



# UN Cares in Action

## The Case of Sudan (Darfur) 2013

### Reaching personnel with learning sessions

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### Reaching personnel with learning sessions

The UN Cares team stationed in the Darfur region is responsible for increasing HIV knowledge among peacekeepers and civilian staff. Therefore, UN Cares focal points included UN Cares learning sessions within introductory trainings for peacekeepers before their first deployment. Through the sessions on HIV basic knowledge, HIV stigma and discrimination, and UN Cares 10 Minimum Standards, the UN Cares team reached 600 UN staff members and 35,000 peacekeepers. Additionally, 1,096 combined peacekeepers and UN Staff members were trained as peer educators. Darfur's UN Cares team was honoured in the 2012 UN Cares Award category of reaching staff through UN Cares Learning sessions in a duty station.

### Background and Context

HIV-related data for this region are still being finalized with the Sudanese government and are not available for distribution.

### UN Cares Structure/ Leadership of and Advocacy for UN Cares

In the Sudan, FAO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNAMID, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNMAO, WFP and WHO are present. Collectively, the organizations contribute to the UN Cares workplace programme in both Khartoum and Darfur.

In 2008, UN Cares was started in the Sudan. UN Cares team members are located in both Khartoum and Darfur. In Khartoum, the UN Cares team gives individual UN agencies the major responsibility, but provides the necessary resources and materials to increase HIV and AIDS knowledge. Their priority was establishing UN Cares 10 Minimum Standards, increasing condom availability within Sudan's UN agencies, implementation of surveys of knowledge and practices, planning voluntary HIV testing days within the UN clinic, and introducing an HIV technical program. Some of these efforts to focus on all Minimum Standards, such as condom distribution and training new UN staff, have been considerably time consuming, but UN Cares Khartoum continues to find ways to affect change within the workplace. For UN Cares Khartoum, those changes start with the UN Cares team itself. Team members are devoted to meeting on a monthly basis, and defining a simple workplan.

In Darfur, UN Cares is making substantial progress. While UN Cares encouraged full UN staff participation in learning sessions and hoped to provide UN Cares resources to all staff members, starting in 2010, Darfur began to focus on the promotion of HIV awareness among peacekeepers. In 2012 Darfur's UN Cares team was honoured, in the context of the UN Cares Awards, in the category of "reaching staff in a duty station with UN Cares learning sessions." Their activities involved the training of peacekeepers, but also impacted other UN Staff members as well. From 2010-2012, 650 UN staff within Darfur as well as 34,711 peacekeepers were trained, with a selected 1,096 trained even as peer educators.

*In 2012 Darfur's UN Cares team was honoured, in the context of the UN Cares Awards, in the category of "reaching staff in a duty station with UN Cares learning sessions."*

## Source of Funding

UNAMID provides the main source of funding for Darfur's UN Cares activities.

## UN Cares- Approaches adopted

In July of 2010 after a UN Cares commitment building and launching event where the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator was present alongside staff members from UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, and UNIFEM, a number of other UN agencies began implementing UN Cares activities and learning sessions into their UN agendas. FAO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO and World Bank created workplans to reach their staff members with UN Cares sessions and used UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) facilitators to teach staff members about HIV knowledge.

In the following year, June 2011, 35 UN Staff members from UN agencies in Sudan were trained at "Remote UN Locations UN Cares Facilitators Workshop." The goal was to prepare specific trainers to lead UN Cares sessions within the Darfur region. The new facilitators were to train both UN staff in Darfur as well newly hired peacekeepers in topics such as HIV transmission, prevention, treatment, post exposure prophylaxis (PEP), counseling and testing, ways to respond to HIV and AIDS, effective use of condoms, stigma and discrimination, positive living with HIV and AIDS, and relevant UN policies.

After UN agencies in West and North Darfur chose UN Cares focal points, the new UN Cares focal points coordinated on how best to mobilize the learning sessions and gain the support of UN agencies. Peacekeepers and UN Staff in Darfur became aware of the training through electronic broadcasts and various posters and pamphlets dispensed throughout their agencies. In the north, south, east, west and central sectors of Darfur, local company commanders and police officers announced the sessions.

The learning sessions were provided with the intent to induct, sensitize, and promote awareness to peacekeepers, former military, civilians and police. As mentioned above, more than 600 UN Staff and 35,000 peacekeepers were trained and reached. Also trained as peer educators throughout their regions were 1,096 peacekeepers and staff members. While the learning sessions were conducted in English, local staff members were in the position to deliver the trainings in Arabic for the military and local police officers. For peacekeepers whose first languages were French, Bangla, Urdu, and Amharic, for example, trainers used translation services from UNAMID. When viewing video media within the sessions, videos were in English but contained Arabic and French subtitles. Thus, learning sessions were accessible, comprehensible and consistent.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

UN Cares team in Darfur instituted an evaluation system to determine the success, challenges, and concerns in consideration of the learning sessions. No specific survey had been conducted but trainings were evaluated as a component of the training package. Evaluations were conducted in three stages:

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- Daily evaluation of the training were completed at the end of the day to collect participants' feedback in specific areas of the training;
- Pre- and post-session tests were completed to evaluate participants' learning improvement;
- And, for peer educators in the following weeks, evaluations were conducted as participants delivered messages to their peers. The aim of evaluation at this level was to see to what extent participants implemented what they had learned the few weeks prior during the training.

### **Barriers:**

- Stigma still remains a major challenge to address effectively in Darfur.
- Difficulty of reaching out to more UN staff members and their families given that Darfur is an extensive area;
- Reporting and follow-up between UN Cares focal point in Darfur and country office in Khartoum is not always clear;
- Availability of UN Cares information, education and communication materials remains inconsistent;
- Availability of male and female condoms;
- And the lack of adequate and consistent funding.

### **Strengths:**

- Included into introductory peacekeeper training before deployment;
- 100 per cent of UN peacekeepers were reached;
- More than 1,000 combined UN staff members and peacekeepers became trained peer educators.

### **Advice to other UN Cares teams**

Strengthen communication between focal points in both the field (outside capital cities) and country (in capital cities) offices.

### **Future Project/Plans**

Future UN Cares projects and plans within the Darfur regions include:

- To introduce HIV learning sessions to UN Staff children and adolescents;
- Use the legitimacy of World AIDS Day to involve UN management in support of UN Cares initiatives;
- Define a mechanism to dispense male and female condoms to UN staff easily;
- Resident Coordinator and UNAIDS support in designating UN Cares facilitators in Darfur.

### **Sources**

- Hind Hassan. (Personal communication, June 2013-August 2013).
- Ashruf Ishag Mohamad. (Personal communication July 2013-August 2013).