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

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**NOTE TO MR.EGELAND**

**Darfur: Initial Humanitarian Impressions**

1. My recent Notes confirmed the deployment of UN national and international humanitarian staff in Darfur. Our initial teams are starting to assess the humanitarian situation in and around the three capitals. Initial impressions (subject to confirmation) are as follows:
2. We are now providing assistance to 250,000 IDPs who are mostly in camp-like situations (125,000 in Kutum, with 4,000 arriving daily; 4,500 in Blal; 75,000 in Zalingei; 35,000 in El Geneina). We will update total numbers when we can verify after direct access but are currently planning on the basis of one million conflict-affected of which some 700,000 are IDPs and 110,000 refugees.
3. Initial observations indicate that observed populations are in reasonable shape. Food distributions using stocks in-theatre are taking place, with something given to most people. Water needs are being addressed through wells and tankers. Adequate medical supplies are available. In Kutum, a few cases of meningitis have inspired an immunization campaign to prevent a possible epidemic. The limited locally-available stocks of plastic sheeting are being distributed but shelter, overall, is a major gap. Protection concerns including in relation to looting of aid given to IDPs remain predominant, together with insecurity along the main roads between the three capitals.
4. Options for replenishing food and non-food stocks, using surface and air routes, are being studied. And we await donor responses to our urgent request for deployment of "modules" to ensure better safety and functioning of our staff on the ground.
5. All humanitarian organizations, including UN, ICRC and NGOs, are cooperating well. I gave an interview to the BBC World Service this morning, highlighting progress to date as well as continuing constraints due to insecurity.

**Mukesh Kapila**