



# Protective Presence

UNAMID PoC/HL Protection of Civilians Bulletin

Focus on UNAMID Refined PoC Strategy

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## UNAMID REFINED PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS STRATEGY

On 21 February 2017, following intensive consultations within UNAMID, with UN Country Team members, UNHQ in New York and the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, the Joint Special Representative, Mr. Kingsley Mamabolo, endorsed the UNAMID Refined Protection of Civilians (PoC) Strategy which aims to provide enhanced theoretical and operational guidance on the ways in which all components and personnel of UNAMID may better assume their respective and mutually complementary roles in the implementation of the Mission's PoC mandate, and in line with a whole of Mission approach to PoC.

This follows a period of reflection that included a comprehensive review and assessment of the previous UNAMID Revised PoC Strategy adopted in May 2015, taking into account the identified challenges and best practices. The resulting Refined PoC Strategy represents a consolidation of recommendations related to the implementation of the PoC mandate at the strategic versus operational, and Mission Headquarters (MHQ) versus deep field levels.

The incorporation into the current document of the following core strategic recommendations is the result of: i) strengthened cross-component coordination; ii) greater clarity on roles and responsibilities in line with

a whole of Mission approach; iii) enhanced PoC training, communications and messaging.

A majority of the refinements in the current Strategy focus on issues of implementation and coordination, with emphasis being placed on both the means and effectiveness by which the three components and their respective substantive and operational sections are coordinating and sharing information among and between themselves on PoC issues.

The Strategy aims to be practical, realistic, and implementable. It provides a greater level of clarity and detail to the identification and articulation of various actors, mechanisms and clearly delineated roles and responsibilities necessary that, taken together, ensure a truly whole of Mission approach to PoC, while at the same time emphasizing those specific targeted mechanisms on which the Mission's collective efforts should be channeled.

Finally, one of the more significant new additions to the PoC Strategy is the formal revitalization of a PoC training component for uniformed and civilian personnel, undertaken at both strategic and operational levels, to help ensure all components more fully understand the Mission's wider PoC mandate as well as their respective roles within it.

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## UNAMID PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS STRATEGY: WHOLE-OF-MISSION RESPONSIBILITY

*The Acting Head of UNAMID Protection of Civilians/Humanitarian Liaison Section Zurab Elzarov speaks about the UNAMID Refined Protection of Civilians Strategy.*

**Q: The Joint Special Representative has recently signed the UNAMID Refined PoC Strategy. Please tell us more about the Strategy and its importance for the Mission.**

Indeed, after several months of intensive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders at the state, regional, national and international level, we have developed a comprehensive Mission-wide Refined Protection of Civilians (PoC) Strategy which was endorsed by the JSR in February 2017. This Strategy defines the overall approach, and provides guidance to all UNAMID components, for the implementation of the UNAMID PoC mandate as described in Security Council Resolutions 2296 (2016) and 2363 (2017) and the 2015 revised strategic priorities. The Strategy employs a whole-of-Mission approach to underscore the centrality of PoC to the UNAMID mandate and provides strategic direction to Mission

components including all substantive and operational pillars on respective roles and responsibilities, including as regards priority decision-making for the use of available capacities and resources vis-à-vis the protection of civilians across Darfur.

**Q: How would you define the overall objective of the Strategy and the Mission's PoC mandate in general?**

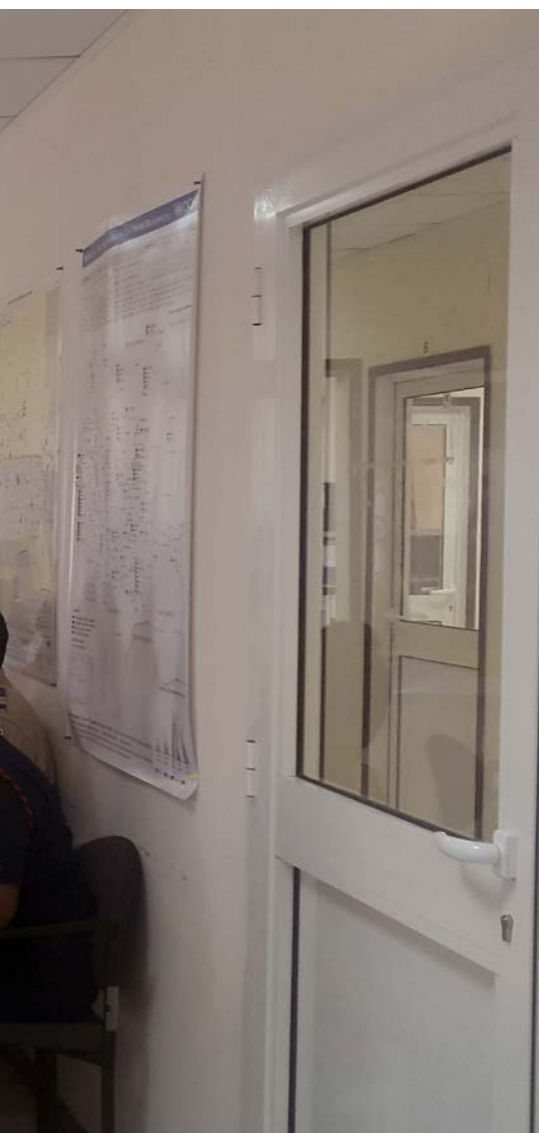
The overall aim of the UNAMID PoC mandate, as outlined in the PoC Strategy, is to prevent, reduce and when necessary, stop the violence or threat of violence committed against the civilian population in Darfur, including in particular women and children; to ensure safe, timely and unhindered humanitarian access, in accordance with relevant provisions of international law and the UN guiding principles on humanitarian assistance; to facilitate redress and reparation to victims and their families; and to assist

the Government of Sudan in assuming its primary responsibility to protect civilians. As such, effective implementation of the Strategy will require close coordination on the part of the Mission with government authorities, non-state actors, local communities, UN Country Team and Humanitarian Country Team partners, and civil society organization

