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Women and children collect water during a sandstorm in Darfur, Sudan.

Crisis in Darfur:

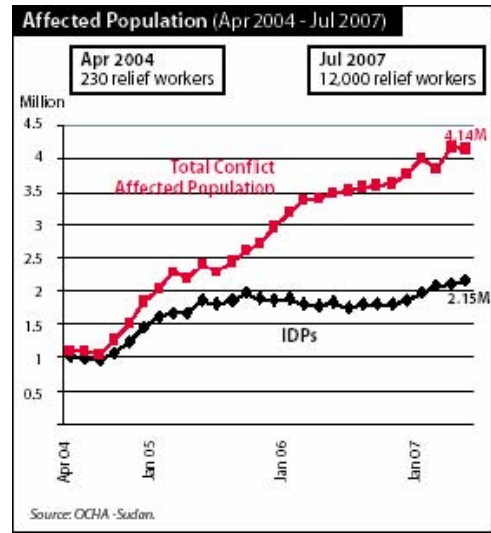
CARE's Response to the Ongoing Emergency in Sudan and Chad

December 2007

Introduction

Since violent conflict first erupted in Darfur, Sudan in 2004, the region has undergone a steady decline, which has continued unabated in 2007. Rather than stabilizing, the total numbers of people affected and displaced by the conflict have risen to all-time highs of 4.14 million and 2.15 million respectively, as demonstrated in the graph at right. This trend reflects an increase in violence, which resurged in 2007 following a brief lull in 2006, and which has increasingly targeted aid workers.

The vast majority of displaced persons continue to live in camps. Prevented by insecurity from venturing far from the camp borders, and unable to pursue their normal livelihoods, they are completely dependent on outside assistance to survive. Despite massive relief efforts, malnutrition rates in most areas of Darfur remain in excess of emergency thresholds and have deteriorated overall in 2007.¹ An exceptionally short rainy season this year, lasting two months instead of three, means a drastically reduced crop yield for those farmers who were able to plant crops. The full effect of this will not be felt until after the harvest season, but the chances of the poor rains exacerbating an already dismal food security situation are high.



The prospect of stable peace in Darfur remains distant. The splintering of rebel groups and the failure of peace talks in Libya have diminished the possibility of reaching a comprehensive agreement between the warring factions. In the run-up to the full deployment of the UN-African Union hybrid mission, all sides to the conflict have attempted to maximize their control over land and assets. In addition, ethnic conflict has spread to the camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs). A prime example of this is Kalma camp, the largest IDP camp in Darfur, in which clashes during August 2007 forced around 20,000 people to leave the camp.



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Houses destroyed by local conflict outside of the Kalma IDP camp.

Neighboring Chad has also felt the grim effects of the Darfur crisis. There are now approximately 250,000 refugees from Darfur living in 12 camps in eastern Chad, and another

¹ Source: UNICEF, Darfur Nutrition Update July-August 2007, available at: <http://www.unsudanig.org/docs/UNICEF%20Darfur%20Nutrition%20Update%2010%20July-August%202007.pdf>

50,000 from the Central African Republic (CAR) in the south of the country. Recent escalations in ethnic violence within Chad have forced a growing number of Chadian citizens to abandon their homes for the relative safety of IDP settlements. These displaced populations create added strain in areas that are already struggling with problems of extreme poverty and resource depletion.

CARE has worked in Darfur since April 2004, and we are currently providing direct humanitarian assistance to around 450,000 conflict-affected people in Sudan and another nearly 60,000 Darfuri refugees in Chad. This report describes CARE’s work in 2007 to help those most affected by the crisis live with dignity and security and to promote a more peaceful and just way forward. This work is only made possible by the support of public and private donors like you, who contributed to **CARE’s Darfur Emergency Response Fund**. All donations designated to the Fund are made immediately available to our emergency programs in the Darfur region of Sudan and Chad on behalf of conflict-affected children, men and women.

Program Activities

Food Distribution

In partnership with the World Food Program (WFP), CARE provided emergency food aid in South and West Darfur to 305,764 conflict-affected people in 2007. The number of people reached increased in line with the growing populations at the distribution sites over the course of the year, as demonstrated in the table at right. In eastern Chad, CARE is managing three refugee camps, where we distribute food to nearly 58,000 people. The distribution includes cereals, legumes, corn-soya blends, vegetable oil, sugar and salt.

