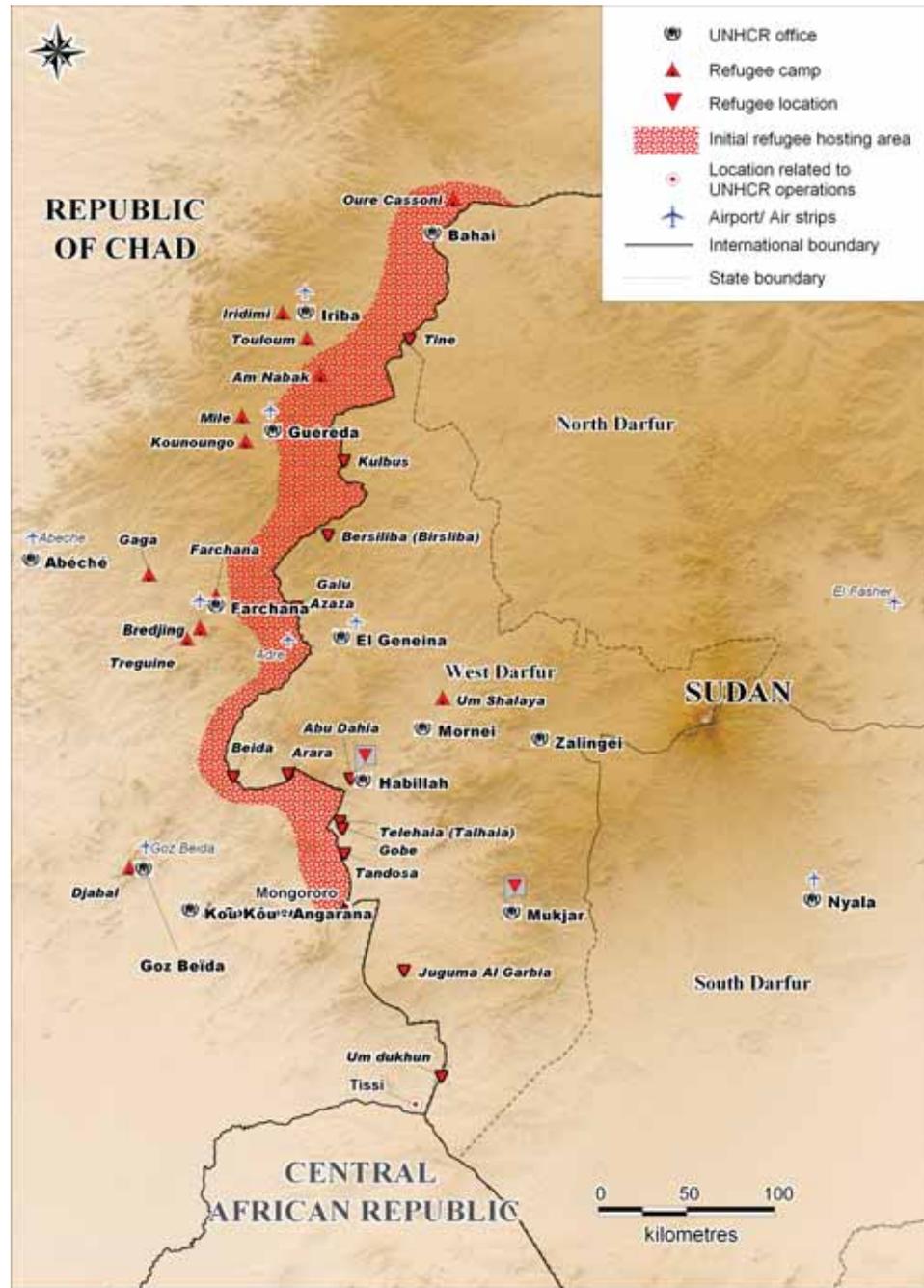


Darfur (SB)

Operational highlights

- UNHCR expanded its presence in West Darfur and opened an office in Mornei. This gave the Office access to approximately 65 per cent of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in West Darfur.
- UNHCR established two new refugee camps (Um Shalaya and Mukjar) in West Darfur. More than 3,000 Chadian refugees were moved to the camps from the Chad-Sudan border.
- The Office led the inter-agency protection working groups in El Geneina and Zalingei in West Darfur, and co-chaired with UNFPA the working groups on sexual and gender-based violence.
- A referral system to assist survivors of sexual and gender-based violence was set up in camps for IDPs.
- Basic household items such as plastic mats, jerry cans and sanitary materials were distributed to some 30,000 IDPs.



