Response to people affected by heavy rains and floods in Sudan

Many parts of Sudan have recently been affected by heavy rains and floods. As an immediate response to the floods, the UN and its partners have provided a range of emergency relief items, including tents, plastic sheeting, blankets, water buckets and mosquito nets from its emergency stocks available in Khartoum State. The UN and partners have also provided food, mobile clinics, health supplies, drinking water, and sanitation services. Other emergency support is currently being mobilised, particularly food, shelter, water, sanitation, hygiene and health services.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there are 71 temporary health facilities currently functioning in different flood-affected localities with an adequate number of health staff. WHO provided the Federal Ministry of Health with five mobile hospitals, seven rapid response kits, five diarrhoeal disease kits, and two Italian emergency health kits.

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has provided non-food relief supplies to assist some 10,000 severely affected people in Khartoum state. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) provided funding was to its partner JASMAR to assist 200 families in Omdurman area of Khartoum. In addition, comprehensive packages of food and non-food items were distributed to 200 families. UNFPA is supporting the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) to provide Reproductive Health Services to affected women through four emergency clinics in Alkiryab and Alfath areas. UNFPA also extended its support to Nafeer youth initiative. The UN Children’s Agency (UNICEF) provided primary health care kits that will cover one million people for three months and 35,000 bed nets to the Ministry of Health for distribution. UNICEF – in collaboration with the Khartoum Child Council Welfare (KCCW) – will create child friendly spaces for 25,000 children in areas to which families have been evacuated. UNHCR is working with SRCS to mobilise non-food relief support for 487 flood-affected families in Lagawa town, West Kordofan, and 200 flood-affected families in Kalma IDP camp, South Darfur.

In North Darfur, IOM has identified 1,477 flood-affected families (7,905 people) in need of assistance. The houses of 271 families were destroyed by heavy rain and floods, and the houses of 1,206 families were partially damaged. In response, the World Food Programme (WFP) distributed one-month food rations and UNHCR provided non-food relief supplies, including plastic sheets, sleeping mats, blankets, cooking sets, mosquito nets and jerry cans.
Some 1.3 million infants in Sudan are targeted in a nationwide pneumococcal conjugate (PCV13) vaccination scheduled to commence on 1 August 2013. The vaccine will address three of the major killers among infants in the country - pneumonia, meningitis, and septicemia.

The Ministry of Health with support from GAVI Alliance, World Health Organization (WHO), and UNICEF, decided to introduce the vaccine into the routine expanded programme on immunization after reviewing local surveillance data and WHO position papers recommending global use of the new vaccine. Sudan joined the Regional Surveillance Network for bacterial meningitis in 2007.

Pneumococcal disease is an infection caused by the bacteria Streptococcus pneumoniae that causes several serious illnesses, including: bacterial meningitis, pneumonia, otitis media or an inner ear infection, bacteremia, as well as sinus infections. Infection with pneumococcus is a major cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide. In Sudan, the incidence of pneumonia among under five children is 19% and it represents 27% of hospital admission causes. Pneumonia is also responsible for 10% of hospital deaths among under-five children, and is the second major cause of death after septicemia.

Today’s event represents a major step forward in Sudan’s efforts to improve the health of its future generations. With GAVI Alliance support since 2001, Sudan has been able to introduce various vaccines against childhood diseases, including hepatitis B, Hib (haemophilius influenza type b) and rotavirus.

WHO and UNICEF commit to decrease disabilities and deaths from vaccine preventable diseases, a shared major strategic objective with the Ministry of Health.

“We hope to reach infants even in areas challenged by security issues. We cannot compromise lives especially those of children. With support from Government and partners, we will work to make sure that no single child in this country will be deprived from vaccination,” WHO Representative in Sudan Dr Banerjee says.

“Every Sudanese child has a right to health and the best possible start in life. The PVC13, along with the full regimen of life-saving vaccines, is a key intervention to make sure that children are indeed given the best possible start and a fighting chance to survive in good health. Like WHO, UNICEF is committed to support the Government and people of Sudan to make sure that every child is reached with vaccination services,” says Mr Geert Cappelaere, UNICEF Representative - Sudan.

