



SUDAN OPERATIONS

SUDAN/CHAD SITUATION UPDATE 26

18 August 2005



UNHCR/H. Caux

SOUTH SUDAN

Security

The security situation in South Sudan remained relatively stable. In Eastern Equatoria, Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) elements attacked a private truck on 11 August on the road from Nimule to Pageri, 30 km north of Nimule. Seven people were reported killed and two injured. In light of the incident and based on the reports of general increase in LRA activity in the area, all additional security measures in place remain valid.

Sobat corridor remains “no go” area

Sobat corridor remains a “no go” area for UN and HAC due to insecurity. There are militia groups operating in Sobat corridor which do not belong neither to the Government nor to the SPLM/A. A joint mission composed of ADRA, HAC, OCHA and UNHCR to assess the general situation of returning IDPs and refugees and the need to construct a way station in Bailiet (on Sobat corridor) has been postponed.

Juba is confirmed as new capital of South Sudan

Juba has been confirmed as the new capital of South Sudan and government institutions have been instructed to prepare to relocate to the new capital. The Ministry of Finance and Economy will be the first to move to Juba in order to prepare for office buildings and accommodation. In the meantime, the 15-member team drafting the Constitution of South Sudan has finished its task on 17 August. The draft Constitution will be submitted to a 40-member executive team for revision.

Western Equatoria State officials move from Juba to Yambio

All the UN agencies and NGOs working in Yambio were called for a meeting on 11 August convened by the Acting Secretary of the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SRRRC), Yambio. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the Commissioner of SRRRC, Western Equatoria State, who recently moved from Juba along with other officials of the Western Equatoria State Government to establish their offices in Yambio. The Commissioner stated that there is a need to establish a committee in Yambio similar to the Return and Rehabilitation Committee established in Juba which plans, implements and monitors all humanitarian assistance. He showed interest in knowing more about the UN return and reintegration programme and stressed that any communication and meetings with the State Government have to be channelled through his office.

Administrative Supervisor for Upper Nile meets with UN Country Team in Malakal

The Administrative Supervisor for Upper Nile returned to Malakal on 12 August after having left for Juba for consultations following Garang's death. The Administrative Supervisor met the UN Country Team (UNCT) on 15 August for the first time after his arrival on 24 July. He confirmed that the administration in Malakal is under the Ministry of Interior in South Headquarters (Juba). It is still unknown when the SRRRC office will be established in Malakal, which is one of the main concerns of the UNCT.

UNHCR raised the issue with the office of the Administrative Supervisor regarding the site for a way station after having failed to identify a suitable and secure plot (a plot of land identified by the Ministry of Urban Planning proved to be insecure).

Population movements

About 3,350 returnees (mainly IDP returnees and some returnees from Ethiopia) have been reported to Melut (Government area) and its county by SRRRC. SRRRC emphasized that there is an urgent need for food aid. A joint assessment mission with HAC, SRRRC, ADRA, FAO, OCHA, UNICEF, WFP and UNHCR is planned.

The SRT/SRRRC enumerator of Yambio county again reported movement of IDPs from Western Mvolo to Nadiangere Payam in Yambio county. Apparently, the move started because of food shortages in that area.

Upcoming mission

UNHCR Malakal will undertake a mission to Nasir with Oxfam and Adventist Development and Relief Association (ADRA) in order to follow up with the authorities on way station plans for Nasir and look into possibilities for community-based reintegration projects.

IDP survey to be undertaken in South Sudan

UNHCR Rumbek followed-up on the planned IDP survey for South Sudan and prepared a discussion note on methodology and implementation for an IDP survey in South Sudan, based upon the IDP survey undertaken in North Sudan.

UNHCR trains 30 field protection monitors

On 17 August, UNHCR Rumbek provided training on human rights, women's and children's rights, refugee law and the right to return to 30 SRRC field protection monitors, who will be deployed in South Sudan to supervise the SRRC enumerators and to monitor the human rights situation of returnees. The training completes the OCHA/SRRC-led initiative to revive the monitoring and tracking system for returns in southern Sudan for Bahr el Ghazal, Equatoria, Upper Nile and Nuba Mountains. Training for 15 enumerators originating from Southern Blue Nile will be undertaken in September.

