

Regional Bureau for Sudan

Sudan

Country Background

Despite a booming oil economy, much of Africa's largest country is poorly developed and ridden with conflict. Most of the country's 35 million people are subsistence agropastoralists surviving on less than one US\$ a day. Sudan is ranked 141 out of 177 countries on the Human Development Index (2006 UNDP Human Development Report) and is classified as both a Least Developed and Low Income Food Deficit Country. The ongoing conflict in Darfur, the lingering effect of the civil war in the south and chronic poverty in the east have left much of Sudan food insecure and dependent on international aid in the absence of social service systems.

Expected improvement in the humanitarian situation in Sudan, a key planning assumption last year, did not occur. The security situation in Darfur actually deteriorated during the second half of the year. More than two million people--a third of the regions population--are displaced and living in camps; another one million Darfurians remain in villages but face continuous threats as the conflict rages on.

The implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in southern Sudan and the Three Areas has been slower than hoped. Millions who were displaced by the 21-year north-south civil war have not yet made the journey home, while those that have returned experience significant challenges in rebuilding their lives. Challenges related to reintegration will persist for some time. Alarming high rates of malnutrition persist particularly among women and children in portions of the south, Three Areas and the east.



Objectives of WFP Assistance in Sudan

WFP's assistance programme in Sudan which aims to save lives and livelihoods, improve the nutritional status of targeted populations and improve access to education, supports the MDG goals of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (MDG1), achieving universal primary education (MDG2), promoting gender equality and empowering women (MDG3), reducing child mortality (MDG4), and improving maternal health (MDG5). The current EMOP plans to support some 5.5 million people across the country with an estimated 682,000 mt of food, of which Darfur makes up some 71 percent of overall needs while 17 percent is required for the South and 12 percent for the rest of Sudan.

In 2008 WFP plans to target some 5 million people in Sudan with 640,000 mt of food. In Darfur, assistance will primarily be provided through general food distribution to internally displaced people (IDP) and vulnerable residents, supplementary and therapeutic feeding for malnourished children and women, and school feeding to children in rural food insecure areas. Where security conditions allow, small-scale early recovery projects will be implemented to restore and provide livelihood opportunities.

In the rest of Sudan, WFP will continue to support the joint organised return operation, as well as provide assistance to spontaneous returnees. The food-for-education programme is also expected to expand in support of national goals to improve access to education, particularly for girls. More emphasis will be placed on recovery strategies aimed at strengthening livelihoods and reducing vulnerability to shocks. In all areas of chronic poverty and limited potential for restoring traditional livelihoods, the long-term strategy will focus on developing and maintaining human capacity, through support for training and education.

WFP Projects and Operations foreseen in 2008

Projected Beneficiary Requirements in 2008						
	Needs		Carryover	Shortfall		
	(US\$ million)		(US\$ million)	(US\$ million)		%
Special Operation	74.6		0.0	74.6		100
Emergency Operation	667.6		77.9	584.3		87.5
Development Operation	8.2		1.9	6.2		75.7
Total	750.4		79.7	665.1		
	Cereals	Pulses	Oil	Blended Food	Other*	Total
Needs (mt)						
Emergency Operation	478,563	54,304	34,811	32,645	39,733	640,056
Development Operation	13,011	2,188	1,505	154	375	17,233
Total	491,574	56,492	36,316	32,799	40,108	657,289

*Other: canned fish, iodised salt, plain dried skimmed milk, sugar

(a) Emergency Operations

Sudan EMOP 10693.0: "Food Assistance to Populations Affected by Conflict"

Duration: 1 January 2008 - 31 December 2008 (New project - subject to approval)

Total project commitment: 640,056 mt

The new EMOP is expected to start in January 2008 in support of some 5 million people in the most food insecure areas of the country. Instability will persist for some time in Darfur, pending the full deployment of the UN - African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur (UNAMID). Conditions for the safe return and re-establishment of livelihoods for more than two million displaced in Darfur and refugees in eastern Sudan remain uncertain. Massive reconstruction and development works are needed in the South to encourage thousands to return and to support those who have already made the journey back home.

Assistance under the 2008 EMOP will continue to target households whose livelihoods have been disrupted by conflict, as well as those who are returning to their places of origin or migrating to new areas and must re-establish their livelihoods. In order to support early recovery, programming will also help provide a social safety-net and support the reconstruction of community infrastructure and social services for returnee households and communities. As a possible transition to a PRRO (beginning in 2009), there will also be a focus on capacity development, and expansion of early recovery activities where security allows, particularly in Darfur.

