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SUDAN/CHAD SITUATION UPDATE 31

22 September 2005

IDP boy in Seliah camp, West Darfur. UNHCR/H. Caux
Security
The security situation in Yei and the surrounding areas remained tense and volatile following the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) migration from its traditional area in Eastern Equatoria. UN Operation Lifeline Sudan (UNOLS) raised the security levels of Yei, Kajo Keji, Labone and Nimule to level 3. The following roads were declared level 4 (i.e. “no go”): Yei-Juba, Yei-Maridi, Yei-Aba, Morobo-Kajo Keji, Kajo Keji-Moyo, Nimule-Juba, Loa-Parajok-Labone, Ikotos-Kitgum and Nimule-Adjumani. Following these security measures, programmes have temporarily been suspended in areas out of the locality. Reports continue to be received of LRA crossing Yei river on their way to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

New National Unity Cabinet
Sudan's new National Unity Cabinet was sworn in on 22 September, a key step under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that was delayed by two weeks of negotiations between the ruling party and the SPLM/A. The Government aims to incorporate Sudanese from the south and include them in power. The move is part of a broad attempt under the peace agreement to give the south a share in the nation's resources, particularly oil.

Appointment of southern Governors
The First Vice-President and President of South Sudan Salva Kiir Mayadit issued a presidential decree nominating governors for the 10 southern Sudan states, in accordance with the implementation of the protocol on the sharing of power of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Kiir also appointed the widow of his predecessor John Garang de Mabior as an MP in the Parliament of South Sudan. Rebecca Garang was among 161 MPs appointed in line with the peace agreement.

Deployment of government staff from Juba
The West Equatoria State government activities have intensified as more and more staff are being deployed from Juba to Yambio. Police is regularly seen in Yambio town. Work on the West Equatoria State office building has started and a number of other buildings are being renovated for the usage of different government departments.

A delegation of civil servants from Juba was in Kajo Keji since the beginning of last week. They said they had come to learn about the departmental set-up in the county and take up positions in the departments of Agriculture, Education, Commerce and Finance, Wildlife and Tourism. The Governor for Bahr el Jebel State was expected to join the delegation shortly. The delegation faced resistance from those who were heading those departments as they had no official letter and were not accompanied by an SPLM/A officer to introduce them. The Governor, who remained in Yei, has called the team to return to Yei.

SRRC Director in Malakal
In Malakal, the Secretary General/Acting Administrative Supervisor officially presented the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SRRC) Director to all UN agencies and NGOs. The main issues discussed at the meeting were assistance to people affected by heavy rains and SRRC permits which are to be obtained for trips to both former Government and SPLM/A controlled areas. The Secretary General requested the agencies to shift the focus from emergency to development.

Population movements
Malakal
All the newly arrived returning IDPs interviewed by UNHCR at Malakal port and Melut said that they decided to return home due to dismissal, eviction and the rumour that the southerners would be killed if they remained in Khartoum.
During a mission to Baliet (on Sobat corridor), Atar (on Tonga corridor) and Melut (on Renk corridor), the following return statistics were reported:

- Baliet: 1,444 persons from the north, 123 from Ethiopia, 64 from Kenya since January 2005 (source: Administrator)
- Atar1: 68 families/500 persons from the north (source: SRRC enumerator who was deployed three weeks ago)
- Melut: 200 families from the north since August 2005 (source: Fellowship for African Relief)

Despite several meetings on registration with the relevant entities, returnees are not being systematically registered in Malakal.

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**Yeí**

Three Congolese nationals from the Banyamulenge ethnic group arrived in Yeí on 15 September. They claimed to have escaped from Bukavu Province in the DRC where they were being persecuted by the Maimai ethnic group. They were on the run for several months finding safe havens mostly in churches but their distinct facial features gave them away and they alleged continued harassment from local groups. UNHCR Yeí has registered them and scheduled interviews. Emergency assistance has been provided to meet immediate needs. The three asylum seekers are also under the protection of the Yeí County SRRC office.