UN officers to train local police

UN police officers visited UNHCR Yei to brief about their activities. Their main task is to build the capacity of the local police force and will therefore focus on basic training on policing, including police administration, and other practical on-the-job training. The training will start with the police from Yei, while police from other locations will be brought in later.

Mine Awareness Group deploys a team to Lainya county

Mine Awareness Group has deployed a team to Lainya county to obtain information on areas that are suspected to have been mined or have UXOs. This information will be used to do mapping of high risk areas and for conducting community awareness activities.

Food shortage in Malakal is becoming critical

HAC informed the humanitarian agencies on 15 August that the food situation in Malakal town is becoming increasingly critical. Rising food prices will affect the poorest inhabitants, including IDPs. All agencies have been asked to look into possibilities to improve the situation.

Community Based Reintegration Projects

Rumbek

- The rehabilitation and extension of the paediatric ward of Rumbek's hospital, implemented by Comitato Collaborazione Medica (CCM), was completed and the reconstructed wing formally handed over to the hospital authorities.

Yei

- A team from Danish Refugee Council (DRC) visited Yei to carry out an initial assessment for the possible expansion of their programme in 2006 into Yei, Morobo and Lainya Counties. During their mission they met with government officials, NGOs and UNHCR. Their intended areas of intervention are agriculture/food security, water and mine-related activities. They intend to focus on community-level de-mining, mine risk survey and mapping as well as mine risk education.
- UNHCR visited the Greenbelt Women Initiative for Development - a community-based organization in Morobo that has initiated construction of a nursery and community centre on a self-help basis and is requesting UNHCR's support. The purpose of the visit was to explain UNHCR procedures and guidelines for providing support to the organization and to assess the actual level of work that has been done.

- UNHCR visited Yei Girls Secondary School and held discussion with the girls' leadership about what they think they can do to occupy their time positively while at the same time generating income to meet some of their basic needs, such as stationary, sanitary materials, etc.

Kajo Keji

- In an effort to improve transparency and coordination mechanisms, UNHCR is developing a chart of all health facilities under construction and still to be rehabilitated, including information regarding funding sources and implementing agencies. The establishment of a "tendering committee" by the county council will help coordinate and supervise project selection and implementation in the various sectors.
- Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is making good progress in their school construction programme. A number of sites were visited and monitored this week, including those of Lire, Mere, Liwolo and Pomoju schools. Pomoju Girls School has reached roof level (see photo below).



- A major issue discussed in the education sector was the construction of the vocational training school under the overall management responsibility of the Comboni Missionaries. This new proposal received by UNHCR offers the unique opportunity to provide much needed professional skills to the youth in Kajo Keji as well as in the whole of the South. Comboni Missionaries will ensure long-term sustainability after initial, time-limited support by UNHCR.

