



Internews Network

## *She Speaks, She Listens*

**Addressing Gender Based Violence with Darfuri refugees in Eastern Chad  
Equal Access International in partnership with Internews Network**

**FINAL REPORT TO JEWISH WORLD WATCH**

**August 20, 2008**



Equal Access is pleased to present a final report to Jewish World Watch on the achievements of the *She Speaks, She Listens* project and is grateful for your generous and compassionate support for this hi-impact radio and community outreach project which assists refugees women in Eastern Chad to address their common range of experiences, needs and concerns in conflict and exile, enabling greater recovery from the indignity and pain of the violations they have suffered.

**PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:**

During the past year, the Internews' Humanitarian Information Service has played a key role in response to the on-going humanitarian crisis in Eastern Chad. Providing the only daily source of local news and information to thousands of Darfuri refugees and Chadian internally displaced people (IDP), this network produces radio programs on salient issues in local languages understood by the majority of the camp and host populations.

Among the programs produced is the landmark program *She Speaks, She Listens*, which targets the needs of victims of gender based violence. The programs are produced by a team of GBV reporters in the production center in Abeche and broadcast on a network of 3 community radio stations: *La Voix du Ouaddai* in Abeche, *Radio Absoun* in Iriba and *Radio Sila* in Goz Beida (please see report Annex A for a map of station locations). With the generous leadership contribution from Jewish World Watch, Equal Access partnered with Internews to increase the show's content, provide local language versions, build the capacity of local women radio journalists, ensure regular listening groups and enhance the quality of *She Speaks* making a significant contribution to the project's overarching goal to provide to life-saving information to victims of gender based violence.



Sylvie Bowen helps Samira Mourra read her script for *She Speaks, She Listens*.

A summary of accomplishments over this year includes:

- Three journalists, and two translators/correspondents recruited trained and provided with equipment to produce GBV radio features.
- More than 20 GBV radio magazines (*She Speaks, She Listens*) produced and broadcast in French, Arabic, and in the local languages of Zaghawa and Masalit.
- Best excerpts of GBV magazines broadcasted every week in local newscasts.
- GBV related radio dramas were produced and broadcast in connection with each episode of *She Speaks, She Listens*.
- Regular meetings with listener groups were organized with IDP and refugee women to gather feedback on the GBV programs and enhance their quality.
- Local Partners were satisfied with the work of our GBV reporters and expressed the need for closer collaboration with Internews on GBV issues.

## I - OUR GBV REPORTERS: SUCCESSFUL RECRUITING & TRAINING

Led by Internews Resident Journalism Adviser Annick Nsabimana, the GBV team is currently composed of 3 talented journalists who work tirelessly to produce *She Speaks, She Listens*. Our reporters work in French and Arabic and are accompanied by 2 translators/correspondents who work in the local languages of Masalit and Zaghawa. Following are profiles of the GBV team:

### **Sylvie Bowen**

With funding from Jewish World Watch and coordination by Equal Access, Sylvie Bowen (36) was recruited in October 2007 as a GBV consultant to coordinate production of our GBV programs. Sylvie joined Internews with extensive GBV reporting experience, and was known as the “Iron Woman” since she presented a very famous weekly program on gender issues on *FM Liberté* in the Chadian capital of Ndjamena. She also had experience working in refugee camps in Farchana, Bredjing, and Treguine.



Samira Mourra and Sylvie Bowen ( Front) in our GBV office at La Voix du Ouaddai

At first, Sylvie was not used to working in a team, as she always produced her broadcasts alone in Ndjamena. However, her Internews colleagues have successfully integrated her into the GBV team. Under the supervision of Annick, Sylvie has learned to coordinate her work with that of our 2 reporters in Abeche (Houda Malloum and Samira Mourra), and our 2 GBV correspondents in Iriba (Arafa Cherif) and Goz Beida (Housna Arabi). Sylvie’s professional experience in Ndjamena as well as her personal history has given her a sharp sense of gender based violence issues (please see the interview with Sylvie in Annex C of this report).