**Yambio**

During the reporting period, the SRT/SRRC reported that nine households comprising 48 individuals returned from the Central African Republic (CAR) to Yambio. Returnees are still reporting harassment and taxing by the authorities inside CAR during their journey back to south Sudan as well as looting of their belongings.

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1 There are two places called Atar – one in the former Government-controlled area on the Nile and one in the former SPLM-held area inland. The latter is a SPLM/A logistics base and has an airstrip, which receives SPLM/A-chartered flights from Loki (Kenya) on an irregular basis with some returnees from Kakuma (Kenya) on board. However, the number of these returnees is unknown.
**Congolese refugees in Juba**
The trials of the Congolese refugees, who were charged with looting and theft during the events that ensued following the death of John Garang, are ongoing. So far, six refugees have been acquitted without conditions and five found guilty and had to pay fines of 10,000 Sudanese dinars (42 US dollars) each. The trials of the remainder are expected to be concluded by the end of next week.

A delegation from the DRC is expected to arrive in Juba shortly to interview Congolese refugees in preparation for their repatriation. There are some 1,680 Congolese refugees who have expressed a strong desire to return to their country.

**Information-sharing with UNMIS military observers**
The Protection Working Group in Juba held a meeting with UNMIS (UN Mission in Sudan) military observers to discuss ways they could share information with humanitarian agencies. The military observers agreed to hold a weekly meeting with the group in which they will share relevant information from the areas they visit, particularly those areas where humanitarian agencies might not have access to.

**Upcoming IDP survey**
UNHCR will take the lead role in the upcoming IDP survey scheduled to take place during the second half of October. OCHA will participate in the survey and provide logistical support. SRT enumerators will be trained before the survey begins. Other partners in the survey will be determined during the weekly coordination meeting. UNHCR Yambio is consulting other agencies and NGOs to form teams to undertake the survey for two weeks in Tambura, Maridi and Mundri Counties during the month of October.

**Tracing of unaccompanied minors**
UNHCR Rumbek and Yei discussed tracing of unaccompanied minors with ICRC. With UNICEF and SCF-UK, it was agreed to organize a child protection and tracing workshop in mid-October to operationalize tracing of unaccompanied minors in return movements. UNICEF will take the lead in the organization of the workshop.

**Progress on Community-Based Reintegration Projects**

**Juba**
- Identification of more sites in potential return areas within Juba is ongoing. Meanwhile, the table below shows the status of wells drilled so far:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Identified wells</th>
<th>Successfully drilled wells</th>
<th>Unsuccessfully drilled wells</th>
<th>Wells in use</th>
<th>Total drilled wells</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nyakuron</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Munuki</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rokon road</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jebel Kujur</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juba Day Secondary School</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Yei**
- ACROSS continued their three-day trainings for parent-teacher associations in all UNHCR-funded schools. On 17 September, a training was completed at Ye Girls’ Secondary School in which neighbouring secondary schools were also invited. Topics included school management, the role of parent-teacher associations, maintenance of school buildings, monitoring attendance of teachers and pupils, sensitisation on girls’ education, teacher ethics and mobilisation of funds. ACROSS will also run a series of trainings for head teachers.
**Kajo Keji**
- Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) received UNHCR-funded scholastic materials for support to the primary school programme, including two milling machines intended to generate income for teachers, as well as sanitary materials and underwear for school girls.
- Thirty-four religious leaders from Kangapo II Payam received training on HIV/AIDS awareness.

**Yambio**
- Africa Development and Emergency Organisation (ADEO) had two meetings with the Yambio County Health Department to discuss training of health staff. In consultation with the hospital administration it has been agreed to have HIV/AIDS workshops for the staff in the hospital and a few from the health units within the county. This is in an effort to reduce stigma against people living with HIV/AIDS and improve universal precautions in the hospital.
- The road from Yambio town to the airstrip is being rehabilitated by the local authorities on the basis of the community participation concept. UNHCR has participated in the planning of the project in close collaboration with the Western Equatoria State administration and other agencies. UNHCR contributed one drum of diesel and some tools for the road rehabilitation works.

