

UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF (UMCOR) - SUDAN

IMPROVING COMMUNITY LIVELIHOOD

**QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
(March – June 2008)**

**Submitted to:
Ginghamsburg United Methodist Church in Ohio**

**By
UMCOR-SUDAN**

August 12, 2008

Program Title: **IMPROVING COMMUNITY LIVELIHOOD**

Country/Region: **Sudan/Darfur State**

Disaster/Hazard: **Emergency**

Period covered by Progress report: **March 1, – June 30, 2008**

Organization Headquarters Contact

Rev. Dr. Sam Dixon, Deputy General Secretary, Health and Relief
UMCOR, Health and Welfare, Mission Volunteers

475 Riverside Drive, Suite #1374. New York, NY, 10115, USA

Telephone: 212-870-3552

Fax: 1-212-870-3580

E-mail: sdixon@gbgm-umc.org

Introduction

The Republic of Sudan has been experiencing war and conflict for over two decades. In 2005, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed, bringing an end to the 21 year conflict between the Muslim North and the Christian South. However, three years after the signing of the CPA, some of the conflicting interests have yet to be settled. While there was discussion on ending the north – south war, a new crisis emerged in the Western State of Darfur between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and various militants, namely the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). The conflict impacted approximately 4.2 million people in Darfur; of these, 2.2 million¹ are internally displaced, and an additional 238,000 Sudanese refugees are in eastern Chad.

Up to 4 million people displaced by the conflict—more than half of Darfur’s entire population of 6.8 million people—are considered “conflict-affected” by the United Nations and are reliant on humanitarian aid because the conflict has damaged the local economy, markets, and trade in Darfur. This project aims at mitigating the effects of the conflict and drought, through agricultural support to farmers to restore their livelihoods.

Security Situation

Security situation in Darfur continues to be precarious as the international community carries on its relief efforts in support of the CPA. The SLA and JEM fragmented into successive factions while civilians continue to be forcibly displaced as a result of attacks from both sides of the conflict. With displaced populations growing, many internally displaced persons (IDP) camps can no longer absorb the new arrivals. Tensions are rising, and for the first time since late 2004, humanitarian aid workers are reporting a substantial increase in malnutrition in the camp population. Though efforts are being made to address the needs created by the crisis, humanitarian operation and its staff continues to be targeted by violence. Since the beginning of 2007, an unprecedented high number of aid workers have been temporarily abducted, convoys attacked or looted and vehicles hijacked. Safe and unhindered access for humanitarian workers, fundamental to their operations has declined significantly. As a result, nearly one million people in Darfur have been periodically cut off from assistance. The increased insecurity culminated with the rebel factions extending the fight to Umdurman (the adjacent town to Khartoum). The rebel factions were defeated but this episode has left both Darfur and Khartoum areas tense. The current situation also leaves the peace process in a state of uncertainty

In El Deain and Northern Adilla localities, rebel and militia movement was reported. Robbery and physical attacks on civilian vehicles have intensified in El Ferdous area where accessibility has been restricted for NGOs for the second consecutive month. The areas of Adilla remained generally calm with no significant security incidents reported for the better part of the month. However, two armed men on camels hijacked an UMCOR vehicle, in Adilla locality on May 31st, 2008. The following day, ten commercial trucks and 11 vehicles were hijacked by rebel forces between Dar es Salaam and Bakhit centers. Thus, movements of relief vehicles are restricted to convoys from Ed Daein to Nyala and Ed Daein to El Obeid so as to ensure their safe arrival to their destinations.

¹ USAID, April 2008

Program Performance during the reporting period

Funds for this project were supposed to be received in February but were not received in the field until April 2008, thus delaying the start of agricultural preparation activities as proposed. This necessitated a change of strategy from seed vouchers to direct seed distribution, which ultimately reduced the number of targeted beneficiaries from 2,000 to 1,700 farmer households (HHs).

During the reporting period, seeds were stocked in farmer committee stores, and prepared for distribution. Tools were procured from local blacksmiths and distributed to farmers for land preparation for planting.

