



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
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UNMIS Media Monitoring Report – 11th October 2006
(By Public Information Office)

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United Nations

Food aid reaches more people in Darfur – WFP*

(*SudanTribune.com* – 10th Oct. **Khrt.**) The World Food Programme announced today that in September, food rations reached more than 158,000 people in Darfur, western Sudan, who have been cut off in recent months.

The number of people not reached has been dropping steadily from 470,000 in July to 355,000 in August and now 224,000. While heartened by this improvement, among the 224,000 not reached last month are 139,000 who have gone without food aid for four months, the WFP said.

Although some areas of Darfur are still inaccessible, WFP successfully distributed food aid to a total of three million conflict-affected people in Darfur in September.

Figures released today show that the improvement in reaching beneficiaries is thanks to the strong cooperation among the humanitarian aid community to negotiate access and organize delivery. WFP food aid was distributed in parts of Darfur previously cut off by fighting and banditry.

"Despite the difficult security situation, WFP and our partners in non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were able to take advantage of windows of opportunity to deliver long-awaited food aid to parts of North Darfur. We are working hard to reach those who remain cut off," said Kenro Oshidari, WFP Representative in Sudan.

Those who were newly reached last month live in the northernmost part of Darfur. They were given a double ration to cover the months of September and October; continued insecurity means that WFP cannot guarantee that access for food deliveries will be available this month.

"The situation is especially serious because we are in the annual 'hunger season' just before the harvest, when there is very little food available," Oshidari said. "In a volatile situation, food aid is vital to stability.."

The harvest is expected to begin soon, so food availability in communities should improve. However, the persistent insecurity means that some people ? if they were lucky enough to have planted at all ? may be prevented from harvesting their crops.

However, the situation across the region remains precarious. Carjacking and harassment of drivers of trucks carrying supplies increased last month, hampering the operations of many national and international NGOs and UN agencies.

WFP and other aid groups have been warning that the Darfur region was reaching a critical state. Mounting instability in many parts of the region has made it more difficult for aid workers to reach more than three million people who need international aid. Twelve humanitarian workers have been killed in Darfur since May ? more than the total number since the conflict began in early 2003.

Thanks to the recent confirmation of some major donations, so far this year, WFP has received 89 percent of the US\$746 million required for its emergency operation.

** Please see separate attachment for the full text of the WFP statement*

UNICEF sets up central cold chain for vaccines in South Sudan

(Xinhua – 10th Oct. **Nairobi**) The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said on Tuesday it has set up a central cold chain in Juba, the capital of south Sudan, to enable all ministries and relief agencies to gain access to vaccines directly from inside the vast region instead of Lokichoggio which served as the main hub during the war.

In a statement issued in Nairobi, the UN agency said it would help establish the store in Juba so that all ministries and non-government organization partners implementing the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) could provide timely responses to vaccine preventable emergencies.

"The cold chain will for the first time ever enable fast and timely responses to vaccine preventable emergencies such as outbreaks of Yellow Fever and Meningitis when they occur," the statement said.

According to the UNICEF, while progress has been made in the last five years in supplemental immunization activities (SIAs)-measles, maternal and neonatal and polio campaigns, routine EPI had very low coverage of about 20 percent due to inadequate logistics, difficult terrains, bad weather conditions and inadequate trained personnel and insufficient resources.

"With the CPA (Comprehensive Peace Accord) and opening up of so many areas, the access to vaccines from inside southern Sudan by the counties and partners that will implement EPI in the new areas became an obvious challenge," the UNICEF said.

It said the cold chain have the capacity of storing 4.7 million doses of vaccines. Fourteen deep freezers with a total storage capacity of 7.0 million doses of vaccine have also been installed.

"The UNICEF has commenced an intensive capacity-building effort to ensure the availability of trained health personnel in all aspects of EPI at the state level for a start, to be later followed by similar efforts at county level."

"UNICEF remains committed to supporting the immunization program of Southern Sudan until such a time when the infrastructure which has been badly damaged during the two decades of war are re-constructed and rehabilitated," it said.

- ❖ *Today's Media Headlines compiled by PIO-UNMIS carried a Sudan Vision headline that read, Justice Minister says the United Nations "lends ear to rumours". The reference is to a recent comment by the Minister of Justice on the recent OHCHR on the situation in Darfur. The minister's reaction, issued in an earlier MMR, said that the OHCHR based the information for its report on unreliable sources.*
- ❖ *AlSahafa daily produces a translation of the Reuters story in yesterday's MMR on the transfer of 40,000 refugees from Darfur to Chad. AlSharei AlSiyassi and Rai AlShaab newspapers produce in their first pages a photograph of IDPs in Darfur camps with the captions (respectively): "The United Nations seeks to trade with (the issue of) the citizens of Darfur", and, "Will renewed clashes turn anew these IDPs into refugees?".*

United Nations and the Transition Debate

'Genocide' developing in Darfur - Nigeria's Obasanjo

(*ST/AFP; AlRai AlAam, local dailies* – 11th Oct. **Addis Ababa, Khrt.**) In some of the strongest comments by an African leader to date about the situation in Darfur, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo urged Sudan Tuesday to accept a UN role in its troubled western Darfur region, where he said "genocide" was developing and African peacekeepers are overwhelmed.