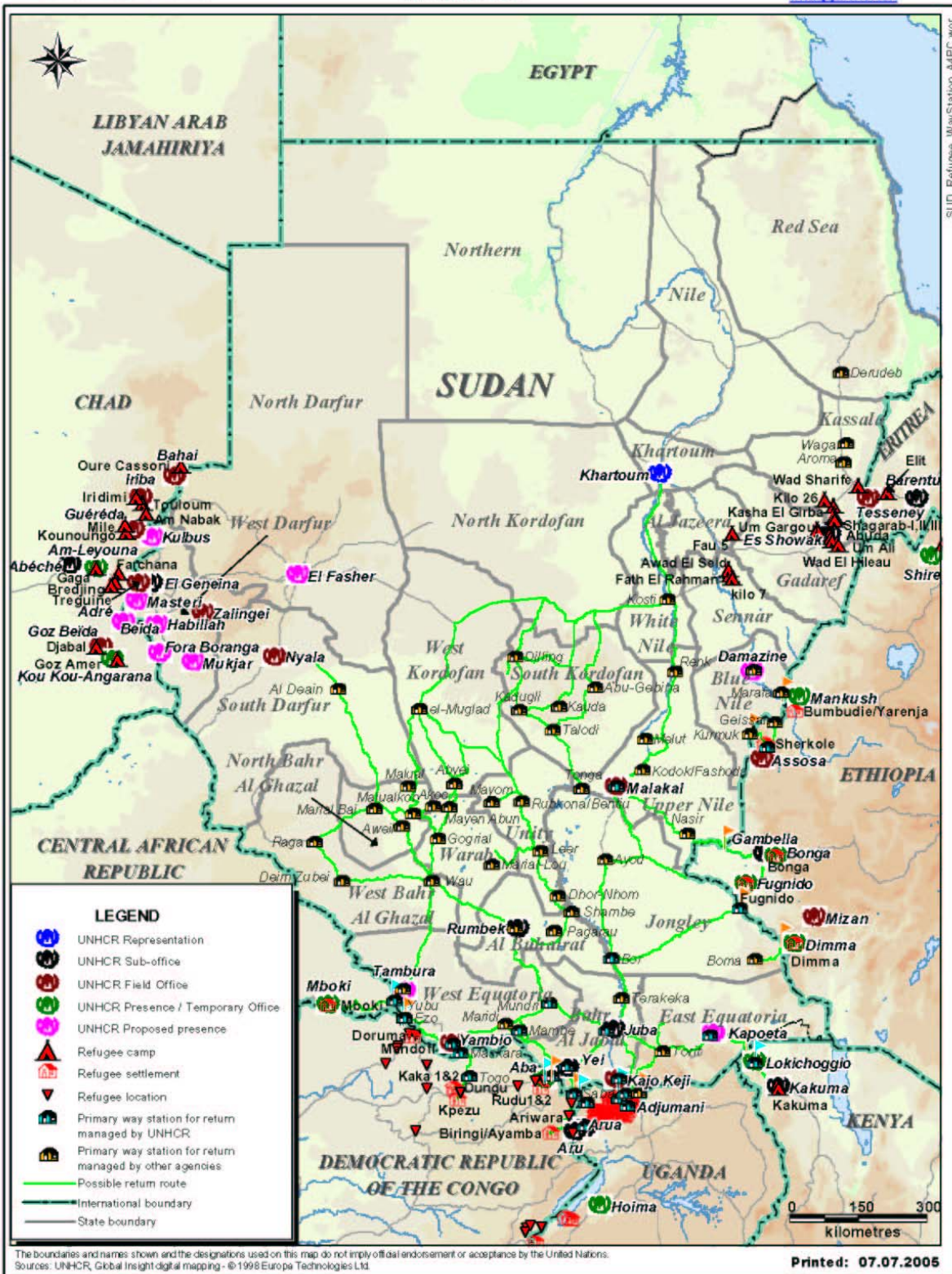
Repatriation preparedness activities continue in the Democratic Republic of Congo

In spite of Garang's death that led to disturbances in Sudan, the situation in the refugee settlements in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) remained calm. The refugees hope in the continuation of the peace process in Sudan and remain optimistic regarding their return home through the UNHCR voluntary repatriation operation. The repatriation preparedness activities continued and the UNHCR/DRC medical coordinator visited Aba to explain medical screening operations and indicate the different areas of medical intervention before, during and after repatriation convoys.

Update on funding situation for South Sudan as at 4 August

Requirements (includes countries of asylum): US\$ 76,347,770

2005 Contributions: US\$ 32,674,272



EAST SUDAN

Security

The security situation in the east was calm. While most security restrictions have been lifted, travel to Abuda and Wad El Helieu camps remains restricted. The restriction on visits to these camps has prompted some refugees to go to the UNHCR Showak office to report their problems, especially with regard to provision of basic services.

Asylum seekers continue to arrive from Eritrea

A trickle of asylum seekers continued to arrive from Eritrea at a rate of approximately 20 persons per day. About 100 asylum seekers were received between 10 and 16 August and the majority were accepted.

Issuance of ID cards continues to be problematic

ID cards were issued to 130 accepted refugees residing in closed camps during last week. The Commissioner for Refugees (COR), however, provided only six-month renewable ID cards instead of one-year renewable IDs as requested by the refugees. In addition, refugees continued to pay for their cards. This group of refugees paid 1,000 Sudanese dinars (about four US dollars) for the IDs and also provided the photo. About 30 more families have sent requests for issuance of ID cards.

Resettlement interviews are underway

The resettlement interviews for about 46 families from the Umgulja refugees presently living in Gedaref are planned for the end of August. The review of the other caseload of approximately 30 refugee families living in Umgulja is also underway.

Aburakham refugees

The 50 accepted refugee families living in Aburakham have decided to relocate to Suki area in the Central State to "active/open" camps. COR is preparing the necessary documents for the movement.