**Q: What are the implementation modalities of the PoC Strategy?**

The UNAMID PoC Strategy follows the three-tiered approach to implementation of its PoC mandate as articulated in the DPKO/DFS Policy: i) protection through dialogue and engagement; ii) physical protection; and iii) establishing a protective environment. All three tiers require close coordination between the civilian and uniformed components of the Mission and, as appropriate, with UNCT/HCT protection and humanitarian actors. The tiers are





not hierarchical, sequential or mutually exclusive, but rather are complementary and to be pursued in a coordinated manner in light of evolving circumstances on the ground. I believe this combined effect of preventive, responsive and protective environment-building initiatives will support the achievement of the maximum impact within the limits of capabilities and available resources.

**Q: Do you work with the Government of Sudan and humanitarian organizations on implementation of the UNAMID PoC Strategy?**

It goes without saying that in implementing its PoC mandate, UNAMID also supports the Government of Sudan in assuring a safe and secure environment in which threats to civilians are prevented or the risks mitigated, and the physical integrity and rights of all civilians in Darfur are respected, protected and promoted. To this end, as I mentioned earlier, one of the objectives of our PoC mandate is to assist the Government of Sudan in assuming its primary responsibility to protect civilians.

Cognizant of the need to coordinate the implementation of the UNAMID PoC mandate with the mandate of other protection actors, the PoC Strategy also takes into account the respective mandates of individual UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes (AFPs), international organizations and non-governmental organizations. OCHA, on behalf of the humanitarian community, is the main interface with UNAMID. AFPs with protection mandates, for instance, do participate in relevant UNAMID protection coordination fora at the MHQ and Sector level. In addition, the Strategy takes into account the strategic priorities reflected in the UNAMID-UNCT Integrated Strategic Framework (ISF).

**Q: What message would you like to convey to the readers of this edition of the PoC Bulletin?**

I would like to highlight that the implementation of the PoC mandate is a whole-of-Mission responsibility requiring effective coordination mechanisms that allow for close monitoring and reporting on protection-related devel-

**1** Meeting of the MHQ Joint Protection Group in El Fasher.

**2** UNAMID peacekeepers pictured on a routine patrol between Tawila town, North Darfur, and Fanga Suk village, Central Darfur. The Mission conducts hundreds of similar patrols every week across Darfur. Photo by Owies Elfaki, UNAMID.

**3** 11 August 2010. Nyala: Kalma IDP Camp, patrolled by UNAMID very often, shows a tense and insecure situation. Photo by Albert Gonzalez Farran, UNAMID

opments at the Sector and Team Site levels. PoC coordination mechanisms must therefore ensure effective interaction among UNAMID military, police and civilian components, as well as humanitarian agencies, from the policy and planning level at MHQ to the operational level of Sector and Team Sites. To this end, compliance with the UNAMID PoC Strategy is considered mandatory for all components, pillars and relevant sections, units, cells and personnel of UNAMID.



PoC Strategy Roll-Out at MHQ

## ROLL-OUT OF UNAMID REFINED POC STRATEGY

BY KATHRYN HAKAKAL

From April to August 2017, the PoC/HL Section conducted a comprehensive Roll-Out programme of the newly endorsed UNAMID Refined PoC Strategy across all five Sector HQ, MHQ and Khartoum Liaison Office. A total of 212 senior decision-makers and thematic officers from military, police, substantive and support components identified as having a key role in implementing the PoC mandate have completed the three-day roll-out programme to date, including international and national staff. At field locations, Sector and Team Site leadership, including Sector Heads of Office, Sector Military and Police Commanders and Team Site Commanders, participated in the roll-out programme, including interactive discussions on Sector-specific challenges and cascading scenarios and group activities. The first of its kind in UNAMID, the primary aim of the roll-out exercise was to ensure, in the immediate term, that Sector, Team Site and MHQ personnel were more fully aware of, and better understand, the content of the UNAMID Refined PoC Strategy including the various responsibilities

of all personnel, both targeted and cross-cutting, for implementation of the core PoC mandate mission-wide. In particular, the programme aims to focus thinking in terms of both prevention and response to PoC incidents towards the need for stronger coordination and integration across components, and increased understanding by all staff on their respective roles, as well as the roles that the other components and sections play in the implementation of the Mission's PoC mandate in line with the Refined PoC Strategy and the new UNSCR Resolution 2363 (2017). Under the overall direction of the Acting Chief of PoC/HL Section, the programme was developed and delivered by an integrated PoC/HL roll-out team that drew heavily on PoC mandate implementation experiences from all three levels of the Mission: Team Site, Sector and Mission Headquarters, through the integration of respective strengths and challenges, best practices and personal experiences and examples. The roll-out programme was delivered using a combination of interactive plenary sessions, active par-

ticipation through group work focussing on Darfur-specific situations and a more in-depth scenario in the form of a table top exercise.

The cascading group activities covered conflict analysis concepts with the identification of specific case studies for the creation of conflict mapping, actors mapping, identification of indicators for early warning and early response, best and worst case scenarios and ultimately the identification of targeted recommendations.