**Shelter boxes donated to UNHCR**
200 “shelter boxes” arrived in Yei and were stored in the UNHCR/GTZ warehouse for immediate deployment in case of needy returnee families. This is the first part of a consignment of 7,000 boxes donated to UNHCR by Shelterbox which is part of the International Rotary Club. One shelter box contains a 10-person tent, mosquito nets, sleeping bags, cooking equipment, two water carriers, tools and a child’s school set.

![A returnee community in receipt of the shelter box plus tent. UNHCR/T. Brown](image)

**Food security: bee keeping project**
Seventy farmers, out of whom 31 returnees and 39 host community members have been identified in Torit town and the nearby villages to be trained in an apiary (bee keeping) project. Out of this number, 50 will be selected and trained in modern bee hive management. These farmers will be assisted to produce honey in commercial quantities. UNHCR and its implementing partner will undertake a mission to Torit to conduct the selection and the training of the farmers.
Livelihoods programme
UNHCR and FAO are about to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding for the Land Management and Sustainable Livelihoods Programme. The programme has been structured in two phases, each lasting a period of six months. The first phase, the “assessment phase,” is planned to begin in October 2005. During this phase, projects will be designed according to problems and solutions identified by the community. The second phase, planned to begin in April 2006, will focus on implementation of these projects.

Update on funding situation for South Sudan as at 30 August
Requirements (includes countries of asylum): US$ 76,347,770
2005 Contributions: US$ 33,061,869
Security
The Abuda-Um Ali and Wad El Hileau areas are still classified as “no go.” This situation continues to limit UNHCR’s capacity to monitor and provide protection to refugees in Abuda camp. The Chief of Police for Kassala State confirmed that security escort is still required for UN personnel visiting the Abuda-Um Ali and Wad El Hileau areas.

SPLM/A forces stationed in Kassala continued to move to Khartoum in accordance with the requirements of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Refugee Status Determination
During the reporting period, 255 asylum-seekers were registered, of whom 249 were accepted. The current trend of acceptance rate stands at 98 percent. A total of 159 accepted cases have been transferred from Wad Sherifey to Kilo 26 where they are receiving protection and assistance. The remaining 90 are expected to be moved to Kilo 26 by the end of September. The pattern of arrivals remains the same: mostly young Eritrean nationals, draft evaders and deserters. UNHCR continues to carry out a 30-minute in-house training session for COR (Commissioner for Refugees) adjudicators.

Resettlement
On 14 September, four families departed to Canada for resettlement. UNHCR is arranging the departure of 11 families for resettlement interviews with Australian and Canadian immigration authorities scheduled for the end of September in Khartoum.

Camp relocation
On 14 September, one Ethiopian woman and her four children were relocated from Khartoum to Um Gargur camp. They were provided with shelter, hot meals and non-food items. Meanwhile, six Ethiopian families moved into newly constructed tukuls. These families had been relocated from Khartoum to Um Gargur camp and had been staying temporarily in a school compound.

Education
Windle Trust International (WTI), which has been implementing DAFI scholarships since this year, organized an initial visit to eastern Sudan to meet DAFI students and visit universities in Gedaref and Kassala to assess the situation. During the visit, WTI together with DAFI students organized a promotion campaign on DAFI scholarships and education in secondary schools in Gedaref and Kassala.

Health
Following confirmation of five polio cases in the Eastern States, a three-day polio campaign was conducted in all camps in Kassala and Gedaref States. A total of 9,165 children were vaccinated, representing 106 percent coverage. Children from surrounding villages were vaccinated as well.

In Wadi Sharifey, an insecticide spraying campaign to control malaria was carried out by Red Crescent volunteers supported by the Ministry of Health of Kassala State. Malaria is still a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in all camps in the Eastern States.

Reproductive health and HIV/AIDS
A training session on HIV/AIDS was arranged by one of the home visitors of Human Appeal International in Shagarab camp. She has participated in previous “youth peer education” and “training of trainers” workshops organized by UNHCR and Planned Parenthood Federation of America International. Nineteen health staff (15 women and four men) participated in the training session in Shagarab. The participants’ knowledge of
HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention was fairly good, but knowledge of services and organizations assisting people living with HIV/AIDS in the area was lacking.

