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UNICEF Emergency Appeal: Operation Lifeline Sudan

UNICEF

March 1989

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Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance
Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia

UNICEF HOUSE
Three United Nations Plaza
New York, New York 10017
(212) 326-7000
Telex 175989TRT

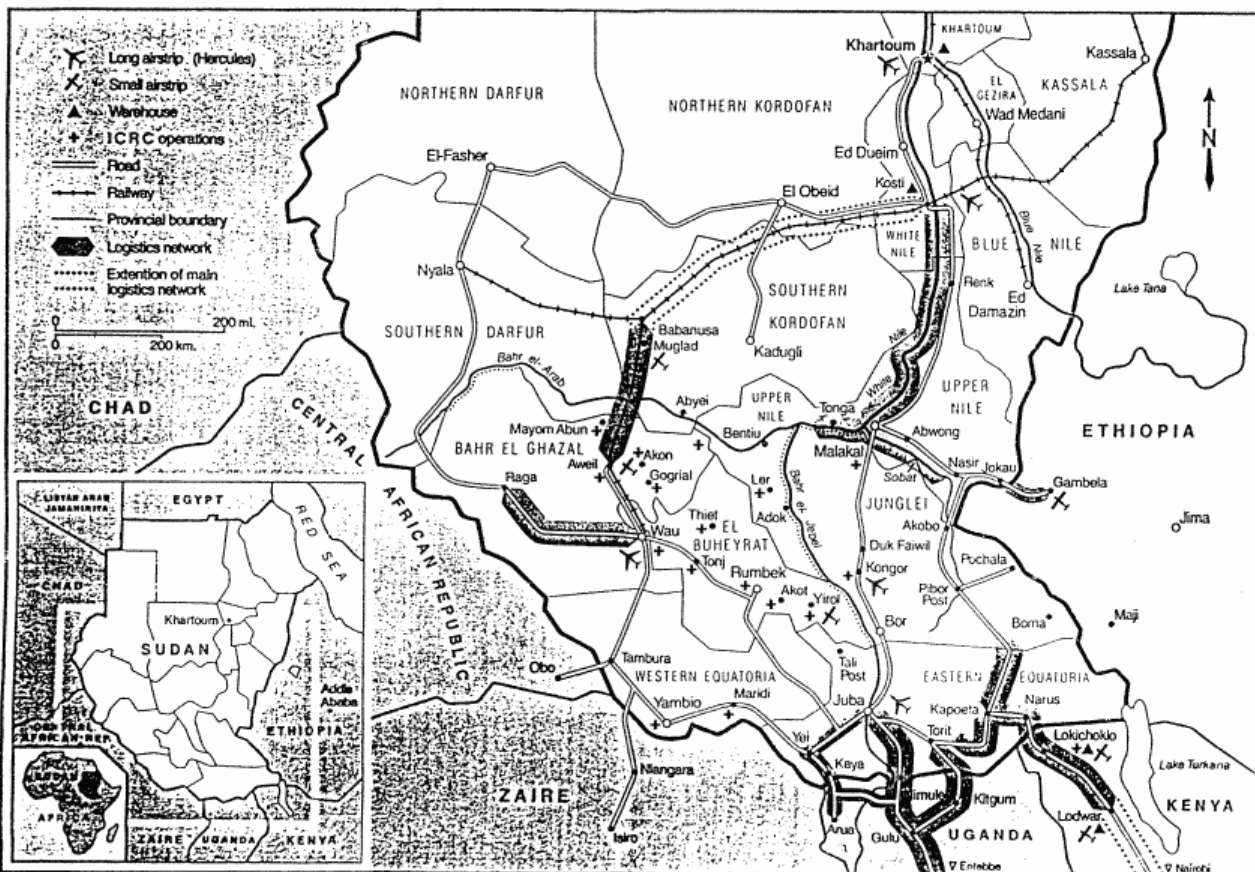
UNICEF EMERGENCY APPEAL

OPERATION LIFELINE SUDAN
(E/ICEF/624)*

<u>Duration of Project:</u>	March to December 1989
<u>Date of Project Initiation:</u>	March 1989
<u>Geographical Areas Covered:</u>	Transitional Zones in South Darfur and Kordofan; Garrison towns in three southern regions; Affected rural areas in south Sudan
<u>Beneficiaries:</u>	Displaced populations, numbering 2,000,000; concentrating on children under five years old
<u>Total Emergency Funding Required in 1989:</u>	US\$ 15.5 million
<u>Funds Pledged/Received To Date:</u>	US\$ 8,810,000
<u>Emergency Funding Still Required in 1989:</u>	US\$ 6,690,000*
<u>Implementing Agencies:</u>	Relief and Rehabilitation Commission; Government of Sudan; Ministry of Health; National Rural Water Corporation; various national and international NGOs; Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Authority
<u>Co-operating Agencies:</u>	UNDP/WFP/WHO/ICRC
May 1989 66/SUDAN1/CO/spp (REVISION I)	Programme Funding Office UNICEF, New York SUD/M/89/09

* UNICEF Appeal - Developed within the framework of the Plan of Action for Emergency Assistance to the Sudan approved by the Khartoum high level meeting, 8-9 March 1989

Operation Lifeline Sudan



The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



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I. INTRODUCTION

A major Plan of Action for emergency assistance to the Sudan was agreed to at a High Level Meeting held in Khartoum on 8 and 9 March. UNICEF, under the framework of this major plan, has been conducting intensified emergency relief activities in southern Sudan since March of this year. The Government of the Sudan, the United Nations System, ICRC, NGOs, as well as the SPLM/SPLA, are all co-operating in this major relief effort now referred to as Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS).