Significant emphasis was placed on participants gaining a greater understanding of the various coordination mechanisms operating at all levels from deep field to the Mission Headquarters and on the importance of a truly integrated approach to PoC mandate implementation.

The programme also contained a very strong focus on the deep field and as such reinforced the need for establishment and strong presence of IFPTs or similar mechanisms at Team Site level as the foundation for the UNAMID Early Warning and Early Response mechanism in the PoC architecture.

From the outset, feedback received



from participants including from Sector and Team Site leadership, confirmed the strong relevance and direct applicability of the information and activities to the roles of participants and the importance of coordination and collaboration in support of the Mission's core PoC mandate: "The Roll Out of the UNAMID Refined PoC Strategy was very timely and its importance cannot be over-emphasized. As a Team Site Commander, the scenarios treated are akin to what we have faced in the past. The gains from the seminar will be put to proper use to connect what we did not do right the first time in the future when similar scenarios do occur." [Mukjar Team Site Commander, Central Darfur]

The UNAMID Refined PoC Strategy places increased emphasis on strengthening cross-component coordination; ensuring greater clarity on roles and responsibilities amongst personnel of all three components and all levels; and enhanced PoC training, communications and messaging.

As such, the Roll Out programme supports the implementation of the PoC Strategy in all three of these core recommendations; to familiarize key Mission members with the changes made to the Strategy particularly as regards coordination; to ensure more comprehensive understanding of the responsibilities and possible actions to be taken by all personnel in implementing the collective PoC mandate; and to equip them with additional tools and theoretical concepts and knowledge of how the Protection of Civilians is defined by the DPKO and how does it differ from the humanitarian and other concepts of Protection.

Following completion of the Roll Out at all Sectors, MHQ and KLO, the PoC/HL Roll Out team is undertaking analysis of the Roll Out programme to identify the most common concerns, issues and possible remedies contributing to the further standardization of the Roll Out for subsequent sessions, and to ensure better utilization of Mission assets for PoC mandate implementation.

The analysis will also provide operational-focused recommendations for a targeted adjustment of the Roll Out for personnel based in the critically important deep field Team Site locations.

### **[Participant, South Darfur]**

"This was not just a Roll Out but a comprehensive programme that involved practical exercises relevant to PoC. It also enabled us to share / exchange experiences, build a team spirit in implementing our PoC mandate."

### **[Participant, Central Darfur]**

"The Roll Out Exercise exposed me to a wide range of responsibilities of the various actors within UNAMID including my own responsibilities as an IPO. Some of these roles I have been doing but not adequately. I now understand my roles better as well as the Mission's role under all forms of conditions – peace, crisis, and after crisis."

### **[Participant, West Darfur]**

"PoC is at the core of UNAMID mandate, hence the need for every personnel, especially unit commanders, to acquire in depth knowledge about the new Strategy. The new approach, which emphasizes cross-component collaboration and reporting will no doubt enhance teamwork and a uniform approach to the implementation of the mandate."

### **[Participant, East Darfur]**

"I will definitely pay more attention to the coordination mechanisms and collaboration at Sector and Team Site levels before assuming any possible decision or conflict resolution methodology."

### **[Participant, MHQ]**

"The most valuable lesson for me was how things are done at the Sector and Team Site level. Without this interaction of personnel/participants and with experiences from Team Sites and SHQ operations, this "eye opening" insight would not have been possible for me."



PoC Strategy Roll-Out in Nyala, Sector South



PoC Strategy Roll-Out in Zalingei, Sector Central



PoC Strategy Roll-Out in El Geneina, Sector West



PoC Strategy Roll-Out in El Daein, Sector East



PoC Strategy Roll-Out in Khartoum, KLO



PoC Strategy Roll-Out in El Fasher, Sector North





*PoC-HL staff member facilitating a session on PoC for the newly arrived UNAMID personnel*

## POC TRAINING ACTIVITIES IN JANUARY - JUNE 2017

BY ZURAB ELZAROV

UNAMID's provision of targeted, Mission-specific and scenario-based in-mission training on protection of civilians (PoC) is critical to ensuring the Mission's capacity and readiness to deliver on the implementation of PoC-related mandate and tasks. In line with the increased focus of UNAMID on PoC training activities across the Mission's military, police, substantive and support components, from January to June 2017, PoC/HL Section facilitated 16 training sessions on protection of civilians for new arrivals to UNAMID as part of the induction organized by the Mission's Integrated Mission Training Centre (IMTC). A total of 408 participants, comprising

162 military, 196 police and 50 civilian personnel, including 68 female peacekeepers, attended the training.

The sessions were held jointly with OCHA, which provides information on the humanitarian situation in Darfur to emphasize both the complementary and distinctive role of the two offices. The PoC sessions focus on guiding principles protection, understanding threats to civilians, responsibility to protect, types of protection, challenges, and UNAMID role and responsibilities in protection of civilians.

These PoC training sessions, facilitated on a weekly basis, represent the core training activities of the PoC/HL Section, due to both the frequency

and broad reach of the sessions. The aim is to equip the new arrivals with the most critical information regarding the Mission's PoC mandate in order to enhance their swift integration into the Mission.

In addition to facilitating sessions on PoC at the weekly induction, other in-mission PoC training activities included training sessions held in January, March and June on UNAMID PoC early warning, coordination and CRSV targeting 79 military officers (gender focal points), including 45 men and 34 women, from various Team Sites. Focus was placed on the duties of field-based uniformed personnel related to PoC early warning & early response





through the Mission's integrated field protection teams (IFPTs), including CRSV and SGBV issues.

