

UNAMID BULLETIN

Demobilisation of Former Combatants Begins in North Darfur



On 2 November 2014, former combatants from the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM)-Sudan participate in a demobilisation programme organized by the Sudan Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (SDDRC) with support from UNAMID, UNDP and WFP. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

On 12 November 2014, the Sudan Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (SDDRC) marked the official launch of the demobilisation exercise for members of the Justice and Equality Movement-Sudan as well as the signatories to the Darfur Peace Agreement. The event, which began on 2 November, is a month-long exercise for more than 500 ex-combatants from JEM-Sudan and 200 former combatants from the Darfur Peace Agreement—SLA-Mustafa Ter-

ab, SLA-Mother Wing and JEM-Peace Wing—who were yet to undergo the demobilisation process.

The process began with a briefing regarding the reintegration procedure, verification of administrative documents, a medical screening and the provision of identification cards. The participants were also given a cash payment in local currency as well as food rations for three months.

The occasion was attended by State Minister in the Presi-

dency, Fadul Abdallah Fadul, the Head of the Darfur Unit, General (Rtd) Abdallah Mohammed Abdul, UNAMID Deputy Force Commander, Major General Balla Keita, the Deputy Wali, Adam Mohammed Hamid Nahla and the Qatari Ambassador. The event was also attended by senior representatives from the Government of Sudan, UNAMID and UNDP.

In his remarks, UNAMID Deputy Force Commander, Major General Keita, expressed appreciation for the Government of Sudan, the State of Qatar and the leadership of JEM-Sudan for their combined efforts toward achieving this important milestone. He reaffirmed the Mission's continued efforts to provide support to the signatories of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) and the implementation of the final security arrangements in line with the DDPD.

"This is a significant milestone achieved through close collaboration between the DDPD signatory parties supported by UNAMID and the

UN agencies. By working together, we have been able to make valuable progress in the implementation of the DDPD, and we continue to strive for lasting peace and stability in Darfur. We hope that the ongoing demobilisation exercise will serve as a key driver for mediation efforts," he said.

The Deputy Wali of North Darfur, Mr. Adam Nahla, noted that the ongoing conflict has damaged the social fabric of Darfur and called on the ex-combatants to fight tribalism and racism within their communities.

On his part, the Qatari Ambassador, Mr. Rashid Al-Noaymi, expressed his government's commitment to the cause of sustainable peace in Darfur as well as to the implementation of ongoing projects in the region.

The disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) programme is part of the final security arrangements included in the DDPD agreement which was signed by the Liberation and Justice Movement and the Government of Sudan in 2011. ■

UNAMID Establishes Women's Protection Network

In Darfur, the increasing attention paid to displaced women in the context of United Nations' emphasis on women, peace and security has had a positive impact on their overall status. Against this backdrop UNAMID's Gender Advisory Unit (GAU) has established the Women's Protection Network. The Network is primarily aimed at receiving timely information concerning women's protection needs. This leads to the development of appropriate protection measures; raises awareness among local communities on women's rights and helps combat sexual and gender-based violence along with encouraging dialogues between women and the Mission's various components as well as UN agencies and government institutions.

The objective is to create a forum for women to discuss their protection needs so as to ensure that a mechanism for referring gender-based violence victims to service providers is in place.

"The Women's Protection Network was established to create champions of protection from within the displaced peoples' camps," said Ms. Angagaw Yegerawork, Senior Gender Officer, UNAMID GAU. Hence, UNAMID GAU is committed to empower women leaders who will watch over the overall safety and security of the women living in such camps. These women leaders are also expected to promote and engage in the peace process and in camp management.

The Network has been instrumental in bringing together women across all age groups, irrespective of community or tribal affiliations, to discuss and share their views on protection issues and seek effective ways of utilizing existing response and prevention mechanisms through a well-developed early warning, preparedness and response strategy. It has also enabled women's participation in different areas within the IDP camps, including traditional mediation mechanisms, decision-making as well as maintaining a culture of peace. The women not only represent their respective communities, they also represent their villages of origin.

