

UNAMID BULLETIN

UN Head of Department of Field Support Assesses UNAMID Operations



In Kabkabiya, North Darfur, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, Ameerah Haq, visits a Darfuri patient in the UNAMID hospital run by the Mongolian contingent. The patient, one of 20 locals from the Kabkabiya community treated each day in the hospital, is recovering from an appendectomy. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

On 8 November, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Field Support (USG-DFS), Ameerah Haq, concluded in El Fasher, North Darfur, a working visit to UNAMID. The trip to Sudan, representing part of the new USG's first tour to field missions worldwide, began in Khartoum on 6 November.

During the visit, Ms. Haq met with Sudanese officials, representatives of the UN Country Team and UNAMID leadership. "This is my first visit to a field mission in my new role, and I am planning to visit all the other missions," said the USG, who became the Head of DFS on 11 June 2012. "The purpose of this visit to Sudan is to hear from all stakeholders and the Mission leadership their pressing issues and to work together to make sure those issues are resolved."

During her visit, Ms. Haq travelled to Kabkabiya, a Mission team site located 80 kilometres northwest of El Fasher. In Kabkabiya, the USG visited

UNAMID's hospital, which has provided healthcare services to more than 10,000 Darfuri patients, including 400 children, to date. The hospital, managed by UNAMID's Mongolian contingent, is currently implementing a quick-impact project designed to enhance the hospital's capabilities to accommodate service to 100 Darfuri patients daily.

While in Kabkabiya, Ms. Haq spoke with the Kabkabiya team and expressed hope to the Jordanian Formed Police Unit Commander for the speedy release of UNAMID's two kidnapped Jordanian police officers. In this regard, she said United Nations Headquarters is engaged daily in working toward their safe and speedy release.

At a town hall meeting conducted in El Fasher, Ms. Haq briefed UNAMID staff on issues related to recruitment, mobility and gender balance, and discussed her strategic focus for DFS in the context of global economic realities. She

described how economic factors have transformed the financing of peacekeeping operations, introducing greater emphasis on efficiency, greater sensitivity to cost and a greater appreciation of the value of financial and human resources. "I am a firm believer in the role that we as staff members of the UN have as stewards of the resources that Member States entrust to the Organization," she said.

Ms. Haq called attention to the Global Field Support Strategy, an approach designed to consolidate mission support in global and regional service centres, with the first such regional centre being in Entebbe, Uganda. The USG pointed out that, in an era of financial austerity and at a time when the world's expectations for the UN are growing, the Organization must find ways to do more with less. The Global Field Support Strategy, she said, is the way of the future.

"My immediate focus is to ensure that Regional Service Centre Entebbe realizes the vi-

sion of a truly integrated hub of transactional support for the missions under its jurisdiction," said the USG. "This approach is more cost-effective and beneficial, and it will liberate mission leadership from the burden of mission support matters, helping them to focus on fulfilling their mandate."

Regarding UNAMID, Ms. Haq said she intended to assess the Mission's support to ensure an enabling environment so the Mission could meet the expectations of its mandate. "Although there is some progress in the peace process, there are some limitations, such as access restrictions," said the USG in an interview following the town hall meeting. "I have raised these issues with the Government to ensure smooth operation of the Mission, and in this regard I have received assurances of the Government's co-operation."

Since 2009, Ms. Haq (Bangladesh) was the Special Representative of the Secretary-Gen-

eral for Timor-Leste and Head of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT). She has previously held the positions of Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General as well as United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan and before that as Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Afghanistan. Ms. Haq has 37 years of United Nations career service, 19 in the field and 18 at headquarters.

The United Nations Department of Field Support provides support to political and peace-keeping missions around the world, helping them to promote peace and security. DFS focuses on finance; logistics; information, communication and technology; human resources; and general administration. ■

UNAMID Sends Verification Team to Sigili, Calls on All Communities to Exercise Restraint

On 6 November, UNAMID deployed a civilian-military team to the Sigili and Abu Delek areas, southeast of El Fasher, North Darfur, to verify recent reports of violence. The team found Sigili village completely deserted, with apparent signs of an abrupt departure. It also noticed several signs of destruction of housing and property, dead animals and burned houses. Ammunition was found in different sites across the village. The mission to Abu Delek was stopped by members of the Popular Defense Forces.

"I urge the Government of Sudan to swiftly conduct its planned investiga-

tion into the Sigili incident and bring the perpetrators to justice," said the Acting Joint Special Representative and Joint Chief Mediator a.i., Aichatou Mindaoudou.

On the way to the Abu Delek area, located approximately 60 kilometers southeast of El Fasher, the verification team was stopped by members of the Popular Defence Forces, who insisted on searching the nine-vehicle convoy. After lengthy discussion, the team decided to turn back to El Fasher and postpone the mission to Abu Delek.

The mission to Abu Delek was the second attempt to access the area. On 25 October 2012, UNAMID dispatched

a patrol to verify reports of alleged clashes between government forces and armed groups. As it approached Abu Delek, the patrol came under heavy gunfire from an unidentified armed group.

The Acting Head of Mission reiterated her call to all communities across Darfur to exercise restraint, and to put an end to inter-communal violence that has caused deep suffering and unacceptable loss of lives.

Ms. Mindaoudou also stressed that UNAMID will continue to work, in an impartial and independent manner, with all Darfur stakeholders to help reduce tensions, foster reconciliation and promote an inclusive peace process. ■

UNAMID Assists East Darfur Villages with Access to Water

On 4 November, in its ongoing efforts to facilitate access to water for Darfur communities, UNAMID reactivated a water point in the East Darfur village of Al Lijam to enable the community and eight surrounding villages to enjoy potable drinking water for their domestic use.

UNAMID Head of Office in East Darfur, Landing Badjie, explained that Mission personnel, during a visit to Al Lijam on 3 November, discovered that a water point serving eight villages with a population of more than 1,000 households was not functioning.

"On humanitarian grounds, UNAMID provided the community with assistance to ensure the water point is func-

tional and beneficial to the communities," said Mr. Badjie.

In appreciation, the Al Lijam community leader thanked UNAMID for the support, saying "we are now saved from trekking three hours daily to Asalaya village for water."

UNAMID is drilling boreholes in parts of Darfur to address the scarcity of water in the region. Recently, it completed a water borehole in Gereida, South Darfur, which will provide more than 16,000 litres of water each hour to serve both the Mission and the Darfuris in the area.

Also, on 23 September, UNAMID commissioned an El Fasher borehole that will provide about 3,600 litres of potable water per hour to benefit



On 4 November, UNAMID repaired a water point in the East Darfur village of Al Lijam to enable the community and eight surrounding villages to enjoy potable drinking water for their domestic use. Photo by Isa Rahma, UNAMID.

the Mission and the surrounding communities.

The Mission is planning to drill more than one dozen water wells throughout Darfur to

remedy the problem associated with accessing water in the region, which is one of the major causes of the conflict in Darfur. ■