Darfur Food Distribution	
Period	Beneficiaries
Jan – Jun 07	290,771
July – Dec 07	305,764
Jan – Jun 08 <i>(projected)</i>	317,633

This year CARE also continued to strengthen food relief committees, which are comprised of residents who work with CARE to ensure equitable food distribution and meaningful participation from the local population. Over the last three years, the existence of these committees has facilitated transparent distribution and decision-making processes, ensured accountability, increased community responsibility and created strong local organization in an area where civil society is weak or non-existent. Furthermore, CARE has encouraged women to play an equal role in distribution activities and to join community management structures. The level of women’s representation in food relief committees in Darfur increased to 38 percent in 2007, and women took an active role in planning and executing the food distributions.



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Families collect food at a distribution site in Zalingei, Sudan.

Water and Sanitation

In Darfur, the number of people receiving water and sanitation services from CARE increased from 175,000 to 242,000 in 2007. Due to the sudden, large and unexpected influxes of people into some of the IDP camps (especially in Otash, Al Salaam and Kass), CARE was providing water and sanitation services to an estimated 37,000 people more than originally budgeted for, putting enormous strain on resources and driving down quality. Currently, CARE is providing water and sanitation services to around 224,000 people in Darfur, with resources available to cater to larger populations should camp sizes continue to increase.



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Women collect water in Kalma camp.

In Chad, CARE is helping more than 55,000 people, including refugees and members of host communities, gain access to clean water and sanitation. In eastern Chad's resource-poor environment, water is limited and often a source of tension between refugee and host populations. Therefore, in addition to providing water and sanitation services in refugee camps, CARE has helped surrounding rural and nomadic populations to establish sustainable water and sanitation systems as well. This is not only helping to prevent disease and worsening poverty in the area, but it also helping to build peace between the different groups.

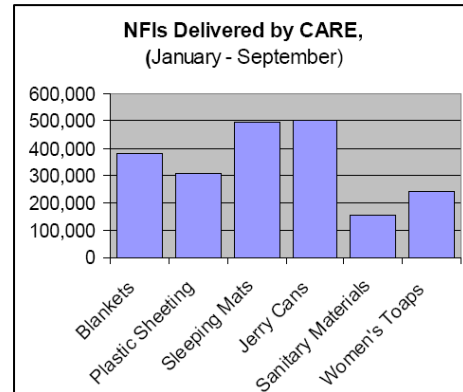
The major challenges that occurred in 2007 mostly relate to the movement of internally displaced people, which caused huge increases in the populations of some camps and decreases in others. For example, in Kass camp, large numbers of people fleeing violence in the surrounding areas entered the camp in January 2007. Here, CARE was supplying water and sanitation services to around 33,000 people with resources for only 20,000. In response, CARE secured additional funding to cover this shortfall and is currently supplying services to 37,000 people in the camp, with funding to cover another 8,000 should the need arise.

CARE has been especially pleased with the progress achieved in 2007 in strengthening water and sanitation committees and water user associations. The former operate in camps and constitute independent organizations, tasked with managing services in the camp. The latter operate in communities and form part of village development committees, although they perform similar tasks. In both cases the establishment of these committees has proved to be highly successful, giving residents ownership over the water and sanitation facilities and allowing them to become almost entirely self-sustaining, with only minimum input still needed from CARE. The committees proved to be especially capable and a useful resource during periods when insecurity prevented CARE staff from visiting project sites; CARE relied on them to ensure continued

implementation of water and sanitation activities.

Distribution of Non-food Items

In addition to distributing food and ensuring access to water and sanitation, CARE also distributes essential supplies to displaced and conflict-affected families such as blankets, plastic sheets, water containers, women's toaps (clothing) and sanitary materials. Across Darfur, these materials are distributed according to a single common pipeline in which CARE plays a vital role.²



By the end of September 2007, CARE and the other nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) who run the pipeline had reached more than 2.3 million displaced and vulnerable people in Darfur, surpassing the year's target (set by the UN) by more than 320,000 people. The table below shows the number and type of materials distributed by CARE from January-September 2007. According to an assessment conducted by CARE in July 2007, an average of 97 percent of the respondents reported that they were satisfied with the condition of the items that were received.