Communicable diseases increase during the rainy season

There was an increase in the incidence of watery diarrhea in Um Gargur camp in the last week with 20 cases reported in the last six days. Water samples from all sources have been taken for bacteriological investigation. Increases of communicable diseases are common during the rainy season in East Sudan.

First HIV/AIDS coordination meeting is held in Showak

A first HIV/AIDS coordination meeting between agencies involved in HIV/AIDS-related work took place at UNHCR Showak. Participants included COR, WFP, UNFPA, SNAP/Ministry of Health, NGOs and refugee HIV/AIDS peer educators. The objective of the meeting was to enhance HIV/AIDS activities in the refugee camps and at the state level, improve access to available services and strengthen interventions. It was decided to improve coordination mechanisms through monthly HIV/AIDS meetings at state level and quarterly meetings with participants from Kassala and Gadarif as well as Sinnar and Jazira States.

Refugee youth help construct the Abuda youth centre

A meeting between camp youth committee members, SRC, Human Appeal International (HAI) and UNHCR took place in Showak regarding the Abuda youth centre. While UNHCR and partners will provide some furniture and equipment for the centre, the youth will construct a fence and a sun-shelter and dig the latrine pit-holes. Among the activities planned by the youth are a kindergarten, a library, HIV/AIDS and female genital mutilation peer education sessions as well as sport activities.

Rehabilitation of refugee-hosting areas is progressing well

The rehabilitation work of Kassala teaching hospital and of Girba hospital is on schedule. Due to security reasons, UNHCR was unable to travel to Wad El Helieu to check on the work of the hospital there; however

the COR engineer conducted a monitoring visit and reported that more than 50 percent of the work has been completed.

Update on funding situation for East Sudan as at 4 August

Requirements: US\$ 15,210,745

2005 Contributions: US\$ 11,130,540

DARFUR



UNHCR/H. Caux

Security

The security situation in West Darfur remained relatively stable. In Zalingi, incidents continued to occur in and around the camps and also in the villages. There is also a recurrent problem of armed Arab nomads passing through the camps and UNHCR has intervened with CivPol in order to address the issue with the Government police.

Population movements

UNHCR did not receive any more information from local authorities on return movements. It seems that the rains have brought a halt to movements for the time being.

Ardamata IDP camp is flooded by heavy rains

Recent heavy rains have resulted in the flooding of a low-lying area of Ardamata camp. Over 2,000 families have been affected because over 950 latrines in the flooded area have collapsed and contaminated the area. WHO has immediately started a spraying campaign to reduce the risk of disease and is currently testing the water seven times a day. Chlorine treatment has been increased to address the water contamination levels. The camp coordinator and Terre des Hommes (TdH), in conjunction with UNICEF, the Ministry of Health and the IDPs themselves have identified another area within Ardamata camp where the affected residents could relocate to. Materials to build new shelters and rehabilitate those that can be partially salvaged are in extremely short supply, with contractors only able to provide materials for 20 shelters per week. UNHCR is looking into the possibility of using tents which may be available from the Sri Lanka tsunami relief project as an interim emergency measure.

Food distribution to take place in El Geneina camps

WFP announced that food distribution utilizing the old ration cards will take place in the El Geneina IDP camps. Since the failed re-registration exercise of 8 July and despite lengthy negotiations, consensus on the re-registration of the El Geneina IDP camps and surrounding villages has not yet been reached. It is hoped that the re-registration exercise can be carried out following the food distribution. A campaign will be undertaken simultaneously with the food distribution to inform that re-registration will also be conducted in the villages. Tensions have been increasing in the camps due to the delay in the re-registration as well as the increased population movements (a significant population movement into the camps has been noted during the past weeks) though no incidents have been reported.

Registration of extremely vulnerable individuals in El Geneina camps is completed

The identification, registration and verification of extremely vulnerable individuals (EVIs) in the eight camps in El Geneina area has been completed by the mobile EVI registration team, which was comprised of staff from UNHCR, Terre des Hommes (TdH), Save the Children-US (SC-US), Concern and Islamic Relief. The team registered individuals who, for reasons of their vulnerability, will be unable to attend the group gathering point on registration day. EVIs include the elderly, the infirm, women who have given birth in the past 40 days and mentally and physically disabled persons who cannot move to, or stay at, the gathering point. The *sheikhs* provided lists of EVIs to the mobile teams who then personally visited and verified each case. Approximately 500 EVIs were registered. Further assistance in the registration process will be provided by the mobile teams who will also conduct follow-up visits to ensure that the EVIs receive their rations. A number of EVIs have been identified by the *sheikhs* as belonging to their tribes, but currently residing in El Geneina town. A second phase of the EVI registration may be undertaken to verify the needs of these individuals.