A comprehensive plan for the introduction of the new vaccine has been developed covering all components related to vaccination strategy, along with vaccine management, monitoring & evaluation, and financing. A Post Introduction Evaluation will be conducted by WHO, UNICEF and other implementing partners.
Two senior United Nations relief officials today called on the Government of Sudan to renew the work permits for international aid workers based in Darfur so they can resume protection and assistance to hundreds of thousands of displaced civilians in the region. Of the 37 international staff of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) based in Darfur, only 17 currently have valid permits to continue their work. Permits in the other 20 cases have not been renewed, despite extended follow-up by UNHCR with the relevant Government authorities.

In a joint statement issued in Khartoum, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Ali Al-Za’arti and UNHCR Representative Kai Nielsen voiced their regret that humanitarian activities for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Darfur have had to be scaled down as a result of the non-renewal of the work permits. They noted that UNHCR’s work in North Darfur has been particularly affected. None of the UNHCR international staff based in the state capital of El Fasher have been granted permits to return, with the last remaining staff having been asked to leave at short notice in early July. “The result is that for over a month, UNHCR has been unable to effectively undertake protection and assistance activities for IDPs in North Darfur,” they stated.

There are currently some two million IDPs in Darfur, of whom 1.2 million live in camps. There have been almost 300,000 new IDPs this year alone, including a third of them within and from North Darfur. The officials pointed out that the humanitarian situation in Darfur remains “critical” both for long-term IDPs and for those who have been newly displaced as a result of recent fighting. “The inability of UNHCR to continue implementing its activities will directly impact projects related to health, education, basic services and livelihoods, the provision of emergency shelter and non-food items, and on the verification of returnees.” They called on the Sudanese Government to renew the permits for all UNHCR staff so as to allow the agency to fully resume its activities in Darfur.

If you have not yet done do, take the survey now!
WFP is assisting thousands of displaced people from South Kordofan through food vouchers. WFP distributed food vouchers to around 33,000 displaced people in villages in North Kordofan only two weeks after they fled their areas. WFP and the Sudanese Red Crescent Society distributed the vouchers in 35 locations in three localities.

When conflict broke out in April in Abu Karshola, South Kordofan state, thousands fled to villages in the neighbouring state of North Kordofan. They walked for hours and sometimes days before a large number of them reached El-Rahad taking refuge with host communities, relatives or in public schools.

Ibrahim Bobo and his family were among them.

“I already lost five family members and I did not want to lose any more of them, so I told my wife to leave and take our children to a place where they would be safe,” said Bobo. “It took me three days to be reunited with them. They are in one of the schools with hundreds of other families who had been forced out of their villages,” said Bobo.

For weeks, most of the displaced people relied on the hospitality and generosity of their relatives and host communities as well as the local government’s support. “Conflict not only causes large-scale displacement, it also creates greater humanitarian needs and food is on top of those needs,” said WFP Deputy Country Director Margot van der Velden. “As soon as we were informed that we could carry out an assessment of the needs of the newly displaced people, we sent our team to look into their situation.”

The assessment found that over 30,000 people are in need of food assistance, 60 percent of them were children.

“Knowing the number of those who needed our assistance is just one step, we also needed to know how quickly and efficiently we can respond to their needs,” said van der Velden. “Since food is available in surrounding markets we decided to go for food vouchers with local traders to supply and deliver the much-needed food assistance.”

Two weeks into this new wave of displacement, four WFP teams and 12 staff members from the Sudanese Red Crescent Society were on the ground working simultaneously to distribute food vouchers. Displaced people were able to use the vouchers at two local traders in exchange for sorghum, lentils, oil and sugar. Bobo is now among thousands of people who are able to shop for their food using WFP vouchers. “I am happy to receive assistance and I thank WFP for this, just going to the store gives one a sense of normalcy especially when almost nothing of our old life is left,” said Bobo.

Food vouchers are playing a key role in WFP’s emergency response to those who have been recently displaced in South Kordofan and have fled to North Kordofan. Thanks to a generous contribution from the Commission’s European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) which has enabled WFP to provide such a timely and efficient response, meeting the immediate food needs of the displaced people and helping boost the local economy.

