Sudan/Chad Situation Update
Highlights

SOUTH SUDAN

UNHCR’s Role in the South
Following consultations between the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) and UNHCR on the issue of assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in South Sudan, UNHCR was requested to “play a key role in assisting return and reintegration of IDPs in areas of substantial refugee return”. In his 1 May letter, the DSRSG (who is also the Humanitarian Co-ordinator) asked UNHCR, under the co-ordination of the Returns and Reintegration Section of United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), to play such a role in assisting returning IDPs in Equatoria and Blue Nile State. Both returning refugees and IDPs would have the same levels of assistance; way-stations, transport for vulnerable individuals and the provision of packages at points of dispersal. The Return, Reintegration and Recovery Section under the supervision of DSRSG will be responsible for overseeing the development of standards. The letter also emphasized UNHCR’s role in developing a common protection framework as well as the provision of protection along return routes and in areas of resettlement.

Security
The security situation in Bahr El-Jabal/Lakes was unstable during the reporting period, mainly due to clashes over water, grazing areas and cattle rustling. There was clan fighting in Yirol and as a result, the ICRC withdrew from several locations. In Eastern Equatoria, Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) activity declined significantly. However, tensions remain in the affected area between Akobo and Nasir in Upper Nile. The general security situation in Juba town and the surrounding areas is peaceful and accessible to all agencies. The security situation on the Eastern part of the Nile, toward the Torit road, is tense and the area is not accessible.

The Security situation continues to be stable in Kajo Keji, Yei and Yambio. No security incidents were reported during the past week. The previously reported incidence of armed people looting goods from trucks on trunk roads has been investigated and the authorities in Yei have apprehended suspects. Steps are being taken to prevent such incidents, by redeploying security forces from stations to patrol the roads between Yei-Kaya and Yei-Tore. Fears of LRA attacks in Uganda continue to be a factor contributing to an increased number of refugees returning to Kajo Keji. The Deputy Governor for Equatorial Region paid a courtesy visit to UNHCR staff at Kajo Keji. He was accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner of Kajo Keji and the SRRC Regional Field Monitor. The Deputy Governor shared with the staff security concerns regarding LRA activities in Magwi county bordering Uganda, where he recently undertook an official mission.

Monitoring of Population Movement
The training workshop organised by SRRC and OCHA for 30 Sustainable Return Team (SRT) enumerators for Equatoria took place in Yei. UNHCR staff joined the workshop, both as facilitators and participants. However, UNHCR is concerned over the plan which was drawn without taking
into account an already existing monitoring structure (110 enumerators in 7 counties) and without due consideration of the monitoring mechanism (entry point system or areas of responsibility). Another concern is the accuracy/credibility of information. Enumerators were selected by SRRC and will report to this office.

UNHCR Juba, together with other UN agencies, the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) the Commissioner of Bahr el Jabl State and NGOs in Juba that make up Return and Reintegration Working Group conducted a one-day assessment mission to mile 39 on the Juba-Yei road (the last station occupied by Sudan Armed Forces). The purpose of the mission was to assess monitoring posts to be established for tracking population movements amidst reports that the Yei-Juba road is open and receiving sizeable population movements. According to the local authorities, the Yei River Provincial Commissioner and Rejaf locality would be moving to establish administrative centres in the area. Other monitoring points are Kudele on the Juba-Rokon road covering movements from Western Equatoria and Yei areas and Rejaf West covering movements from Kajo Keji.

**Population Movements around Juba**
In Juba, the pattern of population movements remained the same with merchants increasing their daily movements from Yei and Western Equatoria into Juba, bringing in various commercial items such as beer, second hand clothes, coffee, honey and cassava flour. The number of student returnees continued to increasing on a weekly basis. At the time of reporting, the HAC has registered a total of 686 students at primary and secondary levels (ex-refugees and returning IDPs from SPLM areas) starting in December 2004. According to the authorities, population movements are expected to drop as most people would soon be busy with agricultural activities.

**Ethiopian Refugees in Pibor**
The food situation of Ethiopian refugees in Pibor is becoming desperate. In March, WFP Malakal organized a food distribution to both refugees and the local population. In April, additional food was provided to the refugees only. At the moment, a regular food distribution plan is yet to be established. According to Jonglei State, during the reporting period, 22 new Ethiopian Annuak refugees arrived in Pochalla.