### **Samira Mourra**

Facilitated by Jewish World Watch’s funding and Equal Access’ coordination, Samira Mourra (29) joined the team in October 2007 as a complete novice in radio journalism, but had previous experience working with NGOs in refugee camps for 6 years. Her deep knowledge of humanitarian issues made her an important asset to the GBV team. Following intensive training and mentoring by Annick and fellow journalism adviser Fiacre Munezero, Samira quickly learned to record, edit and report GBV programs on her own. This was a great achievement for her, as she was barely able to edit text on a computer when first joining Internews. From November 2007-January 2008, Annick trained Samira on basic journalism skills including the mission of journalists, journalism ethics and principles, gathering and processing of information, and interviewing and writing skills. She was also trained to use a digital recorder and edit and mix sound using Adobe Audition software.

We are very pleased with the progress Samira has shown editorially, as well as on the technical aspects of her work. Her colleagues constantly encourage her, and greatly appreciate her dedication.

### **Houda Malloum**

Facilitated by Funding from JWW and coordination from Equal Access, Houda (26) grew up in Abeche and was one of the first reporters to join the GBV team. She has done a remarkable job covering issues that very few women can candidly discuss.

Moreover, as a young unmarried Chadian woman, Houda has spoken openly on the radio about important GBV issues with the support of her family. Houda's success as a GBV reporter has garnered international recognition. Earlier this year, she was selected to attend a prestigious training on gender, justice, good governance, freedom of expression and use of the internet and software to create websites. Organized by the EuroArab Foundation, the training was held in Spain and attended by GBV journalists and leaders of women's associations from around the world. As a result of this training, Houda is now part of an accomplished international network of Arabic speaking female journalists and women leaders.



Houda Malloum interviewing Zenaba Ndoulassoum, President of the *Association des Femmes Para-juristes* in Eastern Chad.

### **GBV Translators/Correspondents**

Our GBV radio features are mostly produced in Arabic and French, and edited in our production studio in Abeche. However, to enhance the impact of programming on our target populations (Chadian IDPs and Sudanese refugee women) the features have also been broadcast in the local languages of Masalit and Zaghawa with the help of 2 translators/correspondents. Following are profiles of these women.

### **Housna Arabi**

Housna (30) was born in Darfur. An attack on her village forced her to flee to Chad with her family, which includes 6 children. Housna is Masalit, and was assigned to translate our GBV radio features from Arabic into the Masalit language. She lives in the Djabal refugee camp and comes by foot everyday to *Radio Sila* in Goz Beida which is located close to the camp.

### **Arafa Cherif**

Arafa (28) grew up in the Kobe region, near Iriba, and speaks Zaghawa and Arabic. Zaghawa is one of the 2 languages spoken by refugees in the camps of Iridimi, Am Naback, and Touloum. Arafa made noticeable progress communicating in French this year by working with non-Arabic speaking staff at *Radio Absoun* in Iriba.



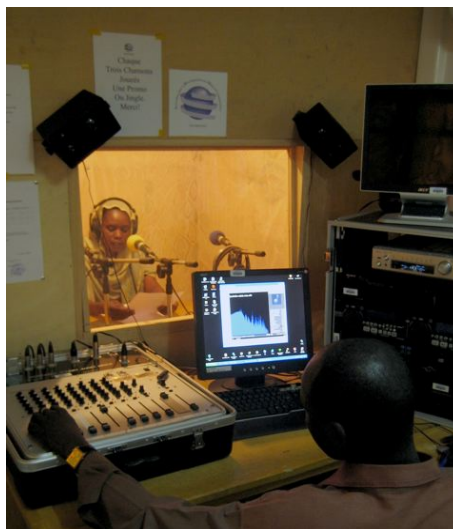
Housna Arabi, from Djabal refugee camp, at *Radio Sila* (Goz Beida).