"It is not in the interest of Sudan, nor in the interest of Africa nor indeed in the interest of the world for us all to stand by and see genocide being developed in Darfur," he told diplomats and AU officials at the pan-African body's headquarters here.

The United States and some relief agencies have characterized the Darfur situation as "genocide" in the past, but Obasanjo is believed to be the first African leader to use the word.

"The great challenge before us now is how to strengthen and sustain (AMIS) until the transition to a UN mission with the support and cooperation of the government of Sudan and while retaining its African ownership and character," he said.

In addition, Obasanjo called on the two Darfur rebel groups that have not signed a faltering AU-negotiated peace deal to ink the pact.

These statements come while foreign ministers of Senegal, Gabon and Nigeria are expected in Khartoum ahead of a visit by their respective Heads of State who are expected to try to convince Sudan to accept a United Nations force for Darfur.

Egypt calls for African-Arab-UN meeting on Darfur

(*AFP, AP* – 10th Oct. **Cairo, Washington**) Egypt on Tuesday suggested a special meeting of leaders of the UN Security Council, the Arab League and African Union in a bid to convince Sudan to accept UN troops in war-devastated Darfur, media reported.

"The Darfur question requires Arab mobilization and building bridges between Arabs and Africans on one hand, and international involvement on the other," said Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit in the state-run Al-Ahram daily.

"This could come about through a meeting in New York between the secretary general of the Arab League (Amr Mussa), the president of the African Union commission (Alpha Omar Konaré) and the president of the Security Council," said Abul Gheit.

"This would be a Security Council meeting aimed at clearing up the directing lines of the application of certain elements of Resolution 1706" which called for the deployment of UN troops in Darfur.

"The meeting must also focus on what kind of assurances can be given so that Sudan understands that there is no kind of plot against it," added Abul Gheit, in reference to Khartoum's repeated refusal to allow UN troops into Darfur.

"The international community is mobilizing (around Darfur) and it is up to us to ease the tension so as not to find ourselves facing a confrontation between Sudan and the international community... which would have consequences for us in Egypt," he said.

Egypt's latest efforts come following requests from US lawmakers to the Arab League to urge Sudan to stop attacking the residents of the embattled Darfur region and to allow the United Nations to send peacekeepers.

The *AP* reports that the letters, sent to Arab League Secretary-General Amr Musa, said time was running out for the residents of Darfur, a region where fighting between rebels and government-backed militias and government forces have left more than 200,000 dead and another 2.5 million displaced.

On Sunday, Arab League diplomats said al-Bashir had rejected a league compromise suggestion that Arab League and Muslim troops be allowed to intervene in Darfur. They said he had promised to come up with an alternative proposal.

The Senate's letter spoke of the Sunday developments and that no alternatives have been forthcoming from Khartoum.

Committee for unification of national ranks to hold talks with holdout groups in Asmara

A spokesman for the committee for the unification of national ranks says that a delegation from the committee will soon be travelling to Asmara for a meeting with representatives of DPA holdout groups, reports *AlHayat*.

The spokesman says they have received confirmation that the holdout groups have accepted dialogue and will field a unified representation for the talks.

The spokesperson further revealed that another group intends to soon travel to Saudi Arabia or talks with opposition leader Mohamed Osman el-Mirghani.

Deputy leader of SLM-Minnawi makes u-turn on position over transition

AlIntibaha reports that the deputy leader of SLM-Minnawi has accused the government of dragging its feet in the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

In a development described as a surprise twist, the paper adds that Dr. AlRayah Mohamed told a press conference in Omdurman yesterday that SLM-Minnawi rejects the deployment of international forces to Darfur be they from the United Nations, Arab, Islamic or even African countries.

He pointed out that they are capable of preserving security in the area.

CPA

Sudan refugees return home from Uganda

(*Sudan Vision* – 11th Oct. **Khrt**) A UNHCR official in Uganda says about 4,5000 Sudanese refugees have voluntarily left refugee settlements in central Uganda to Sudan in the last three months.

He said more were mentally ready to go back but were not sure of conditions back home.

UNHCR country representative told district authorities in central Uganda that the UNHCR does not want to push the refugees. Montserrat Feixas Vihe also said that many repatriation

programs were on hold until the conclusion of the Juba peace talks between the Uganda government and the LRA.

Advisor of Sennar State says Sennar to help repatriate southern IDPs

The advisor of Sennar State Government, Augustine Aremo, told the Khartoum Monitor yesterday that there were IDP's from south Sudan spread all over the State's three provinces and that he was working with other southerners to determine the exact number of the southerners in the Sennar State.

He said South Sudan leaders of various sectors, teachers, youth, chiefs and leaders from all the war-affected areas gathered at the Advisory office to explain problems facing the citizens in the war affected areas and added that Sennar State will give a hand in the repatriation of southern Sudanese IDPs.