Global Health Foundation (GHF) reported that a workshop on HIV/AIDS was conducted in Fau 5 camp following the HIV/AIDS training organized by UNHCR in Es Showak at the end of August. The 36 participants of the workshop included female and male community elders, youths and GHF health staff. Topics included HIV/AIDS as it related to refugees as well as UNHCR policies on HIV/AIDS.

**Skill development workshop**
Ockenden International (OI) and UNHCR organized a one-day workshop on 15 September in Kassala to enhance collaboration with local partners in skill development training, income generating activities and micro-credit. Over 30 people from different organizations participated in the workshop, including COR, Ministry of Agriculture, Kassala Vocational Training Centre, Kassala Technical School, Qatar Women’s Development Centre, Plan Sudan, SRC, NTDG, ACORD, FAO and WFP. The discussion focused on how to improve skill development programmes in the refugee camp context.

**Youth activities**
UNHCR keeps in close contact with the youth committees in Um Gargur and Abuda camps and discussions are ongoing on equipment and activities for the centres. The youth have contributed with construction of shelters and fencing of the centres. They have started raising their own funds for activities and the input of other actors (the community, UNHCR and partners) for basic equipment is being discussed.

**Environment**
As part of capacity building efforts, UNHCR conducted financial and accounting management training of the Forest National Corporation (FNC).

Field visits were conducted to Um Gargour, Jerra East and New Alfa. In Um Gargour, the tree survival rate in agro-forestry farms has been low; however, the home garden model of agro-forestry has been successful with a high tree survival rate. The tree nursery in New Alfa has reached its target of 130,000 tree seedlings. The seedlings are for irrigated forest establishment. In Jerra East/Aba Alga, 298 hectares of land have been cleared of proposis chilensis (tree species being eradicated because of its aggressive weed character). A total of 279 hectares have been planted with indigenous acacias. Natural regeneration of suppressed indigenous species has covered about 11 hectares. In addition, over 111 hectares have been planted with sorghum under the taungya system of agro-forestry organized between FNC and the local population. The yields and the tree survival rate are expected to be high.

**Update on funding situation for East Sudan as at 30 August**
Requirements: US$ 15,210,745
2005 Contributions: US$ 11,131,180
Security
In **West Darfur**, the security situation has deteriorated, especially in El Geneina, following the incident on 19 September on the Habila-Kanari road where a Government vehicle was attacked by a group of armed men. One of the attackers was killed, another wounded and the third was detained by the police and brought to the El Geneina prison. Furthermore, local militias have been observed in El Geneina town.

Of all the major routes leading out of Geneina, four are only accessible with armed African Union (AU) escort and only two (the road to Adre and to the north) are still accessible till further notice. On 22 September, the Security Management Team (SMT) decided to suspend operations on all but the two viable routes. In addition, the three-month travel permit issued by the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) has been revoked and all UN agencies and NGOs now have to submit individual requests to HAC for every mission outside of El Geneina. The operational capacity of the humanitarian community in West Darfur is thus severely hampered.

In **South Darfur**, a high concentration of Arab armed men was reported in the areas of Marla and Mershing. However, the situation has improved since the Government, the AU and IDP leaders met and decided to start joint patrols. As a result of the patrols, all nomads moved 30 km away from Mershing. The AU is patrolling 24 hours in the area.

On 20 September, the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) attacked Government forces in the area of Sharia locality. Many casualties have been reported but there are no details yet. The situation is very tense and the international community has been advised to avoid all areas under SLA control as well as those controlled by the Government close to the SLA areas.

**WEST DARFUR**

Return Working Group
On 20 September, UNHCR chaired the first meeting of the Return Working Group of West Darfur in El Geneina. The main objectives of this group are to share information on the various return issues in order to gain a comprehensive/shared understanding of the situation in different areas of West Darfur; plan/undertake appropriate interventions and discuss all issues related to the return of IDPs and refugees; and coordinate the delivery of assistance and reintegration of returnees while also supporting the existing communities, including semi-nomadic settlements. The participants discussed the projections for returns to and within West Darfur in 2006 and the objectives for the UN Work Plan 2006. The group meets every fortnight and coordinates closely with the Return Working Group in South Darfur and the local Return Working Groups (in Zalingi, Mukjar, Kulbus, Habila, etc.)