**Ethiopian Refugees in Juba**
There were no new arrivals in Juba of Ethiopian refugees from Pibor during the reporting period. The refugees are settled at Lologo at the outskirts of Juba and there are no complaints from the community around the site. WFP is providing the refugees with a monthly food ration. During the reporting period preparations were made to arrange mine awareness training for the population before they start cultivating land allocated to them by the local authorities. The training will be conducted by the Sudan Landmine Information and Response Initiative. Arrangements have also been made with other NGOs, including ADRA and ACF, for medical treatment. With regards to the enrolment at schools by refugee students, a letter has been sent by UNHCR Juba to the HAC, Bahr El Jebel State Commissioner for him to forward an official letter to the Council of Ministers requesting approval to admit refugees into the education system in Juba.
SPLM Rally in Yei
A rally called by the SPLM leadership took place on 29 April in Yei town's Freedom Square to brief the population on the SPLM's recent trip to Khartoum and Juba, where discussions took place on forming a joint government. The population was also informed on the outcome of the South-South dialogue meeting held in Nairobi during which participants discussed reconciliation efforts in the South.

Human Rights Training in Yei
UNHCR in Yei conducted the first training session on human rights to all police cadets on 2 and 3 May. The knowledge will not only enhance the capacity of the trainee, but also help UNHCR operations throughout the Equatoria region. UNHCR will provide 220 blankets to the cadets.

Community Based Reintegration Projects (CBRPs)
Numerous CBRPs are being implemented in the water, education and livelihood sectors. New project discussions include “Co-existence and Conflict Management” in Yei, Morobu, Lainya and Kajo-Keji. This is being done together with the Transcultural Psycho-Social Organisation.

UNHCR Director of Operations for the Sudan Situation Tours South Sudan
UNHCR Director of Operations for the Sudan Situation, Jean-Marie Fakhouri, is currently touring South Sudan, visiting Rumbek, Yei, Kajo Keji, Moyo, Arua and Entebbe. In Rumbek, the Director met with Mr. Ambrose Diing (Chief Justice), Mr. Ruben Madol (High Court Judge) Dr. Peter Kok (Legal Advisor to SPLM/A) and handed over various legal reference books for the Judiciary Resource Centre. UNHCR will provide additional legal documents and office equipment to be used by judicial entities. In Yei, the Director visited primary school construction sites, one of many CBRPs currently implemented and in Lutaya, he presented sports equipment donated by a private donor.

Security Situation in Refugee Areas of the DRC
Increased poaching of elephants and rare white rhinos in the northern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) by heavily armed Libyan/Chadian ivory traders is posing serious security problems in the region as well as a threat to Sudanese refugees living in the area. It is reported that some former refugees who know the region and speak Arabic are hired as guides and interpreters. Local authorities also alleged refugee involvement with poachers. A group of Congolese soldiers was sent to Kaka I and Kaka II refugee settlements to investigate and as a result, some refugees fled into the forest. The Head of UNHCR Aru Office met with the authorities in Dungu and stressed the Government’s responsibility in ensuring the security to refugees on its territory, while recognizing fully the responsibilities on refugee population to adhere to local laws. It has been reported that the Military High Command in Kisangani plans to deploy 2,000 troops in the area to bring the situation under control.

Repatriation Preparations in the DRC
A pre-registration exercise for all refugees in Aru, Aba, Dungu and Douma areas has started. UNHCR together, with Oxfam-Quebec, is conducting an information campaign for refugees and the authorities on plans for organized repatriation, which is expected to start in October, once the rainy
season is over. The authorities have been cooperative and the refugees are eager to return although some express fear about returning to Sudan.

The condition of roads connecting northern DRC and South Sudan is being improved. Construction of the bridge at Kaliga on the main repatriation axis (Aru – Ingbokolo – Yei road) is expected to be completed in mid-May. Rehabilitation of a transit centre in Aba is ongoing. UNHCR has re-assessed two roads that will be used for repatriation; Doruma-Gurba road leading to Yambio-Ezo (25 km) and the road from Dubngu to Yambio (125 km). Given the distance in the case of the latter, a transit centre will be established in Duru.

