



OFFICE OF UN RESIDENT AND HUMANITARIAN CO-ORDINATOR  
FOR THE SUDAN

NOTE TO MR. EGELAND

Crisis in Darfur Region, Sudan

1. Insecurity continues on an unprecedented scale in the Darfur Region, possibly emerging as the most serious emergency in Africa. To date, international attention has focused on the SLM/A and the Government which, since 6 September 2003, have maintained a cease-fire. However, multiple actors are now operating in Darfur. The violence is caused mainly by Government-aligned militias. In addition, the SLA-aligned Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) are playing an increasingly significant role. Any strategy to solve the problem should include strong international pressure on the Government of the Sudan (GoS) to control the militias as a prelude to disarmament. The donor community in Khartoum is urging that a high-level political initiative from the Secretary-General be considered including, inter alia, a Special Envoy who would also interact with President of Chad Idriss Deby, who reportedly has considerable influence on the JEM and SLM/A. The GoS is likely to resist.

2. The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate. Access to both rebel and Government-held areas continues to be denied and/or constrained by travel permit restrictions and by insecurity caused by militia activity and banditry. More than 600,000 people are internally displaced and an additional 70,000 people are refugees in Chad. In IDP locations currently accessible according to Security (covering 46% of IDPs), 16% of food aid needs, 24% of needs for shelter, 14% of water needs, and only 1% of sanitation needs have been covered. Several IDP locations are currently short on food and medical supplies and less than half the requirements for the next three months are in the pipeline. Both WFP and UNICEF foresee a break in their delivery pipelines during the next few months. The current shortfall is due to both lack of presence and operational capacity of agencies on the ground, as well as lack of funding.

3. UN Sudan has launched the Greater Darfur Special Initiative requesting USD 22.8 million (of which \$6.5 million has been pledged), set up a Darfur Contact Group, increased its staff presence on the ground, briefed the donor community on several occasions, undertaken many demarches to the GoS, issued public statements, and made contact with the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A). Medical supplies for 250,000 people and 4,600 MT of food have been delivered to the conflict affected population. All recent high-level visitors such as Kieran Prendergast, Ruud Lubbers and Tom Vraalsen have made representations to the GoS. Ambassador Vraalsen and I will visit Darfur again this week.

4. Advice would be appreciated from HQ on the following:

- (a) The UN's political role, including on donors' suggestions on a Special Envoy and request to France to work with Chad;
- (b) Further donor advocacy to mobilise resources;
- (c) Enhanced emergency response such as cross-line deliveries from Chad and airdrops (both would have political repercussions).

5. For further reference, please find attached: (a) Briefing on Greater Darfur Region; (b) Darfur Humanitarian Needs Profile; and (c) Darfur Political Update.

Mukesh Kapila, 1 December 2003