## II – OUR GBV PROGRAMS

### A – GBV Magazine: *She Speaks, She Listens* (“*Elles Parlent, Elles Ecoutent*”)

“*Elles parlent, elles écoutent*” continues to be the landmark broadcast of the Humanitarian Network service. During the past year, episodes focused on various issues related to gender based violence including: the participation of women in household decisions, clandestine excision in refugee camps, verbal abuse of women, schooling of girls, protection of refugee women when they leave camps and domestic violence. The format of the 15 minute broadcast usually consists of:

- an introduction by the reporter
- community voxpop on the selected issue
- testimonies of victims
- when possible, testimonies of the persons held responsible for gender based violence
- reaction of a GBV specialist from UNHCR, UNFPA or a partner NGO (doctor, psychologist, protection officer, etc.)
- reaction of Chadian officers representing a public service
- conclusion by the reporter



Arafa Cherif presents the news at *Radio Absoun* in Iriba.

The following are examples of important GBV radio features produced in 2007 and 2008:

#### ***Access to basic needs***

This program covered the issue of refugee women’s rights to basic needs including food. Although various international conventions include this right, it is often not respected in Eastern Chad and the Darfur. The discussion included an interview with Angelique Kidjo, a famous Beninese musician.

#### ***Access to health care during pregnancy***

This program considered the limited access to health care during pregnancy. According to health specialists, the percentage of women who have access to prenatal consultations is not very high in Eastern Chad. Hospitals are often remote and for some, this is not a priority. The program included experts who discussed the issue.

### ***Schooling of girls***

The program included interviews with a girl who does not go to school, the President of the refugee women committee of Touloum camp, two refugee parents, the President of the women's lawyers association, and a psychologist.

### ***Participation of women in refugee camps committees***

Meetings or gatherings are often held in camps to discuss and identify the needs of refugees. This program considered the participation of women in these meetings since they have special needs which they often cannot express in front of men or have difficulty convincing men that they do not adequately represent their needs.



Girls at school in Am Nabak refugee camp – June 2008.

### ***Women suffering in silence from violence***

This program considered how many women suffer in silence from various forms of gender based violence and believe that there is no recourse to their plight.

### ***Protection of refugee women when they leave the camps***

Many refugee women are forced to seek additional food or firewood besides what is provided by humanitarian organizations. They are often raped or beaten when they travel out of the camps.

The program included an interview with rape victims and information on what women can do for their protection.



An elderly refugee woman comes back from wood picking, in Am Nabak refugee camp.

### ***Domestic violence***

This episode considered how physical and emotional violence often keep women in a state of dependency and submission. Most of the time, this type of violence is regarded as "private" or as "a family affair."

### ***Young women and fistulas***

A young patient testified in a hospital along with her doctor, husband, an Officer of the Ministry of Health and a midwife. This episode included helpful discussion of this painful condition and participants considered the social consequences, as women are often ostracized by their husband and families after developing fistula.

### ***Support to handicapped women***

The program included testimony from 2 women, and interviews with a CARE Protection Officer, a UNHCR Protection Officer, a CORD Community Service Officer, and a Red Cross Camp Manager in Farchana.

### ***Non-desired pregnancies***

The broadcast included insight from pregnant and non pregnant women, community leaders, a midwife from Abeche's hospital, and a UNHCR Officer for Reproductive Health.

### ***Exploitation of young girls for household services***

The program included testimony from victims, and interviews with community leaders, UNHCR social services, and government social services (in Abeche).

### ***Economic violence***

The program covered the issue of husbands controlling money earned by their wives, and included testimony from women and interviews with an HIAS psychologist and UNHCR Community Services Officer.

### ***Sexual mutilation***

The program included testimony from mothers and interviews with a COOPI doctor and a Djabal refugee women representative.

### ***Women's participation in household decisions***

The program included testimony from wives and husbands, the Islamic Committee of Ouaddai, and interviews with a UNHCR Community Service Officer and community voxpop.

### ***Clandestine Excision in the Camps***

The program included testimony from "sheikhas" (women leaders in refugee camps), victims of excision and mothers, as well as interviews with a UNHCR Protection Officer, an HIAS psychologist and community voxpop.

### ***Verbal abuse of women***

The program included testimony from wives, husbands, and an unmarried woman, as well as interviews with a UNHCR Community Service Officer, an HIAS psychologist and community voxpop.



