

UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF (UMCOR) - SUDAN

**IMPROVED WATER SUPPLY TO VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN ADILLA AND AL
DAEIN LOCALITIES**

PROGRESS REPORT FOR MARCH 2007 – JANUARY 2008

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

**By
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Program Title: **Improved Water Supply to Vulnerable Communities in Adilla and Al Daein Localities**

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

Disaster/Hazard: **Emergency**

Period covered by Progress report: **March 1, 2007 – January 31, 2008**

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Introduction

Water facilities in Darfur were severely damaged in consequence of the conflict. Availability of water is extremely limited and is affecting public health as well as children enrolment, attendance and retention in schools. Perennial absence of water is also leading to permanent loss of vital community livelihoods (such as cattle) and increases tensions between the different social groups interacting in the area. In response, water projects are being implemented in both locations by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) with the support of Ginghamburg Church.

The primary goal of the project is to improve water supply and reduce contamination at the water yards in 6 targeted villages during the first year of implementation. Two new boreholes were planned to be drilled and four rehabilitated through the replacement of damaged equipment. Water and sanitation committees will be trained to ensure project sustainability, and a strong hygiene promotion component will provide the link between the new system and the end users. It is expected that in addition to the benefits in health improvement, the project will also contribute to promote peace between host communities, IDP and nomad tribes by reducing localized conflicts over the scarce resources.

Security Situation

The Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) signed in 2006 has suffered from lack of widespread support, aggravated by the failure of all parties involved in the conflict to assent to its provisions. Thus, fighting between Government of Sudan (GoS) soldiers and elements of different rebel factions intensified the entire period of 2007. An initial seizure of Adilla town by rebel movements was suppressed and followed by a large-scale offensive led by GoS troops throughout north Adilla and north Al Daein locations. In September, rebel factions were dislodged from their usual territories but regrouped in Haskanita area, resulting in heavy fighting which went on till October. As a result, families were displaced from their homes, resulting in a massive influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) into El Neeim and El Ferdous IDP camps in Al Daein locality. The influx of IDPs stood at more than 1,400 households by the time of reporting.

UMCOR experienced serious challenges in terms of accessibility to project sites due to security restrictions. Although project activities started in March 2007, two months later the security situation deteriorated due to rebel and GoS repositioning in the area. North Adilla area remained inaccessible for humanitarian agencies for the most part of 2007. The program was not able to access the field sites in north Adilla, thus affecting project implementation and/or monitoring. However, project implementation progressed well in southern parts of Al Daein locality during this period with some areas of south Adilla becoming accessible towards the end of September. UMCOR continued to monitor the situation and was promoting talks with authorities and community leaders to restore humanitarian aid as soon as the security situation allows. A marked improvement in the general security situation resulted in humanitarian agencies regaining full access to all areas of Adilla and Al Daein by the start of December. UMCOR has thus been able to access all project sites.

The first contingent of the hybrid UN-AU force was deployed to Darfur in the last quarter of 2007. It is expected that the force may contribute to a broader, yet gradual pacification of the area. However, the situation remained unpredictable as a result of the military offensive carried by government forces, which contributed to further undermine the fragile situation in the region. The degree at which this peacekeeping force will influence the overall situation in the area is still uncertain.

Program Performance during the reporting period

Strategic objective #1: Increase community access to safe water

Expected Results:

1. Estimated 66,410 individuals have access to improved water sources
2. 50% increase in water available to beneficiaries
3. Specific activities are identified for the nomads as part of integration and peace-building strategy

i) Infrastructure Component

Water abstraction equipments (submersible pumps, diesel generating sets) and construction materials were purchased and sent to the field. Drilling bids were collected before the escalate of insecurity that started in July.

- (a) Borehole Drilling:
 - UMCOR completed the drilling activities of a new borehole in El Dereiga Village. The pumping test revealed a water yield of 30m³/hour with a steady drawdown of 3m. These values confirm that the aquifer has a good capacity of recharge, therefore ensuring the sustainability of the water source.
 - The increment of construction prices due to insecurity prevented UMCOR to drill a second borehole in the region. However it is expected that the target of 6 beneficiary villages will be accomplished with the rehabilitation of one additional borehole in Al Ta'alba Village.
- (b) Borehole rehabilitation: Four boreholes have been rehabilitated in Shariff, Elshewasha, Al Eglig, and El Higlig Villages providing an average water yield of 15m³/hour, thus increasing 5 times the water availability for more than 26,000 individuals (see Table 1). As a result, time used for water collection in these villages has dropped dramatically from an average of 2 hours to 15 minutes.
- (c) Water yard construction: 4 new water yards¹ were built in Elshewasha, El Dereiga and Al Eglig Villages. One damaged water yard is being rehabilitated in Shariff.
- (d) Emergency interventions: Humanitarian agencies launched an emergency intervention for the provision of safe water in El Ferdous IDP camp. UMCOR contributed with the construction of the support base for emergency water tanks.

ii) Community mobilization and hygiene promotion activities

- (a) Hygiene Promotion: Four targeted villages were reached with hygiene promotion activities. As a result, 18 local hygiene promoters were trained in subjects like water-related diseases, transmission routes, safe collection, storage and use of water, hand washing and safe excreta disposal. It is expected that these local promoters will play a defining role as agents of behavioral change within their own communities. Hygiene promotion activities are usually scheduled to follow rehabilitation of each water point.