A group of men queuing to exchange their vouchers for food at a WFP distribution centre. Arduino Mangoni/WFP
As part of UNHCR’s anti-trafficking strategy for East Sudan and through the generous financial support of the Swiss Government, a handover ceremony of vehicles to the Kassala authorities took place in Shagarab Refugee Camp on Tuesday 30th of July. The proceedings marked the official transfer of eight motorbikes and three pickup trucks to the state police and national security, better equipping them to enhance security through patrolling in the Shagarab refugee camps. East Sudan continues to receive an average of 400-600 new arrivals per month, mainly from Eritrea, and who are vulnerable to traffickers.

The ceremony was attended by Mr. Ibrahim Abdullah, the Assistant Commissioner for Refugees in Eastern Sudan, Dr. Mohamed Qassim, UNHCR Head of Kassala Sub-office, Major General Omer Mukhtar, Director of Kassala State police, Mr. Egaiel Awad Egaiel, the Commissioner of WadHilawa Locality, Mr. Mohamed Adan Elnagay, Head of National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) in Kassala, refugee representatives and local press.

In their remarks during the handover ceremony, Representatives of the security forces underlined the importance of having access to vehicles which enable them to respond quicker to suspected cases of trafficking and conduct more frequent patrols within Shagarab camp and at the border. The areas between the camp and the border have been identified as hotspots for traffickers.

“Having refugee engagement is to bring about part of the solution, rather than a problem,” said Dr. Mohamed Qassim, Head of UNHCR SO Kassala, stressing the importance of engagement of the refugee community in the camps as well as the new arrivals as a critical element in eradicating trafficking in East Sudan.

On this occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by key representatives of the respective institutes to symbolize the positive collaboration between UNHCR and the Sudanese authorities in their joint actions in combatting trafficking in East Sudan.

The strengthening of the security forces’ capacity to respond to cases of trafficking is one of many examples of UNHCR’s actions to counter trafficking in this region of Sudan. Most recently, UNHCR has supported the Government to increase the presence of security personnel in Shagarab camp and continues to improve lighting installations across the area. Victims of trafficking have received appropriate psycho-social support and legal assistance when needed.

Efforts made by UNHCR, the Sudanese Commission for Refugees, security forces and the refugee community have already seen a positive decline in cases of trafficking which numbered 396 in 2011-2012 and, so far in 2013, UNHCR has handled 57 reported incidents.

UNHCR’s interventions in this area seek to reduce the number of incidents of human trafficking and kidnapping; enhance the Sudanese Government’s capacity to tackle smuggling, human trafficking and kidnapping in a protection-sensitive manner; provide care for victims; and promote awareness among refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, authorities, the local and the international community of the risks of irregular migration as well as providing information on the services available in East Sudan.
On June 4, 2013, the UN-Habitat—UNHCR’s joint Housing Project for Dorti IDPs was inaugurated in an area north of El-Geneina, West Darfur State. The event was attended by representatives of the Government and the humanitarian community in West Darfur. The actual implementation of the project started in August, 2012. 40 IDP families living in Dorti Camp in West Darfur have benefited from the houses built of environmentally friendly technology using the stabilized soil blocks. The population of Dorti Camp benefited as well from the construction of a community center. The 40 families benefiting from the houses were selected from the most vulnerable groups that comprise of widows, orphans, single parent family-hoods and physically challenged individuals. During the implementation of the project, many IDPs from Dorti community were trained on production of the stabilized soil blocks, a skill which they could use as an income generation activity.

The project focused on the following:

- Support for durable solutions, including support to voluntary returns.
- Carry out peaceful co-existence projects/interventions (one of the cornerstones to achieve durable solutions and prevent further displacement).
- Support persons with specific needs (PSNs) especially elderly population.
- Support activities aiming at combating all sort of Violence against Women through training and campaigns directed to community and opinion leaders.
A joint FAO-UNIDO project in Kassala state has helped identify a promising solution to pest attacks on Sudan’s tomato crops. The pest, a moth known as tomato leafminer or tuta absoluta, has caused severe economic losses to farmers and increased the cost of tomato production across Sudan in recent years. It can cause total crop loss and has developed resistance to pesticides.

An on-farm study carried out in tomato crops established under the Canada-funded Integrated Food Security Project (IFSP) tested various means of biological and chemical pest control. The research was undertaken by the Kassala and Gash Research Station in partnership with IFSP, and was prompted after the project’s tomato crops became infested with the moth. The researchers discovered that a small insect, nesidiocoris tenuis, attacks the moth while causing little or no damage to the crops or surrounding environment. The findings mirror similar studies carried out in South America, and were outlined at a recent meeting of the Kassala Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Irrigation and Livestock (MAFIL)’s Pests and Diseases Committee.

