

The Republic of Sudan



**The Joint Assessment on Darfur
Government & UN
on Humanitarian Situation**



Main Results of the Joint Assessment on Darfur – Government & UN

1. Completion of distribution of food for the affected people for two month period (March / April).
2. Food is available until the end of the year . Only new partners are required for food partial distribution.
3. The report confirms the continuity and stability of the health services (Availability of medicine, cadres and operation budget).
4. Only 4.7 % of the health facilities were supervised by the expelled organizations.
5. The affected health facilities (which were re operated) are 43 from total number of 908 in Darfur.
6. All water stations are operating.
7. Affected water stations are 38 & that represents 4.5% of the total no (840)
8. More than 90% of staff in water and health sectors are Sudanese.
9. All the humanitarian indicators are stable.
10. The government confirms and reiterates its commitment for the provision of the necessary funds until the end of the year.
11. The government confirms that it will make use and utilize the experiences of the national cadres who worked with the expelled organizations.
12. UN confirms its obligation to work jointly and in coordination with the government of Sudan.
13. The government undertakes and confirms its obligation to facilitate the flow of humanitarian aid to Darfur.

1. Foreword

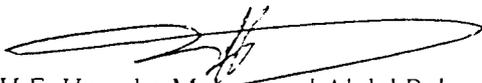
On 4 March 2009 the Government of Sudan announced its decision to dissolve three national and revoke the registration of thirteen international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from the country for national security, administrative, and legal reasons. Most of these organisations had been working in various parts of North Sudan, in particular in Darfur since the current crisis started there in 2003.

The Government of Sudan and the United Nations discussed the matter on several occasions in various *fora* and concluded that, together, they should conduct assessment missions to each of the three Darfur states. The joint Government – UN teams were tasked to:

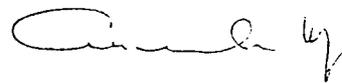
- gauge the humanitarian impact of the departure of the NGOs; and,
- assess the capacity to meet emergency needs in areas that the NGOs had to leave.

Teams comprising Government and UN officials – both at the management and technical levels – traveled throughout the three Darfur states from 11-18 March 2009. (See annexes with team members and the itineraries.) They focused on the above two points in the following sectors: food aid; health and nutrition; non-food items and shelter; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).

This report has been prepared by the teams and discussed at an all-day Government – UN workshop held at HAC on Saturday 21 March. The report comprises an executive summary outlining the overall findings and recommendations, sector-specific findings and recommendations, and a conclusion. Several annexes, including maps and detailed matrices, complete the report. On behalf of the Government of Sudan and the United Nations we hereby endorse the findings and the recommendations herein:



H.E. Hassabo Mohammad Abdal Rahman
Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid Commission
HAC



Ameerah Haq
UN Humanitarian Coordinator

2. Executive Summary & Summary of Recommendations

The past weeks since 4 March have been striking and wearing for all concerned. This joint Government of Sudan – United Nations assessment of the situation created by the departure of NGOs in Darfur and of the capacity needed to redress them for up to two months in the sectors of food aid, health and nutrition, non-food items and shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene provided an opportunity to focus energies on the technical issues at hand. Work took place in an open and constructive atmosphere, where managers and technicians alike recognised the challenge and committed to finding solutions. The Government's line ministries and UN agencies are working together so that the pressing issues at hand can be addressed before they become more urgent. The following paragraphs provide an overview of the key findings in the sectors of food aid, health and nutrition, non-food items and shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene in which the NGOs used to work:

Food

Four NGOs (ACF, CARE, Save the Children-US, and Solidarities) of the sixteen used to work in the sector. Some 600 technical and operational staff members were involved in the process. The NGOs had worked in partnership with WFP in designing the food aid programmes, managing warehouses and tertiary transporting, distributing food and monitoring and reporting on deliveries. The four NGOs served some 1.1 million people of whom 667,125, 356,000 and 120,000 in West, South and North Darfur respectively.

WFP is carrying out an *ad hoc* and one-off distribution for March and April, thanks to the engagement of local food committees. The method employed cannot be repeated. By the beginning of May, as the hunger gap approaches, the World Food Programme requires new and experienced partners to carry out food distributions for over one million people in need in Darfur.

Health & Nutrition

Six NGOs (ACF, CARE, IRC, MSF-France, SC-US, and Sudo) of forty-one working in health and nutrition no longer do so. 43 health facilities, of a total of 908, i.e. 4.7%, were run by the expelled NGOs. The services provided by these organizations covered over 840,000 people, including in areas where meningitis threatens. Some 650,000 people currently do not have full access to the necessary range of health services.

Moreover ACF, CARE, and Save the Children-US also managed nutritional surveillance and supplementary feeding programmes covering children and pregnant and lactating mothers with supplementary food supplied by WFP in 35 of 125 centres. Distribution of supplies to the beneficiaries and supervision and surveillance has been interrupted.

The Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization are addressing the gaps and supplies, salaries, and staff are in place until end of April. The Government has committed to provide salaries, staff, and supplies until the end of the year in order to avoid a public health crisis.

Non-food items & shelter

Eleven NGOs (ACF, CARE, CHF, IRC, Mercy Corps, MSF-France, MSF-Holland, Oxfam, Solidarites, SC-US, and Sudo) used to work in the non-food item and shelter sector. This is need-

driven and seasonal work. 692,400 people who would normally have received shelter materials before the rainy season begins will not do so unless UNJLC finds partners and they have access to previous distribution lists. Today Government officials and colleagues from the UN partners in the non-governmental sector are working to cover gaps.

Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH)

Eight NGOs (ACF, CARE, CHF, IRC, Mercy Corps, OXFAM, Solidarites, and SUDO) used to work in the WASH sector in 38 locations covering between 20% to 100% of all WASH needs in the locations where they worked. The impact of the departure of these NGOs is highest in locations where these NGOs were the only WASH provider, particularly in sanitation and hygiene, as most of these NGOs were responsible for all services in this area of programming.

The areas that need attention include technical expertise in the areas of maintenance of power pumps, sanitation, hygiene, solid waste management, water quality and ground water monitoring; management and administrative capacity; provision of WASH supplies and financial support; and coordination and reporting. As of 19 March no organization had addressed sanitation – in particular de-sludging of latrines and waste disposal. Until now there is no evidence of increased morbidity or mortality but both can increase and might go to 2006 levels if immediate action is not taken and continuous support is not provided to all camps.

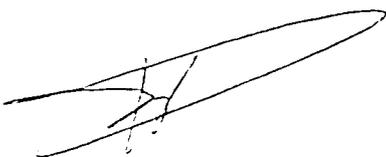
Currently, most of water systems are running with the support from the Government, UNICEF and NGOs. Although the mission did not encounter an immediate emergency, major water shortages could develop within two to four weeks, as from 18 March, if fuel, incentives, and spare parts are not continuously provided. The Government hereby commits itself to support the water operation up to the end of the year.

Staffing Capacity

Of 3,142 technical staff members employed by the ten NGOs in Darfur, 2,941 are Sudanese nationals and 201 are expatriates. Those who were staff of the government, for example the Ministry of Health, continue to work especially in critical places. The knowledge, capacities, and experience are being put to good use for example by participating in the emergency provision of services such as the running of water pumps. Further, many of these staff have expertise in technical assessments, planning, programme design and implementation, monitoring and evaluation. In terms of management, oversight, and organizational capacity there is a significant gap which will take time to replace, whether by Sudanese or international staff. The managerial potential of Sudanese staff should be enhanced and the United Nations pledges to work closely with the Sudanese authorities on this matter.

Assets

Assets being used by NGO and UN agencies are in the custody of the Government, reportedly for safe-keeping so that they can be used by entities taking on the work of the NGOs that had to leave Darfur. The Government reiterates its commitment to make sure that property and commodities of organizations working in Sudan are secure and under the control of the rightful owners. In particular, tools used to store information should be returned to either the government line ministry or the UN cluster lead in a particular sector so that the information can be made available to organizations working to cover the programme gaps.



Finances

The Ministry of Finance and key budgetary committees are requested to engage as soon as possible so that the line ministries and departments – such as for the Public Water Corporation – receive the money required to run life-saving services.

Access

Access to civilians in need is a key issue in any relief setting. In the course of the mission the teams gained access to all areas that they wished to visit. It is important that this type of situation prevails so that programmes can be implemented. The Government hereby commits to facilitate access so that emergency needs can be covered. It is essential that all actors and parties ensure access to civilians for relief activities such as epidemic control and vaccination campaigns.

Administration

The administrative procedures in place are clear and have been agreed to by both the Government, United Nations, donors, and INGOs – via the High-Level Committee and the Tri-Partite Joint Technical Committees in Khartoum and in the three Darfur states in order to ensure that rules and regulations are applied consistently and within the specified times. The Government hereby commits immediately to facilitate the work of all NGOs, including fast-tracking all administrative steps (including technical agreements, stay visas, and travel permits) in order to facilitate humanitarian action.

Monitoring

Regular support to and monitoring of new capacities in the field is required to make sure that they are appropriate and sustainable. Institutions wishing to take on activities need to address their full scope, including assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting, and evaluation. Appropriate monitoring systems need to be in place at the local, state, and federal levels, in order to ensure that civilians in need receive services and relief in time.

Next steps

The Government of Sudan and the United Nations will continue to work together, including with new potential partners. In the coming weeks, the actions of line ministries, UN agencies, and NGOs will need to be fast, focused, and concerted so that civilians in need can continue to receive life-saving food, health care, shelter, and water and sanitation. The availability of financial resources and management, within a facilitative operating environment, is crucial so that action plans can be implemented on time.

