

UNAMID BULLETIN

UNAMID Airlifts North Darfur Wounded, Strengthens Presence in Area

On 24 February 2013 in North Darfur, UNAMID airlifted 37 wounded civilians, including one woman and two children, from the El Sereif locality to El Fasher for medical treatment. In addition, the Mission transported 2,700 kilograms of medical and other supplies to the victims of El Sereif as part of its ongoing efforts to address the needs of civilians affected in the North Darfur tribal clashes.

On 21 February, UNAMID received information about a resumption of fighting between the Beni Hussein and Abbala tribes in the Aji Heir area, approximately 10 kilometres west of El Sereif. The fighting reached the vicinity of the El Sereif town on 23 February.

UNAMID immediately activated its protection of civilians plan to respond to the reports of violence by deploying peace-

keepers to establish a temporary operating base to secure the area and to facilitate the work of humanitarian organizations.

“I call for the immediate end to the tribal clashes in North Darfur,” said Mohamed Yonis, UNAMID’s Officer in Charge. “There is no solution to this conflict other than one that is driven by good-faith efforts toward reconciliation.”

The current humanitarian situation in the El Sereif locality and in North Darfur follows from an outbreak of violence that took place on 5 January 2013 between the Abbala and Beni Hussein tribes in the Jebel Amir area of North Darfur, resulting in a mass displacement of more than 100,000 people.

“My hope is that, in the upcoming weeks, the tensions in the area will ease and the reconciliation process will resume,”



On 24 February 2013 in North Darfur, UNAMID airlifted 37 wounded civilians, including one woman and two children, from the El Sereif locality to El Fasher for medical treatment. Photo by Rania Abdulrahman, UNAMID.

said Mr. Yonis. “UNAMID is committed to a protection presence in the area and will continue to provide full support to the local mediation process.”

The Mission has been supporting reconciliation initiatives

between the two sides and conducting security escorts to facilitate humanitarian access, and has significantly increased the number of daily patrols in North Darfur areas most affected by the violence. ■

Peace and Development the Focus of UNCT, UNAMID Forum



On 19 February in El Fasher, North Darfur, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and UNAMID met to discuss ways to strengthen mechanisms to protect civilians and support the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD). Photo by Sojouf Elgarrai, UNAMID.

The strengthening of mechanisms in protecting civilians and joint initiatives in supporting the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) were the focus at a 19 February meeting of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and UNAMID.

The event, held at UNAMID’s headquarters in El Fasher, North Darfur, was co-chaired by UNAMID Acting Joint Special Representative and Joint Chief Mediator a.i. Aichatou Mindaoudou and UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator and UN Development

Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in Sudan Ali Al-Za’ari.

Among the issues of discussion were ways to engage with different stakeholders in support of the Doha Donors Conference for development in Darfur, set for early April 2013, and the Darfur Joint Assessment Mission’s evaluation and submission of projects for immediate implementation in Darfur.

The meeting welcomed the recent temporary ceasefire agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) Sudan, within the framework of the DDPD, as a significant step toward a comprehensive peace agreement for Darfur. The parties acknowledged progress made by the UNCT-UNAMID Joint Working Groups in support of the DDPD and

announced the endorsement of three key projects focusing on livelihood and water supply, capacity building support to the Voluntary Returnees Commission, and support to the permanent ceasefire.

Furthermore, the implementation of the protection of civilian’s strategy and humanitarian access to Darfur by the UNCT and Sudan’s international partners was revisited and it was agreed to develop a humanitarian access mechanism for Darfur, including a larger UNCT-UNAMID presence in the deep field.

The coordination meetings are designed to strengthen the partnership between the UNCT and UNAMID, ensuring complementary and mutual support in addressing issues related to the peace process, humanitarian assistance and the protection of civilians. ■

Darfur Forum to Bolster Prison Development, Reform Initiatives

A tripartite meeting aimed at setting a five-year strategic plan for Darfur's prisons concluded on 20 February 2013 in El Fasher, North Darfur. The focus of the two-day meeting between the Government of Sudan, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNAMID was to develop a road-map for prison development

and reform in Darfur's five states.