FAO’s Senior Project Coordinator for the IFSP Anton Glaeser says he’s pleased with the early success. “When the tomato pests were first discovered we immediately set about working with the Research Station to try to fix the problem, and we’re happy that the trials have been able to identify a potential natural solution that works here in Sudan”. IFSP and the Research Station will now work towards identifying how best to deploy the natural predator while protecting the current environmental bio-diversity.

The project’s tomato crops are part of a broader investment in strengthening irrigated horticulture value chains in Kassala state. Through IFSP, farmers are adopting improved practices in their fields under the guidance of experienced farmer-trainers and FAO-supported agricultural extension services. As well as tomatoes, other cash crops being cultivated include cucumbers, green peppers, pigeon peas and fodder.

IFSP is a rural development project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and is implemented by FAO in close cooperation with UNIDO and in collaboration with Kassala state’s Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Irrigation and Livestock.

Some of the tomato harvest was able to be saved and given to poor households in the project’s villages or sold in the local markets.
Almost 100 years ago the mesquite tree (prosopis juliflora) was introduced to Sudan as a way to fight the encroaching desert sands. In some areas seeds were broadcast from planes and seedlings were distributed to communities for free. But by the 1990s what was once an environmental solution had become a devastating environmental problem. The livelihoods of many rural communities in Sudan, particularly in the east, are being strangled by the thorny, invasive tree. It spreads quickly, taking over arable land and pasture replacing local trees and grasses, chokes water sources and can cause animals to become sick if they eat too much of the tree’s seed pods. The seeds can germinate in hard conditions and are easily spread by wind, water and animals. Many farming families in potentially fertile areas only manage to clear mesquite from a small plot of less than two feddan each season to grow cereals and vegetables which is not enough land to meet both the family’s food needs and to ensure seeds production. Livestock rearing can’t be relied on to fill a family’s productivity gap because pasture is often infested with mesquite and therefore can’t support a sufficient number of productive animals. The result is extreme rural poverty, persistent hunger and malnutrition. To cope, some people are choosing to leave their farms to find poorly-paid seasonal work or turning to charcoal production which is less economically-rewarding than farming or herding and which has harmful environmental consequences.

Cutting down or pulling out mesquite isn’t an easy fix. The tree’s powerful root system can become deeply entrenched in the soil for up to 20 metres and any remaining root can quickly reestablish. Able-bodied workers who could tackle the tough job are often away taking part in seasonal paid labour. For those remaining, only rudimentary tools are available to remove the trees, and widespread malnutrition means many people are often simply too weak. The latest published data shows Red Sea state has the highest rate of malnutrition in Sudan, at 28 per cent. Globally, malnutrition rates of 10 percent are considered critical. The 28 percent is an average that includes the prosperous state capital, so rates in poor rural areas are thought to be even higher. Poor rains during the 2011/12 growing season in Red Sea state and parts of Kassala have compounded the malnutrition problem, and UNICEF is currently working to update the statistical data. In response to this complex context, FAO is currently developing a new project aimed at sustainable use and management of land, water and natural vegetation in watershed areas. The project includes supporting communities to reduce mesquite cover, reforest with valuable local tree species, rehabilitate pastures, adopt simple water-harvesting techniques and apply more-sustainable agriculture and livestock production practices. It will mean land can be returned once again to grow nutritious food and raise livestock to durably eradicate malnutrition and build the resilience of farming and herding communities.
General Assembly and related events on MDGs, sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda

The theme of the 68th session of the General Assembly is "The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage." Several events will focus on the MDGs and post-2015 during the high-level week at UN Headquarters in September. The high-level events in September represent a turning point in our collective approach to dealing with the problems faced today by people and planet.

There are three main discussions taking place in this context, all interconnected.

- Accelerating achievement of the Millennium Development Goals
- Developing an inclusive, universal post-2015 development agenda
- Promoting sustainable development and implementing the decisions of Rio+20

The Secretary-General will present “A Life of Dignity for All” - his new report on accelerating progress towards the MDGs and advancing the UN development agenda beyond 2015 - to Member States at the President of the General Assembly’s Special Event on the MDGs on 25 September.