Assistance to conflict-affected and displaced populations will address strategic objective 1. Assistance to internally displaced people (IDPs) in Darfur began as a response to a life threatening crisis situation and it is clear that in the absence of continued assistance to those whose livelihoods have been destroyed many lives would be at risk. Assistance to returnees in the Three Areas and Southern Sudan addresses strategic objective 2, by supporting households as they begin to re-establish their livelihoods and by providing a safety net as they re-build their productive and coping capacities.

Expanding the coverage of supplemental feeding programs, particularly in Darfur and in areas of Southern Sudan with persistently high malnutrition levels, will directly improve the nutrition and health of children, a key part of strategic objective 3. School feeding programs, targeted towards food insecure areas with low enrolment rates (or low enrolment rates for girls), and are intended to provide an incentive to increased school attendance, particularly for girls, thus addressing Strategic Objective 4.

In parallel with these efforts, WFP will continue to explore capacity building efforts to strengthen government early warning systems, emergency response capacities as well as engage in disaster mitigation projects at the federal and state levels. All of these activities support Strategic Objective 5, relating to capacity development.

The food basket will consist of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil, sugar, salt, dairy, high energy bars and corn-soya-blend.

Forecasted Beneficiaries in 2008

The following initial results are expected, if the project/activity is fully resourced in 2008:

	Female	Male	Total
Total number of beneficiaries of WFP food in 2008	2,448,000	2,352,000	4,800,000
Number of IDP beneficiaries	1,000,000	900,000	1,900,000
Number of refugee beneficiaries	46,750	38,250	85,000
Number of returnee beneficiaries	275,600	244,400	520,000
Number of beneficiaries for general food distribution	1,664,000	1,536,000	3,200,000
	Women	Children	Total
Pregnant and lactating women participating in MCH/supplem. feeding	45,737	125,888	171,625
	Girls	Boys	Total
Number of children given school meals	435,000	435,000	870,000
Number of children given take-home rations	50,000		50,000
of whom: receiving both take-home rations and school meals	50,000		50,000
	Women	Men	Total
Number of participants in food-for-training activities	196,000	84,000	280,000
Number of participants in food-for-work activities	50,000	50,000	100,000

*Beneficiaries may appear in more than one sub-total. Therefore, sub-totals may not equal the total number of beneficiaries.

(b) Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations

None

(c) Special Operations

Sudan Special Operation 10181.3: "Provision of Humanitarian Air Service"

Duration: 15 July 2004 - 31 December 2007 (to be extended until 31 December 2008 - subject to approval)

Total project commitment: US\$99.8 million (commitment expected to be increased to US\$154.8 million)

The WFP Humanitarian Air Service (WFP-HAS) remains crucial for the massive humanitarian intervention in Darfur, as well as to recovery programs in other parts of Sudan where reliable commercial air transport is not available. The deteriorating security situation in the Darfur States and the limited road access to remote areas during the rainy season has meant that humanitarian agencies depend on helicopter transport to carry out their job. In the absence of commercial alternatives, WFP-HAS continues to provide safe, reliable, efficient and cost-effective air transport to the humanitarian community operating in Sudan, as well as for the delivery of sensitive humanitarian aid.

The Special Operation 10183.0 fleet currently comprises of 17 units, eleven fixed wing aircrafts and six helicopters, operating in northern Sudan and within the Darfur States. Combined, these aircrafts currently serve 139 agencies, transporting 6,000 passengers on average per month, in addition to performing medical and security evacuations as needed. Unless stability is restored in Darfur, in addition to improved road access to remote areas and reliable air carriers to main cities, the humanitarian air service will continue to be required in 2008 to support humanitarian operations in Sudan.

Sudan Special Operation 10342.2: "United Nations Joint Logistics Centre (UNJLC) - Logistics Coordination and support to NFI operations in Sudan"

Duration: 1 January 2008 - 31 December 2008 (To be extended - subject to approval)

Total project commitment: US\$4.0 million

This Special Operation is an expansion of special operation 10342.1 UNJLC - Common Logistics Services and Coordination, and support to non-food item (NFI) operations. UN's Joint Logistics Centre (UNJLC) is an inter-agency facility reporting to the Humanitarian Coordinator and UN Country Team in Sudan. Its mandate is to coordinate and optimise the logistics capabilities of humanitarian organizations in Sudan. UNJLC operates under the custodianship of WFP, which is responsible for the administrative and financial management of the Centre, and is funded from voluntary contributions channelled through WFP.