Southern Sudan

GoSS' minister strikes out Bar Exams as requirement to join the legal profession in south Sudan

Khartoum Monitor: The minister of Legal Affairs and constitutional Development, Justice Makwue Lueth, stressed that one of the major obstacles, introduced by the Khartoum government, to qualify a lawyer is a Bar examination.

Speaking in a weekly forum on Monday in Juba, Justice Lueth said the Bar examination in Sudan has been turned into as Islamic legal instrument. As such, most graduates of law school are roaming the streets of Khartoum and many have resorted to join other professions.

He pointed out that the Bar Exams will not be a prerequisite to practicing law in southern Sudan.

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

103 Sudanese soldiers flee rebel attack to Chad

(AFP – 10th Oct. N'Djamena) More than a hundred Sudanese soldiers fleeing a rebel attack in western Darfur took refuge in neighbouring Chad over the weekend, the government of Chad said Tuesday.

Six wounded soldiers “were taken into the care of Chadian authorities and treated in Bahai,” in eastern Chad along the Sudanese border. “The 97 others were taken to Iriba,” another town in eastern Chad, the statement said and added that the government said it was still deciding what to do about returning the soldiers to Sudan.

“Chad is thus not in any way involved with these clashes ... which took place on Sudanese territory,” it said, adding that Chad's actions were of a purely humanitarian nature.

Four aid workers attacked, beaten in Darfur

(Reuters – 10th Oct. Khrt.) Four aid workers were attacked in Sudan's Darfur region, beaten and given death threats, an official from the Medecins Sans Frontieres medical organization said on Tuesday.

The MSF France team was attacked by around a dozen masked, armed men on a road between Zalingei and Nertiti near the violent central Jabel Marra region in Darfur on September 11.

Three Sudanese staff were beaten and one international female staff was sexually harassed, MSF deputy head of mission Marc Galinier said.

"They [the attackers] said we don't want any foreigners here," Galinier told Reuters. He said MSF France had limited its movement in the area since the attack.

"These attacks have become more and more frequent in recent months and have the effect of limiting humanitarian access," he said. "The humanitarian community take enormous risks."

MSF, a medical emergency agency, work in some of the most hostile conflict areas of the world. In Darfur their various branches give vital medical treatment to hundreds of thousands of war victims.

"We just want to care for the people ... and we ask that all the belligerents understand that we need to access the people and we are neutral," he added.

Galinier said MSF had informed the Sudanese authorities of the attack.

Other Developments

ICC urges countries to track down war crimes fugitives

(AP – 10th Oct. UN) The International Criminal Court and the tribunals prosecuting those responsible for war crimes in former Yugoslavia and genocide in Rwanda urged all countries to help track down and arrest fugitives so they can be brought to justice.

Judge Philippe Kirsch, president of the court, said Monday the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal doesn't have the power to arrest five members of Uganda's ruthless Lord's Resistance Army, named in its first warrants, though one is believed to have died.

"That is the responsibility of states and other actors," he told the U.N. General Assembly. "Without arrests there can be no trials."

Kirsch said states and regional organizations can also help the court by providing evidence, assisting in the questioning of key people, carrying out searches, or identifying and tracing assets.

The court is conducting investigations of alleged war crimes in northern Uganda, Congo, and Darfur, Sudan, where security is so bad that investigations are taking place outside the country. The prosecutor is also analyzing five other potential cases to decide whether to go ahead with investigations, including in the Central African Republic and Ivory Coast, Kirsch said.

Judge Fausto Pocar, president of the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal, said the cases against 97 accused have been closed and proceedings against 155 are in various stages, but six are still at large including Bosnian Serb wartime leader Radovan Karadzic and his military chief Ratko Mladic.

He said meeting the target dates to wrap up the tribunal's work "will hinge significantly upon the cooperation of all states now, specifically those in the region, in apprehending these fugitives to stand trial."

"Regrettably, the authorities of Serbia have failed to achieve any progress in locating, arresting and surrendering Ratko Mladic to the International Tribunal, despite a number of promises made and the passing of several deadlines," Pocar said. "Likewise, no progress has been made by the Republika Srpska towards locating Radovan Karadzic."

Republika Srpska is the Serb-controlled half of Bosnia.

The Security Council has set out a timetable for the Yugoslav tribunal and the tribunal prosecuting those responsible for the 1994 Rwanda genocide to complete all trials by 2008 and finish appeals by 2010 - the target for ending their work.

Judge Erik Mose, president of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, said that while the court is on schedule to complete cases involving between 65 and 70 accused by the end of 2008, 18 indictees remain at large.

"It is essential that member states assist and cooperate in the arrest and transfer of accused who remain at large," he said.

Mose singled out one especially well-known fugitive, Felicien Kabuga, a Hutu businessman accused of financing the killers who marauded as the Rwandan Patriotic Army during the genocide. "It is important that he be arrested...as soon as possible in order to determine his guilt or innocence," the tribunal president said.

Mose also appealed to U.N. member states to open their countries and accept people acquitted by the court, noting that only one of the five people found not guilty by the tribunal has found a new country to live in.