumed again in northern West Darfur, after a brief lull in hostilities. Renewed fighting between SAF and JEM began in December 2007.

During the week of April 29, the U.N. reported that SAF planes bombed several villages in North Darfur. According to initial U.N. reports, the areas of Um Sidir, El Hashim, and Heles suffered repeated aerial attacks. On May 1, a U.N.–African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) team flew to Um Sidir to provide medical care to victims of the attack, which killed two men and injured eight others. UNAMID evacuated eight victims to El Fasher for advanced medical care. The attacks in El Hashim and Heles injured one woman and destroyed property and livestock. On May 4, armed opposition group members and NGO staff reported additional government bombings in two areas of North Darfur, including attacks on a school and marketplace in Shegeg Karo that killed 13 individuals

and wounded more than 30. On May 6, U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator Ameera Haq condemned the attacks against civilians and called for immediate humanitarian and medical access to the affected areas.

Population Movements

Interethnic clashes began on April 10 near Sania Afandu, South Darfur, causing mass displacement. As of April 30, fighting in the Sania Afandu area had ceased, although displacement from the area continues. Preliminary results of an interagency assessment indicate that between 25,000 and 30,000 newly displaced individuals from Sania Afandu are taking refuge at several IDP camps, as well as in remote and inaccessible areas, in South Darfur. Relief agencies continue to assess and verify the displacement and coordinate a response. Humanitarian partners are particularly concerned about new arrivals to South Darfur IDP camps, such as Al Salam, where overcrowding was already causing insufficient water supply and sanitation facilities. U.N. and NGO staff are working with the GNU Humanitarian Aid Commission in Nyala to address the camp and the needs of the newly displaced.

Health

According to the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), the February SAF attacks and subsequent clashes in northern West Darfur led to significant damages to health centers in the area, including looting of medicines, equipment, and furniture. WHO and partners are supporting the state health authorities in restoring primary health care access for beneficiaries.

As of April 27, WHO reported an increase in the number of cases of diarrheal diseases in North Darfur. In response, WHO, Oxfam International, the International Rescue Committee, and Plan Sudan supported the North Darfur State Ministry of Health to organize a health promotion campaign in As Salaam IDP camp. According to field reports, a cluster of meningitis cases occurred in the West Jebel Marra area during the meningitis season from approximately March through mid-May, but health workers have not documented any major epidemics of meningitis or any other diseases in South Darfur to date this year.

Food Security

Based on results of the interagency post-harvest study conducted between December 2007 and February 2008, relief agencies are working to address a significant food gap identified in Adila and Ed Daein localities in South Darfur. During the week of April 8, WFP, United Methodist Committee on Relief, Netherlands Catholic Organization for Relief and Development, and Sudan Social Development Organization met to discuss coordination of humanitarian assistance for the estimated 450,000 individuals in Adila and Ed Daein who will require food aid during the upcoming June to August hunger gap period. Relief agencies have initiated a blanket

feeding program for children under five years old in regional camps to prevent increased rates of malnutrition among vulnerable children. According to field staff, if banditry continues to hamper the delivery of food assistance, food insecurity and increased malnutrition rates could become more widespread.

CURRENT SITUATION IN SUDAN, EXCLUDING DARFUR

USAID continues to support humanitarian interventions in Southern Sudan, eastern Sudan, and the Three Areas in a variety of sectors. On April 2 and 3, Chargé d'Affaires Alberto M. Fernandez, USAID Mission Director Pat Fleuret, and a USAID/OFDA Northern Sudan Program Officer visited Abyei Area and Muglad, Southern Kordofan State, to assess the status of returns programs, visit project sites, and meet with U.N. Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) officials.

On May 4 and 5, Charge d'Affaires Fernandez, USAID Deputy Mission Director Brooke Isham, and other USAID and US Embassy staff visited Kassala State in eastern Sudan. The team received briefings on local development challenges from representatives of the State Ministry of Economic Development and Planning, visited the riverbank reinforcement project along the Gash River, consulted with the U.N. Mine Action Office on the ongoing landmine problem in the state, and toured a teaching hospital with government officials. The team reported that the state continues to suffer from chronic underdevelopment and slow recovery from the conflict that ended with the signing of the ESPA in 2006. USAID supports food assistance, health services, flood recovery, and peacebuilding programs in Kassala State.