The participants discussed what had been achieved thus far and commemorated the three-year partnership between the parties. The support provided by UNAMID and UNDP for the Sudanese Prison Directorate includes improving living conditions, providing prison officers with capacity-building

training, especially in human rights issues, and providing vocational training to inmates so they may acquire livelihood skills that will later assist them in the reintegration process.

"UNAMID is committed to continuing to work with the Sudanese Prisons Directorate and other stakeholders in collective efforts for the achievement of the goals and aspirations of the

Directorate in accordance with international standards," said Mr. Hassan Gibril, the head of UNAMID's Sector North Office.

The Mission's commitment to Darfur's prison system was strengthened in February 2010 with the signing of a memorandum of understanding to support the Government of Sudan's Directorate of Prisons and Reform. ■

Nyala Meeting to Ease Tensions Between Farmers, Nomads



On 25 February 2013 in Nyala, South Darfur, as part of UNAMID's ongoing efforts to facilitate conflict resolution at the local level, the Mission organized a consultative meeting between farmers and nomads. Photo by Mubarak Bako, UNAMID

On 25 February 2013 in Nyala, South Darfur, as part of UNAMID's ongoing efforts to facilitate conflict resolution at the local level, the Mission organized a consulta-

tive meeting between farmers and nomads in the area.

More than 30 participants from the El Wehda locality of South Darfur attended the meeting, including Mr. Mahdi

Mohammed, the General Secretary of the Nomad Commission in South Darfur, and Mr. Mohammed Yacoub, the representative of the Farmers Union.

Competition over natural resources has become an issue of major concern and one of the root causes of conflict among the pastoralist and farmer communities across Darfur.

The degradation of pastures and croplands, a shortage of water and a lack of veterinary services were among the major concerns identified during the meeting. Meeting participants also identified concerns related to security incidents that had blocked traditional animal routes toward North Darfur.

Mr. Idriss Yousif, the UNAMID Civil Affairs Officer presiding at the meeting, urged workshop participants to develop peaceful ways to achieve solutions to the ongoing disputes over limited resources, and stressed the need to discuss problems constructively to come up with suitable solutions to prevent future conflict.

Possible solutions discussed at the meeting included drilling water boreholes in the area, providing vocational training, securing medical and veterinary services, obtaining improved seeds and insecticides, and dispatching personnel to nomad areas for additional meetings. ■

Cultural Event Promotes Peace in Darfur



On 16 February 2013 in El Fasher, North Darfur, violin players put on a concert at an event facilitated by the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation (DDDC) group and the Development Group from Cultural Perspectives (DGCP). Photo by Sojoud Elgarrai, UNAMID.

On 16 February in El Fasher, North Darfur, UNAMID's Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation (DDDC)

group, in collaboration with the Development Group from Cultural Perspectives (DGCP), organized a cultural event to

promote peace in Darfur.

The event, which included a music concert, an arts exhibition, and poetry readings, was produced under the theme "Peace Messages Through Artistic Expression." Hundreds of participants from the Abu Shouk and Zam Zam camps for displaced people, along with school children, women's groups, Sudanese officials, and a cross section of people from the local El Fasher communities came together to mobilize support for peace initiatives through cultural activities and dialogue.

The Chief of DDDC, Mr. Abdel Angal, praised the DGCP's work toward "social

peace," and noted that the collaborative effort between the DDDC and the NGO had already produced substantial results, including the distribution of 10,000 music cassettes with traditional Darfuri proverbs and songs, a documentary on traditional justice systems, and sporting activities for schools.

The DDDC was formerly an autonomous and non-political process established in 2008 to enable Darfuris to voice their opinions and views. It was later brought under UNAMID following the outcome of the Doha peace agreement in 2011. ■