In February, PoC/HL conducted a training for UNAMID MILOBs, staff officers and escort/patrol commanders based in East Darfur focusing on protection of civilians, civil-military coordination and escort provision for humanitarian operations.

In South Darfur, PoC/HL facilitated a training session for 11 UNAMID police officers, including 8 women, on UNAMID's role in protection of civilians in Darfur, with a special focus on early warning & early response, and the work of integrated field protection teams. Additionally, in May, PoC/HL convened two separate training sessions on protection of civilians for 37 newly deployed Bangladeshi FPU and for 45 Pakistani FPU. Similar sessions were also held at Kabkabiya and Tawila Team Sites in Sector North.

In June, PoC/HL facilitated a two-day



*OCHA staff member facilitating a session for newly arrived UNAMID personnel*

training session on the UNAMID Refined PoC Strategy at Mornei Team Site, Sector West, in order to enhance the integrated field protection team (IFPT) and confidence building patrols for 29 Team Site military, police and civilian personnel. Similarly, in Sector North, PoC/HL facilitated a session on the Mission's Refined PoC Strategy at a military Training of Trainers (ToT) attended by 17 participants, including 3 women and 14 men, with a focus on the duties of field-based uniformed personnel, including the early warning information gathering and the reporting role of IFPTs.

The knowledge, skills and expertise of PoC/HL staff members on facilitating PoC sessions for peacekeeping personnel with different background have also been recognized at the UNHQ in New York. On several occasions, PoC/HL personnel were requested to assist with delivering PoC training at the international level. For instance, in April, PoC/HL facilitated two sessions on PoC as part of a week-long training held in Entebbe, Uganda, organized by UNHQ's Office of Military Affairs (OMA) for 15 military officers (gender focal points) being newly deployed to a range of DKPO missions in the region. The training provided an overview of PoC theory and concepts, the legal framework at both the international and mission level, including DPKO/DFS policies, as well as issues relating to coordination and early warning and the importance of actively engaging

with local communities in this regard. In June, at the invitation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), PoC/HL participated in the NATO Comprehensive Approach Seminar at the NATO Allied Joint Force Command in Brunssum, the Netherlands. The seminar aimed to build a shared understanding of the complex strategic considerations in contemporary crisis management design, including the necessity of inter-institutional and civilian-military collaboration to foster security and stability.

PoC/HL made a presentation on the UNAMID Refined PoC Strategy, including its implementation modalities, early warning and early response mechanisms, coordination structures, and a series of self-developed protection tools, especially the Sector Protection Priority Matrix. The presentation drew a lot of attention from the seminar participants, raised multiple questions and was extensively deliberated, particularly on how the important UNAMID protection tools, including the mission-wide protection of civilians strategy, a robust protection coordination mechanism, integrated field protection teams to provide early warning and enable swift responses, and protection matrices identifying threats to civilians, could be used by NATO in the context of operationalizing its PoC Policy. It is expected that the PoC/HL's participation in the seminar will contribute to the successful operationalization of the NATO Policy for the Protection of Civilians.



## CONFLICT EARLY WARNING AND EARLY RESPONSE WORKSHOP IN EL FASHER IN MARCH 2017

BY FLORENCE MAINA, POC/HL TRAINING FOCAL POINT

Prevention is one of the most important aspects of protecting civilians, and early warning is essential to preventive action. Early warning systems generally refer to systems of information management (including information collection, analysis, and dissemination) designed to predict threats. It is important for both political engagement as well as military response, though the nature and timeliness of information may be different. Early warning and situational awareness are particularly important for physical protection, including physical deterrence actions, and must link information management about imminent threats to rapid response mechanisms.

All peacekeeping missions, including UNAMID, endeavor to conduct early warning and maintain situational awareness, whether through the analysis of JMAC and Military U2, the JOC current operations reporting, or the regular reports of Military Observers and substantive civilian staff. Effective POC coordination will harness these existing systems, focusing

them or adding value to them where necessary, to ensure that the Mission has a solid understanding of the threats to and vulnerabilities of civilians.

Therefore, in order to strengthen the early warning and early response capacity of UNAMID, PoC/HL Section and the Integrated Mission Training Centre (IMTC) organized the Conflict Early Warning and Early Response Training Course for a total of 25 participants. The training workshop was held at the MHQ in El Fasher on 27-31 March 2017, and was facilitated by international experts from the Swiss Peace Foundation - a practice-oriented peace research institute based in Bern, Switzerland.

The participants of the training course were introduced to the notion of conflict prevention, early warning and early response mechanisms, various early response methods, key concepts and tools of conflict analysis and their application in their own working context. They were familiarized with





conflict sensitivity, acquainted with the principle of “Do No Harm”, and engaged in discussions on developing approaches towards a framework for early warning and prevention of violent conflicts in Darfur. Most importantly, the participants assessed the existing early warning and early response tools and capacities within UNAMID and strategized about how the new tools might be integrated into their work.

Overall, the workshop was a big success. The participants made the most of it through thoughtfully designed and carefully balanced theoretical and practical lessons and

exercises, based on the real-case scenarios that require robust early warning and early response mechanisms in place.

Capitalizing on the newly acquired knowledge, skills and expertise, upon return to their duty stations, the workshop participants have reviewed the Mission-specific early warning and early response training materials and started visiting the Team Sites to transfer the knowledge to colleagues and peers based in deep field areas and thus contribute to strengthening the Mission’s early warning and early response capacities for conflict prevention and protection of civilians.