Security and Humanitarian Access

In April, Southern Kordofan and the Abyei Area experienced increased tension and insecurity caused by census unrest, localized conflicts, disputes over water resources, and troop build-ups in the Abyei Area. Of particular concern for humanitarian agencies was the frequently disrupted road access to Abyei and southern states caused by armed groups setting up check points along the road, clashes between armed groups, and banditry. On several occasions in April, return convoys were stranded and relief supplies were delayed due to the road insecurity. The presence of armed groups in Abyei limits humanitarian access to populations 15 km outside of the town, making distribution of food, relief commodities, and seeds and tools difficult in rural areas.

On April 20, Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) splinter groups attacked Birisi village and other villages in Western Equatoria State. According to the U.N., the LRA soldiers raided cattle and abducted women and children in the attacks. As of April 27, the security situation in the area near Birisi village and Yambio town remained tense and humanitarian access to affected areas was limited.

According to field reports, insecurity and fighting along the Kadugli–Abyei roads, particularly in Kharasana during the last week of April, have delayed relief items in transit from Kadugli to Abyei. Insecurity on roads from Kadugli to Abyei and Heglig has also caused return convoys to remain in way stations near Kadugli until the roads were safe enough for travel.

Returns

In April, large numbers of returnees traveled from areas of displacement in northern Sudan to Southern Sudan and the Three Areas. Relief agencies noted a marked increase in state-sponsored return convoys, particularly to the Abyei Area and Warab, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, and Unity states. The southern state governments organizing the convoys have not coordinated routes, destinations, or arrival dates with the U.N. or other international organizations. The U.N. has offered technical assistance to the state governments, including help with transportation and coordination of reception centers, but only received a limited number of requests for such assistance. U.N. agencies and NGOs have also provided relief commodities, food, and other assistance to the state-sponsored returnees.

Since December 2007, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) organized return operation, which transports returnees from Kosti to Malakal, Bor, and Juba, has encountered numerous challenges. IOM reported problems with armed groups boarding clearly marked U.N. and IOM barges, sanitation problems on the barge during the 15-day trip to Juba, and challenges with the barge contractors that caused delays. IOM's last barge of the 2008 returns season traveled in mid-April. Despite the health and safety risks for the passengers, hundreds of spontaneous returnees continue to board unsafe cargo barges at Kosti each month and make the difficult journey to Malakal and Juba. USAID partner Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) continues to assist the spontaneous returnees through management of the Kosti way station and provision of plastic sheeting, jerry cans, chlorine tablets, and mosquito nets for the returnee's journey along the river. Aid agencies predict that organized return operations will cease in the coming weeks due to the onset of the rainy season, but expect spontaneous returnees to continue to travel by bus and barge throughout the rainy season.

Health

According to WHO, as of April 14, health workers had reported 194 cases of acute watery diarrhea and five related deaths in Yei, Central Equatoria State, since March 3. Sixty percent of the cases were among children under five. WHO reported that five samples tested positive for cholera. WHO provided medical supplies and a diarrhea response kit for the treatment of 100 severe cholera cases or 400 moderate cases.

The RCO, UNICEF, and OCHA are coordinating the health and water, sanitation, and hygiene responses.

On April 18, the MOH, WHO, and UNICEF conducted a joint assessment of Akobo, Jonglei State, after confirming a case of wild polio virus in an Ethiopian child who sought medical attention in the village in March. WHO and the MOH plan to conduct national immunization days from May 7 to 9 in Southern Sudan and from May 9 to 11 in Ethiopia.

Food Security and Livelihoods

According to WFP, since December 2007, food insecurity in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State has gradually deteriorated from moderate to severe. Although a seasonal decline is typical for the June to September hunger gap period, WFP has reported that