In anticipation of return, UNHCR is speeding up efforts to ensure that all refugees have valid legal documents (birth / marriage / death certificates). UNHCR is covering the costs incurred for these documents except for dowry as requested by some refugees who have married Congolese women. UNHCR and its partner agency Oxfam-Quebec are identifying vulnerable refugees to ascertain special needs prior to voluntary repatriation. Oxfam-Quebec is reinforcing an HIV/AIDS campaign among the refugee population.

**Update on the funding situation for South Sudan as of 5 May**
Requirements: US$ 60,187,711
2005 Contributions: US$ 11,063,409

**EAST SUDAN**

**Security**
The ambush that killed two employees of Sudanese Red Crescent (SRC) on 1 May shocked the humanitarian community and demonstrated the instability that exists in Eastern Sudan. A SRC ambulance, travelling from Wad El Hilieau refugee camp towards Abuda refugee camp in Kassala State, was ambushed by six gunmen in civilian clothes. At a location some 5 km from the Wad El Hilieau camp, the ambulance was stopped where the men killed the SRC staff - a driver and a nurse. A medical assistant was injured in the attack. A fourth person is unaccounted for. The ambulance was clearly marked with the SRC logo.

Immediately after the incident, a joint army/police ground patrol and one helicopter were sent to the area. The patrol found the ambulance which the perpetrators abandoned due to a flat tyre and lack of fuel.

The SRC is UNHCR’s one of implementing partners that has been providing assistance to the refugee population in Eastern Sudan for many years. The SRC works in Abuda, Um Ali, Wad El Hilieau refugee camps providing health assistance, income-generation activities and vocational training to Eritrean refugees. The ambulance that was attacked was made available by UNHCR to the SRC for its activities in the area.
New Arrivals from Eritrea
A total of 410 newly arrived refugees from Eritrea were interviewed in April. Once accepted following refugee status determination (RSD), the refugees are accommodated at Kilo 26 camp. Among them are unaccompanied minors whose number is slightly on the increase. UNHCR visits the minors in the camp regularly and informs UNHCR Eritrea when they wish to establish contact with their families in Eritrea. UNHCR recently provided them with sports material.

WFP Gender Training
WFP in Kassala organised a two-day gender training session on 25/26 April. Refugee camp committee leaders (women and men) from all camps, the Commissioner for Refugees (COR), WFP and UNHCR staff participated. WFP elaborated on gender issues relating to food distribution and UNHCR facilitated a session of the workshop on SGBV. The discussion was lively, with high participant interaction due to ongoing efforts by agencies to tackle gender and SGBV issues.

Update on the funding situation for East Sudan as of 5 May
Requirements: US$ 12,165,779
2005 Contributions: US$ 5,028,212

DARFUR

Security
Heavy fighting is reported to have taken place between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) on 28 April in an area South of Nertiti (Jebel Marra, West Darfur). As a result, 2,500 persons have reportedly fled to Kass (South Darfur). Further attacks on 23 and 24 April in Baringo and Buri villages North of Nertiti, and Kundi and Mara villages east of Nertiti, reportedly caused the movement of 30 families to Nertiti. The presence of Arab militias in Kalma camp continues to cause serious security concerns. A 17-year old boy was shot during an incident in the camp.

The road to Masteri and Kongo Haraza is closed. There were several incidents on this road between 23-25 April, involving armed attacks on the police. Four attackers have been arrested and are being held in Masteri. Similar attacks also took place on the road from Masteri to Kongo Haraza. A group of 30 to 50 armed men were reported as stopping and looting vehicles on the road. On 24 April a woman was shot during an attack.

Return of IDPs from South to West Darfur
Despite receiving assurances from the HAC that no further returns from Kalma camp in South Darfur to the area of Garsila in West Darfur would take place without proper notification provided to UNHCR, IOM and OCHA, 233 persons were moved to Garsila on 29 April. Both UNHCR and OCHA were present upon the arrival of the group and conducted interviews to determine the nature of the returns. While no force or coercion was noted, grave concerns over the nature of such movements persist.
Following a movement on 18 April from Kalma camp to West Darfur, which took place without any reference to the mechanism for joint cooperation on voluntary return agreed to by the Government with IOM for South Darfur or UNHCR for West Darfur, UNHCR, IOM and OCHA presented a unified message calling for returns to follow the agreed upon mechanisms. There was a difference in opinion between HAC Nyala and El Geneina on the matter. The following has subsequently been agreed upon: (1) all movements facilitated by the Sudanese Government from Nyala to West Darfur are to be suspended with immediate effect, 2) HAC/Committee on Voluntary Return (CVR) will share with IOM, UNHCR, and OCHA the lists of families registered for return to West Darfur, and 3) IOM will proceed with the verification of voluntariness in Nyala while UNHCR will verify the appropriateness of returns.