State Government and community leaders join in a Jouhafa performance at the cultural event in Gokar. Photo by Matilda Moyo, UNAMID.

## SUCCESS STORIES: GOKAR VILLAGE AND UNAMID INTEGRATED FIELD PROTECTION TEAM IN SECTOR WEST

BY TAKAKO UGAYA

The UNAMID Integrated Field Protection Team at El Geneina Team Site has been engaged in early warning patrolling since June 2015, covering nearly two-thirds of the West Darfur State, which includes Gokar village, 37 km south of Sector HQ. The village population varies according to a season, totaling 4,000 - 6,000 Massalit individuals, including seasonal returnees, with 12,000 Arab tribesmen living in 8 damras in the vicinity. The village has served as a hub of movements of people with potential filtrations of spoilers in and around the village, in particular on market days while it received some IDPs at the time of a large conflict in Muli in January 2016.

According to an IFPT report in June 2015, armed fighting occurred between Massalit and Arab youths, causing injuries of a female community member, while frequent Arab tribes' harassments on women took place during their grass collection. The report also noted a heavy presence of armed people. In October 2016, Gokar community members decided to pay incentives to a crop protection committee in order to

reactivate the committee and resolve farm disputes by their own efforts. In January 2017, community members informed the IFPT about good harvests resulting from the effective crop protection committee supported by villagers through their incentive payments; however due to persistent harassments against women particularly by young Arab generations in twenties (five harassment cases registered in December 2016 and another in January 2017), the IFPT considered that Protection Risk Level remained "Medium."

Later this year, the community leaders emphasized that they had been able to construct harmony with Arab populations to the extent that most of disputes had been resolved peacefully through consultations with Arab leaders. However, the leaders highlighted the fragility on the achieved harmony and appealed to the IFPT for its support to bring farmers and Arab herders together, citing as an instance the UNAMID Community Policing activity in which 50 community policing volunteers, including Arab populations, were trained. After a series of consultations with the community

leaders, Ms. Haifa Osman, the POC/HL staff member and IFPT member, proposed an event of cultural exchanges between farmers (IDPs and returnees) and herders to unite them as Sudanese for common purposes entertaining but also educational.

The state authorities were very pleased to know this UNAMID proposal against the backdrop of Community Peace Initiative, launched by the Vice President in March, and capitalized on it through the provision of logistic support (such as tents and chairs, transportation for the invited, organization of the Master of the Ceremony, sending of invitation letters to Native Administrations and the payment of transportation fee to herders living in outskirts of Gokar) while UNAMID allocated SDG 15,900 through CPIS outreach fund. The event that took place on 9 March enjoyed the attendance of the high level delegation from the Sudanese side (the Deputy Wali, the Minister of Culture, Communication and Information, the Minister of Health, the SAF 15th Division Commander, the GoS Police Commissioner, the NISS Director, a Legislative





Council member, a representative of Sultan of Dar Massalit, Native Administrations, Shieks and others) and the UNAMID integrated team (Sector Commanders of Military & Police, OIC HoO, Team Leaders and OICs of POC/HL, CAS, HRS, and CPU). During the event, farmers and herders presented their respective cultural dances while school children sang songs on peace. Herders' colorful performance with camels and horses as well as UNAMID BURKBATT cultural performance marveled the audience while comical dramas delivering messages on the importance of shared access to land made farmers and herders laugh together. Following up to this event, UNAMID Police donated bicycles to community policing volunteers in collaboration with UNDP in April 2017 while UNAMID is constructing a Peace Center in the village under a QIP. On 24 July 2017 IFPT visited the village again and found that the Protection Risk had significantly improved with the crop protection committee issuing a joint farmers-herders declaration to have a successful farming season this year in the area. The team observed that farmers were fully engaged in their cultivation along with about 100 seasonal return families from Abuzar IDP camp and Jebal area in Geneina. The protection risk in the village, therefore, has become "Low." With an increase of protection incidents in farms in other villages this year, the improved securities in Gokar village stands out.



*Drama, song and dance marked the celebration of diversity at the cultural event in Gokar. Photo by Matilda Moyo, UNAMID.*





## HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR: REDUCING MATERNAL MORTALITY IN DARFUR

BY ZURAB ELZAROV

### Overview

Maternal mortality refers to deaths due to complications from pregnancy or childbirth. From 1990 to 2015, the global maternal mortality ratio declined by 44 per cent – from 385 deaths to 216 deaths per 100,000 live births, according to UN inter-agency estimates. In Sudan, however, the maternal mortality rate stood at estimated 311 deaths /100,000 live births in 2015.

The causes and rate of maternal death in Sudan are aggravated by ongoing conflicts and resulting displacement of population. The key indicators related to maternal health, including maternal mortality, child mortality and child malnutrition, are all exacerbated by conflicts, especially in the Darfur region. While the exact maternal mortality rates for the five Darfuri states are unknown, they are estimated to approach the higher estimate. In fact, Darfur is probably among the most dangerous places in the world in which to give birth.

In August 2013, Sudan's Federal Ministry of Health together with WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA launched the "Sudan's National Acceleration Plan for Maternal and Child Health". Sudan was the first of the 10 high-burden countries in the region to launch an acceleration plan on maternal and child health, in line with the commitment expressed in the Dubai Declaration, adopted in January 2013. In parallel, international stakeholders, including UNAMID, have mobilized the available resources to assist the Government of Sudan in reducing the mother

and child mortality rates in Darfur.

