

UNAMID BULLETIN

Mass Displacement Following North Darfur Tribal Clashes



On 14 January, UNAMID sends an assessment team to El Sereif, North Darfur, to determine the needs of those displaced in recent tribal clashes in Jebel Amir. Photo by Sojoud El Garrai, UNAMID.

UNAMID committed to engaging with all stakeholders to address the current humanitarian needs of thousands of civilians who were displaced in the North Darfur villages of Saraf Omra, Kabkabya and El Sereif. The commitment comes following a two-day assessment mission to determine the security and humanitarian situation and to verify reports of fighting, which UNAMID received on 6 January, between the Abbala and Beni Hussein tribes in the Jebel Amir area of North Darfur.

On 13 and 14 January, UNAMID deployed a team, consisting of civilian, military and police personnel, to the three affected areas. The team found evidence of mass displacement, including those

displaced from their homes in villages around El Sereif, along with workers who said they had fled from the work sites at the Jebel Amir gold mines as a result of the fighting. According to Government figures, an estimated 70,000 people have been displaced and more than 100 killed since the clashes broke out.

Many of the displaced interviewed in the aftermath of the violence indicated their most urgent needs include access to health care, water, food and other basic items, most notably shelter and blankets. In response, UNAMID is now supporting mediation and reconciliation initiatives between the two tribes and is transporting medical supplies and other critical items to those in need.

In addition, the Mission is conducting security escorts to facilitate humanitarian access and is stepping up daily patrols in El Sereif, the area most affected by the tribal clashes. During the past week, the Mission has conducted several medical evacuations for wounded Darfuris in the affected area, and has provided full logistics support to the local mediation teams working to reduce the tensions in Jebel Amir.

"The protection of Darfur's people is at the heart of UNAMID's mandate," said Acting Joint Special Representative (JSR) and Joint Chief Mediator a.i., Aïchatou Mindaoudou. "It is why we are here and what we focus on each and every day, as we attempt to elevate the lives of Dar-

furis caught in the conflict across the region."

UNAMID's ongoing mission, the Acting JSR went on to say, is to facilitate a lasting, durable peace that includes protection from violence. "I urge all parties to enable both UNAMID, UN agencies and their humanitarian partners to be given full access to all areas of Darfur, so affected populations can receive needed protection and assistance," said Ms. Mindaoudou.

During the past several months, UNAMID has been directly engaged in addressing the recent uptick in tribal clashes and other forms of violence across Darfur. These efforts have included extensive reconciliation and mediation activities, an increase in the number of daily security patrols to hotspot areas, and a broad spectrum of logistics support to the humanitarian community.

In addition to these efforts, UNAMID has bolstered its protection of civilians strategy with a revamped Darfur-wide early-warning and response mechanism designed to address populations in need by reaching them quickly through the rapid formation of response teams. These efforts, along with the early-warning mechanism, are designed to strengthen UNAMID's ability to prevent violence, to proactively address emerging situations and to react to humanitarian and protection needs.



UNAMID's South African Peacekeepers Support Disabled in Darfur

On 9 January, in a sign of solidarity with the people of Darfur, the South African military and staff officers serving with UNAMID present wheelchairs to two of Darfur's disabled. Funding for the presentation came from the Rotary Club in Pretoria, South Africa. Ms. Adama Ibrahim, a 26-year-old from El Fasher (shown seated), and Mr. Saad Suliman Abdalla, a 12-year-old from Nertiti, Central Darfur, graciously receive the wheelchairs. Photo by Sojoud El Garrai, UNAMID.

UNAMID Acting Chief Speaks at DRA Council Inauguration



On 16 January, UNAMID Acting JSR Aichatou Mindaoudou addresses the audience gathered for the inauguration of the Darfur Regional Authority Council in Nyala. Photo by Kone Mouroulaye.

In a speech delivered on 16 January, UNAMID Acting Joint Special Representative and Joint Chief Mediator a.i. Aichatou Mindaoudou addressed the audience gathered for the inauguration of the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA) Council in Nyala, South Dar-

fur, saying that the event marked an important milestone in the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD).

Ms. Mindaoudou noted that the inauguration of the Council completes the establishment of the DRA as the primary mechanism not only for the implementation of DDPD provisions, but also for coordinating with the relevant Government entities on recovery and development efforts in Darfur.

The DRA Council has supervisory, monitoring and organisational responsibilities and is specifically mandated to examine laws and recommend legislative measures that would

promote coordination and cooperation among the Darfur states, evaluate the performance of the Regional Authority, approve its budget and ensure proper spending and accountability.

"I urge you all to do your utmost to deliver these public responsibilities and, by so doing, justify the confidence reposed in you," she said. "I call on the Government to empower and adequately fund both the Executive Council and the Council of the DRA for them to be able to function fully and effectively."

Regarding the efforts to bring all parties to the conflict to the peace process, the Acting JSR announced that talks between the Government of Sudan and the Justice and Equality Movement will resume soon in Doha. "I urge both parties to exercise flexibility in the interest of the people of Darfur who

have suffered for too long," she said.

The DRA Chair, Dr. Altigani Seise, said that the inauguration of the Council represents a step toward stability and development. He praised the efforts of Qatar and UNAMID, as key DRA partners in supporting activities designed to foster peace. Dr. Seise urged the Government of Sudan to fulfil its commitment toward the DDPD.

The Sudanese First Vice President, Ali Osman Mohammed Taha, who officially inaugurated the Council, called on the members of the Council to commit to the oath they have taken, bear the responsibility and unify their ranks for the sake of Darfur's people. "We are striving to bring peace all over Sudan and the Doha Document is one of the important tools we use to achieve this goal," said Mr. Osman. ■

UNAMID Sponsors Education Projects in Central Darfur

On 8 January, in the Central Darfur capital of Zalingei, hundreds of men, women and children took part in a ceremony to inaugurate three quick-impact projects (QIPs) implemented by UNAMID's Rwandese peacekeepers. The projects, designed to improve the facilities at El Salaam Basic School and El Zahra Secondary School for girls, represent the most recent effort in UNAMID's ongoing work to support local educational systems across Darfur to create an environment conducive for learning.

UNAMID Acting Joint Special Representative and Joint Chief Mediator a.i. Aichatou Mindaoudou officially launched the QIPs, which included the construction of four classrooms and latrines, the

provision of school furniture and stationery at El Salam Basic School, and the construction of a security wall around the El Zahra Secondary School.

During a speech delivered at the ceremony, held at El Zahra School, Ms. Mindaoudou explained that QIPs are small-scale projects designed to benefit local communities. "These schools, and the QIPs which brought them into being, are not the total of what UNAMID does in Darfur, but they do reflect the best of what UNAMID is intended to achieve," said the Acting JSR.

The three QIPs were a result of consultations with communities and local authorities, particularly the Commissioner of Zalingei and the State Ministry of Education. During the discussions, the parties com-



On 8 January 2013, UNAMID Acting JSR Aichatou Mindaoudou visits Al Salaam Basic School in Zalingei, Central Darfur, and presents school supplies to the school's principal. Photo by Rania Abdulrahman, UNAMID.

mitted to supporting both schools and ensuring that the communities have the resources to maintain the facilities.

"Communities throughout Darfur are coming together, just as you have done, to make decisions about what would

best help their communities develop," said Ms. Mindaoudou. "With the wide variety of QIPs proposals, we are seeing it is clear that Darfuris are invested in laying their own foundation for a peaceful and prosperous future." ■