

**Basel+Darfur**

Empowerment through sports

# Report October 2005

Workshops: «Teach the teacher»



## 1. Summary

39 refugee-women and 6 NGO-staff have successfully passed the formation- workshops »train the trainer« of the project «Basel+Darfur: Empowerment through sports» and have got the certificate to work as a trainer/animatrice in the UNHCR-refugee-camps in eastern Chad. Actually each camp of the northern an middle sector of the UNHCR-mission in eastern Chad has at least 2 women-trainers at its disposal offering sports-activities (Volleyball) for refugee-women.

The women-trainer/animatrice have followed a workshop of five days specializing in Volleyball with practical and theoretical lessons in organisation, teaching and technique.

They have developed a «plan d'action», in which they have fixed a set of sports-activities (trainings, matches, tournaments, events) for which they are fully responsible. There was set up a structure of support and monitoring of the women-trainer.

There is urgent need for more activities in the field of «train the trainer» in the UNHCR-camps of eastern Chad to respond to the constantly increasing need of skilled trainers not only among the refugees, but also among the staff of the UN-organisations and the NGO mandated to run sports-activities in the camps.

## 2. Situation in general

(source UNHCR)



The overall-situation in the crisis-region of Darfur is unchanged if not actually deteriorating. (see [www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=2793&l=1](http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=2793&l=1)). The situation inside Darfur is unstable. The different local fraction leaders of the Darfur people are not really involved in the actual peace process in the rest of Sudan and continue their «rebellion» against the central government in the Sudanese capital Khartoum. Among the local leaders and warlords reigns a violent concurrency. As a result various armed groups (militias, sometimes just groups of uncontrolled bandits

or so called horse-riding «Janjaweed» who are said to be paid by the Sudanese government in Khartoum, see picture: «Drawing of a child») are roaming through the huge region seeding terror and death amongst the population.



Janjaweed-Militias: Drawing of a Child



More people have to leave their villages and try to get shelter in the refugee camps of the UNHCR inside the Darfur region.

More than 200'000 people have found refuge just across the border in the eastern Chad, where UNHCR has installed 12 refugee camps in 2004. (see map previous page and more info at [www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/chad?page=home](http://www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/chad?page=home))



Refugee-Camp Am Nabak/IridimiChad



A return of these refugees to their home-villages inside Darfur/Sudan in the next two or three years is most improbable.

Even worse: Actually there are alarming signs that Chad is drawn into the conflict and will be directly implicated. Two grave incidents have happened in the time Basel+Darfur was in the eastern Chad, so that our delegation always had to have its luggage packed due to the emergency rules of UNHCR: First some Janjaweed-militias have attacked a Chadian village in the southern region of the refugee-camps and have killed 75 civilians. Second a big unit of the regular Chadian army has deserted and - after roaming in the region of the camps - have crossed the border into Sudan to join the rebels. One has to understand the background: The international border between the eastern Chad and Darfur/Sudan is still very artificial for the local population as for the local politicians and warlords. The same people (tribes, ethnies; often nomadic or semi-nomadic) live both sides of the border.

So far the daily life of the refugees in the camps is not affected directly, but UNHCR keeps its personal and all the other NGOs involved in the region in emergency state.





Camp Am Nabak



Unrelated to the general political situation one can observe tensions between the refugees and the local population due to a certain jealousy and a growing concurrency on resources. The refugees depend on the same and very rare resources of basic life as the local population: water and firewood. So it happens that refugee-women collecting wood are attacked by village-people.

### **3. Sports and Physical activities in the camps**

As the basic needs like food, water and medical help are secured by the international relief organization in the camps, the «normal» daily life is getting more and more important for the refugees. There are schools now in every camp at least for the primary level, there are various projects organizing «daily life» under the lead of the «community services» of the relief organisations.

Most of them have responded to the need and the interest of sports of the refugees. UNHCR and different NGOs have discovered sports as an excellent platform for various social issues and a perfect tool to launch information-campaigns, activities and programs in mostly all social fields (health, water, trauma, integration, etc.).

The sports-organization in the camps is quite well established. Not only different NGOs are running activities, the youth organizations of the refugees have also put in place a sports-organization that organizes teams, matches and tournaments. The focus is nearly entirely on football, male-football.