### North Darfur state

North Darfur is one of the five Darfuri states located in western Sudan. The women of child bearing age are estimated at 501,000, with 74,000 pregnant women. There are 1,115 village midwives available in the state. Maternal mortality is higher in rural areas as well as in conflict-affected areas where healthcare structures are mostly affected, causing the death of women due to the lack of access to skilled routine and emergency healthcare services.

In 2014, UNAMID and the North Darfur State Ministry of Health (SMoH) signed an Memorandum of Understanding on training 50 village midwives in North Darfur state. The overall objectives of this joint project was to: a) reduce the insufficiency of maternal health services across the remote and isolated communities in North Darfur state; b) empower people "at-risk", especially pregnant women and other vulnerable community members; c) reduce the maternal mortality and child mortality cases in the identified communities by addressing the lack of village midwives providing services to the local community members.

50 women were selected by the SMoH Reproductive Health Department from various localities in North Darfur state, including Kalamendo, Kutum, Kabkabiya, Saraf Omra, Kuma, Umm Barru, Tine, Malha, Al Lait, Al Waha, Umm Kaddada and Mellit, based on the gaps identified

during the needs assessment in those areas (high risk areas = high risk pregnancies, high maternal mortality rate).

The project was implemented within 12 months of intensive theoretical and practical sessions covering a wide range of issues related to reproductive health. The training was conducted at the Midwifery School in El Fasher. Selected students were hosted in the school for the entire period of the training and participated in various types of training activities, including lectures, practical sessions, group work, homework, presentations, demonstrations, etc.

The project was carried out in three phases: a) theoretical sessions; b) practical sessions in models; and c) practical sessions in health centres for antenatal care and maternity hospital for conducting deliveries. During the third phase, the students were trained on how to identify complications and on early referral to avoid obstetric complications.

The training manual, timetable, stationary and training materials were prepared by the SMoH Reproductive Health Department in cooperation with the personnel of the Midwifery School. The training was conducted by highly skilled tutors supervised by the SMoH Reproductive Health Department. At the end of the training, the final exam was conducted under the direct control of the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) and the successful graduates were awarded certificates. At the end of the project, the trained midwives were deployed to their respective localities to provide midwifery services to 20,000 people in Kalamendo, Kutum, Kabkabiya, Saraf Omra, Kuma, Umm Barru, Tine, Malha, Al Lait, Al Waha, Umm Kaddada and Mellit. The project represented a successful model of cooperation between UNAMID and the Government of Sudan (SMoH) in addressing the high rates of maternal and child mortality in Darfur. UNAMID's Community Stabilization Section, through its community stabilization projects (CSPs), provided funds for implementation of the project in the total amount of 281,000 Sudanese Pounds (approximately \$50,000), and conducted regular monitoring and evaluation visits to the Midwifery School. SMoH was responsible for the overall implementation of the project, provided highly skilled personnel and training materials, as well as contributed 50,000 Sudanese Pounds to the project to cover the tuition and living allowance of the students.



### West Darfur state

Limited access to primary healthcare delivery services in West Darfur state, such as obstetric and gynaecological care, is hampered by poor road conditions and transportation network. As a consequence, the majority of rural women do not have access to primary healthcare services such as antenatal and postnatal care. The problem is further exacerbated by the lack of trained midwives to attend to pregnant women during labour. The lack of primary healthcare facilities and the unavailability of skilled midwives in remote and isolated areas of West Darfur state have been resulting in the untimely deaths of many pregnant women while being transported by horses and camels to the nearest medical facilities in locality or state capitals.

Based on the successful project implemented in North Darfur state, UNAMID entered into discussions with the West Darfur State Ministry of Health (SMoH) and the Sudan Red Crescent Society (SRCS) to explore the opportunities for conducting midwifery skills training in the state. A joint project was developed to identify 20 young women from different parts of West Darfur state to provide them with intensive training on reproductive health and midwifery skills.

20 women were selected by the SMoH from Krenik and Beida localities in West Darfur, based on the gaps identified during the needs assessment in those localities, to provide primary healthcare services to pregnant women upon completion of the midwifery skills training. Students received intensive theoretical and practical sessions covering a wide range of issues related to reproductive health. The training is conducted at the Teaching Hospital's Midwifery School in El Geneina. Selected students participated in various types of training activities, including lectures, practical sessions, group work, homework, presentations, demonstrations, etc. At the end of the project, the trained midwives were given start-up tools and deployed to their respective localities in Krenik and Beida to provide midwifery services to local community members.

### Central Darfur State

The state of reproductive health in Central Darfur state is appalling. In 2010, the maternal mortality rate was 322 deaths per 100,000 live births; the infant mortality rate was 80 deaths per 1,000 live births; and under-five mortality rate



was 66 deaths per 1,000 live births. Lack of knowledge on reproductive health among the local community members, scarcity of economic resources, and significant displacement of population due to insecurity, were all the contributing factors. However, a key reason for this situation was the lack of community/village midwives. Central Darfur state is well below its target coverage of 1 community midwife for every 1,000 people, and has identified a gap of 750 community midwives for the state. Presently, most of the women in Central Darfur state are only able to access traditional antenatal care which is not evidence-based.