Population movements in Mukjar
The number of IDPs in Mukjar is approximately 13,523. According to CARE, there have been about 500 returns to Mukjar in the past months. The returnees are reported to come from four main locations, namely Kalma IDP camp (South Darfur), Rehad Al Bardi IDP camp (South Darfur) Garsila and Chad. Those coming from Kalma camp claim they left due to the delay in distribution of new food tokens while those coming from Rehad Al Bardi claim they returned because there was no food distribution. The reason for those coming from Garsila and Chad is unknown. UNHCR requested the list of returnees to make its own assessment.

Returns from Chad
On 18 September, UNHCR visited the JekeJeke area to verify information received from the *Umda* of JekeJeke that several hundred Masalit families returned from Chad. JekeJeke is close to the Chadian border,
33 km northwest of El Geneina. These families fled to Chad during the conflict in 2003 and resided in four villages (Agag, Meljei, Jagata and Melibida) near the border. All of them returned to JekeJeke in May - June 2005 as they had no access to assistance in Chad. Security remains the main concern in the area. The villagers complained of the destruction of crops by nomads' livestock as well as theft. They requested assistance in the form of food and non-food items (such as kitchen sets). UNHCR will organize a follow-up mission to obtain further details on these returnees and to assess their needs.

**Rainfall and crops**
Reported estimates show that rainfall this year is above average in most areas. Contrary to projected figures, the cultivated areas in West Darfur are estimated to be 45 – 60 percent. The Ministry of Agriculture declared that crops are grown in 60 percent of arable land in West Darfur. Others, like FAO, estimate that 45 percent of the land is being cultivated during the season.

**Protection monitoring mission to Wadi Saleh**
UNHCR undertook a protection monitoring mission to Wadi Saleh focusing on the five villages between Deleige and Waro, which are known to have security problems. Most of the inhabitants stayed during the conflict, while a few have returned temporarily to cultivate the fields. The inhabitants reported that the security situation is poor due to the presence of armed nomads who harass and intimidate the local population and often make incursions into the villages. The crops are often destroyed by the nomads' livestock and villagers are unable to access all their fields for cultivation. Police in the area are unresponsive and take protection fees from the local population. The local population expressed fear regarding what may happen at harvest time. A mission to the Abata area revealed a similar pattern of insecurity in the inhabited villages.

**Mission to Orokom, Loga and Kurti**
UNHCR carried out a mission to Orokom, Loga and Kurti. The returnees and the local people of these villages and damras said that the security situation is good and complained of malaria as the biggest problem. Their main concern is potential destruction of crops by Arab nomads during the harvest season. In Loga, UNHCR found at least 20 tukuls abandoned by people from Zalingi town who returned in Government-organized movements but are infact neither IDPs nor original inhabitants of the village.

HAC provided the statistics of returnees who returned in Government-organized movements for UNHCR's verification. HAC also confirmed that return movements would resume in October.

**Coordination of humanitarian assistance**
On 14 September, humanitarian agencies operating in Mukjar decided to hold coordination meetings once a month. They also agreed to have separate monthly meetings with community leaders starting on 8 October. The pressing needs of the people in the Mukjar area are security, food, agriculture, health, water, education and shelter. It is worth mentioning that there are few humanitarian agencies operating in Mukjar. Gaps are noticed in the following fields: health (women's health, namely SGBV survivor referral and assistance), non-food items (children’s clothes), agriculture and livestock (seeds, tools and animals), education (literacy and vocational training) and environment (tree planting).