Most important: also UNICEF has started sports-activities in the schools.

Football in camp Am Nabak



Distribution of material camp Am Nabak



There is a constant lack of sports-material (balls, etc.) although such material is provided by different organizations and donors. Still in use is the material distributed by Basel+Darfur in spring (see appendix).

Actually many of the balls are played out or just broken due to the rough environmental conditions (sharp stones, thorn-bushes, etc.) and sometimes a lack of careful treatment. Some of the material is simply «lost», some has been «forgotten» in a warehouse.

#### **4. Deficits: Lack of qualified «trainers» and the gender factor**

Already on its first mission in spring Basel+Darfur has recognized two main problems:

First: There is quite a number of sports-activities in the camps, but there is an important lack of skilled people to organize events and specially a lack of qualified staff to train

(teach) trainers. And second: there is a lot of activities for boys and young male, but very few for girls and specially for women.

**The role of the women:**

There are over 75% women and children in the camp and only a marginal number of adult men (as they are traditionally migrant and many of them killed or at war inside Sudan) and as in every African society (and even more in a refugee-society) the women are the key-figures for the daily life.

It is true that the men in the Darfur-society and specially in the refugee-camps are only laying in the shadow and making the



Iridimi-camp (Chad)



rules, and it's true that the women are the one walking miles for collecting fire-wood, carrying the water, cooking, taking care of the children and have not much to say. But on second sight we recognize that it is the women guaranteeing the survival, they «make» the daily life and researchers have observed that women in the Darfurian society have traditionally a very strong role in the household, which was even increased first by the famine in the 80ies and then in the war in the last years, because the men where whether migrating to find work (i.e. in Libya) or were in war.

Last but not least it is the women elevating the children, transporting the values. The relief organizations are committing an error by concentrating sports activities only on children and youth. Basel+Darfur is convinced that - following the lessons from all over the world - we need the women to know sports

from personal experience to recognize the value and the importance of sports for the development of their kids, so that they actively motivate their kids to practice sports regularly. And most important: The women themselves deserve to profit from the sports-activities for their personal well-being, recreation and fun.



#### **Lack of tradition/scepticism of men:**

There is no tradition for women-sports in the Dafurian society. Some men even think (and say) that «sport is not for women». Many women have accepted this position, but as one of the women we have taught in the workshops puts it: «The war has changed everything and the situation in the refugee-camps is different». Influential men in the organization of the refugees inside the camps support this position and have thanked Basel+Darfur for the initiative. Moussa, member of the central comity of refugees of Iridimi-camp says in an interview on the camera of Basel+Darfur: «Sport is like eating, you need it to live. Also women have to live. Sport makes their lives easier».

Some men tend to ask, that the women should practice sports only «out of sight of men» or even better behind walls in a gym. In practice in the field, this was not a problem. Men were





Camp Bredjing



very interested to see what is happening and came watching the outdoor-trainings even encouraging the women and giving applause at the end of the training-sessions.

**Solutions in practice:**

There is discussion in some camps and/or camp-districts that women should practice sports not in sight of men or at least not together with male, but others contradict.

Camp Am Nabak



Women have accepted that they have to carry the traditional clothes and the scarf even on training. If available they put a wide t-shirt over their wrapped dresses and they wear trousers under their skirts.

For the women participating in the first workshop at camp Bredjing we have found a practical solution thanks to the NGO



«Première Urgence» in place: This NGO is running a project empowering tailors to run their own business. These tailors will produce special sports-trousers for the women-trainers. There is even an option, that «Première Urgence» will provide more trousers for the teams formed by the women-trainers.

As a protection for the women we decided to practice some special body-exercises indoors in the compound of the NGO in place, where we also had our theoretical lessons and where we also trained special technical skills protected from the heat of the sun (over 40 degrees celcius).



Indoor-lessons in camp Bredjing



In any cases we have to be very careful on the gender-subject. Most important is to get the acceptance of the influent men. We have made the experience: When they are contacted and «asked», they accept easily, when neglected, they obstruct.

## 5. Workshops for women: «Train the trainer»

To cope with the two main problems recognized on the first trip in spring 2005 and specially following the main purpose of the project «empowerment» (or capacity building) Basel+Darfur decided to focus the second mission on a «train the trainer-program» for refugee-women.