Persons of concern

Please refer to Sudan (Annual Programme) Country Chapter

Working environment

The Darfur region remained extremely volatile throughout the year. In May, the Government of Sudan and the largest faction of the rebel Sudanese Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) signed the Darfur Peace

Agreement. However, the agreement did not improve security in West Darfur. Fighting caused fresh displacement and there was a rise in attacks on humanitarian workers. The Sudan-Chad border area in West Darfur witnessed the worst tensions, as armed elements operated with impunity on both sides of the frontier.

Under the terms of a letter of understanding governing the voluntary return of displaced people in West Darfur, signed with the Government in 2005, UNHCR shifted the focus of its operations towards West Darfur.

Achievements and impact

Main objectives

UNHCR's aims in 2006 included the creation of a protective environment in camps, settlements and host communities that was conducive to return and guarded against further displacement. The Office also sought to prevent forced returns of IDPs and refugees; promote the principle of voluntary return in safety and dignity; facilitate the return of IDPs and refugees if the security situation permitted; and support the reintegration of returnees. To further these aims it would provide technical expertise to the Government and UN agencies. Another goal for the Office was the voluntary repatriation, when possible, of some 5,000 Chadian refugees in Darfur.

Protection and solutions

UNHCR established two new refugee camps in West Darfur, at Um Shalaya and Mukjar, to accommodate newly arriving refugees from Chad. The Office also relocated more than 3,000 Chadian refugees from the border area to Um Shalaya camp. They were provided with shelter, household items, potable water and basic medical and social services.

As chair of the inter-agency protection working groups in El Geneina and Zalingei, UNHCR led the groups' efforts to follow up on the protection concerns identified through field missions.

Women's committees, with NGOs and UNHCR's support, managed the 34 women's centres in West Darfur established over the course of 2004 and 2005. The centres provided literacy classes and training in various skills. Support was provided to victims of sexual and gender-based violence. Up to 4,500 women participated in activities at these centres every month.

Activities and assistance

Community services: UNHCR organized recreational and educational activities in 17 children's centres and 12 centres for youths. Ten centres for older people were also opened. Income-generating activities were organized for them.

Domestic needs and household support: Approximately 30,000 IDPs and refugees received non-food items.

Education: In 2006, UNHCR constructed or rehabilitated 15 schools in West Darfur. The work was

carried out in partnership with the local population, the Ministry of Education and implementing partners. Voluntary teachers from the community were accredited by the Ministry of Education. Parent-teacher associations supported the teachers and ensured that infrastructure was maintained. The beneficiary communities contributed construction materials and labour. Upon completion of the project, UNICEF supplied the schools with teaching materials.

Food: UNHCR distributed the basic food rations supplied by WFP to the Chadian refugees in Um Shalaya camp. Distribution staff were trained to follow proper procedures to ensure that beneficiaries received their full rations.

Forestry: UNHCR conducted a study on the environmental degradation caused by the Darfur conflict and its impact on humanitarian programmes. The study recommended that protection, livelihoods and resource management be addressed together as they are closely inter-linked.

Health and Nutrition: In coordination with NGOs, UNHCR established and maintained a health referral system for IDP women. More than 3,000 older IDPs and those with special needs were treated for cataract, glaucoma and trachoma. Some 120 serious cases were referred to the State hospital at El Geneina. Furthermore, UNHCR provided 1,000 elderly IDPs with mobility aids and supplied local clinics with medicines. Supplementary and therapeutic feeding was provided for Chadian refugees in camps.