¹ A water yard is a 50 m² protected area comprising 2 stand-posts with 10 taps each, 2 donkey-cart stands, 2 water troughs for cattle consumption, a 40 m³ elevated storage tank and one pumping room.

- (b) Peace building initiatives: Inter-tribal integration activities are in preparation and will be held during next quarter.

Figure 1: Borehole development in El Dereiga Village



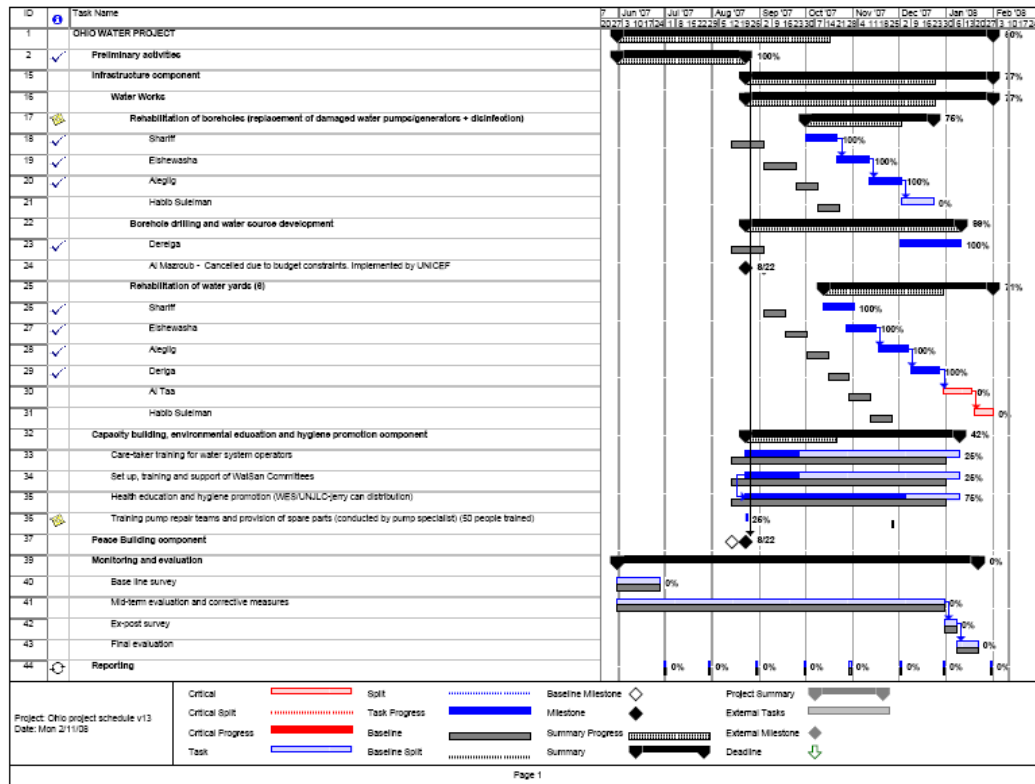
3. Monitoring:

Construction activities re-commenced in December after several months of continued insecurity. UMCOR has put efforts to catch-up with the overall project timeframe as a result of the temporary stabilization in the area.

Table 1: Overall progress versus selected indicators

Progress Indicators	Baseline	Target	Achievement as of Jan08
Number of Water and sanitation management committees (WSC) formed and trained (target 1/water yard– male/female ratio)	0	6 WSC 25% women	4 (67%)
Number of boreholes/water yards rehabilitated	0	6	4 (67%) 26,000 individuals
Number of water yards with improved drainage systems	0	6	4 (67%)
Average quantity of water available per person per day (target >20%)	4 liters	>15 liters (Sphere Standards)	27 liters/person/day
Number of hygiene promotion sessions conducted (8 sessions/village)	0	6 villages - 48 sessions	24 (50%)
Proportion of households with adequate water containers	0	To be determined in function of UNJLC's supply	0% - UNJLC provides water containers only to IDPs (project beneficiaries are host community).
Number of peace building initiatives conducted (target: 1/population cluster)	0	6	1 (17%)

Figure 2: Progress track chart



Activities for February 2008

- Rehabilitation works at two water points
- Hygiene promotion activities in two villages
- Water/Sanitation committees training in 2 villages
- Caretaker training in 6 villages
- Peace building initiatives in 6 villages