When adopted, the plan identified emergency needs amounting to approximately US\$133 million. Of this amount, US\$77 million were already available, leaving the balance to be raised through emergency contributions. Funds have been received to cover these needs; however, further requirements have been identified, increasing the total cost of this major emergency intervention.

UNICEF's initial appeal within the framework of the above plan amounted to approximately US\$9,000,000 for non-food assistance, namely: (i) support for health services, in particular immunization programmes; (ii) supplementary food; (iii) the provision of essential drugs, including ORS; and (iv) the provision of potable water.

Given the immediate need to preposition supplies before the outbreak of the rains, UNICEF's original appeal focussed on needs identified for a first phase of accelerated relief activities from March through June. Additional funds are now urgently required to cover the cost of unforeseen expenses incurred by UNICEF during this phase, additional needs identified for the same period, as well as an extension of activities through December of this year.

Logistical and transportation requirements continue to be a major factor in this major relief operation. With the onset of rains, and problems still facing the train and barge 'Corridors', the Operation now depends more heavily than ever on air transportation for the delivery of essential food and non-food supplies. Already as a result of the heavy rains, airstrips in some points of Eastern Equatoria are becoming less usable thus necessitating intensification of air deliveries before they are totally inaccessible.

Relief supplies are being sent by road and air from inside and outside the Sudan. Thus airlifts are being carried out from Khartoum, Entebbe and Nairobi as well as small airports. Truck convoys proceed from points in western Sudan, Kenya and Uganda.

While most of the logistical requirements for supplies, especially food, were to be covered by funding from sources other than UNICEF (mainly WFP), UNICEF has been forced to be heavily involved in the logistical component of the Operation.



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II. PROGRESS TO DATE

Under the overall co-ordination of the United Nations Special Co-ordinator for the Emergency in the Sudan, UNICEF's input within OLS is co-ordinated by UNICEF Khartoum. However, a special OLS office established in Nairobi is directly in charge of activities undertaken in southern Sudan from Kenya and Uganda. New York Headquarters monitors the entire implementation of activities.

In addition to the Logistics base in Lokichokio, UNICEF has staff posted in Kapoeta and Akon, and is about to establish a new post in Abwong.

In the implementation of the Operation, UNICEF is following the same main Corridors of tranquility that were identified in the general framework of the entire Operation since its inception.

A. HEALTH SERVICES

Immunization

Since January 1989, UNICEF has been supplying cold chain equipment, growth charts and vaccines for EPI operations in both Government- and SPLA-controlled areas in the South of Sudan. This programme is being undertaken in co-operation with ICRC. Existing national EPI guidelines have been adapted to the current emergency, and accelerated training of national counterparts is being carried out.

The first step for assuring these activities in the South was the establishment of cold storage facilities in Lokichokio, Kenya, near the border of Sudan. Since then, UNICEF/ICRC child immunization activities have commenced in Akon, Yiroi, Kongor, Leer, Kapoeta and Torit. To date, 23,000 children have been vaccinated and those in the one month to ten year category have begun to receive booster doses. In addition some 11,000 women of child bearing age have been vaccinated with tetanus toxoid. Vaccination activities are expected to begin shortly in Pibor Post (UNICEF/MSF Holland). UNICEF has prioritized immunization against measles - the main killer of malnourished children - but has also included BCG, DPT and Polio vaccines in these immunization activities.

Cold chain equipment and vaccine supplies for other areas, including the Garrison Towns and transition zones have also been supplied, concentrating on prepositioning of all medical supplies (vaccines, basic drugs including ORS and cold chain equipment) in the Garrison Towns of Raja and Aweil and transition zones such as Abeyei and Meiram which will be completely cut off once the heavy rains have begun.

Essential Drugs

Basic emergency drug kits and supplementary emergency drug kits have been procured for the affected rural areas in the south, Garrison Towns and transition zones. Major efforts have been taken to ensure that these are prepositioned in the above-mentioned areas and large quantities have already been delivered throughout Lokichokio. Supplies of chloroquine, iron, ORS and Vitamin A have also been provided. One basic kit serves around 1,000 people for three months while the supplementary kit is enough for 10,000 for three months. Supplies of these kits to Kapoeta, Torit and Pibor are now regarded as adequate.

Other Health-Related Activities

UNICEF has also provided some support for the restoration of the Kapoeta hospital where walls and in some cases entire structures have collapsed. Other unforeseen contributions for health facilities include blankets, mattresses and small equipment for Torit and Kapoeta hospitals. These expenditures which were not foreseen in the original UNICEF appeal, were supported by UNICEF as an indispensable activity of this ongoing emergency programme.

