

UNAMID BULLETIN

Peace Process the Focus in UNCT-UNAMID Meeting



The UNCT-UNAMID meeting, held at the UN Development Programme's headquarters in Khartoum, Sudan, was co-chaired by UNAMID Acting Joint Special Representative and Joint Chief Mediator a.i. Aichatou Mindaoudou and UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Sudan Ali Al-Za'tari.

Photo by Sujoud Elgarrai, UNAMID.

Joint support to the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD), to efforts in mitigating the outbreak of Yellow Fever, to Sudan's international partners in accessing Darfur and to the upcoming Doha Donor Conference was the focus of a United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and UNAMID senior level meeting.

The event, held on 19 No-

vember at the UN Development Programme's (UNDP) headquarters in Khartoum, Sudan, was co-chaired by UNAMID Acting Joint Special Representative and Joint Chief Mediator a.i. Aichatou Mindaoudou and UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Sudan Ali Al-Za'tari.

Both parties raised concern about the outbreak of

Yellow Fever in Darfur and reviewed the steps being taken by UNAMID-UNCT to assist the Government of Sudan in mitigating epidemic. The World Health Organisation (WHO) representative briefed the meeting participants on the current vaccination campaign designed to reach 2.4 million Darfuris in affected regions. UNAMID is providing air and land logistical support to the operation. Ad-

ditionally, the Mission is coordinating with the UN High Commission for Refugees and the Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to ensure that proper medical attention is given to those most vulnerable, particularly the internally displaced.

UNCT and UNAMID discussed progress made by the UNCT-UNAMID Joint Working Groups in support of the DDPD. UNAMID Acting Joint Special Representative and Joint Chief Mediator a.i. briefed the meeting on recent developments in the mediation and negotiation process, with an eye toward the scheduled workshop and resumption of talks in Doha in the near future.

The issue of access to Darfur of UNCT and Sudan's international partners was revisited in line with the Darfur Joint Assessment Mission, the upcoming Donor Conference and the delivery of humanitarian assistance and development activities.

UNCT expressed gratitude to UNAMID for accommodating the UNCT's views into the Mission's new approach to protection of civilians. ■

Protection of Civilians, Health Focus of Acting UNAMID Head's Visit to Central and West Darfur

Security and health concerns were the focus of the first field visit to Central and West Darfur by UNAMID Acting Joint Special Representative (AJSR) Aichatou Mindaoudou.

In Zalingei, the capital of the State of Central Darfur, Ms. Mindaoudou held talks with the Acting Wali (Governor), Mr. Isa Mohammed Yusuf, and local officials, on the importance of coopera-

tion between the Mission and State Government in the protection of civilians and in addressing the recent outbreak of Yellow Fever in the region. "We are committed to supporting local authorities and humanitarian organizations by providing the logistical support within the Mission's capacity," said the AJSR.

In El Geneina, West Darfur, the AJSR visited a human rights workshop attended by

more than 100 orphans. The two-day forum, organised by local nongovernmental organization "Child Friends" and UNAMID, focused on sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and basic information on the right to equality.

"Supporting children is close to my heart," said Ms. Mindaoudou. "They are the future of their communities; they can only be a positive

influence if they know their rights and respect the rights of others."

In the absence of the Wali and his deputy, the AJSR did not meet with local authorities in El Geneina.

In both states, the acting UNAMID head used the opportunity to meet with UNAMID staff to discuss the current security situation and the Mission's protection of civilians strategy. ■

UNAMID Raises Awareness of Women's Health Issues in Central Darfur

More than 150 women in Zalingei, Central Darfur, took part in a three-day training session aimed at raising awareness of the negative health consequences and human rights violations associated with Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). The workshop, organized by UNAMID, is part of the Mission's continuing efforts to strengthen the role of women by providing information.

The forum, which concluded on 13 November, provided an opportunity for women, including midwives, nurses, female teachers and community leaders, to discuss how they can work as key elements of change and advocacy to combat FGM and other negative practices related to women's health in their communities.

Addressing the participants, Mr. Andre Mathurin Fouda, a UNAMID human



On 13 November 2012, in El Geneina, West Darfur, women attend a health workshop in the Al Riad camp for internally displaced persons. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

rights officer, noted that a "commitment to combating Female Genital Mutilation is symbolic of the effort to strengthen the position of women and women's rights." He added that "FGM is a serious violation of human rights, and its elimination would

serve to advance human dignity."

UNAMID is mandated to raise awareness on human rights violations to establish an enabling environment that will foster the full enjoyment of civil and political rights in Darfur. ■

UNAMID Supports Reconciliation Efforts in North Darfur

UNAMID, in its efforts to promote peace, facilitated a reconciliation meeting between Kutum and Al-Waha representatives, on 12 November in Kutum, North Darfur.

The meeting, designed to highlight the importance of peaceful coexistence and intercommunity dialogue between the two localities, as the only means for overcoming past problems, was attended by executive managers of the localities, the Government's Military Commissioner and other local officials, in addition to representatives of UNAMID.

As a result, the representatives of the two localities agreed to bring the leaders of the seven administrative units in the area to a preliminary dialogue to be held on 27 November to advance the reconciliation process, under the auspices of UNAMID's Civil Affairs Section.

Violence began in the area on 1 August when the Commissioner of Kutum's Alwaha district and his driver were killed. Later in the day, armed men surrounded Kassab, looted the market, burned down the Sudanese Police station in the camp and reportedly killed four people (three civilians and one Police Officer) and injured six others.

Similar events leading to the deterioration in the security and humanitarian situation occurred the following days in and around the area, including fighting between the armed elements and Government Forces, as well as looting and displacement of civilians. ■

El Geneina, West Darfur



On 14 November 2012, in El Geneina, West Darfur, Mr. Saleh Mohammed Hamid receives medical attention at the Teaching Hospital in El Geneina after contracting Yellow Fever. The Teaching Hospital received some 200 vaccinations, which were given to the doctors and nurses at the hospital to protect them from the epidemic. Hospital administrators are expecting to receive thousands more vaccines to inoculate the local population in the upcoming weeks. UNAMID is supporting the local health authorities in transporting vaccines and personnel, and providing security and logistics assistance. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.