Shelter and other infrastructure: UNHCR established two new camps for Chadian refugees in West Darfur. The 3,300 refugees transferred to Um Shalaya camp from the border area were given materials to build 1,200 shelters. In addition, UNHCR provided IDPs with construction materials for 9,700 shelters, particularly to families with special needs.

Transport and logistics: UNHCR organized the transport of more than 3,000 Chadian refugees from the border to the new refugee camp in Um Shalaya. The Office procured relief items both in Sudan and abroad and transported them to Darfur.

Water and sanitation: UNHCR rehabilitated or constructed 36 wells in West Darfur. It trained refugees and IDPs to maintain them, and formed committees to run the water supply systems. A total of 300 latrines for returnees were constructed and maintained. UNHCR organized activities to promote hygiene, and soap was distributed through hygiene committees in 85 villages.



UNHCR/L. Nassif

Some of the 10,000 IDPs and Chadian refugees who gathered in Galu and Azaza in West Darfur in early 2006.

Constraints

The lack of security was the major constraint in Darfur, as the signing of the peace agreement did not end conflict in the region. Under these circumstances, IDPs and refugees could not return to their home villages. The unsafe conditions also reduced humanitarian access and the delivery of basic services to a large part of West Darfur.

Financial information

UNHCR's initial 2006 budget amounted to USD 33 million. However, in view of the deteriorating security situation, the budget was revised downwards to USD 18.5 million. This covered the Office's immediate needs in the areas of West Darfur where it remained operational.

While the Darfur programme was eventually fully funded, late contributions caused delays in the implementation of some projects.

Organization and implementation

Management

In 2006, UNHCR operated through one sub-office and five field offices in Darfur. The plan to open three additional offices along the Chad-Darfur border could not be fulfilled because of deteriorating security. However, a new field office was opened in May 2006 in Mornei, close to Um Shalaya refugee camp. A total of 29 international and 57 national staff were working in Darfur. UNHCR offices in Darfur liaised closely with their counterparts in Chad.

Working with others

UNHCR worked with 13 implementing partners (11 international, one national and one governmental). It also worked in close collaboration with the Government of Sudan, local and international NGOs, IOM and ICRC, as well as UN agencies and the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS). UNHCR's main governmental counterparts were the Humanitarian Affairs Commission and the Commissioner for Refugees.

Overall assessment

The expected improvement in the security situation in Darfur with the signing of peace agreement did not materialize. As a result, IDPs in Darfur and Sudanese refugees in Chad could not return home. Rather, more displacement occurred, UNHCR's access to the population of concern was reduced and UNHCR was compelled to curtail its programmes.

The repatriation of Chadian refugees did not take place as planned either, due to political instability in Chad. On the contrary, there were new arrivals from Chad into Darfur. New refugee camps had to be established as the number of refugees in Darfur rose from 5,000 to 20,000. The situation in the Central African Republic was also volatile, leading several hundred asylum-seekers from that country to cross into Darfur. UNHCR's conducted missions to the border area to assess the situation.

Despite the prevailing constraints, the Office used every opportunity to reach refugees and IDPs. Basic support was provided to those most in need of it. And although limited in scale, UNHCR's community-based rehabilitation projects helped returnees and local communities improve their living conditions.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government agencies: Commissioner for Refugees.

NGOs: Amel Centre, Concern, Danish Refugee Council, Help Age International, INTERSOS, Save the Children (Spain), Save the Children (USA), Tear Fund, *Terre des Hommes*, *Triangle*.

Others: IOM.

Operational partners

Government agencies: Humanitarian Affairs Commission.

NGOs: International Rescue Committee, Medair.

Others: AU, FAO, ICRC, OCHA, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNJLC, UNMIS, UNV, WFP, WHO.

Budget, income and expenditure (USD)

Please refer to the Sudan (Annual programme) chapter.

Financial report (USD)

Please refer to the Sudan (Annual programme) chapter.