

Darfur today and beyond



12 February 2012

A bulletin of Darfur Health Early Recovery Taskforce



Darfur authorities support early recovery strategy for health



In North Darfur, ERD mission met with authorities to discuss on health ERD strategy

The Darfur Health Early Recovery (ER) Taskforce together with representatives from the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) and the World Health Organization (WHO) met with Darfur authorities to advocate for the region's early recovery strategy for health, from 29 January to 2 February 2012.

In North Darfur, the team met with Acting Minister of Health and Ministry of Health (MoH) Director General (DG), MoH technical staff, Humanitarian Aid Commissioner, health partners, and the Wali (Governor) of North Darfur.

During a meeting with the State Ministry of Health it was emphasized that the strategy should be properly aligned with the State's 5 year plan and national health policy. Sudan's national health policy focuses on increased coverage/expansion of services, and infrastructural rehabilitation.

Important issues discussed during briefings/meetings included challenges facing the state such as maternal mortality and lack of qualified human resources. It was also suggested that the strategy should consider the importance of strong coordination between water, food and shelter sectors as well as inclusion of private sector and health insurance in the strategy.

In Nyala, discussions varied from situation in IDP camps and health issues to security issues. Highlights of various meetings conducted were:

- The need to focus on the main diseases including

belharsiasis, leprosy and malaria, which are affecting the state and depleting its resources

- The need to attract health service delivery at state level to decrease the number of patients going abroad for care
- Shortage of human resource and lack of funds
- Security issues
- The need to ensure inter-sectoral collaboration pointing to the increasing number returnees in South Darfur

Like South and North Darfur, several meetings were conducted in West Darfur with representatives from the Ministry of Health, local authorities, health partners, and West Darfur's Governor.

Discussions with different entities disclosed that there were many strategic plans earlier developed for West Darfur and their main impediments included lack of funds. In addition, important issues were also discussed including Health Academy's scheme on student enrolment/acceptance. This in reference to the academy's criteria of accepting only students from rural areas who would commit to work in their areas of origin after completion of the course. This is considered as a good strategy to ensure sustainability and decrease staff turnover. The Health Academy recently completed several training courses (midwifery, nursing, laboratory technicians and X-ray assistants) for 400 students.

In a meeting, West Darfur Governor Hayder Ateem Galkoma assured the team of his commitment to the whole process. Aside from the need for additional human resource, other concerns discussed were security issues, returnees and provision of basic services to returnees. It was emphasized that availing basic services to vulnerable populations including health care will support the political peace process in Darfur.



Meetings to discuss on health early recovery strategy were conducted with health partners

For further information please email:
erd.moh12@gmail.com