Meeting the legal aid needs of West Darfur

Meetings were held with local lawyers to finalize details of the colloquium on "Meeting the legal aid needs of West Darfur" that is being organized by UNHCR and funded by the USAID/Office of Transitional Initiatives (OTI). The colloquium will take place at the end of September and will address issues such as the limited capacity of legal aid and look at ways of developing more cohesion among lawyers who wish to assist IDPs in West Darfur. About 18 local lawyers are expected to attend, including two from South Darfur and two from North Darfur (the rest are from El Geneina).

Building confidence between CivPol and IDPs

After the first confidence-building activities between CivPol and the IDPs in the Zalingi camps which took place last week, the Protection Working Group is now working on the possibility of extending the same kind of activities to the rural areas. A preliminary meeting will be organised during the coming week between some operators in rural areas and CivPol to assess the situation and propose initial recommendations.

Separated children found in Zalingi camps

The issue of separated children found in the Zalingi camps is being discussed by the Protection Working Group. UNHCR will meet with *sheikhs* to gain a better understanding of the size of the problem. UNHCR will try to ensure that in the future the registration process also includes this vulnerable category.

Protection Working Group organizes SGBV workshop

The Protection Working Group in Zalingi organized a workshop for the SGBV focal points in Hamadiya camp. The workshop included two female officers from CivPol. Due to the positive response to this workshop, it was decided to conduct similar workshops on a recurrent basis and include all female CivPol officers.

Progress on community-based reintegration projects in Zalingi

UNHCR visited several community-based reintegration project sites in Zalingi town and its environs with Danish refugee Council (DRC) to assess progress in implementation. In Zalingi town, the construction of a primary and secondary school complex consisting of approximately 18 classrooms is almost complete. Construction of a smaller pre-school will start in the coming days. The Ministry of Education had requested

this project after discovering that many host community students had chosen to attend the IDP camp schools which are in better conditions.

UNHCR also visited project sites in the rural areas of Treje and its satellite villages, where seeds and tools have been distributed to IDPs and host community residents. A training facility is under construction, which will be used for fuel-efficient stove trainings, vocational education, community meetings and storage of community agricultural tools. Although the area has witnessed few returns to date, Treje is a village of origin of hundreds of displaced families currently in Zalingi. Villagers report that security is improving and that several families are returning during the day to cultivate their land.

Update on funding situation for Darfur as at 4 August

Requirements: US\$ 31,341,044

2005 Contributions: US\$ 9,916,066

CHAD

Security

The security situation in eastern Chad remained relatively calm. The region is facing exceptionally adverse weather conditions and continuous heavy rains have damaged school constructions in several camps. For the safety of the children and the teachers, some schools have been closed until further notice. The bad weather has also affected the refugee farmers of Goz Amir camp. The banks of the river Bahr Azoum burst, flooding surrounding land under cultivation. Most of the affected fields had been allocated to refugees who had been identified as vulnerable.

Refugees travel back to areas near the border

The last border monitoring mission along the Sudanese border in the Adre area noticed that refugees are traveling back to the areas near the border where they used to stay in 2003 before their transfer to the refugee camps. At that time, refugees had been given land to plant during the rainy season. Refugee movements observed in that zone were not linked to any political or military activities as sometimes feared by the authorities.

Registration exercise in Mile and Kounoungou camps is successfully completed

The registration exercise that was launched on 3 August in both Mile and Kounoungou camps has been successfully concluded in both camps. The new master lists will be used during the general food distribution starting next week in order to adjust family sizes and renew damaged ration cards.

Sugar is included in monthly food distribution

With the return of sugar in the refugee food basket, food distribution should be normal in August. The monthly distribution exercise is already over in six refugee camps and the operation will be launched next week for the remaining camps located on the northern axis. In Am Nabak, however, heavy rains and a staff strike prevented timely pre-positioning of the food items.

