

UNAMID BULLETIN

UNAMID Head Visits Darfur's States to Assess Security and Civilian Needs



On 22 April 2013 in North Darfur, UNAMID Joint Special Representative Mohamed Ibn Chambas speaks in Shangil Tobaya in the first of his visits to various locations in Darfur's five states. The visits to Darfur's regions were Mr. Chambas' first in his official capacity as UNAMID JSR, a post he assumed on 1 April 2013. Photo by Sharon Lukunka, UNAMID.

During the period of 22 to 30 April 2013, the head of UNAMID, Joint Special Representative (JSR) Mohamed Ibn Chambas, conducted a series of field visits across the five Darfur states to focus on the security, humanitarian and political situation. Mr. Chambas met with representatives of internally displaced persons (IDPs), traditional leaders, State authorities and UNAMID staff.

In Shangil Tobaya, North Darfur, the first of his visits, the JSR met with leaders of the Shadad and Niyasha IDP camps to discuss matters related to their protection. "The best solution to the conflict in

Darfur is to achieve a lasting peace, allowing conditions to normalize so that citizens can live without fear or intimidation," he said.

In South Darfur, Mr. Chambas went to the Kalma IDP camp where he reassured the residents of the Mission's commitment to protect civilians. "UNAMID and its humanitarian partners will continue to do their best in addressing the needs of the local community," said Mr. Chambas. Prior to the meeting, the UNAMID chief met with South Darfur Governor (Wali) Adam Mahmoud Jaral-Nabi.

In East Darfur, the JSR met

with Wali Abdulhamid Musa Kasha to express his gratitude for the cooperation shown to UNAMID and its UN Country Team partners in the delivery of humanitarian aid to Labado and Muhajeria. The JSR traveled to both villages, where recent clashes between the Government and Sudan Liberation Army - Mini Minawi had displaced several thousand inhabitants. While there, the JSR assessed the situation on the ground and met with UNAMID personnel to express appreciation for their professional conduct in the protection of civilians during the days of the crisis, particularly after the death of one peacekeeper and the injury of two others in an attack on the Mission's Muhajeria Team Site.

Last week, in the first phase of the humanitarian assistance operation to the area, UNAMID delivered more than 80,000 kilograms of humanitarian aid to thousands of displaced civilians. The Mission conducted the second phase of the operation on 29 April. In his meeting with State authorities of East and South Darfur, the JSR stressed the importance of ensuring continued access by UNAMID and humanitarian

organizations to enable the delivery aid to the IDPs concentrated around the UNAMID Team Sites in Muhajeria and Labado.

In Zalingei, Central Darfur, the JSR met with leaders of the Hassa Hissa and Nertiti IDP Camps to listen to their concerns and to highlight the benefits that both the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur and the Darfur Donor Conference's financial pledges could bring in terms of achieving lasting peace and much-needed development in Darfur.

The JSR's travel concluded in El Geneina, West Darfur, where he visited with community leaders at the Mornei IDP camp. With 85,000 residents, the camp is largest in the State. He commended the residents of the camp for the cordial relations that exist between them and UNAMID personnel. He pledged the continued commitment and dedication of UNAMID to work for the protection and welfare of the IDPs and the long-suffering Darfuri civilian population.

The visits to Darfur's regions were Mr. Chambas' first in his official capacity as UNAMID JSR, a post he assumed on 1 April 2013. ■

Tripartite Meeting on UNAMID Focuses on Darfur Security

Concerns over an increase in the number of security incidents in Darfur and access by UNAMID peacekeepers to those areas most affected by conflict were the primary focus of discussion of the 15th meeting of the Tripartite Coordination Mechanism on UNAMID. The forum was held on 15 April

2013 at the AU's headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Tripartite Mechanism, consisting of representatives of the Government of Sudan, the AU and the UN, is an instrument designed to resolve issues and challenges related to UNAMID deployment and operations.