the hunger season and rains are approaching earlier than last year and that Northern Bahr el Ghazal has chronic, high global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates. Additional factors contributing to increased rates of food insecurity include weakened livelihoods and harvests after the 2007 floods, armed activity resulting in road closures between Southern Kordofan and Northern Bahr el Ghazal states, re-routing of food aid deliveries to Warab and Unity states, increased food commodity prices due to heavy taxation, and increased demands for scarce resources due to the recent influx of returnees. In FY 2007, USAID supported nine NGOs providing humanitarian assistance in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and also provided food assistance through WFP. In FY 2008, USAID continues to fund similar programs in the area.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN AND EASTERN CHAD			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
FY 2008 DARFUR, SUDAN			
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			
Action Contre la Faim (ACF)	Risk Reduction	North Darfur	\$60,000
ACF	Nutrition	South Darfur	\$450,000
CARE	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Darfur-wide	\$3,994,193
CHF International	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	North Darfur	\$256,034
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health	South Darfur, West Darfur	\$3,750,000
Terre Des Hommes	Protection, Shelter and Settlements	West Darfur	\$750,000
U.N. Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)	Humanitarian Air Service	Darfur-wide	\$3,000,000
USAID	Administrative Support and Travel	Darfur-wide	\$3,897,268
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$16,157,495
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP	243,528 Metric Tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Darfur-wide	\$296,869,400
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$296,869,400
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Protection of Chadian IDPs and Refugees	Darfur-wide	\$4,830,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$4,830,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DARFUR			\$317,856,895
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DARFUR			\$318,256,894

FY 2008 EASTERN CHAD			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			
ACF	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Eastern Chad	\$500,000
ACTED	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Eastern Chad	\$31,980
AirServ International	Humanitarian Air Service	Eastern Chad	\$36,483
U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization	Agriculture and Food Security	Eastern Chad	\$322,083
USAID Stockpile	Relief Commodities	Eastern Chad	\$78,900
USAID	Administrative Support and Travel	Eastern Chad	\$170,704
World Concern	Agriculture and Food Security	Eastern Chad	\$409,676
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$1,549,826
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP	46,960 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Eastern Chad	\$57,255,700
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$57,255,700
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
Christian Children's Fund	Psychosocial, Protection	Eastern Chad	\$399,999
International Committee of the Red Cross	Refugee Protection and Assistance	Eastern Chad	\$4,600,000
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies / Chad	Refugee Protection and Assistance	Eastern Chad	\$1,100,000
UNHCR	Refugee Protection and Assistance	Eastern Chad	\$13,090,000
U.N. Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT)	Protection and Police Activities	Eastern Chad	\$2,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$21,189,999
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EASTERN CHAD			\$58,805,526
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EASTERN CHAD			\$79,995,525
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DARFUR AND EASTERN CHAD			\$398,252,419

FY 2008 SUDAN EXCLUDING DARFUR			
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			
American Refugee Committee (ARC)	Health	Eastern Equatoria, Central Equatoria	\$786,316
Concern International	Agriculture and Food Security, Logistics and Relief Commodities	Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Southern Kordofan	\$1,200,553
Food for the Hungry International (FHI)	Agriculture and Food Security, Logistics and Relief Commodities	Upper Nile	\$793,055
GOAL	Health	Warab, Southern Kordofan, Blue Nile	\$3,000,000
International Rescue Committee	Health	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	\$621,723
Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)	Agriculture and Food Security	Upper Nile, Jonglei	\$2,497,755
PACT	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Upper Nile, Jonglei, Unity	\$1,000,000
Save the Children / US	Health	Upper Nile, Jonglei	\$2,000,000
Tearfund	Health	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	\$401,644
UNHAS	Humanitarian Air Service	Southern Kordofan, Blue Nile, Abyei	\$250,000

USAID	Administrative Support and Travel	Sudan-wide	\$1,039,845
Vétérinaires Sans Frontières / Belgium	Agriculture and Food Security	Upper Nile, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Warab, Eastern Equatoria, Central Equatoria, Unity, Jonglei	\$849,898
World Relief	Health	Unity, Jonglei	\$716,710
ZOA Refugee Care	Health	Central Equatoria	\$129,999
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$15,287,498
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
ADRA	1,190 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	White Nile	\$1,308,700
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	3,950 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Southern Sudan	\$5,783,700
NPA	7,140 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Southern Sudan	\$9,795,800
WFP	72,742 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Southern Sudan, Eastern Sudan, and Three Areas	\$88,675,300
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$105,563,500
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
FHI	Education, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Upper Nile State, Jonglei State	\$508,048
International Relief and Development	Livelihoods, Conflict Prevention	Upper Nile State	\$499,968
Relief International	Health, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Upper Nile State	\$500,000
UNHCR	Repatriation and Integration Assistance	Southern Sudan	\$16,000,000
UNHCR	Refugee Protection and Assistance	Sudan-wide	\$1,400,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$18,908,016
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN EXCLUDING DARFUR			\$120,850,998
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN EXCLUDING DARFUR			\$139,759,014

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents obligated amounts as of May 9, 2008.

²Estimated value of food assistance.



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