

Darfur

Main objectives

- Create a protective environment in camps, host communities and settlements conducive to return and prevent further displacement.
- Prevent forced returns of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees and promote the principle of voluntary return in safety and dignity.
- Facilitate the return of IDPs and refugees if the security situation improves.
- Support the reintegration of voluntary returnees.
- Provide technical expertise to the Government of Sudan and other UN agencies.
- Facilitate the voluntary repatriation of the 5,000 Chadian refugees in Darfur.

Planning figures		
Population	Jan 2006	Dec 2006
West Darfur (IDPs)	657,000	459,900
West Darfur (returnee IDPs)	10,000	216,100
Sudan (returnees)	10,000	40,000
Chad (refugees)	5,000	0
Total	682,000	716,000

Financial requirements for this supplementary programme are being finalized

Working environment

Recent developments

At the time of writing, there are approximately 1.8 million IDPs in Darfur, of whom 657,000 are of concern to UNHCR in West Darfur. Despite the ceasefire agreements, the two protocols signed in Abuja in November 2004 and the increased

deployment of African Union (AU) troops, the security situation in Darfur remains volatile.

UNHCR started its operation in West Darfur in June 2004. In October, the UN Secretary-General approved UNHCR's proposal to *"take responsibility for the protection and voluntary return of IDPs to their villages of origin in West Darfur in partnership with other agencies..."* On 31 January 2005, UNHCR and the Government of Sudan signed a Letter of Understanding (LoU) governing the voluntary return of displaced people to and within West Darfur, further formalizing UNHCR's role.

During 2004 and 2005 conditions in Darfur were not conducive to large-scale return of IDPs or refugees from Chad. However, UNHCR, through its monitoring, identified some 20,000 persons who returned spontaneously to their villages of origin: half of them returned from the Chadian border area and the others from displacement elsewhere, mainly within West Darfur.

Though delayed by limited funding in 2005, UNHCR will complete the expansion of its presence in West Darfur from its main office in El Geneina to seven field offices in 2006. This will allow for outreach to remote areas of displacement and return.

The UN in Sudan is anticipating the conclusion of a viable peace agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan Liberation Army and the Justice and Equality Movement by early 2006. If implemented successfully, this could improve security and confidence sufficiently to motivate 30 per cent of all IDPs and 40,000 Sudanese refugees from Chad to return to their villages of origin before the onset of the rainy season. Based on this scenario, West Darfur would need to reintegrate almost 28,000 Sudanese refugees and over 206,000 IDPs.

Constraints

The main obstacle to IDPs and Sudanese refugees contemplating return to their villages is the lack of security and confidence. Armed clashes continue, as well as banditry and attacks on civilians, including IDPs, and humanitarian convoys, leading to severe restrictions on movement. Long distances and difficult road conditions constrain programme delivery, particularly during the rainy season. UNHCR could unfortunately be prevented from meeting many of its objectives by several possible obstacles, not least a failure to conclude or implement a viable peace agreement.

Attention will be paid to the protection of children and the elderly. The number of youth centres within IDP camps will be increased for children and young people to have a place where they can share their protection concerns.

UNHCR will expand its monitoring of return movements. Returnees will be interviewed at the point of departure to ensure the voluntary nature of return and verification will take place at the point of return. UNHCR will continue to implement the LoU in consultation with the Government of Sudan and community leaders and the Return Working Groups which UNHCR chairs in El Geneina and at relevant field locations in West Darfur.

Strategy

Protection and solutions

In 2006, UNHCR will continue to coordinate its protection activities through a collaborative approach with different actors, primarily in West Darfur. UNHCR will chair the Protection Working Groups in El Geneina, Kulbus, Mukjar and Habilla, and in the other UNHCR offices when these become operational (Masteri, Foro Baranga and Beida). UNHCR will also support protection initiatives in places where it does not maintain a permanent presence.

After researching the issues of land occupation, the re-establishment of pastoral migration routes, land tenure and fair compensation for lost property, UNHCR will seek to prevent further displacement and create an environment conducive to voluntary return. If conditions are conducive to return, UNHCR will organize the voluntary repatriation of an estimated 3,000-5,000 Chadian refugees from West Darfur.

Assistance

UNHCR's planning for return and reintegration of Sudanese returnees and IDPs will continue to be reviewed with relevant partners as the situation is constantly evolving. Arrangements will be put in place with the Governments of Sudan and Chad to facilitate the spontaneous and organized repatriation of Sudanese refugees from Chad. This will include some transportation and assistance with border-crossing, especially for groups of IDPs with specific needs.