As with other projects, insecurity and the resulting limitations on movement has been the major challenge and has negatively impacted the pace of distributions in 2007. However, it should be noted that although access has been an issue, the pipeline was still able to reach areas of Darfur that had not been reached before with distributions (such as Sisi camp in West Darfur) through careful coordination and planning. In 2008, CARE, as part of the common pipeline, will target nearly 2 million people in Darfur with supplies.



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Women collect supplies at an IDP camp.

Health and Nutrition

In 2007 CARE added a nutrition component to our health program in Darfur, which has been running since 2006. In addition to the three primary health care facilities that we established in 2006 in Singita, Markundi and Abrom, in 2007 CARE renovated and equipped with medical supplies: a primary health care facility in Haboba, a mobile clinic in El Rohaar camp, a temporary clinic in Kass, a maternal and child health care center and a maternity department in Kass

² The UN coordinates the overall operation, UNICEF procures the items and CARE is in charge of all storage and transportation to distribution points, where other NGOs receive the materials and distribute them directly to local populations.

hospital. We are currently renovating a clinic in Khirwe as well. These facilities offer a comprehensive health care package including reproductive health and antenatal care, and both curative and preventive health services. Once operational, the facilities are run by the Ministry of Health with CARE's support, which includes training of staff. From November 2006-July 2007, the clinics reached more than 46,000 patients, including many women and children, with vaccinations, reproductive and antenatal health services, health education and outpatient treatment.

To prevent and respond to malnutrition in Darfur, CARE is running two supplementary feeding centers and one therapeutic feeding center in Kass, and one outpatient therapeutic program in Haboba. In March 2007, CARE and the Ministry of Health conducted a rapid nutritional assessment in Kass, which showed that about 24 percent of children had acute malnutrition, and fewer than half the children assessed were recorded as being healthy. After the assessment, CARE established a supplemental feeding center in which all malnourished children were treated. Between March and April, 8,810 children were screened for malnutrition and 1,057 were admitted into the feeding center for treatment.



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A girl receives an examination at a clinic in Darfur.

In addition to establishing feeding programs, CARE staff are working in Sudan and Chad to prevent malnutrition and other common health problems like diarrhea by educating women, men and children about good nutrition and sanitation. This awareness raising is a critical element of our health interventions.

Livelihoods

CARE is helping residents in Darfur and Chad to improve food production and develop sustainable incomes. In addition to encouraging self-support, these projects are working to build peace both within and between communities.

Agriculture

In order to re-invigorate farming activities in South and West Darfur, CARE distributed seeds and tools to 3,000 people in five villages in Kass and 13 villages around Mukjar. Distributions were carried out in close coordination with the village development committees, most of which were established by CARE in the project sites last year. In addition, 2,000 households were supplied with okra, tomato and watermelon seeds for income-generating purposes. CARE also trained those families that received seeds and tools in improved farming practices so that they could reap the maximum yield from their crops. Between January and June 2007, project staff

reached 425 farmers and trained 202 farmers to become trainers themselves and pass on their knowledge to other farmers. In addition, three demonstration farms were set up to spread messages on best practices and provide a place for farmers to receive training and try out new techniques.

In Chad, CARE launched a new large-scale initiative in 2007 to help Darfuri refugees and host community members to improve food and income production while at the same time conserving eastern Chad's fragile natural environment. The project is working with more than 68,000 refugees and host community members to promote more productive and ecologically sound agricultural practices and to encourage people to work together to address natural resource management conflicts and build peace.

Income Generation

In partnership with a local NGO, CARE implemented a poultry-breeding project for 130 female-headed households in El Serief camp and a cheese-making initiative for 110 women in Kass camp, both of which have been very successful. Profits from the activities have been reinvested in rotational saving and credit associations in order to create sustainable community-based lending mechanisms.

CARE, in partnership with the local village development committees, continued to support households in Darfur that received small grants for business activities last year. CARE helped 1,890 people, 57 percent of them women, form 96 groups, which were trained in business management and provided grants ranging from \$50-\$1,000 in the form of cash or materials to start small businesses. Between January and July 2007, all the businesses recorded growth of between 10 and 30 percent. Businesses included milling, tea shops, donkey transport services and agricultural projects. Nine small irrigation schemes were also established to support agricultural activities.