The Network, present in all Darfur states except El Daein, East

Darfur, is composed of displaced women's groups from different backgrounds and tribal affiliations. Members of the Network meet regularly to address issues of gender based-violence including monitoring and reporting cases of forcible sexual assault and abuse among women and girls.

They also maintain regular communication with GAU personnel as well as the Mission's Police Advisers to pass on any information related to protection matters. "The information gathered is shared with UNAMID's Protection Working Group and is discussed with different UN agencies. Based on the information received, the Mission is able to prioritize its daily patrols to include escort and farming patrols," said Ms. Yegerawork.

Ms. Yegerawork explains that since the establishment of network across Darfur, the Mission's Gender Advisory Section has become a "hotline," through which protection issues and concerns are channeled to relevant stakeholders.

In addition to the Network, Darfuri women have been beneficiaries of UNAMID-sponsored workshops on protection of women, prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence as well as background sessions on the UNSCR 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security and monitoring and reporting on untoward incidents affecting women and girls. Displaced women have also benefitted from literacy classes conducted in the Women's Centres in IDP camps. Moreover, on account of GAU's advocacy, more women, including IDPs, are now part in the traditional conflict mediation council, *Ajaweed*. ■

UNAMID Acting Head Meets Qatari Deputy Prime Minister



On 4 November 2014, Mr. Ali Al-Za'tari, RC/HC for Sudan (on behalf of UNAMID/UNDP) and Dr. Ahmed Meraikhi, Director of International Development, Department of the Foreign Ministry, on behalf of the State of Qatar, sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the State of Qatar and UNDP for the commencement of the Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation in Doha. Mr. Al-Za'tari was accompanied by UNAMID Acting JSR Abiodun Bashua. UN Photo.

On 4 November 2014, the African Union-United Nations Acting Joint Special Representative (JSR) and Joint Chief Mediator a.i. for Darfur, Mr. Abiodun Bashua, held a meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) of

Qatar, H.E. Ahmed bin Abdullah Al-Mahmoud, in Doha.

During the meeting, the Acting JSR briefed the DPM on the status of implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, the overall security

situation in Darfur, as well as on the ongoing efforts to facilitate negotiations between the Government of Sudan and Darfuri armed movements.

The DPM reiterated Qatar's and his personal commitment and engagement with regard to Darfur and said that Qatar will continue to support all efforts for peace, stability and development in Darfur.

As part of the outcome of the visit, the DPM authorized the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the State of Qatar and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the commencement of the Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation (DIDC). The MoU was signed by the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan, Mr. Ali Al-Za'tari, who accompanied Mr. Bashua to Doha. ■

Session on Human Rights Mechanisms Concludes in Khartoum

Identifying the different elements of international human rights mechanisms, functions and processes as well as demarcating the roles that national institutions can play regarding the same were among topics discussed in a five-day human rights workshop which began on 1 November in Khartoum, Sudan.

The workshop brought together participants from the National Commission of Human Rights, civil society representatives as well as women's groups and was organized by the Sudan National Human Rights Commission in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNAMID.

The event was attended by the Deputy Chairman of Sudan's Human Rights Commission, the UNDP Country Director, and Ms. Isha Dyfan, Chief, Human Rights Section, UNAMID.

During discussions, participants identified a number of recommendations including the formation of a joint working group

from both national commission and the civil society organizations; appointment of a commissioner to follow up the issue of classification within the international coordination committee and the establishment of a collaboration between the National Commission, civil society groups and the Human Rights Council. ■



UNAMID CLIPs Win UN 21 Award

As part of this year's UN Day celebrations, the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Under Secretary-General for Management Yukio Takasu announced the winners of the 2014 UN 21 Awards, and unveiled a new name for the staff recognition awards programme. UNAMID's Community-based Labour-Intensive Projects (CLIPs) won a UN 21 Award under the category of "Outstanding Vision." The CLIPs programme, which is aimed at community stabilisation and violence reduction in Darfur, is implemented by UNAMID's Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) Section since 2011. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.