

UNAMID BULLETIN

Projects Launched to Address Darfur Water Needs

To address water scarcity, which is among the root causes of conflict in Darfur the African Development Bank (AfDB), in collaboration with the Government of Sudan and the African Union – United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), launched on 29 November in El Fasher, North Darfur, several water projects to be implemented across the region. These projects are expected to contribute to reducing conflict over water resources and assist in achieving durable peace in Darfur.

The projects will be funded by a grant of 3.3 million Euros, approved by the AfDB earlier this year as part of its African Water Facility initiative. The grant will cover the rehabilitation of water facilities and construction of new boreholes to encourage the return of internally displaced persons and refugees, which is one of the priorities of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur.

The projects are designed to meet the immediate and long term water needs of ap-

proximately 750,000 inhabitants, comprising nomads and farmers in the region.

"The project demonstrates AfDB's commitment to assist the Government and people of Sudan to create conditions for sustainable peace and stability, as a key prerequisite for adequately addressing the massive reconstruction and other development needs in Darfur," said Dr. Abdul Kamara, the Bank's resident representative.

Dr. Kamara also expressed the Bank's readiness to help create the appropriate conditions for addressing the economic and social constraints in Sudan, including debt relief, capacity deficits, food insecurity and meeting the Millennium Development Goals as well as emerging challenges. "AfDB is working to assist Sudan to consolidate poverty-reduction and long term economic growth," he said.

Speaking on behalf of UNAMID's Acting Joint Special Representative (JSR), the Director of Mission Support, Mr. Wolfgang Weiszegger said that



On 29 November, Dr. Akissa Bahri, coordinator of the African Water Facility, visits a water facility in Golo village that will be rehabilitated by funds from the African Development Bank. Photo by Sojoud Elgarrai, UNAMID.

"UNAMID will continue to provide technical and logistic support in the collective efforts to help the people of Darfur to achieve peace and durable development."

On 25 November, an agreement to implement water projects in Darfur was officially signed between the African Development Bank and the Sudanese Government, in the presence of Minister of Finance, Minister of Water, Darfur state

ministers and UNAMID Deputy JSR Mohamed Yonis.

Last year, an international water conference in Khartoum brought together more than 200 experts in water use and distribution, as well as donors. The forum, sponsored by the Government of Sudan, UN Agencies, and UNAMID, was aimed at building an innovative and sustainable water service system for all communities in Darfur. ■

UNAMID Lends Resources to Fighting Yellow Fever in Darfur

In an effort to combat the spread of yellow fever in Darfur, the African Union – United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) has lent its critical logistics support to the Sudanese Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO) in their fight to save lives.

The urgency to address the disease, in which the first suspected case was registered in September, came in late October following a spike in the number of those cases in Central Darfur and a spread to the region's other states. As

a result of the outbreak, 2.4 million doses of the vaccine against yellow fever were made available for Sudan by the International Coordination Group on Vaccines, which controls the global stock of vaccines.

Upon receipt of the vaccines, the first batches were airlifted by UNAMID from Khartoum to Darfur on 18 November with additional batches brought shortly thereafter by the Government of Sudan. The Mission was further requested to airlift several hundred tons of

injection materials and other items from State capitals to localities.

With the medication in place and facilities ready to administer it, vaccination campaigns began in West Darfur on 20 November, in North Darfur on 24 November and in Central and South Darfur on 25 November.

The Mission's assistance has also included security escorts, technical services and medical expertise, as well as the use of assets including generators for rural medical facilities and isolation tents.

UNAMID is currently arranging for the transportation of large quantities of insecticide which will be used for vector control in internally displaced person camps and in the Central Darfur town of Zalingei.

"We are here to help the people of Darfur. By working together with our humanitarian partners and the Ministry of Health we are able to save lives," said UNAMID Acting Joint Special Representative and Joint Chief Mediator a.i. Aïchatou Mindaoudou. ■

UNAMID Supports Hospital in East Darfur

As part of its continuous support to Darfur's communities, the African Union - United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) presented on 3 December 300 beds and mattresses to El Daein Hospital in East Darfur. The hospital is the only facility providing healthcare services to the local population in the aforementioned state.

Presenting the items, UNAMID Deputy Joint Special Representative (DJSR) for Operations and Management Mohamed Yonis pledged UNAMID's continued support to assist the community. "We will continue to work hand in hand in order to execute the Mission's mandate and to assist in addressing other issues within the Mission's capacity," he said.

During the visit to El Daein



UNAMID staff unload mattresses and beds for delivery to the hospital in El Daein, East Darfur. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

town, DJSR Yonis met with East Darfur Deputy Wali (Governor) Abdel El Majeed AlZair Abdallah, and other Native Administration, community and traditional leaders in the area. He also visited Neem internally displaced

persons camp located on the outskirts of El Daein town.

Mr. Yonis also met with Darfur Regional Authority (DRA) Chairman El Tigani Seise and a Qatari delegation, who were visiting the region to begin the first

phase of laying the foundation for the construction of model villages which will be funded by the Arab League, within the framework of DDPD, and implemented by the Sudanese Humanitarian Aid Commission and the DRA. ■

UNAMID Commemorates World AIDS Day in Darfur

With the lighting of candles, marches, cultural and traditional dances and drama, the African Union – United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) commemorated World AIDS Day throughout Darfur with events held between 1 and 3 December 2012.

The Day, under the theme "Getting to Zero," called for building on recent global successes and pressing ahead to get to zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-

related deaths by 2015.

In ceremonies held in several Darfur towns, UNAMID officials read the UN Secretary-General's message, which stated "On this World AIDS Day, let us commit to build on and amplify the encouraging successes of recent years to consign HIV/AIDS to the pages of history."

The World AIDS Day Report for 2012, the Secretary-General noted, reveals significant progress in preventing and treating HIV/AIDS in the past two years.

"I also urge stronger efforts to eliminate the stigma and discrimination that increase risk for vulnerable populations. We must make information, testing and treatment available to all, so every man, woman and child can enjoy their fundamental right to the medical care and essential services that will end this devastating epidemic," the UNSG said in his message.

UNAMID is mandated to provide HIV prevention services to the Mission's personnel and to the population in Darfur. Also, UNAMID works to strengthen the capacity of the Sudan National AIDS Program and other AIDS support organizations to better respond to the HIV and AIDS epidemic in Darfur.

Since 1988, World AIDS Day is observed annually on 1 December all over the world to unite efforts to fight against HIV, support people living with HIV/AIDS and to remember those who have lost their lives. ■



El Fasher, North Darfur

On 2 December, the people of Athura Shamal district in El Fasher, North Darfur, together with Government and UNAMID officials, celebrated the opening of a new community centre built by 80 young men and women from the area. The youths have been participating in a new UNAMID initiative called community-based labour-intensive projects (CLIPs). Over the course of the three-month project, the participants developed new skills as masons, painters and electricians. More importantly, they learn how to work as a team. In 2012, UNAMID's Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration section implemented 18 CLIPs throughout Darfur to address the needs of at-risk youth in violence-affected communities.

Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.