



## Fast Facts

**Country:** Sudan

**Duration:** January 2006 to February 2008

**Implementing UN Agencies:** UNDP; UNFPA; WFP; UNICEF; UNMIS; OHCR  
**Other Implementing Partners:** Protection Working Groups; Khartoum Protection Steering Committee

**Budget:** \$3,085,790.50

**Key Words:** Peacekeeping; capacity building; human rights; protection of civilians

## BACKGROUND

In February 2003, armed conflict broke out in the Darfur region of Sudan. The conflict was marked by a breakdown in the rule of law and characterized by violence directed at civilian populations in villages and internally displaced persons (IDP) camps. Following the signing of the N'Djamena Ceasefire Agreement by parties to the conflict on 8 April 2004, the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) was deployed to improve and monitor the security situation. Despite progress in stabilizing the region, persistent insecurity among and frequent attacks against civilians drew attention to the need for further capacity building support of the AMIS military and

civilian personnel with regard to the protection of civilians. Therefore, in October 2004, AMIS' mandate was expanded to include, inter alia, the protection of civilians faced with imminent threats. To execute their mandate effectively and to broaden their capacity for protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the local population, AMIS forces required greater knowledge in confidence building measures and skills for promoting and acting in conformance with International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, children's and women's rights as well as the Sudanese legal system, its customs and cultural values.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of this project was to train AMIS military and civilian personnel in a range of international and Sudanese norms and instruments in

order to help them promote the human security of civilian populations living in Darfur, particularly women, children and the elderly.

### BENEFICIARIES

The project's direct beneficiaries included AMIS military soldiers and civilian personnel numbering roughly 3,200 persons deployed across the three State capitals of Nyala, El Fasher, and Genina, as well as

other AU strongholds. In addition, the civilian population and the humanitarian community at large also benefited from the project.

## NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

(i) The project carried out Training Needs Assessments (TNAs) in all eight areas of responsibility under AMIS' mandate and revealed the importance of a context-specific approach to training that could more concretely highlight the challenges and the realities on the ground. As a result, the trainings were geared towards capacity building of AMIS personnel in international and regional human rights instruments, and on issues of specific concern to civilians such as gender based violence and child protection.

(ii) Through participatory training methods, the project ensured that 4,415 AMIS personnel were trained, accounting for 63 per cent of the entire military and civilian wing of AMIS. Assessments of the training programmes revealed that attitudes,

knowledge, and skills among participants had improved, particularly in terms of their ability to recognize and respond appropriately to human rights violations.

(iii) In an effort to ensure sustainability of the acquired knowledge and skills, the project carried out a total of seven sessions on 'training of trainers' among civilian police and the military. The trainings had the immediate impact of enabling AMIS officers to share their know-how with their colleagues. Moreover, this approach made it possible for the acquired knowledge and skills to be institutionalized within the African Union, thereby benefiting future missions as well as enhancing the routine work of AMIS officers in their home countries after the Darfur mission.

## LESSONS LEARNED

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While the project successfully achieved many of its objectives, nevertheless, the volatile and ever changing security environment in Darfur highlighted the need for continuously monitoring and evaluating project activities and allowing for flexibility in revising and adopting responses based on the changing situation on the ground. Furthermore, the project emphasized the need for better coordination between humanitarian, human rights, and security partners. In

addition, the involvement of all parties, especially the beneficiaries, was recognized as a critical component in enhancing confidence building measures between the civilian population and AMIS personnel. Lastly, the training package provided a solid foundation upon which materials could be further developed with the aim to train local authorities in Sudan, thereby further expanding the reach of the project.