

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP
59th MEETING**

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Background Note on Sudan

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Presence and capacities of humanitarian actors in Southern Sudan

- The Operation Lifeline Sudan consortium, consisting of 11 UN agencies, 33 INGOs and 11 Sudanese NGOs, has upwards 800 staff deployed in south Sudan on a daily basis. The total number of staff, adding the Lokichoggio based personnel, totals 1200.
- The Sudan Relief and Recovery Committee (SRRC) is the coordination body within the SPLM and have established presence in all counties in south Sudan, except the Nuba Mountains.
- There are a total of around 80 non-OLS NGOs humanitarian actors in south Sudan as recorded by the UN OCHA Information Management Unit (IMU).
- Health: There are some 800 health facilities supported by OLS in 2003 covering an estimated 30 per cent of the population
- Nutrition: Therapeutic and supplementary feeding programmes, through OLS in 2003, covered 23,000 children mainly in Upper Nile and bar El Ghazal.
- Food: WFP provided food assistance to 1 million people in 2003 totalling 63,400 metric tons.
- Education: In 2003, 326 schools were rehabilitated, 2810 teachers were trained 1500 school received basic school supplies and more than 226,000 text books and teacher guides were distributed. 62,000 children received free meals through school feeding programmes.
- Water and sanitation: In 2003, 159 new water points were constructed whilst 1200 water points were repaired or maintained. 778 latrines were built.
- OLS is currently operating in all 42 counties in south Sudan. Non-OLS agencies, including indigenous NGOs operate in 35 out of 42 counties.

Status of preparedness for return in Southern Sudan

- The Sustainable Returns Team (SRT), one of the institutions charged with coordinating implementation of the Joint Policy Framework on Returns has become operational and sector plans for returns are available for most key sectors.
- An area-based approach to returns has been agreed through the SRT and modalities are under development.

- A tracking and monitoring system for the SRT has been agreed upon and will be rolled out shortly.
- Information collection, sharing and dissemination mechanisms have been established through the SRT in the south with its link to SRT north.
- Programs to meet needs of returning people is recognized as a key element in the UN Work Plan 2005.
- Ability to monitor protection issues is in place.
- Inter-agency assessments and EP&R (Emergency Preparedness and Response, OLS/UNICEF) are responding to returns on an ad hoc basis.
- Mobilising resources for programs to meet the needs of returning people remains the key obstacle to respond appropriately to meeting the needs of returns

Implementation of the Protection Strategy for Darfur

A senior UNHCR officer (Deputy Representative) with strong protection background has assumed the chair of the Khartoum Protection Working Group, reporting to the Humanitarian Coordinator in this function.

UNFPA has recently been designated coordinating agency for SGBV issues in Darfur. Plans of action and strategies of involved agencies are being compiled to facilitate the coordination of activities.

With respect to the key protection priorities several activities have begun or are planned to begin shortly. Among this was the immediate and very high level UN response to the GoS' relocation of IDPs in Nyala. The inter-agency group in South Darfur has been working with the GoS and IDPs to assess alternative sites for crowded IDP camps, while making it clear that forced relocation would not be tolerated.

OCHA, in the absence of IOM in North Darfur, followed up on the return of IDPs from Abu Shouk camp to Korma after the SLA informed that the IDPs were in their control. OCHA negotiated the passage of the IDPs to their destination and on interviewing them discovered that some were intimidated and forced to return by authorities in El Fasher.

The matrix of protection activities is being finalized with the final inputs expected shortly from UNHCR.

UNHCR has taken over the coordination of the West Darfur Protection Working Group. OCHA remains the coordinator of the Working Groups in North and South Darfur until senior agency protection officers can be dedicated to the task.

The HC has been in contact at the ministerial level to obtain GoS acceptance of UNHCR's role in South Darfur.