As we had already distributed volleyballs in the spring-mission and the women had responded very positively to it, we decided to focus this time on volleyball.

### The goal:

The goal was to form at least two women of each camp to be women-trainers («animatrice»), enabling them (and feel responsible) to organize sustainable sports-programs for women in their camps.



### The organization:

In Switzerland and Germany we recruited two women to be experts/teachers of the workshops. With Simone Gasser from Jona, Switzerland and Korina Karl from Erding (Germany) we found two volunteers (no salary!) who proved to be perfect for the job in the field: They are strong women with a certain life-experience, travel-experienced, with teaching-skills and a volleyball-background. The responsible of the project Basel+Darfur, Andrea Müller developed the concept for the workshops and was the head of delegation.

The Swiss Volleyball Federation (Swiss Volley) donated the balls and the company Switcher donated the t-shirts.

Fredi Wirz made all the contacts with UNHCR and the other organizations involved, who had already facilitated the first mission of Basel+Darfur in spring 2005.



Experts Basel+Darfur Müller, Wirz, Gasser and Karl

It was planned to have 3 regional workshops (north, middle, south) with at least 2 participants of each camp and to include participants of the neighbouring villages. The starting workshop with all experts together (first phase) should be in the middle region (Bredjing-camp) and then the expert-team should split up in a northern and a southern mission (second phase):

- Bredjing (middle): participants of the camps Bredjing, Treguine, Gaga and Farchana and of the neighbouring villages of Farchana and Gaga.
- Iridimi (North): participants from the camps Kounoungou, Mile, Am Nabak, Iridimi, Touloum, Oure Cassoni and villages of Guéréda, Iriba and Bahäi.
- Goz Beïda (South): Goz Amer, Djabal

Fredi Wirz travelled to eastern Chad seven days before the rest of the delegation to fix the last details. On the spot he became

aware that - because of the difficult circumstances (absences, security, registration of refugees) – he had to improvise a lot.

Together with the involved partners he finally managed to recruit at least 2 women of each camp and village, so that the first workshop in Bredjing could start as planned on October 7.



As always there was still a lot of things to improvise on the spot for the expert team. Finally we had to take the decision not to split up the workshop-team and to postpone the workshop in the south to later (date to plan). It would have been impossible to send one of the expert-women alone to the south. In addition there was still a certain tension because of the incident that had taken place some days before in the south. Finally the decision proved to be very good, when we became aware of all the organizational and emotional problems we met in the workshop in the north, which would have been impossible to solve by one expert alone.

#### **The workshops:**

Two workshops have taken place:

- A) Bredjing (7.- 11.10.2005) with 17 participants plus 3 animateurs (NGO)
- B) Iridimi (13.- 17.10.2005) with 22 participants plus 3 animateurs (NGO).

#### **Formation/Training :**

The major goal of the formation in practice and in theory was the empowerment, the capacity building of the women to fulfil the task of a trainer/animateur. First of all this was something very new for the young women (between 16 and 25 years old).



Bredjing - camp



The Darfurian women are not used «to be in charge». They first had to understand that we wanted them to be responsible and that they should not wait some men to give them orders. But very fast most of them understood and showed great motivation. Over the whole workshop-time we developed together a «plan d'action»

**The « plan d'action » : (for details see the appendix).**

First the women had to identify the basic problems and needs on the cultural and organizational level like: whom to contact, whom to use as partners, what's about material, etc..

The women of each camp have chosen a «capitaine», they have chosen a person they trust (personne de confiance) on camp level to support them and a person on the NGO-level to use as a consultant and helping hand.

In each camp the women plan to set up a regular training-session 2 or 3 times a week for women. The women-trainers have discussed how to get in contact with the other women, how to motivate them, etc. Furthermore they will develop a plan of events like tournaments, matches between districts of the camps or between the neighbouring village and the camp, etc., etc..



Iridimi- camp



The experts of Basel+Darfur had to learn that the women lack nearly every experience in sports. So they didn't know i.e. what a tournament is or how it could be organized.