**UN Old Peoples Day**
UNHCR has donated some funds towards the events that HelpAge International is organizing for UN Old Peoples Day on 1 October. The objective of the day is to raise awareness of the problems faced by the elderly (60 years and above) in all spheres of life, including in conflict and post-conflict situations, and to advocate for their rights. This year's theme is "Ageing in the new millennium. Focus on poverty, older women and development". The day’s events will include speeches, drama, songs and refreshments. A new Protection Officer has been seconded to UNHCR by HelpAge International to focus on the elderly.
Seminar on girls’ education
On 13 September, UNHCR facilitated a seminar on girls’ education at a workshop on harmful practices and the role of women in Zalingi organized by SUDO and the Women’s Association.

Sexual and gender-based violence workshop in Dörti camp
UNHCR and Save the Children-US facilitated a one-day sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) workshop on 17 September in Dörti camp in the El Geneina area. Twenty-two participants attended the workshop, including women’s centre animators, representatives of the women’s committees, traditional birth attendants and midwives. The objectives of the workshop were to help the participants understand the experiences of victims of sexual violence (women and children) and prepare them to respond to the psychosocial and emotional consequences. The participants proposed a referral system which is being finalized with the sheikhs.

AU and local police
On 14 September, the AU Sector Commander from Zalingi visited Mukjar and met with the Police Commander. The latter complained that the AU is not respecting its jurisdiction which should be restricted to areas in Mukjar locality. He warned the Sector Commander that AU troops run the risk of getting shot at by uncontrolled armed people outside Mukjar. The AU Sector Commander met the Deputy Commissioner to discuss the matter.

AU deployment
On 30 August, the AU announced that the Senegalese battalion put at the disposal of the AU was successfully deployed to Darfur, in accordance with the timeframe of the AU deployment plan. This is the fifth African battalion to be deployed with success for the reinforcement of AMIS (African Mission in Sudan). The enhanced AMIS plan makes provision for eight battalions – three from Nigeria, three from Rwanda, one from Senegal and one from South Africa to be deployed from 1 July to 30 September 2005.
**SOUTH DARFUR**

**Population movements**
The Government reported that around 40,000 people have returned to the area of Buram locality. IOM is verifying this and will inform the international community accordingly to allow for the provision of assistance in the area. Regarding Al Geer relocation, IOM will relocate the IDPs on temporary basis as requested by HAC but will only do so after completing the head count of Otash IDP camp.

New arrivals to Kass town continue. Since July, large numbers of IDPs have been leaving Singita, 17 km south of Kass due to attacks and death threats by armed men suspected to be local militia. It has been reported that the number of returnees is over 100 a week and on 19 September alone 300 families arrived in Kass town. Some people are returning to Kass town due to security problems around Kass, while others are returning to receive assistance.

**Amel Centre**
UNHCR and Amel Centre carried out an assessment mission to Mershing to discuss with HAC, the police and IDP leaders on the intervention of Amel Centre in Mershing. Amel Centre is UNHCR’s implementing partner and responds to all reported incidents by providing treatment, psychosocial support and free legal aid to victims of torture and violence. A plot of land was offered to Amel Centre to construct a centre.

**Youth activities**
Twenty-three young people are learning how to construct a bakery as well as how to make bread in Dereig camp. In Otash, the youth decided to have the monopoly of buying and selling mats as an income generating project. They buy mats made by women at the women’s centres and in the camps and sell it in town and to NGOs. They have received UNHCR support for this activity. The construction of the youth centre in El Sherif camp is completed and the youth are already carrying out activities in the centre.

**Update on funding situation for Darfur as at 30 August**
Requirements: US$ 31,341,044
2005 Contributions: US$ 9,921,024
Security
The presence of a new Chadian military squadron in Guereda (Dar Tama region) in eastern Chad has created some unrest vis-à-vis the humanitarian community. The Prefect has warned the squadron members to remain within certain areas of the city and advised humanitarian workers to stay indoors in the evening. The Chadian army regiment formerly based in Adre has been transferred to Goz Beida. Sources suggest that it was too provocative to leave the troops at the border. Goz Beida will now be military region number three and will include the Commander of the Chadian Nomadic Guards (ANT).

EASTERN CHAD

Border monitoring
During a border monitoring mission to Kulbus-Senet (Dar Tama area), refugees advised that an awareness campaign is being undertaken in Kulbus (Sudan) to facilitate the return of refugees to their homes in that area.