To address the afore-mentioned challenges and based on the successful implementation of the Village Midwifery Training Project in North Darfur, UNAMID and the Central Darfur State Ministry of Health (SMoH) devised a joint CLIPs project to address the reproductive health gaps in local communities by training village midwives in remote and isolated areas of the state. The overall objective of the project is to ensure the management of normal (uncomplicated) pregnancies, childbirth and immediate postnatal period; and identification, management and referral of complications in women and the new-borns.

The project selected 50 women with diverse background and strong motivation to become midwives, and were provided with intensive theoretical and practical sessions covering a wide range of issues related to reproductive health. Selected students from various parts of

Central Darfur State participated in various types of training activities. At the end of the project, the trained midwives were also provided with start-up tools and deployed to their respective areas to provide midwifery services to local community members.

### Conclusion

Reducing maternal mortality is one of the major challenges to the healthcare system in Darfur. The situation in the region is aggravated by the on-going conflicts and displacement of large number of population, poor transportation networks, destruction of primary healthcare facilities and the lack of solid mechanism to train village midwives. There are relatively simple, safe and affordable approaches to successfully prevent or treat most obstetric complications and thus save women's lives. In the current circumstances, UNAMID and other international organizations should continue to invest in reducing the maternal and child mortality rates in Darfur, by mobilizing the existing resources and advocating for availability of all services that are directed toward improving the maternal health in the region.

At the same time, it has to be admitted that eradicating or reducing maternal deaths require more than midwifery skills training and deployment of new midwives to remote and isolated areas. To achieve this objective, women will need to be taken out of poverty, gender inequalities will have to be eliminated, and stronger health systems should be established.





## UNAMID'S SUPPORT TO FIRE AFFECTED IDPS IN KORMA, NORTH DARFUR

BY ZURAB ELZAROV

Following a devastating fire that destroyed more than 700 houses at Korma IDP camp in North Darfur state, the UNAMID Joint Special Representative, Mr. Kingsley Mamabolo, visited the camp on 15 July to convey his sympathies and witness the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The JSR met with community leaders; toured the affected area; visited the local clinic and food distribution point.

On behalf of the United Nations and African Union, the JSR conveyed condolences to the IDPs and assured them that the UN family would work hard to address their humanitarian needs in the face of the disaster. He underscored the importance of finding a peaceful resolution of the Darfur conflict in order for the IDPs to return to their places of origin where they will have better living conditions. Finally, the JSR praised own troops at the Korma Team Sites for helping extinguish the fire and providing first aid to the injured IDPs.

The fire in Korma has caused extensive damage and left many people homeless. PoC/HL Section coordinated the provision of sizeable UNAMID's support to humanitar-



UNAMID Joint Special Representative visits victims of recent fire at Korma camp

ian partners in bringing urgent aid to the fire-affected IDPs, including logistics (trucks, sea containers, water bladders) and security escorts. The Mission has also fixed two malfunctioning boreholes at the camp in order to increase the IDPs' access to water.





10 February 2014. Tabit: UNAMID commander officers from Rwanda and Ethiopia exchange duties in Tabit, North Darfur, to escort a convoy of World Food Programme (WFP) trucks traveling from El Fasher to Shangil Tobaya. The road trip, nearly 100 kilometers, took more than 8 hours due to difficult road conditions. The convoy, formed by 10 trailers with two containers each, was protected all the way by UNAMID troops from Ethiopia and Rwanda. More than 350 metric tons of goods, basically oil and sorghum, were distributed to the Internally Displaced People (IDP) in Nifasha and Shaddad camps. WFP through its partner, Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), provides food for around 20,000 beneficiaries in the camps, who have fled from different surrounding villages in the region; some 14km north of the South Darfur border and at the midpoint between El-Fasher and Nyala. WFP food remains the main source of food for IDPs in Shangil Tobaya. Photo by Albert Gonzalez Farran, UNAMID.

## UNAMID'S ARMED ESCORTS FOR HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS IN DARFUR

BY ZURAB ELZAROV

Security Council Resolution 2363 (2017) of 29 June 2017 reaffirms that the protection of civilians, the facilitation of humanitarian assistance and the safety and security of humanitarian personnel remain part of UNAMID's strategic priorities. It also reaffirms that UNAMID must continue to give priority in decisions about the use of available capacity and resources to the protection of civilians across Darfur and ensuring safe, timely and unhindered humanitarian access, and the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and activities, in accordance with relevant provisions of international law and the United Nations guiding principles on humanitarian assistance.

Within this framework, from January to June 2017, UNAMID provided a total of 331 military escorts, amounting to 908 escort days, to humanitarian agencies to carry out humanitarian assessments and deliver humanitarian aid across the Darfur states. This includes 75 escorts and 212 escort days in Sector Central; 35 escorts and 33 escort days in Sector East; 51 escorts and 145 escort days in Sector North; 165 escorts and 477 escort days in Sector South; and 5 escorts and 41 escort days in Sector West. These escorts enabled humanitarian organizations to deliver food and non-food items, carry out verification and registration of returnees, nutrition surveys, assessment of protection, humanitarian and recovery situation in IDP camps and the areas of

return, and to hold consultations with local communities. Requests from humanitarian agencies for the Mission's military and civil defense assets (MCDA) are channeled through OCHA and processed by UNAMID Protection of Civilians/Humanitarian Liaison (PoC/HL) Section in close collaboration with the Mission's military and police components, Mission Support Division and the UNDSS.