Despite the above measures, on 29 April a group of 78 families/233 individuals, transported in four trucks, arrived in Garsila without prior notification to UNHCR, IOM, nor OCHA. The group was accompanied by the Head of HAC-West Darfur and by a number of other Government officials from South Darfur, including staff of the CVR in Nyala. UNHCR and OCHA were present at their arrival. The arrival of the returnees prior to verification was in direct contradiction to the terms and conditions agreed upon.

The returnees originated from different parts of the Wadi Saleh locality, the majority from Garsila and surrounding villages, but also five families from Um Kher and 19 families from Delege. Upon arrival, the families were accommodated in the same school premises where the first group of returnees (of 18 April) had stayed the week before. A distribution included food (sorghum, oil, sugar and salt), NFIs (cooking pots, mats, plastic sheeting and blankets) and money (5,000 Dinars per single individual and 10,000 per family having two members or more).

No reports of force or coercion were received during interviews conducted by UNHCR. Contrary to the reaction of the returnees of 18 April, this group indicated that they would stay in the area after receiving their distributions. There was, however, some indication that their original displacement to Nyala may not have been directly related to the conflict, but rather had happened some years ago for economic reasons. There remain questions regarding the origin of this group, whether they were staying in Kalma camp or in the El Salaam area of Nyala town.

UNHCR, IOM and OCHA reiterated their concern over the return of people outside the agreed upon frameworks for verification. Coordination amongst all actors to ensure the sustainability of bona fide returns was emphasized and agreed upon by all parties. HAC and the CVR gave assurances that future returns would be conducted in a more open and transparent manner.

**Population Movements from Chad**

During the past two weeks, 150 persons, mainly women and children, have returned from the border area of Chad to Gantura, a village 20 km North of Kulbus (West Darfur). A UNHCR team is on the ground assessing their situation with a view to organize assistance and community-based reintegration projects (CBRPs) in the area.
There have been large movements of Chadian Zagawa in the area north of Saleah to Jebel Moon and Arasha. They are cattle herders and their families and reportedly plan to settle in the area until the autumn. UN Security reports that there is an agreement between the Chadian and Sudanese Governments to allow the Chadians to remain in the area.

**Assistance at the Place of Return – Goz Diga and Gantura**

A UNHCR team is in Goz Diga and Gantura to begin the prioritization of activities to meet urgent needs identified for this area. Goz Diga has seen a steady rise in the population, as returnees from surrounding villages are choosing to settle permanently in the village, making it the major population centre in the area. UNHCR is working with CRS to address the most immediate concerns.

Gantura is one of the ten villages identified for reintegration projects, and is being promoted for returns by the Kulbus Commissioner. Tribal reconciliation efforts are underway. A UNHCR team has identified a group of approximately 150 persons, mainly women and children who have returned from the border area with Chad in the past two weeks. The returnees have put up makeshift shelters using blankets and other personal belongings. They have received no assistance to date and the water situation in the area is critical. The NGO Concern is currently addressing water sector needs and may manage the nutrition sector in the longer term. However, given the current critical situation, UNHCR has asked CRS to assist in the immediate period. UNHCR will request WFP, whose recent registration in the area did not capture this particular group, to distribute food. UNHCR has contacted HelpAge to put together non-food items kits for the elderly which will be distributed during UNHCR’s scheduled mission to the area on 7–8 May.

**Compensation Committee**

UNHCR met with sheikhs at Dorti camp (El Geneina, West Darfur) to discuss the Government’s Compensation Committee and ascertain the sheiks’ thoughts on participating in the process. The sheikhs expressed concerns similar to those previously conveyed by sheikhs in Ardamata camp (El Geneina). However, the former did not appear as adamantly opposed to participating in the process as long as certain conditions were met. The sheikhs had heard about the activities of the Compensation Committee through the umdas (nomadic base settlements) two months ago, and stated this was one of the reasons why they were wary of the process.

