



**INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE
SUDAN**

DARFUR PROGRAM SUMMARY 2004-2005

Founded in 1933, the International Rescue Committee is a non-sectarian, non-governmental world leader in relief, rehabilitation, protection, post-conflict development, resettlement services and advocacy for those uprooted or affected by violent conflict and oppression. IRC has been operational in Sudan since 1981, adapting its activities to respond to regional conflicts, natural disasters, and post-conflict reconstruction. IRC Sudan designs its programs to improve Sudanese people's ability to exercise their fundamental rights, access basic services, and manage their own livelihoods, while enabling individuals and communities to work towards accountable governance, stability, and security through an active civil society. In 2004-2005, IRC is working with IDPs, returnees, host communities, local NGOs, and government authorities to respond to urgent health, shelter, and water/sanitation needs while promoting awareness of and respect for human rights, implementing peace building and protection activities, and mobilizing communities to build local capacity and strengthen civil society.

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

In February 2003, two rebel groups operating in Darfur—the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM)—launched attacks against Government of Sudan (GoS) garrisons in the region. The SLA and JEM claim to represent the marginalized Darfurian people and have aspirations of regional autonomy within Sudan. In retaliation for the attacks against the GoS positions, the Sudan military attacked rebel positions and began an aerial bombing campaign against communities suspected of sympathizing with or harboring rebels and mobilized independent horsemen militia, known as the *janjaweed*. The ongoing fighting, systematic rape, and destruction of homes and means of subsistence has thus far displaced more than 1.8 million and left more than 200,000 dead. The UN suspects that in 2005 the conflict-affected population will grow to more than 3 million.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES: NORTH, SOUTH, AND WEST DARFUR

IRC's emergency operations at present involve a multi-sector intervention in North, South, and West Darfur with a portfolio of over \$14 million in funding from more than 15 public and private donors.

From a field office in El Fasher and sub-office in Kutum, North Darfur, IRC provides water/sanitation, temporary shelter, primary health services, protection, child protection, and community health and hygiene education to nearly 430,000 conflict affected persons. While continuing to work with IDPs in settlements and their hosts, IRC's work in 2005 will increasingly focus on improving services for isolated, vulnerable, and drought-affected populations in SLA-controlled territory to prevent displacement to overcrowded camps in urban areas. Given the prevalence of rape as a weapon of war in Darfur, IRC's growing women's and reproductive health teams pay special attention to issues of gender-based violence. Women's centers are a first step in providing more comprehensive psycho-social support to survivors. IRC's child protection program offers informal education and structured play to more than 30,000 children and adolescents through child-friendly spaces in Zam Zam, Kutum, and Abu Shouk camps. A recent initiative will begin to address some of the needs of urban street children, whose numbers are growing as the conflict continues.

IRC's field office in Nyala and sub-offices in Kass, Zallingi, and Mukjar support a wide variety of interventions in South and West Darfur aimed at mitigating the effects of conflict for 445,000 affected people. As camp managers, IRC facilitates community responses to emergency needs in Zallingi and Kass, and additionally provides primary and reproductive health services, child protection, water/sanitation, and temporary shelters throughout South and West Darfur. As in the north, gender-based violence merits special intervention. As part of a multi-sector response, IRC's women's centers in Kalma, Kass, and Zallingi have begun to offer a combination of skills-building activities and income-generation/vocational skills training.

In North, South, and West Darfur, IRC is working with UNDP and the People's Legal Aid Center (PLACE) to train police and other local authorities in the principles and practice of human rights, human security, and rule of law, in an attempt to mitigate human rights violations and effect a longer term solution.

The US Agency for International Development (USAID), the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO), the UK Department for International Development (DFID), Stichting Vluchteling (SV), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and numerous other private donors provide financial support for these activities, and the region receives essential medicines, medical supplies, and other in-kind donations from AmeriCares and UNICEF.

International Rescue Committee – Sudan Program

IRC Khartoum: P.O. Box 8269, Khartoum, Sudan Tel: +249 1-83-242-870 E-mail: IRCSudan@theIRC.org Website: www.theIRC.org/sudan

Darfur Director: Noel Wardick E-mail: noelw@sudan.theIRC.org

Al Fasher Field Office Tel: +249 7-31-831-035

Nyala Field Office Tel: +882 16-51-129-079