At the meeting, the AU and UN expressed concern over the increased reports of armed clashes and intercommunal violence in Darfur. While acknowledging Sudan's primary responsibility of protecting civilians, the Mission noted with concern that delays in granting peace-

keepers access to these areas negatively impacts the quality and efficiency of the Mission in carrying out its mandate. The Government noted that many of the restrictions were due to security concerns and requested that there be increased coordination at the technical level.

Other topics of discussion included resolving challenges related to customs clearances and the issuance of visas, and the importance of development projects in Darfur.

Representatives of the AU and UN welcomed the cooperative spirit demonstrated by

the Government in its support of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, which most recently led to the signing of a peace agreement with the Justice and Equality Movement - Sudan. Furthermore, the AU and UN called upon non-signatory movements to join the

peace process by coming to the negotiation table.

The delegations were headed by Ambassador Rahamtalla Mohamed Osman, Sudan Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, AU Commissioner

for Peace and Security; and, Mr. Anthony Banbury, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Field Support.

The next meeting of the Tripartite Coordination Mechanism is scheduled to be held in Khartoum, Sudan in July 2013. ■

UNAMID Delivers Critical Aid to East Darfur Displaced

UNAMID and its humanitarian partners delivered nearly 80,000 kilograms of critical humanitarian aid to thousands of displaced civilians in Labado and Muhajeria, East Darfur.

The first phase of the operation, conducted on 23 April 2013, consisted primarily of delivering food rations, bottled water and medical supplies. UNAMID delivered the humanitarian aid, provided by the UN Children's Fund, the World Food Programme, and the World Health Organization, by road under the protection of UNAMID peacekeepers. The second phase of the operation took place on 29 April.

The current humanitarian situation in the area emerged earlier in April as a result of clashes between the Sudan Liberation Army - Mini Minawi and the Government of Sudan. An estimated 20,000 dis-



On 23 April 2013, UNAMID and its humanitarian partners delivered nearly 80,000 kilograms of critical humanitarian aid to thousands of displaced civilians in Labado and Muhajeria, East Darfur. Photo by Safwat Mutaal, UNAMID

placed people gathered around the Mission's team sites in Labado and Muhajeria.

"Access remains a priority and we are pleased that this aid has made it to the people,"

said UNAMID Joint Special Representative Mohamed Ibn Chambas. "UNAMID and its UN Country Team partners will continue to ensure we reach those most in need." ■

UNAMID Peacekeeper Killed in East Darfur Attack

In the early morning hours of 19 April 2013, one UNAMID peacekeeper was shot dead and two others injured in an attack by unidentified assailants on the Mission's team site near Muhajeria, East Darfur.

UNAMID is investigating the events surrounding the incident and working in coordination with the Government of Sudan to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice, as any attack on international peacekeepers is a crime under international law.

In a statement, the Secretary-General noted that he is appalled and saddened by the fatal shooting of the Nigerian peacekeeper and expressed his condolences to the Government of Nigeria and to the family and colleagues of the fallen peacekeeper. ■

Training Workshop Raises HIV/AIDS Awareness

In collaboration with Sudan's National AIDS Programme, UNAMID organized a week-long education session for representatives from the Government of Sudan and the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA) in El Fasher, North Darfur. The workshop, which concluded on 25 April 2013, was set up to

train Government representatives and DRA officials on how to train others in the fight against HIV and AIDS in their places of work and in the communities they serve.

The Head of UNAMID's HIV & AIDS section, Ms. Margaret Masenda-Simbi, explained that UNAMID con-

ducted this workshop, and similar workshops throughout Darfur, to increase the capacity of local authorities to reach out to their communities with effective, fact-based guidance. "The course is designed to build on your capacity so that you can be ambassadors, to provide the necessary sup-

port in your communities and workplace," she said to those gathered in El Fasher.

Similar sessions were held in El Geneina, West Darfur, and Zalingei, Central Darfur, while others are scheduled to take place in Nyala, South Darfur, and El Daein, East Darfur. ■