WFP remains the main custodian of UNAMID's armed escorts in Darfur, for whom three special logistics arrangements were developed that took into account the security risk management, access restrictions, terrain and landscape of the region, and emergency nature of WFP's food assistance: 1) "Exclusive escorts" - UNAMID dedicates its escorts only to WFP fleet/contracted truck convoys; 2) "Robust escorts" - up to 30 WFP fleet/contracted trucks are added to a regular UNAMID standing weekly convoy of 30 vehicles with increased armed protection measures; and 3) "Gap filling escorts" - WFP is given an opportunity of filling a space which UNAMID has not used for its weekly standing convoy, to be comprised of up to 30 vehicles.

From January to June 2017, these three WFP-UNAMID logistics arrangements enabled 187 WFP fleet/contracted trucks in 25 convoys to deliver food totaling 4,855 MTs and non-food items totaling 115 MTs for the most vulnerable people in Darfur.





## POC IN FOCUS: SECURITY COUNCIL HOLDS OPEN DEBATE ON PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS IN ARMED CONFLICT

BY ZURAB ELZAROV

The Security Council Open Debate entitled, “Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict: Health Care in Armed Conflict” was convened on 25 May, 2017. The meeting was framed as an opportunity for Member States to explore the scope of threats to medical care in conflict situations, broaden the context of protection of civilians towards a more progressive agenda, including healthcare, respect for international humanitarian law and forced displacement, and assess the implementation of Resolution 2286 (2016).

Speakers at the debate highlighted the devastating impact of warfare on civilians, including women, children and displaced persons, with particular concern for the urbanization of conflict and the increased targeting of critical infrastructures such as aid routes, hospitals, schools and water supplies by conflict parties.

Among the most commonly addressed issues at the debate, Member State representatives called for combatting impunity for perpetrators of attacks on non-combatants, codifying the protection of civilians in all peacekeeping mandates and fulfilling

national obligations to preserve and respect international law.

The meeting was convened by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who dedicated his statement to the plight of the 65 million displaced persons currently fleeing conflicts around the globe, citing the destruction of civilian infrastructures as a key driver of this issue. Guterres stated that despite positive steps forward on the implementation of Resolution 2286 (2016), little impact has been made on the ground. Instead, attacks against humanitarian missions, cities, and medical facilities have increased in frequency and brutality in the year since its adoption.

Guterres was followed by civil society briefers from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Human Rights Watch (HRW), who welcomed the Secretary-General’s focus on conflict prevention and condemned rampant impunity for conflict parties targeting civilian populations and humanitarian infrastructures.

Member State Representatives echoed many of these points, offering support for Resolution 2286 (2016) and condemning attacks against urban, civilian

and humanitarian populations and infrastructures. Key themes in the discussion included strengthening the rule of law to prevent such attacks, ensuring accountability for violations, and improving protection mandates.

Most notably, of the 68 speakers at the debate 27 (39 percent) referenced disarmament. The majority of references comprised general statements condemning indiscriminate bombings of health and urban centers, however a number of speakers offered substantive consideration to this issue. In particular, the representative of Uruguay devoted the majority of his statement to disarmament, remarking: “The international community must realize that every gun made and warship developed, are a theft from humanity- they are not free. This world of arms is not spending money alone, it is spending the hopes of children, the sweat of labourers, and the genius of scientists.”

A handful of representatives called for abolishing explosive ordnance, nuclear weapons and other weapons of massive destruction, as well as expressing concern for the misallocation of national resources to military expenditure.



## PHOTO JOURNAL: POC IN THE FIELD



Children wave at UNAMID patrol in Abu Shouk IDP camp in North Darfur.



Firewood patrols by UNAMID reduce exposure of women to PoC threats and risks.



UNAMID APC is pictured during the mission to Golo, Jebel Marra area.



UNAMID conducts medical check-up campaign at IDP camps.



UNAMID escort providing security to humanitarian partners is pictured in Rokero, Jebel Marra area.



UNAMID interacts with IDPs in Kalma, South Darfur, during patrol.



UNAMID patrol during the confidence building visit to the market area at Kalma IDP camp in South Darfur.



UNAMID provides physical protection to civilians through regular patrols in IDP camps.



## ABOUT POC/HL BULLETINS



PoC is at the very core of our UNAMID mandate. Efforts aimed at the protection of civilians are on-going on a daily basis with coordinated actions across and within the Mission's military, police, substantive and support components at the MHQ, Sector and Team Site levels throughout Darfur - from advocacy and monitoring to robust presence in areas of unrest.

The PoC/HL Bulletin aims to inform regarding such joint efforts regularly undertaken throughout the Mission towards fulfilling our PoC mandate and bridging the policy and implementation angles of PoC coordination at the MHQ and in field. The intention is to reflect a strong field perspective and provide context to PoC across Darfur, from early warning and analysis on areas of concern or conflict to statistics of protection-related incidents involving civilians and civil-military coordination and operations issues.

The Mission's protection of civilians efforts are in line with the UNAMID PoC Strategy coordinated with the UNCT members and guidance is provided by the JSR, Mr. Kingsley Mamabolo, and DJSR (Protection), Ms. Bintou Keita.

As with this "Focus on UNAMID Refined PoC Strategy Edition" of the Bulletin, future issues will focus around a specific theme related to protection concerns and activities, specific target groups or vulnerable communities, and relevant cross-cutting issues of a general humanitarian and protection nature.

**Collaborative inputs from Field and MHQ colleagues in the form of content for articles, photos, suggestions for future focus stories as well as comments about the publication are all welcome. Please contact Mr. Zurab Elzarov, Chief PoC/HL Section a.i., at 192-7820 or [elzarov@un.org](mailto:elzarov@un.org).**

## Protective Presence

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