The operational objectives of the special operation for UNJLC in Sudan are to improve logistics coordination and the delivery of humanitarian assistance by:

- optimising logistics resources;
- facilitating common logistics services and systems;
- providing logistics information management services and a logistics planning capacity to the humanitarian community; and
- supporting NFI operations throughout the country.

The UN Country Team has appointed UNJLC to be the sector lead for NFIs and emergency shelter (ES) sector in Sudan for 2008. As part of the support to the NFI and ES sector, UNJLC manages common NFI pipelines in partnership with UNICEF, CARE and distributing NGOs, to ensure timely and cost-effective delivery of critical NFI to needy populations. UNJLC activities directly supports WFP Strategic Objective 1 of saving lives by ensuring that life-saving NFIs are delivered to affected populations, and also supports WFP Management Objective one of strengthening partnerships through its jointly managed NFI pipeline projects with CARE and UNICEF.

In 2008, UNJLC plans to continue its focus on coordinating the NFI and ES sector, managing the common NFI pipelines to effectively serve conflict affected and vulnerable populations, thereby mitigating health threats and contributing to their protection. UNJLC will continue to promote logistics coordination, logistics information collection and dissemination among all stakeholders. Other priorities for 2008 are to improve targeting, assure logistical access to beneficiaries, and improve emergency preparedness and response, as well as strengthening partnerships with national NGOs. Projected operational requirements for 2008 are greater than estimates reflected in WFP's 2008 - 2009 Management Plan due to the request for UNJLC to continue its work in both NFI and ES sector and common services sector in Sudan.

Sudan Special Operation 10368.0: "Emergency Road Repair and Mine Clearance of Key Transport Routes in Sudan in Support of the EMOP"

Duration: 1 August 2004 - 30 April 2009

Total project commitment: US\$252,069,217

After 21 years of civil war, South Sudan remains one of the poorest parts of the world, with limited infrastructure. Covering 650,000 km, South Sudan is the size of Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi combined, but much of the 12,000 km of identified main roads are in serious disrepair.

While WFP has been supporting road rehabilitation efforts in South Sudan for decades, the current project began in August 2004 and has repaired over 2,200 km out of the worst sections of 2,950 km of roads throughout South Sudan, yielding positive peace dividends for hundreds of thousands of returning refugees. According to findings of basic impact assessments, travel time for people accessing markets and health centres have drastically reduced and areas have become more accessible since the repairs began. Safety along these routes has also been reported as vastly improved. Cost of public transport has decreased by as much as 50 to 60 percent in some cases along repaired sections, which has led to an increase in the number of people using the roads for both private and commercial use.

This project also includes a significant mine clearing component in some of the areas worst affected by the war. Since 2005, some 230,000 unexploded ordnances have been removed or destroyed.

At the request of the Government of South Sudan, WFP will continue road repairs and de-mining works through mid-2009. In 2008, de-mining and road repairs will continue on Juba-Mundri, Duk-Waat-Akobo, Narus-Boma, Faraksika-Chukudum and Juba-Kajo-Keji as well as maintenance on the Juba to Bor, Kapoeta to Juba, Juba to Yei and Rumbek to Tonj roads. About 600 km of roads will be repaired and 900 km maintained. Some 570 km of roads remain to be surveyed and de-mined. WFP will also rehabilitate six airstrips in Aweil, Yambio, Torit, Bor, Kwajok and Nassir. HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns will be carried out along the roads, as well as a capacity building element to enhance the capacity of government counterparts to maintain road works.

(d) Development Projects and Activities

Sudan CP 10105.0: "Improving Food Security through Education and Infrastructure Support"

Duration: 1 January 2002 - 31 December 2007 (expected to be extended until 31 December 2008 - subject to approval)

Total project commitment: 88,994 mt (expected to be decreased to 88,950 mt - subject to approval)

In January 2002, WFP and the Government of Sudan launched a five-year CP to improve food security through school feeding and the development of community infrastructure. Activity 1 provides educational and nutritional support to school children, while activity 2 supports food-for-work (FFW) and food-for-training (FFT) activities in water harvesting and rehabilitation of educational infrastructure. The mother and child healthcare component, activity III, was not implemented as part of the CP due to limited Government capacity to manage the project. The supplementary food-for-work component, activity 4, was planned to supplement activity II and was operational for two years, however, activity 4 was cancelled due to lack of funding. Presently, activity 1 and 2 are being implemented in the more stable but food insecure regions of Sudan, namely North Kordofan, Kassala and Red Sea States.