UNHCR will continue to work in collaboration with the Government of Sudan, UN agencies and NGOs and further develop the role of camp coordinator in West Darfur (having taken on this role in 2005). A particular focus will be the protection of women, especially the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). UNHCR will, therefore, provide safe spaces where women can share their concerns. In addition to the 30 women's centres already functioning in various IDP settlements and villages, additional centres will be established. UNHCR and its partners will disseminate information on the advantages of fuel-efficient stoves. SGBV workshops will be organized to build capacity among agencies and community volunteers. UNHCR will continue to co-chair the SGBV Working Group in El Geneina with UNFPA.

UNHCR will continue to implement community-based reintegration projects to support the reintegration of Sudanese returnees and IDPs who have voluntarily returned to their villages of origin in West Darfur. These projects will concentrate on water, sanitation, health and education. UNHCR will provide shelter materials in coordination with other agencies and non-food items such as mosquito nets, blankets, kitchen sets, sanitary materials, soap, and jerry cans. UNHCR will cooperate with other agencies to ensure that food and nutrition needs are being catered for and that



Internally displaced men and women from Douma camp escorted by soldiers from the African Union (AU) and the Government of Sudan to collect firewood. It is not uncommon for women to be attacked and sometimes raped when searching for firewood outside the camp. Since the AU initiative began, such violence has decreased sharply.

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sustainable livelihoods are being supported through the provision of seeds, tools and livestock.

Desired impact

A secure environment in areas of displacement and return will be created and consolidated. Basic protection and assistance needs of the population of concern will be met. Voluntary return and reintegration will become sustainable and secondary displacement will be prevented. Stable economic and social activities will re-commence.

Organization and implementation

Management structure

The operation in Darfur will be managed by the office in El Geneina and coordinated by the Representation in Khartoum and the Director of Operations for the Sudan Situation. Field offices in Zalingei, Kulbus, Mukjar, Habillah, Foro Baranga, Masteri and Beida (West Darfur) and Nyala (South Darfur) will be overseen by the office in El Geneina. The programme in Darfur will be supported by 160 staff members, 43 international and 117 national.

Coordination

UNHCR will continue to work in close cooperation with the Government of Sudan, the AU, UN agencies, the ICRC and local and international NGOs present in the region.

Under the collaborative approach, UNHCR will provide its protection expertise to the Government of Sudan and other humanitarian agencies. UNHCR will coordinate protection through chairing the Protection Working Groups in West Darfur and co-chairing the Khartoum Protection Steering Group.

UNHCR will cooperate with the Human Rights Unit of United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) to deliver protection and monitoring; with OCHA on camp coordination; and with UNFPA and UNICEF for the protection of groups with special needs.

Through the Return Working Groups in El Geneina and relevant field locations, UNHCR will strengthen its coordination role regarding return and reintegration to and within West Darfur. The Office will coordinate with IOM and OCHA, who have assumed similar roles in the other two states of Darfur. UNHCR will cooperate with UNMIS (Human Rights/Civil Affairs Units) and FAO on land occupation, migration routes and property rights and with the United Nations Joint Logistics Cell (UNJLC) in the transportation of non-food items. Additionally, UNHCR will work with other UN agencies, including OCHA, FAO, WFP, UNICEF

and WHO as well as the ICRC to mobilize adequate material support to reintegration in rural areas.

For the provision of security to IDPs, returnees and humanitarian workers, UNHCR will maintain close contact with the AU.

UNHCR in El Geneina, West Darfur, will remain in close contact with UNHCR in Chad and regularly exchange information on the 220,000 Sudanese refugees who have fled Darfur.

Offices
Khartoum
El Geneina
Zalingei
Kulbus
Mukjar
Habillah
Foro Baranga
Masteri
Beida
Nyala

Partners
Government agencies
Commissioner for Refugees
Humanitarian Aid Commission
NGOs
Amel Center for Treatment and Rehabilitation
Danish Refugee Council
International Rescue Committee
INTERSOS
Save the Children (Spain and USA)
<i>Triangle génération humaine</i>
Others
AU
FAO
ICRC
IOM
OCHA
UNFPA
UNICEF
UNJLC
UNMIS
UNV
WFP
WHO

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