As there is a certain level of mistrust between the sheikhs and the umdas; the sheikhs feel that if the Compensation Committee is a Government initiative that is monitored by UNHCR, they should be officially informed of the Committee’s procedures, possibly jointly with UNHCR, and not by the umdas. There appears to be a belief that claims processed through the umdas will require the payment of fees to the umdas. The impression is not without foundation as the Head of the El Geneina branch of the Compensation Committee has informed UNHCR that the Committee relies on the umdas to transmit compensation application forms to the various communities and to assist the claimants in the process. The sheikhs stated that unless the process is monitored by the UNHCR or the UN, they do not believe the process will be fair.
UNHCR received information that the Compensation Committee has appointed additional members and this week the Head of the Central Committee from Khartoum is in El Geneina. A meeting has been scheduled between UNHCR and the Khartoum Committee Representative as well as the Head of the West Darfur Commission Committee to discuss effective compensation.

**Update on the funding situation for Darfur as of 5 May**
Requirements: US$ 31,341,044
2005 Contributions: US$ 3,101,376

**CHAD**

**Security**
Increased military presence in Eastern Chad continues to be a factor of relative insecurity. During the reporting period, in Abeche, there were a few incidents involving arms leading to one death. A local staff member of the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) was shot dead at a bar during what appears to have been a fight between two soldiers. Furthermore, one shot was fired within proximity of a UNHCR vehicle in an incident involving a soldier resisting arrest. Additionally, shots were fired within proximity of the UNHCR office in what appears to have been the celebration of a wedding. Staff of humanitarian organizations in the region have been recommended to exercise caution and not go to bars and restaurants in town with the exception of two such places which are considered safe.

Tensions in the Oure Cassoni camp decreased during the reporting period following an intervention by authorities vis-à-vis the four individuals who were agitating the camp's population against UNHCR and its partners. The four men were briefly placed under arrest in conditions that UNHCR was able to verify the detention conditions to be satisfactory. The authorities used these arrests as a warning to refugees bent on impeding the work of humanitarian organizations in the area.

**Camp Registration**
In view of increasing difficulties encountered in the Touloum and Iridimi camps with regards to registration, distribution and disputes pertaining thereto, it was decided that registration would be redone in both camps. In order to reduce recycling, the registration will be done simultaneously in both camps while food distribution will be done in the nearby Am Nabak transit camp. Furthermore, phases one and two of the registration exercise will be undertaken within five days. The decision to proceed in this manner was taken by all organizations active in the camp and was met by all with a high degree of satisfaction.

Phase two of the registration exercise was successfully finalized in the Djabal camp during the reporting period. At the close of this exercise, the overall population of the Djabal camp has fallen from 17,414 to 13,296.

**New Gaga camp site**
Efforts by UNHCR Adré are ongoing in order to sensitize the populations of the Farchana and Bredjing camps to their future transfer to the new Gaga camp site. Despite the request that the 109
refugees currently present at the border near Guéréda, gather on 26 April in order to be transferred to the Kounoungo camp, these people have remained scattered until this time. However, three families (9 individuals) having newly arrived from Sudan were present and requested a transfer to the camps. These people were thus pre-registered and brought to the Kounoungo camp. Discussion with these nine individuals and the Chadian security personnel manning the Koulbous border crossing indicate that fighting has resumed in the Djabal Moon (West Darfur) and that a new influx of refugees into Chad is a distinct possibility.

A recount of refugees at the border near Adré was completed during the reporting period and it appears that there are some 750 refugees there rather than the 1,500 previously reported. These 750 people will be the first group of refugees to be transferred to the new camp.

At Gaga, the installation of tents has been finalised for an initial 765 persons. These are sufficient to cater for the above mentioned group who would be transferred from the border area. The installation of additional tents is ongoing.

**Malnutrition**

The situation concerning malnutrition in the camps in the region remains an area of priority concern for UNHCR and partners. As such, malnutrition levels are closely monitored and staff have noted a slight increase of such in the Djabal camp. Potential causes of this increase, which include close monitoring itself, are being investigated by UNHCR technical staff.

**Update on the funding situation for Chad as of 5 May**

Requirements: US$ 81,225,813

2005 Contributions: US$ 31,162,332