Response to Hepatitis E outbreak in Kerfi continues

Response to the Hepatitis E outbreak in Kerfi and surrounding villages continues with the support of WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR and NGOs. Some 160 new cases have been registered this week in addition to the 189 new cases registered last week.

UNHCR carries out technical assessment in all camps

UNHCR undertook a technical assessment in all the camps with a special focus on building constructions. In particular, the team visited all the schools and prepared a technical evaluation to identify appropriate solutions for strengthening the buildings that have been damaged by the ongoing rains.

Drilling of boreholes in Djabal continues

In Djabal, the drilling of boreholes continued. The campaign has been somewhat successful as two boreholes have been drilled so far. The drilling will continue until the total yield provides enough water for the water supply systems of Goz Beida and Djabal to be separated. Djabal camp alone requires some 230 cubic metres of water a day. A UNHCR team is supervising the work on the site.

Addressing female genital mutilation

The Chadian Red Cross released a report regarding investigations they conducted in the Treguine and Bredjing refugee camps and in the surrounding villages about female genital mutilation (FGM). Results reveal that FGM is widely practiced in the area. Only 10 percent of the people surveyed recognized that such practice has detrimental consequences on a woman's health. UNHCR and partners are committed to sensitize the refugee population about the consequences of this harmful traditional practice.

Intersos to start a programme for traumatized children in Djabal camp

The NGO Intersos held a six-day psycho-social workshop for its community services staff in Djabal. Intersos is about to start a psycho-social programme targeting traumatized children in Djabal camp. A similar workshop will take place next week in Goz Amir.

Meeting the needs of local communities

As part of the efforts to meet the needs of the local communities, UNHCR is developing a project to provide educational facilities to the host population in rural areas. The project will be implemented in close collaboration with the Minister of Education, UNICEF and WFP. UNHCR will be in charge of classroom construction, UNICEF will provide latrines and water points and WFP will contribute with meals. Some 63 schools in eastern Chad could benefit from this project.

Three projects in Adre area to enhance the livelihood of local populations are approved

A coordination unit for the vetting and approval of projects to enhance the livelihood of the local population and submitted at the prefecture level was recently set up. UNHCR provided the unit with office furniture and a rented vehicle. UNHCR also provided *per diems* in order to allow the local authorities involved in project monitoring to conduct missions in the field. During the reporting period, three projects have been approved in the Adre area: 1) the construction of two classrooms in Djoroko (this village is located in the area where firewood is regularly collected); 2) the building of three blocks of latrines in a school located in Adre town (to be implemented by UNICEF); and 3) the construction of five wells for the villages of Faguire, Barde, Kokorgne, Doula and Djoroko. A project for flood barriers is under consideration following a feasibility study conducted by the NGO Africare. Such flood barriers hold back water that could be used after the rainy season for agricultural projects.

UNHCR provides motorcycles to local government

As part of UNHCR's commitment to support local government, six motorcycles were provided to the Environment Delegation and five to the Breeding Delegation. This will enhance the Delegations' monitoring of the re-forestation and animal vaccination campaigns.

Refugees from the Central African Republic continue to arrive in Gore

CNAR (the national authority in charge of refugees) in Gore received information from a village called Betkoninga (located 30 km from Gore) about a new influx of refugees from the Central African Republic. UNHCR conducted a mission and confirmed new arrivals numbering about 2,400 people. A joint monitoring mission consisting of CNAR, UNHCR and WFP will travel to Betkoninga to evaluate the situation.

Monitoring activities in villages that accommodated refugees upon arrival have been completed. About 300 refugees remain in these villages and small convoys are being organized to relocate them to Amboko camp. By 10 August, about 7,000 refugees had been transferred to Amboko camp. On 9 August, 120 additional tents were erected to accommodate some 150 refugee families. Unfortunately, 20 tents have disappeared from the camp, probably taken away by refugees who decided to travel back to their villages of origin.

UNHCR trains gendarmes in Amboko camp

A UNHCR training focusing on the role and mission of the gendarmes was held in Amboko camp. Eight gendarmes in charge of the security of the camp benefited from the training and discussed the relationship to be developed with UNHCR, partners and the refugee population.

Update on funding situation for Chad as at 4 August

Requirements: US\$ 81,225,813

2005 Contributions: US\$ 46,493,050