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Farmers on a local okra plantation that CARE helped them to start.

Peace-building and Education

In Darfur, CARE is working in four camps around Nyala (Kalma, Otash, El Serief, and Bilail) to eradicate gender-based violence and promote peace through dialogues and the creation of community associations to ensure that displaced people's voices are taken into account at both local and national level, especially in the ongoing Darfur-Darfur Dialogue Consultation.³

³ The Darfur-Darfur Dialogue Consultation is a communal reconciliation process prescribed by the Darfur Peace Agreement, which is intended to bring together all Darfurian stakeholders to discuss the challenges of

In 2007, community awareness and mobilization sessions were carried out on a regular basis in IDP camps in Darfur to discuss issues such as female genital cutting, domestic violence, and early marriage, among others. The youth associations created by the project have formed drama groups, which were trained in community theater and have performed plays to communicate messages on gender-based violence.



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People in the Otash camp perform a play to raise awareness of gender-based violence.

These were well-attended and received by the camp communities, and attracted audiences of several hundred people. The youth associations in Otash and El Serief camps also organized “youth for peace” days in early September. Peace day activities included speeches, poetry recitals, singing and drama productions. As a result of the success of this activity, the project helped the youth associations to organize a “youth against violence” day in October in the Otash and El Serief camps. Similar activities are planned for Bilail and Kalma camps once the security situation improves.

CARE is also working with village development committees to promote non-violence and dialogue. Within the umbrella of these committees, peace committees were established and trained. Regular meetings were held to bring together members from other communities and reinforce traditional conflict resolution mechanisms. In addition, six community centers were established by peace committees and furnished by the project. Furthermore, CARE supported the formation of five youth clubs, which were provided with equipment to conduct “sports for peace” activities. Working through village development committees and peace committees was a major success on account of the effect it had on community empowerment and the increased potential for direct engagement with the communities. Early problems hindering the work of the village development committees, including low levels of literacy, initial misapprehensions and bias in the decisions of its members, have largely been overcome. In addition, CARE’s efforts at including women in the committees have also been successful.

In both Sudan and Chad, CARE is also using education as a tool for peace-building. Schools offer children a focus, a routine and a sense of normalcy, which are essential for youth who have been displaced from their homes and who have experienced severe emotional trauma. Schools also play a vital role in promoting peace and reconciliation by helping children address the conflict, empowering them with greater self-esteem, building social and communication skills, giving them access to new opportunities and fostering a more positive future outlook. In Chad, CARE

restoring peace to their land, overcoming the divisions between communities, and resolving the existing problems to build a common future.

has worked in collaboration with UNICEF and the Ministry of Education to construct preschools in refugee camps that are being attended by over 9,000 children. In addition, we have created safe “child-friendly” zones in the camps where children can socialize and play. CARE has also been instrumental in providing primary and adult education to displaced populations. In total, we have reached around 18,000 students through our formal education program and nearly 5,000 adults in literacy classes in Chad.

As many incidents of gender-based violence occur when women are collecting firewood, CARE, through partner staff, trained people to build fuel efficient stoves in seven IDP camps in Darfur in September 2007. An assessment by project staff found that the new stoves were popular, but that collection of firewood remains a necessity so the project is looking into ways of increasing protection for women through organizing wood collection and distribution activities.

Conclusion

While the volatile conflict in Darfur continues to rage, CARE’s commitment to the women, men and children affected by the crisis remains steadfast. Through the generous support of public and private donors like you, CARE is providing food, water, essential supplies, health care and education to thousands of people in Sudan and Chad who, because of the ongoing violence, have lost their homes and livelihoods. In addition to meeting immediate needs, our programming is working toward a better and more peaceful future for the region. We are helping families to reinvigorate local economies, to sustainably manage natural resources and to come together to promote non-violence and reconciliation. Although the road to stability in Darfur remains pockmarked with challenges, communities are achieving small victories toward peace and prosperity through CARE’s work.

On behalf of the people we are reaching in both Sudan and Chad, we thank you for your donation to **CARE’s Darfur Emergency Response Fund.**

December 20, 2007