On 23 September, the Secretary-General will hold a day-long event on MDG Success: Accelerating Action, Partnering for Impact, which will highlight several high-profile initiatives including Every Woman Every Child, Zero Hunger Challenge, Scaling Up Nutrition, Global Education First and the Deputy Secretary-General’s Call to Action on Sanitation.

The President of the General Assembly will hold a Special Event on the MDGs on 25 September, at which Member States will also take up the roadmap to the post-2015 agenda.

Participation at the highest levels is anticipated for both events, with Heads of State and Government and prominent figures from all regions expected to attend.

The Embassy of the Republic of South Africa, in collaboration with the UN Information Centre, UN Volunteers, UN Association-Youth and MTN, on 21 July marked Nelson Mandela International Day by renovating a school at Kober, Khartoum North. Ambassadors and Diplomats from Zimbabwe and the Netherlands also joined the volunteers to devote 67 minutes of their time to helping others, as a way to mark Nelson Mandela International Day – one minute for every year of Madiba’s public service.
Every year on August 19th, we mark World Humanitarian Day in honour of aid workers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. We commemorate their sacrifice and reaffirm our commitment to the life-saving work that humanitarians carry out around the world, every day, often in difficult and dangerous circumstances where others cannot or do not want to go.

This year’s commemoration marks the 10th anniversary of the attack on UN headquarters in Baghdad that killed Special Representative Sergio Vieira de Mello and 21 other United Nations colleagues and partners. That tragedy was among the inspirations for this Day. Sergio was a vocal advocate of the values and mission of the United Nations. He touched the lives of all who met him, and helped millions of poor and vulnerable people in a life of service on several continents. His death was a great loss to the United Nations, but his legacy has motivated many people to pursue humanitarian work. This year, our World Humanitarian Day campaign is calling on people to answer a question: What do you think the world needs more of? I urge people everywhere to go to www.worldhumanitarianday.org and tell us, in one word, what you think.

My word is “teamwork.” In a time of global challenges, people and countries need to work together in common cause for peace, justice, dignity and development. That is the humanitarian spirit. That is the humanitarian imperative of the United Nations.

Earlier this year, I met Munira Sha’ban in Zaatri refugee camp in Jordan. A 65-year-old midwife, Munira retired years ago, but every day at 6 am, she embarks on the two-hour bus journey from Jordan’s capital, Amman, to the camp near the Syrian border.

Munira trains midwives working in the camp and supervises them in UNFPA supported clinics which provide antenatal, obstetric, delivery and postnatal care. Nearly 15,000 Syrian refugees in Jordan will likely be pregnant this year. Munira’s skills and knowledge mean the difference between life and death for pregnant women and their newborns.

Today, on World Humanitarian Day, we pay tribute to humanitarian workers serving under difficult conditions and we remember those who lost their lives while helping to deliver a better world. We honour their memory by celebrating colleagues like Munira who continue to provide aid, no matter the risks and sacrifices.

Whether in Syria, Mali or the Philippines, or any other crisis situation, UNFPA staff and partners do all they can to ensure that the unique needs of women and girls are factored into all humanitarian assistance. Not only do we protect the lives of mothers and their newborns, but we also provide medical care and social support for survivors of gender-based violence and put in place mechanisms to prevent further attacks.

Over the years, UNFPA has committed important resources to make humanitarian response a priority. We will continue to increase our presence whenever a crisis hits and wherever women and girls are vulnerable.

This year the World Humanitarian Day campaign asks us: “What do you think the world needs more of?” For UNFPA, there is no doubt: the world needs more choices. Indeed, women and girls, who make up more than half the world, must be able to make informed choices about their health, their bodies and thus the future of their lives, families and communities. When an emergency strikes, what choices do pregnant women have if they cannot reach a health facility to deliver safely? What choice does a 12-year old girl have when forced to marry an older relative?

UNFPA aims to provide women and girls made vulnerable by crises with choices by ensuring that every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person’s potential is fulfilled.
Statement Attributable to the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, Mr. Ali Al-Za’tari, on World Humanitarian Day

World Humanitarian Day is a day for us all to spare a thought for people affected by war, drought, flood and other natural or manmade catastrophes. It is also a chance for us to recognize and appreciate humanitarian aid workers who often risk their lives to help affected people in some of the world’s most dangerous places. This year, as part of a global campaign, we are creating a market place of words that describe what the world needs of. Personally, I believe that the world needs more HUMANITY. For example, when women, children and other vulnerable civilians through no fault of their own find themselves in war-zones, efforts must be made unquestioningly by all those in positions of power to ensure that they’re protected and assisted.

