



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

Office of UN Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sudan
UN Resident and Humanitarian Co-ordinator

Press Release 008

Donors return from Sudan-wide field missions 35 International Donors – 14 Locations countrywide

Media Briefing – Wednesday, 23 March, 12:30

Khartoum, 20 March 2005: Donors from the international community returned to Khartoum yesterday to share impressions and information gathered during a five-day field visit in Sudan. Seven teams of donors, representing 11 countries and the European Union, fanned out across the country last week, visiting 14 different locations as part of a United Nations inter-agency mission to give donors the opportunity to see for themselves the complex and contrasting situation in the many regions of Sudan. Senior UN officials also participated.

“The situation in Sudan is both incredibly complex and diverse. The needs in Darfur, for example, are completely different to the South or the East,” said Manuel Aranda da Silva, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Development and Humanitarian Coordinator. “Nothing can compare to seeing the constraints, challenges and opportunities on the ground. Donors will be able to return to their headquarters fully apprised of the multiple challenges Sudan faces throughout the country.”

Donors were struck by the extreme differences between regions: for example, in Darfur, where the massive humanitarian effort has achieved nearly all it can in the absence of a political solution, in contrast to areas in Southern Sudan, which are desperately in need of attention. They also noted the high expectations of millions of IDPs and refugees following the signing of the peace agreement.

Donors had the opportunities to meet with Walis and other local authorities in each of the locations, as well as national and international NGOs and United Nations agencies. Donors were able to gain an understanding of the needs of the population and priorities set out by authorities and humanitarian partners as well as view first-hand the logistical challenges that both the Sudanese officials and humanitarian agencies are facing.

Some main findings:

- Although the humanitarian situation has stabilised in Darfur, it is precarious and protection violations are continuing at an unacceptable rate; the population in most Darfur camps is dangerously high;
- The lack of basic social services and endemic poverty in the East has led to severe poverty conditions, included alarming malnutrition rates, and increased support is needed;

- Immediate action and funding is needed to assist those who will return before the rainy season begins in May, as well as prepare the ground for anticipated larger-scale returns later in the year;
- Local authorities need to prioritise the many competing humanitarian needs and be transparent in how they will spend new revenues;
- Repair of roads and railways and demining are key to ensure the free movement of both people and goods;
- Continued threats to security and logistical constraints – such as road conditions, travel permissions – are hampering the assistance efforts.

Nearly three months into the year, donors have contributed US\$380 million out of nearly US\$1.5 billion in total funds requested through the 2005 United Nations Work Plan for the Sudan. These resources, however, have not been evenly balanced: more than 75% has been for food assistance, primarily in the Darfur region. The donor mission helped highlight these needs in areas of the country that have been received less attention and support, as well as the continued efforts needed to resolve the situation in Darfur.

UN Donor Mission – Key Facts

Locations visited included:

- Darfur: Nyala and El Geneina
- Eastern Sudan: Kassala and Port Sudan
- Southern Sudan: Bentiu, Juba, Malakal, Rumbek, Wau, Yambio and Yei
- Transitional Areas: Abyei, Damazine and Kadugli

Donor participants:

Australia, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States

UN Agencies:

FAO, IOM, OCHA, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP, WHO

On behalf of the UN Country Team, Joanna Van Gerpen will be available for further questions and information on the UN Donor Mission at the UNAMIS Weekly Press Briefing on Wednesday, 23 March at 12:30. All media are invited to attend.