Strategic objective #1: Increase farmers access to agriculture inputs

Indicator #1.1: 2,000 farmers identified through participatory targeting approach (40% Female Heads of Households – (FHHs)

Expected Results: % of FHHs included in the beneficiary list

As a result of the delay in receiving funds, the change in strategy from seed vouchers to direct seed distribution reduced the number of targeted beneficiaries to 1,700. The decrease is due to costs related to seed and tool transportation, storage and distribution. Out of the 1,700 households, 1,020 (60%) are FHHs.

Table 1: Locations/Beneficiaries of seeds and tools

Area	Beneficiary HHs	Locality
1. El Fardous	250	Edaein
2. Abu Jabra	150	Edaein
3. Kediek	100	Edaein
4. Abu Karinka	200	Edaein
5. Koriena	100	Edaein
6. ElReyiadth	250	Edaein
7. Abu Matarig	250	Edaein
8. El Mazroub	120	Adila
9. Jad elsid	200	Adila
10. Sabah el niemah	80	Adila
Total	1,700	

NB: 1 HH = 5 family members

Indicator #1.2: Six farmer committees established and trained to identify needs and support farmer activities

Expected Results: % of FHHs included in the farmer committees

Farmer Committees: UMCOR worked closely with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), community leaders, and the farmers to establish and train 10 farmer committees in the 10 villages. Four of the committees are in the previous UMCOR program sites where the 2007 refunded seeds were to be re-distributed. Each committee comprised of ten members, bringing the total number of committee members trained to 100. Out of the 100, 40 (40%) are FHHs.

Indicator #1.3: 2,000 farmers and 6 farmer committees trained on improved farming technologies

The identified 1,700 farmer households and members from the 6 committee received trainings on improved farming technologies such as crop rotation, intercropping, potholing, timely land preparation and planting, the types of pest and crop diseases, termite control using local means, precautions against hazardous use of chemicals, appropriate control measures against the pest, etc. Trainings were based on existing farmers’ knowledge, combined with improved, sustainable practices and technology aimed at increasing farm yields while protecting the environment. The trainings are expected to increase development of farming capabilities and are supplemented by on-farm support by UMCOR staff and agriculture extensionists through field demonstrations on improved farming methodologies.

Beneficiaries were provided with continued support by UMCOR agronomist and extensionists throughout the reporting period. UMCOR extensionists conducted farm visits and training sessions, as well as hold meetings with farmers groups.

Indicator #1.4: 2,000 farmers provided with seeds and tools

Expected Results: % of farmers issued with seeds and tools

1,700 HHs were identified as beneficiaries using criteria that established those most in need of assistance, out of which, 60% are FHHs.

Tools: The farm tools of 1700 hoes and 1700 rakes were procured from local blacksmiths, transported to the field sites and distributed to the identified households for land preparations for planting.

Seeds: The seeds of groundnuts, sorghum and millet were procured and transported to the field sites for distribution. Germination tests were carried out by the MoA at various stages of seeds reception by UMCOR to ensure consistent quality seeds reception. The tests remained at a rate of 80%.

Subsequently, the established farmer committees received seeds and tools in preparation for distribution to farmers. They mobilized the beneficiary households in preparation to receive the seeds and farm tools, and worked with agriculture extensionists to provide follow up support and advice to farmers.

Table2: Types of Seeds Distributed

Area	Locality	Beneficiaries	G.nut	Millet	Sorghum	Weeder	Hoe
1. ElFardous	Edaein	250	250	16	8	250	250
2. Abu Jabra	Edaein	150	150	10	5	150	150
3. Kediek	Edaein	100	100	10	5	100	100
4. Abu Karinka	Edaein	200	200	13	6	200	200

5. Koriema	Edaein	100	100	6	3	100	100
6. ElReyiadth	Edaein	250	250	16	8	250	250
7. Abu Matarig	Edaein	250	250	16	8	250	250
8. El Mazroub	Adila	120	120	8	4	120	120
9. Jad elsid	Adila	200	200	13	6	200	200
10. Sabah el niemah	Adila	80	80	5	3	80	80
Total		1700	1700	113	56	1700	1700

Project Outcomes: % increase in household incomes as discovered in a post harvest survey

The project is envisaged to reduce the hunger gaps and improve the general household food security for beneficiary families. Additionally, it is expected that money injected back into the community through purchase of seeds and tools will help improve the local economy. UMCOR will be able to measure these outcomes during and after the harvest period.