You will each have your own views about what you think the world needs more of, and I welcome hearing them.

In Sudan nearly four and a half million people still need humanitarian help. Many people have had to flee their homes as a result of war and internal fighting in Darfur, South and North Kordofan, Blue Nile and Abyei. Others have lost their property and their jobs as a result. Recently, floods and severe weather conditions have affected nearly 150,000 people in several parts of Sudan.

To meet the needs of all these people, the United Nations and humanitarian aid organizations have mobilized and spent more than ten and a half billion dollars in Sudan over the last decade. The aid operation in Sudan is still one of the biggest in the world. Hundreds of humanitarian aid workers in Sudan – most of them Sudanese – continue to provide effort, food, shelter, clean water, healthcare and education to people who have been directly affected by war and natural calamities. They provide this aid to whoever needs it – regardless of race, religion and politics – inspired by a common feeling and respect of humanity.

Aid workers often take huge risks and make great sacrifices to help others. Just over one month ago, two Sudanese aid workers from World Vision were killed by a rocket propelled grenade that hit their office in Nyala, South Darfur. UNAMID staff, who are in this country to protect civilians, also suffer greatly. Since this time last year, 13 peacekeepers have been killed in the line of duty.

It should not be forgotten, however, that it is Sudanese humanitarian staff, Sudanese officials in institutions such as the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, the Humanitarian Aid Commission and local Sudanese communities who provide the institutional backbone of humanitarian assistance in Sudan. Hundreds of thousands of people have been given shelter, fed and nurtured by Sudanese people throughout Sudan who voluntarily have opened their houses and shared their often limited food and water to others who have been tragically affected.

Monday 19 August is World Humanitarian Day. It is a day to be celebrated by the Sudanese people who offered and provided aid, and by the guests of Sudan, the hundreds of aid workers who are driven only by a global humane sense of duty. On this occasion, let us reflect upon and celebrate all those who work for others who are less fortunate than themselves not for selfish gain, but for the good of humanity. Let us also honour all of those who, in different parts of the world, have paid with their lives while working to help others.
13 July 2013 — The Secretary-General was outraged to learn of a deadly attack on peacekeepers in Darfur which occurred this morning, 13 July, when unidentified armed assailants ambushed a convoy composed of troops and police of the African Union – United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) in Khor Abeche, South Darfur. Seven Tanzanian peacekeepers were killed and 17 others are injured. Among the injured are four UNAMID police officers, including two female officers, and 13 troops.

The Secretary-General expresses his deepest sympathies to the families of the fallen peacekeepers, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and to all UNAMID personnel.

The Secretary-General condemns this heinous attack on UNAMID, the third in three weeks, and expects that the Government of Sudan will take swift action to bring the perpetrators to justice.

UNAMID peacekeepers killed, injured in South Darfur ambush

Following a meeting of international Special Envoys, conducted at UNAMID headquarters, Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, UNAMID Joint Special Representative (JSR) and Joint Chief Mediator, noted that the participants were unanimous in expressing their continuing support for the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) and calling for its full implementation. In a press conference following the meeting, the JSR also noted that the meeting’s participants unanimously voiced concern over the deterioration of the security situation in Darfur and the reduction in funding available to aid agencies and humanitarian actors in the region.

The Special Envoys Retreat, held on 17 and 18 June in El Fasher, North Darfur, focused on current developments across the region, including the state of the peace process as well as the security and humanitarian situation. As part of the programme, the Envoys, along with UNAMID representatives and the diplomatic corps taking part in the event, visited Shangil Tobaya in North Darfur, where they toured a new health care centre in the Shadad camp for internally displaced persons. The healthcare centre, constructed with funding from UNAMID’s quick-impact project programme, treats nearly 100 patients every day.

Photos: The Joint Special Representative of the African Union - United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) Mohamed Ibn Chambas visiting the wounded peacekeepers at UNAMID’s hospital in Nyala to provide encouragement and support. Photos by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.