

PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme



UNDP'S RISK MAPPING INITIATIVE IN WEST DARFUR AIMS TO STRENGTHEN STATE CAPACITY

Geneina, West Darfur, 28 February 2011

On 20th and 21st February, the UNDP's Crisis and Recovery Mapping and Analysis (CRMA) Project supported a crisis and recovery mapping exercise in Geneina, West Darfur which brought together 36 state government officials and key representatives from civil society. The state-level workshop is the first in a series of Crisis and Recovery risk Mapping (CRM) workshops that will take place in West Darfur state.

At the request of the Governor of West Darfur, Jaafar Abdhakeem, UNDP CRMA will roll out a series of workshops across the state aimed at strengthening the government's capacity for evidence-based, conflict-sensitive planning and information sharing. Participants at the Geneina workshop included commissioners from the West Darfur localities, director generals of West Darfur state ministries and the commissioner of recovery and development. Civil society representation also included participation by the Women's Union, Youth Union, Nomadic Union, Internally Displaced Person (IDP) representatives and the University of Zalingei.



First developed in the Three Areas and Eastern Sudan, the CRM process is a participatory mapping exercise designed to identify and map current and potential threats, conflicts and risks affecting communities. Participants are drawn from socially and culturally diverse backgrounds to jointly identify the 'ten most critical issues' that capture the community perceptions of priorities and emerging risks. Following this identification, they are split into smaller groups to discuss, locate and explain each threat



and risk related to the ten issues. The information gathered through this exercise is then incorporated in a GIS-based database tool, facilitating further analysis and visualization of the data. Focus group discussions are held on the second day of the workshop to enable participants to discuss in detail some of the most important issues that have emerged and suggest ways in which these issues can be addressed.

The UNDP CRMA has also recently concluded a second state-level CRM workshop in Zalingei on the 23rd and 24th February, with participants from the eastern part of West Darfur. Beginning 20th March, participatory mapping workshops will be conducted in all 16 West Darfur localities. Information collected during these workshops will be supplemented by available baseline information and utilized by the West Darfur State Government to develop a situation analysis and key priorities for their state in preparation of their State Strategic Plan for 2012 – 2017.

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