The Sudan CP builds on the Country Strategy Outline and is fully harmonized in terms of objectives and timing with UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). At the request of the government, the CP is currently being extended until the end of 2008 in line with the new UNDAF programme cycle (2009 to 2011).

The specific objectives of the CP are to:

- improve the food security and enable households to invest in human capital through education and training (Strategic Objective 2);
- improve access, quality and level of education for primary and secondary school children, primarily girls (Strategic Objective 4);
- support the improvement of water access in semi-arid areas, with special emphasis on improving the food security status of women (Strategic Objective 2);
- improve the capacity of vulnerable households to cope with food insecurity through the preservation and creation of assets (Strategic Objective 2); and
- mitigate the effects of natural disasters in areas vulnerable to recurring crises (Strategic Objective 2).

Sudan CP 10105.0: Activity I "Education and Nutritional Support"

Duration: 1 January 2002 - 31 December 2007 (expected to be extended until 31 December 2008 - subject to approval)

Total project commitment: 76,046 mt (expected to decrease to 76,002 mt - subject to approval)

WFP continues to support the Government's education policy in making education accessible to all. The provision of a daily meal at school encourages enrolment and regular attendance as well as alleviating hunger in children. The school feeding programme, implemented by the State Ministries of Education, targets food insecure areas with low enrolment. Selected primary school children receive 150 g of cereals, 30 g of pulses, 20 g of vegetable oil and 3 g of salt per day, meeting 780 kcals of their daily requirement, while secondary students in boarding schools receive 400 g of cereals, 40 g of pulses, 30 g of vegetable oil, 25 g of canned fish and 5 g of salt per day for a total of 1,817 kcals. The programme also supports pre-schoolers who receive 100 g of cereals, 10 g of vegetable oil and 10 g of sugar, fulfilling 508 kcals of their daily caloric requirement.

The school feeding programme currently supports 270,000 children, with plans to expand to reach 330,000 children in 2008. This will include 310,000 children in primary schools, 12,000 school girls in secondary boarding schools and 8,000 children in pre-schools. The programme aims to support the Government in reducing the gender gap ratio of girls to boys in targeted schools from 44 percent to 53 percent by the end of the programme. School performance is also expected to improve significantly.

Forecasted Beneficiaries in 2008

The following initial results are expected, if the project/activity is fully resourced in 2008:

	Female	Male	Total
Total number of beneficiaries of WFP food in 2008	155,100	174,900	330,000
	Girls	Boys	Total
Number of children given school meals	155,100	174,900	330,000

*Beneficiaries may appear in more than one sub-total. Therefore, sub-totals may not equal the total number of beneficiaries.

Sudan CP 10105.0: Activity 2 "Water harvesting and education infrastructure"

Duration: 1 January 2002 - 31 December 2007 (to be extended until 31 December 2008 - subject to approval)

Total project commitment: 12,948 mt

Food-for-work (FFW) is used to support rural communities in the rehabilitation of community assets, particularly in the rehabilitation or construction of infrastructures that mitigate the impact of chronic water shortages, such as the construction of hafirs (water ponds). Activity 2 also supports the construction of classrooms and pit latrines in support of activity 1 objectives of improving access to education, as well as initiatives that minimise environmental degradation such as tree planting and production of fuel efficient stoves.

FFW projects are implemented during the hunger season in food insecure areas, targeting the most vulnerable households. Participants receive household rations of 3,000 g of cereals, 180 g of pulses, 150 g of vegetable oil and 120 g of sugar per person per workday.

The project has been successful in providing direct employment and meeting the immediate food needs of participants. There has been a notable increase in access to water and reduced time spent on collecting water, particularly for women. In 2007, some 19,600 people have been assisted with 900 mt of food through the FFW component. In addition, targeted communities have benefited from the construction of five hand-dug wells, 11 school latrines and one haffir. In 2008, WFP plans to engage 6,000 people in FFW projects, benefiting a total of 36,000 people. Planned works include the construction or rehabilitation of ten haffirs and twenty hand-dug wells to improve access to water, as well as other assets identified by the community.

Forecasted Beneficiaries in 2008			
The following initial results are expected, if the project/activity is fully resourced in 2008:			
	Female	Male	Total
Total number of beneficiaries of WFP food in 2008	18,000	18,000	36,000
	Women	Men	Total
Number of participants in food-for-training activities	600		600
Number of participants in food-for-work activities	3,000	3,000	6,000

* Beneficiaries may appear in more than one sub-total. Therefore, sub-totals may not equal the total number of beneficiaries.