

UNAMID BULLETIN

UNAMID-Rehabilitated Cultural Centre Inaugurated in El Fasher

On 18 July, El Fasher public library and cultural centre was officially inaugurated after being rehabilitated, equipped and furnished by UNAMID to create a new learning environment in North Darfur.

The renovation of the centre was funded through two quick-impact projects and facilitated by the nongovernmental organization El Bagayat. The project included general repairs, new doors and windows, 15 computers, audio equipment, furniture, and more than 20,000 new books. UNICEF made a contribution by providing a children's playground, a generator and maintenance of the cultural centre.

The ceremony, attended by local authorities, UNESCO representatives and UNAMID officials, included traditional music performances, a drama representation by the Ashouruq Assalam theatre group and photo and art exhibitions.

The North Darfur Minister of Culture and Information, Ms. Zubaida Suleiman, encouraged the citizens to use the library and said that it will serve readers not only from El Fasher but also from all the communities in North Darfur.

The Deputy Wali (Governor) of North Darfur State, Mr. El Fateh Abdel Aziz, highlighted the promotion of cultural ac-



On 18 July, student Ibrahim Khalil looks through the bookshelves at the newly restored library in the Cultural Center in El Fasher, North Darfur. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

tivities as a way to address the root causes of the Darfur crisis and enhance peace.

UNAMID Head of Office for North Darfur, Mr. Hassan Gibril, said that it is a top priority for the Mission to promote education and expanded opportunities for all citizens of Darfur.

"With the astounding technological

progress that has taken place in recent decades, libraries have become centres for preservation, restoration and retrieval of national and global intellectual, cultural, artistic and historical heritage, as well as spaces for dialogue and exchange of ideas and views on the major issues of our time," said Mr. Gibril. ■

UN Volunteers Advocate for El Fasher Disabled

On 19 July, the community in the Abu Shouk camp for internally displaced persons in El Fasher, North Darfur, received items from UNAMID's UN Volunteers Field Unit to improve the quality of life of some of the most vulnerable members of the community.

Following a fundraising campaign led by UNV Mohammad Sarhan, the UNVs collaborated with the Sudanese Development Agency to offer five wheelchairs, 72 sticks for blind persons and 102 crutches to the internally displaced persons in Abu Shouk.

In 2011, when the initiative started and the fundraising took place, the first beneficiary was the El Fasher Rehabilitation Clinic and Disability Club, to which UNAMID's UNV Field Unit distributed 20 wheelchairs, two desktop computers and seed money to support the club's workshop where some of the members recondition wheelchairs and produce crutches and prosthetic limbs.

Leaders of the camp in Abu Shouk, along with the Director of the Sudanese Development Agency, Mr. Mohammed Ismail, expressed their gratitude and encouraged the international community to keep advocating for the wellbeing of the disabled.

Mr. Omar Jallow, Programme Manager of UNAMID's UNV



On 19 July, a disabled person is accommodated in a wheelchair received during a ceremony in which items were donated to the disabled community in the Abu Shouk camp for displaced persons. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

Field Unit, addressed those attending the donation event and explained the role of the UNVs in peacekeeping. He pointed out that, to date, nearly 500 UNVs have been deployed to contribute to peace and development in Darfur. ■

UN Country Team, UNAMID Pave Way for Doha Document

The UN Country Team (UNCT) in Sudan and UNAMID held a joint meeting on 16 July at UNDP Headquarters in Khartoum, Sudan, to pave the way for their mutual support to the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) and other major joint activities.

UNAMID Deputy Joint Special Representative (Political) Aichatou Mindaoudou Souleymane cochaired the event with UN Resident Coordinator / Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Sudan Ali Al-Za'tari.

The joint meeting adopted the UNAMID-UNCT Collaborative Matrix, a comprehensive framework to support the implementation of the DDPD, including support to the Darfur Regional Authority and its capacity to consolidate peace in Darfur.

“We have achieved an important step in our collaboration

to advance our common support to the DDPD implementation and the peace process,” said Mr. Al-Za'tari. “The mechanisms established today will greatly facilitate this coordination and implementation.”

UNAMID used the occasion to inform the UNCT partners of the latest update to its protection of civilians strategy, highlighting ways to enhance the early warning network in Darfur by harnessing the Mission's partnership with UNCT on the ground.

“While UNAMID's new strategy addresses the latest challenges the Mission faces in the implementation of its Protection of Civilian mandate, it also provides a clear framework for leveraging the relationships UN agencies, funds, and programmes have developed with Darfuri communities,” stated Ms. Mindaoudou. ■

AU, UN Peacekeepers Construct Road in South Darfur

On 16 July, the Wali of South Darfur, Mr. Hammad Ismail Hammad, commissioned the first phase of a three kilometer Nyala University road project that is being guided by UNAMID's Chinese Engineering Company.

Mr. Hammad expressed appreciation for UNAMID's efforts in supporting development projects in South Darfur. “As you know, roads are the most important infrastructure everywhere and this road will help facilitate life in the University,” the Wali said. “I think through positive cooperation between the concerned parties, we will be able to accomplish the project and make it real.”

Ms. Obahor expressed her desire to see the project implemented on time through follow-up with the university and stated that the cooperation was something to be emulated in the implementation of any future community projects.

Last year, Nyala University presented its development plan to UNAMID and sought assistance for different components of the plan, including support for the university's storage and laboratory facilities and for its water and power-supply systems. UNAMID is assisting the university through quick-impact projects. ■

All Darfur Conference Takes Place in El Fasher

The All Darfur Conference for Peace and Development, organized by the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA) in collaboration with the Government of the Sudan, ran from 10 - 12 July in El Fasher, North Darfur.

The conference, which was established to ensure the full participation and engagement of all segments of society in the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, focused on reconstruction, development, displaced persons,

nomadic communities, security challenges, justice and reconciliation, native administration, land use, women, youth and students.

The forum was attended by First Vice President of Sudan Ali Osman, UNAMID Joint Special Representative Ibrahim Gambari, DRA Chairman Tijani El Seissi, representatives of the Government of Qatar and Walis of the five Darfur states, among other dignitaries. ■

In Other News...

UNAMID Joint Special Representative Welcomes Ramadan

On 20 July, Ibrahim Gambari, UNAMID Joint Special Representative, congratulated the people of Darfur, the Darfur Regional Authority and the Government of Sudan on the occasion of the Holy month of Ramadan.

“Ramadan is the month of blessing and forgiveness; it is also a time of deep reflection,” Gambari said in a message to mark the start of the month-long fasting. “Moreover, this is a time for reconciliation, when differences are put aside in order to foster the values of this holy month.”

The JSR wished the people of Darfur a blessed month and stated his commitment to support the people's efforts in advancing peace, stability and prosperity in Darfur. ■

HIV/AIDs Awareness Campaign Launched in Central Darfur Prisons

On 15 July, UNAMID's HIV/AIDs Unit, in collaboration with the Sudan National AIDS Program (SNAP), launched an awareness campaign and a confidential counseling and testing system for Zalingei Prison. The campaign is expected to reach out to the 114 male prisoners, six female prisoners and 11 prison wardens.

Meanwhile, HIV/AIDs officials from the five states of Darfur participated in a training session that was conducted at the UN Regional Training and Conference Centre in Entebbe from 9 to 13 July. The training focused on risk assessment and reduction for patients seeking counseling services.

In addition, on 11 July, the HIV/AIDs Unit provided training for 47 female prisoners and prison officers at Nyala prison in South Darfur. The session focused on basic facts about HIV/AIDs, including transmission, prevention, counseling and how to fight the stigma and discrimination associated with the disease. ■