All the ideas and plans the women will develop, they write down in their booklet called «plan d'action». With the NGO-person of their choice they will discuss their plans of events and activities and this person will pass over the «plan d'action» to the supervisor put in place by agreement between UNHCR/NGO and Basel+Darfur.

In addition the women agreed on having a «carnet de protocols» in which they note everything that has taken place under their responsibility (events, activities, results, number of participants, themes, problems, etc.). They want to hand over this protocol to the supervisor, too.

**Body exercises:**

At the beginning of the workshops the expert-trainers observed a remarkable lack of body feeling of the women or at least a lack

of body-experience. In the following days they introduced a number of exercises to help to sensibilise the participating women to the feeling of their bodies.



The woman reacted very positively to the new sensations as well as to exercises of social-physical interaction, such as exercises to relay physically on each other, i.e. in an exercise in which you have to let yourself fall and been cached up by the colleagues.

#### **Learning to teach:**

A permanent subject of the formation was the training of the teaching-skills. Basics like speaking loud, looking at the listeners etc. are not part of the women's culture. They had to learn how to organize a group of people on the training-field, where to stand, how to observe and to give corrections. Most of



the women learned very quickly and enthusiastically. Some - especially in the north - had disciplinary problems like not being able to listen or not following the instructions of the colleague.

#### **Learning the technique:**

The workshop tried also to teach the participants the basic skills of the volleyball-technique and the basic rules of the game. After five days one could see very encouraging progress, but we are far away from real volleyball, which does not matter at all. Many exercises (technical skills and body-exercises) were practised indoors in the big meeting-room of the community service. For several body-exercises men were excluded and had to leave the room.

### The results:

39 women have participated successfully in the workshops and have got the official certificate. In addition six employees of the NGOs responsible for sports and recreation have participated. They have helped Basel+Darfur a lot, have learned a lot for themselves and are very motivated to use the chances sports are offering to transport the various social issues:

- There is a structure in place that should allow the programs of the plan d'action to take place.
- There is set up a monitoring supervising and reporting about the activities.

Basel+Darfur sincerely hopes to have done the right things, that the most important things are set up to let the program fly, so that we may allow to say that we reached our goals so far, inch'allah!





## **6. Follow-up/next steps**

### **Considering the women-trainers:**

In the weeks following the workshops the «plans d'action» must be realised. The appendix «A faire Iriba» shows how this should work.

Further steps have to be planed and realised to guarantee the sustainability of the women's-project: First of all the workshop that had to be postponed in the south has to be organized. In the same time a follow up for the women-trainers has to be planed in order to answer their needs following their experience in practice, very soon.

Workshops in other sports than volleyball should be studied.

### **Other activities:**

Similar workshops should be offered in the following fields:

- Men's/boy's projects (football)
- Train the NGO's sports-responsibles
- Train the trainers of the refugee-comities
- Train the scool-teachers for teaching sports-activities

From the point of view of sustainability the last field train the teachers seems to be the most important. Maybe even concentrating again on the female aspect.

### **Material:**

There is a constantly increasing need for material. Basel+Darfur is convinced that a lot more material could be organized (through donation), when sustainable structures can be presented. The major issue on behalf of material seems not to be the donation, but the transport to Chad and the distribution in the camps into the good structures and organizations.

### **Urgent need of coordination:**

As many organizations have discovered sports as an important issue and activities are started everywhere Basel+Darfur recognizes an urgent need of coordination. Everybody seems to work individually with the risk that there are going to be double-structures and competing activities. It would make more sense to join forces and use the synergies which would allow having more and better activities.

This remark is also valid for the field of sports-materiel.



## 7. Thanks

Many people and organizations have contributed to the success of the project Basel+Darfur. The most important are named here:

City of Basel, Swiss Working Group on Sports and Development, FIFA, FIVB (International Volleyball Federation), Swiss Volley (Swiss Volleyball Federation), Switcher. Claire Bourgeois, Lynn Ngugi, Petros Mastakas, Fode Baba Conde (all UNHCR), Andrea, Hugh, Adolf (all UNICEF), Madeleine, Bachari, Zubeyda (all from CARE), Djan, Djido, Ibrahim (Federation International du Croix Rouge Tchad), Aziza (CCF Iriba), et. al..

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