Registration exercise
The registration exercise in Bredjing has been completed. Registration will now commence in Farchana. Discussions are ongoing with Kobe Department (Iriba area) where refugees are requesting a re-registration exercise owing to the non-registration of additional family members since March.

Food distribution for IDPs
ICRC completed food distribution to approximately 4,000 IDPs in the Koloy area as well as about 1,000 local inhabitants. Some of the IDP women have been observed returning to their places of origin during daytime to harvest their fields.

Education
Registration of primary school-aged children (i.e. grades one to eight) is ongoing in each camp. When completed, UNICEF will distribute books and pens to all those enrolled. An awareness campaign advising parents about their duties vis-à-vis their children’s education has begun.

Child protection
Child protection activities have started at Djabal camp near Goz Beida. Christian Children’s Fund (CCF) is expanding its activities for young children through the creation of a child friendly space. CCF is also providing teacher training on children’s rights, including the need for the registration of births in the camps.

Training on sexual and gender-based violence
Training on sexual and gender-based violence was conducted in Bahai given UNHCR’s perception that cases may be underreported there. The training was targeted at gendarmes, CNAR officials, community leaders and refugees. The aim was to raise awareness of what constitutes gender-based abuse and to encourage administrative authorities not to leave the resolution of reported cases to local custom only.

Training on HIV/AIDS
The national anti-AIDS programme, PNLS (Programme national de lutte contre le SIDA), has completed training workshops for facilitators in each camp. Termed “influential persons” (personnes influentes), the facilitators are responsible for raising awareness about HIV/AIDS in the camps. PNLS’s visit was facilitated by UNHCR as part of its own HIV/AIDS strategy, agreed back in April together with various relevant actors, including the Chadian Ministry of Health.
SOUTHERN CHAD

UNHCR’s response to refugee influx from Central African Republic
An emergency coordinator from the UNHCR Emergency Response Team (ERT) has recently arrived in Gore to help coordinate UNHCR’s response to the latest influx of refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) who have been crossing into southern Chad since June. Two other ERT members are on their way.

Once additional funds have been secured, the newly identified refugee site at Bedamara will be set up to receive the approximately 12,000 refugees from CAR currently accommodated at an extension of Amboko settlement. UNHCR is continuing efforts with the Government to identify a third site, in case of significant further influx from CAR. Relocation of the refugees stranded for several weeks at Bekan has begun, with 134 individuals arriving at Amboko on 17 September.

Malnutrition reported in Amboko
The NGO COOPI, which is responsible for nutritional activities in Amboko, has advised UNHCR of an increase in recorded malnutrition concurrent with the most recent arrivals: 27 cases of severe malnutrition have been detected together with 100 cases of moderate malnutrition. These figures are about double the reported cases one month ago. COOPI and UNHCR are trying to determine the reason for the increase and are monitoring the situation closely.

Repatriation of Chadians from the Central African Republic
The Representatives of UNHCR Chad and UNHCR CAR met in Gore on 20 September to welcome the first group of 1,500 Chadians repatriating from CAR. These Chadians have been refugees in CAR since the early 1980s after fleeing civil war in Chad. Continuing insecurity in northern CAR has prompted them to go home. The first returnees are all from the areas of Gore, Moundou and Koumra – the three main towns in southern Chad – while some of the refugees yet to be repatriated are originally from N’Djamena. The repatriation movement should be completed by the beginning of October.

Situation in Danamadji
Following the high-level tripartite meeting of Ministers and Army Chiefs of Staff from CAR, Chad and Cameroon in Yaounde (Cameroon) on 25 and 26 August, local authorities in Danamadji were given to understand that additional resources for border monitoring in Sido would be made available to them.

URBAN REFUGEES

Medical and educational assistance
UNHCR interviewed 78 refugees during the reporting period, almost half of whom inquired about medical assistance. Summer school enrolment for refugees has climbed again, from 42 to 50. These refugees have also requested educational assistance once the school year resumes.

Update on funding situation for Chad as at 30 August
Requirements: US$ 81,225,813
2005 Contributions: US$ 46,795,260