B. NUTRITION

Supplementary Feeding

UNICEF has been providing UNIMIX and high-energy biscuits for supplementary feeding programmes in place in SPLA-controlled areas, Garrison Towns and transition zones. Supplementary feeding programmes are in place in Leer, Pibor Post, Kapoeta and Torit in the SPLA areas. New arrivals with very high rates of malnutrition are registered daily. Some 500 children are currently being fed UNIMIX and biscuits in these four programmes, although these figures will undoubtedly increase with the coming of the long rains.

No reliable nutrition surveys have been conducted in rural areas. It would appear however, that malnutrition is somewhat less in the rural areas than in the townships. UNICEF has provided 100 metric tons of UNIMIX as well as feeding and survey kits towards these supplementary feeding programmes.

An ICRC survey in Akon, Yirol Kongor and Adok/Leer reveals that some 10 to 20 per cent of the children are severely malnourished. The survey also indicates that there has been very little cultivation over the last three years. Owners of cattle and those living close to fish ponds are in a better position. Many southern Sudanese are reduced to living on water lily seeds and wild fruits.



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C. WATER SUPPLY

The hand pump rehabilitation programme in the affected areas in the South shows evidence of becoming an extremely valuable and high impact relief activity. Expertise is available locally. The effect of the repair is immediately felt and appreciated by local populations.

Since January UNICEF has provided spare parts for hand pumps at various locations where ICRC was located. Some 40 hand pumps have to date been repaired by local technicians previously trained by UNICEF under the Bahr El Gazal drilling/hand pump programme which was suspended with the advent of the civil war. Under this repair programme some 1,000 people will benefit from the repair of five hand pumps in Kapoeta. An estimated 400 hand pumps are expected to be made serviceable again under this relief operation. In addition, one of the collaborating NGOs has acquired a drilling rig which is now in Kenya awaiting transportation to southern Sudan. Some 30 new bore-holes will be drilled in Kapoeta and surrounding areas with UNICEF providing the pumps and transportation costs.

In the transition zones, many of the camps have meagre or no existing water sources. Water in most of these cases is trucked from considerable distances and pumps, where available, are used around the clock with no back-up facilities. With the increase in numbers of displaced people arriving in these areas, there is a major need for rehabilitating additional pumps and back-up pumps.

III. UNFORESEEN EXPENDITURES

A number of expenditures have been incurred which were not foreseen in the original UNICEF appeal but which were crucial for facilitating the provision of basic humanitarian support to populations in the south. These can be summarized as follows:

1. While some provision was made for the establishment of a logistics base in Lokichokio, the magnitude of what this would require had not been contemplated. The establishment of an adequate base has entailed road construction, airstrip repair and other civil works.
2. Also in the Lokichokio base, construction of a high capacity warehouse and fuel and other storage facilities at a larger scale than predicted, substantially increased the cost of this logistics base.
3. Originally, provision was not made for the airlifting of much needed personnel carriers, trucks, purchase of shelter materials, blankets and other necessities involved in setting up adequate logistical/operational bases. Thus air transportation costs were substantially under-estimated in the original appeal.



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4. No provision was made for the purchase, transportation and distribution on behalf of NGOs of seeds, basic agricultural tools and fishing equipment.
5. Necessary repairs and upgrading of the hospital facilities at Kapoeta and Torit were also not provided for. This proved necessary in view of the extremely poor condition of these facilities.
6. Purchase and delivery of food supplies was expected to be undertaken by WFP. However, UNICEF was forced to provide funding for such activities.

IV. ADDITIONAL NEEDS AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

In the course of the Operation, need for additional activities has proved indispensable. This ranges from expansion of activities currently being undertaken as well as support for new activities. These can be summarised as follows:

New activities: (i) Provision of basic agricultural supplies and equipment including basic hand tools, seeds, cattle vaccines, etc.; (ii) Provision of relief items such as shelter, blankets etc.

Expansion of activities: (i) Increased need for immunization activities to cover the supply of DPT, BCG and polio vaccines in addition to the measles vaccines contemplated in the original appeal; (ii) Coverage of immunization to take into consideration the increase in number of displaced people arriving in the transition zone camps in Kadugli, Muglad, Babanusa, Meiram and Abeyei; (iii) Upgrading of cold storage facilities in Lokichokio and replenishment of vaccine supplies; (iv) Rehabilitation and refurbishing of the Kapoeta hospital; (v) Purchase of additional amounts of UNIMIX for supplementary feeding; (vi) Rehabilitation of additional water pumps, drilling of boreholes, provision of back-up pumps, support for additional water haulage costs, and extra operational costs for round-the-clock activities (spares, fuel, etc.); (vii) Welding tools and machines for handpump maintenance; (viii) Up-scaling of road and air transportation inside and outside of Sudan including logistical support and needs such as fuel, vehicles etc.; (ix) Additional staff and increase in operation costs especially in view of the anticipated establishment of new field posts; (x) Improving inter-communications between various Operation bases inside and outside the Sudan.

The unforeseen costs referred to in Section III, in addition to the above-referred to needs for the next six months, form the basis of this revised appeal for an additional US\$6.6 million.