

UNAMID BULLETIN

Prominent Darfuris Discuss Ways to Address Tribal Conflicts



On 9 September 2013 in Khartoum, Sudan, UNAMID Deputy Joint Special Representative Joseph Mutaboba delivers a speech at a conference to address the root causes of the tribal conflicts in Darfur. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

On 9 September 2013, prominent Darfuri leaders took part in a conference to discuss the root causes of the recent tribal conflicts in Darfur and find possible solutions for sustainable peaceful coexistence amongst tribes.

The forum, which was held in Khartoum and organized by UNAMID, brought together more than 114 Darfuris residing in Sudan's capitol. Those present at the event included parliamentarians; former Walis

(Governors) and Ministers; Government officials, civil society representatives and community leaders; and representatives from women's and youth groups.

The Chair of the Darfur Regional Authority, Dr. Eltigani Seisi, and UNAMID's Deputy Joint Special Representative (DJSR), Mr. Joseph Mutaboba, delivered remarks to open the conference.

In his opening speech, the DJSR emphasized the importance of the conference. "As key political, social and intellectual leaders of Darfur, your meeting today demonstrates your readiness to address the recurring tribal conflicts and find solutions for sustainable peaceful coexistence in Darfur," Mr. Mutaboba said, adding that social peace and reconciliation are key prerequisites for security,

stability and development.

"We should all work together and cooperate effectively in preventing further bloodshed and tribal conflicts," he said. "Help us to help you."

Following the meeting's general discussion focused on help reverse the recent escalation of tribal violence, the participants recommended the disarmament of armed people, the establishment of laws that regulate relations between farmers and pastoralists and the settlement of disputes over land resources.

This event was the first of a series of conferences that UNAMID's Civil Affairs section is scheduled to organize in the five states of Darfur to address the causes of tribal clashes in the region and to chart the best ways of promoting social peace. ■

UNAMID Inaugurates Secondary School in Shangil Tobaya



On 3 September 2013 in Shangil Tobaya, North Darfur, students celebrate the opening of the new Secondary School for Girls built in UNAMID's community-based, labour-intensive projects (CLIPs) programme. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

On 3 September 2013 in Shangil Tobaya, North Darfur, UNAMID's Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) section formally handed over a newly built Secondary School for Girls to the community. The finished school, constructed as part of DDR's community-based, labour-intensive projects (CLIPs) programme, consists of three classrooms, an office, a latrine and a surrounding fence. The new school, whose implementation was facilitated by local nongovernmental organisation Alnaha, is one of many such

projects undertaken across Darfur.

UNAMID's DDR section has been implementing CLIPs as a violence-reduction strategy designed to support the efforts of the Government of Sudan in addressing the needs of at-risk youth and other vulnerable groups in communities and in camps for displaced people. The projects focus not only on building vocational skills, and in many cases facilitating infrastructure development, but also on fostering reconciliation across Darfur.

Those working in the CLIPs

projects are young men and women typically between 18 and 35 years old. Participation in the projects does not depend on political, movement or tribal affiliation; people with disabilities are encouraged to join in. The young people participating in the projects—which mostly consist of rebuilding community infrastructure that has been damaged or destroyed—acquire the kind of livelihood and life skills that will enhance their employability and social integration. In the process of acquiring these skills, the young people involved in these projects have been rebuilding the infrastructure of their fragile communities.

The handover ceremony in Shangil Tobaya was a festive occasion that drew members of the local community and representatives from the North Darfur Ministry of Education. Mr. Ahmed Miski, a representative from the Ministry of Education, expressed gratitude to UNAMID for supporting the project and

bringing about positive change in the community.

The new school's Headmaster, Abdalla Ishaq, praised the project and noted that education is the backbone for development, peaceful coexistence and stability in Darfur. "We used to share the Boys School in the evening, but now we have a school for girls," said Headmaster Abdalla Ishaq. "This new school will encourage teachers and students to perform well."

Mr. Freddie Bategereza, an officer in UNAMID's DDR section, spoke during the handover celebration and noted that while protecting civilians, supporting the peace process and providing security for the humanitarian work across Darfur is the primary objective of the Mission, UNAMID is dedicated to implementing similar development projects in collaboration with the community members and local partners as a way to facilitate lasting peace and stability. ■

UN Country Team and UNAMID Focus on DRA, Development

Enhancing support to the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA) and progress made towards the implementation of the Darfur Development Strategy were among the many issues discussed on 5 September 2013 at a coordination meeting between the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and UNAMID.

The meeting, held at UNAMID's headquarters in El Fasher, North Darfur, was co-chaired by UNAMID Deputy Joint Special Representative Joseph Mutaboba and U.N. Resident Coordinator / Humanitarian Coordinator and U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in Sudan Ali Al-Za'tari.

Among the issues discussed were ways to engage with different stakeholders in support of the Darfur Development Strategy—an initiative aimed at implementing reconstruction projects and address-

ing governance issues—which was endorsed at the April 2013 Doha Donor's Conference for development in Darfur.

The meeting participants welcomed the signing of a co-operation agreement between the Government of Sudan and UNAMID Police in the areas of capacity building and community policing. Furthermore, the participants highlighted the upcoming high-level Sudanese Delegation's UN headquarters visit, which is designed to strengthen cooperation between the UN and the Government.

In addition, the meeting participants discussed recent developments in Darfur and the critical role that the UN family must play in enhancing engagement with the DRA, most notably in building the capacity of the body. Mr. Mutaboba commended the Country Team's collaboration with the Mission, par-



On 5 September 2013 in El Fasher, North Darfur, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, Mr. Ali Al-Za'tari, pictured on the right, delivers remarks at the UN Country Team (UNCT) meeting at the UNAMID headquarters. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

ticularly in the humanitarian relief provided to Darfuris in responding to floods which, according to the Government, affected more than 20,000 people throughout Darfur.

Coordination meetings between the Country Team

and the Mission are designed to strengthen the partnership between the parties, ensuring complementary and mutual support in addressing issues related to the peace process, humanitarian assistance and the protection of civilians. ■

UN Secretary-General's Message for World Literacy Day

More than 773 million young people and adults around the world cannot read this message. They are among the ranks of our fellow citizens who have not yet gained full literacy skills. They may not be able to fill out a job application, decipher a bus timetable or read a story aloud to their children. Two out of three are women who are denied this essential ingredient to full participation in society.

In our knowledge-based era, literacy is a foundation for a more just, inclusive and sustainable world. It can advance all the Millennium Development Goals. Literacy enables people to gain access to information to improve their health and nutrition, widen their livelihood options, cope with en-

vironmental change and make informed choices.

When we invest in learning and literacy, we invest in human dignity, development and peace. That is why I launched the Global Education First Initiative, which focuses on ensuring that every child can go to school. Worldwide at least 250 million primary-school-age children cannot read, write or count. Half of these girls and boys never make it to school or are pushed out before their fourth year. Another 200 million adolescents, including those who completed secondary school, do not have basic literacy skills—and so our initiative also focuses on improving the quality of education as well as fostering global citizenship.



On 18 July 2012 in El Fasher, North Darfur, student Ibrahim Khalil, 17 years old is pictured at the newly restored Cultural Centre library. UNAMID sponsored the rehabilitation of the library. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

I urge all countries to make education and literacy national priorities and to work with partners across society to advance these goals.

By promoting literacy, we can help millions of people write their own chapter of opportunity in their lives and our common future. ■