Arafa edits her news report for *Radio Absoun – Iriba*.

### ***Family meddling in couple's lives***

The program included testimony  
From young couples and parents  
And interviews with a UNHCR  
Community Service Officer, a  
lawyer and community voxpop.



**THEATRE COMPANY L'ETOILE DES JEUNES ON STAGE; A  
FATHER FORBIDS HIS DAUGHTER TO MARRY THE MAN SHE LOVES.  
THE AUDIENCE STRONGLY OBJECTS**

### **B – GBV in the News**

To widen the reach of GBV related features, excerpts from *She Speaks, She Listens* are usually broadcast during other Internews newscasts (interviews and reports) every 2 weeks. Selected excerpts are about 1'30 long, and highlight the most relevant, insightful and interesting views of key persons contacted for GBV feature interviews. Noteworthy interviewees over the past year include:

- Helène Lambatine, president of the Women Lawyers Association, who expressed her views on rape, comparing modern and traditional justice.
- Mary Robinson, ex-president of the Irish republic, and member of the UN High Commission for Human Rights who expressed her views on GBV.
- Famous Beninese musician Angelique Kidjo who was interviewed on food distribution in the camps.
- Nigerian ex-Minister for Finance Dr. Ikonja Iwara who expressed views on GBV.

## C – Sensitization

### 1 – Radio Dramas: A Unique Way to Sensitize an Audience



Theater is the best way to sensitize men and women in refugee camps as well as in villages (audience shown here in Biltine).

As a complement to our GBV programming, radio dramas have provided a good opportunity to sensitize refugee men and women on GBV issues in an entertaining way. GBV messages can be better disseminated through depictions of real life events (representing refugees, community leaders, NGO and UN agencies and local authorities). According to Internews GBV reporter Sylvie Bowen, “theater helps a lot...I know that street theater is sometimes the best way to communicate on certain issues. We take a subject and we start with characters that create issues or don’t behave in the best way, and people will react in the audience and will tell you no it’s wrong! [And] then they try to figure out the best way to address the problem.” Essentially, radio dramas can be more interactive, and allow the audience to put themselves in the place of represented characters, and sympathize or differentiate themselves.

In the past year, Internews continued its successful partnership with *L’etoile des Jeunes*, a local theater company composed of young and talented actors and comedians. Along with the each *She Speaks, She Listens* broadcast, a 10 minute long theater sketch was co-produced by our GBV journalists and *L’etoile des Jeunes*. The dramas were recorded at the production studio in Abeche, and aired by our radio stations. Following are examples of important GBV radio dramas that were broadcast:

#### ***Fistulas***

While suffering from a severe fistula, a woman was rejected by her husband and ostracized by her family. Following her treatment at a hospital, a doctor accompanied the woman to her home and

engaged her family in a conversation about fistulas. He explained that a woman can't be held responsible for a fistula, and requires care and protection. The parents expressed their regrets to the woman.

### ***Undesired pregnancy***

Moufida, a young woman, was ready to marry. But, her father rejected all her suitors under the pretext that they are not rich enough to pay for the dowry. She lost hope, let a young man secretly seduce her, and became pregnant. He father threw her out of her home. Moufida's young brother managed to convince the father that he is responsible for the undesired pregnancy. If he had he let her marry one of her chosen suitors, he would not be ashamed to become a grandfather. The father acknowledged his mistake, and welcomed his daughter back home.

### ***Schooling of girls***

A mother advised her husband to send their daughter to school, since she was old enough to walk there on her own. The husband disapproved, as he believed that a woman only requires education for household duties. A wise man gave the husband examples of the advantages brought to a family by a well educated girl. Regretting his attitude, the husband allowed his daughter to go to school. He encouraged the audience to allow girls to be properly educated.

### ***Domestic violence***

A husband regularly beat his wife under the pretext that she wouldn't listen to him. The woman went to her father to complain, however, he believed that the husband's violent behavior was culturally acceptable. A friend of the family intervened and explained to the father that women have specific rights that should be respected. The father understood and supported his daughter.

### ***Needy family in a camp***

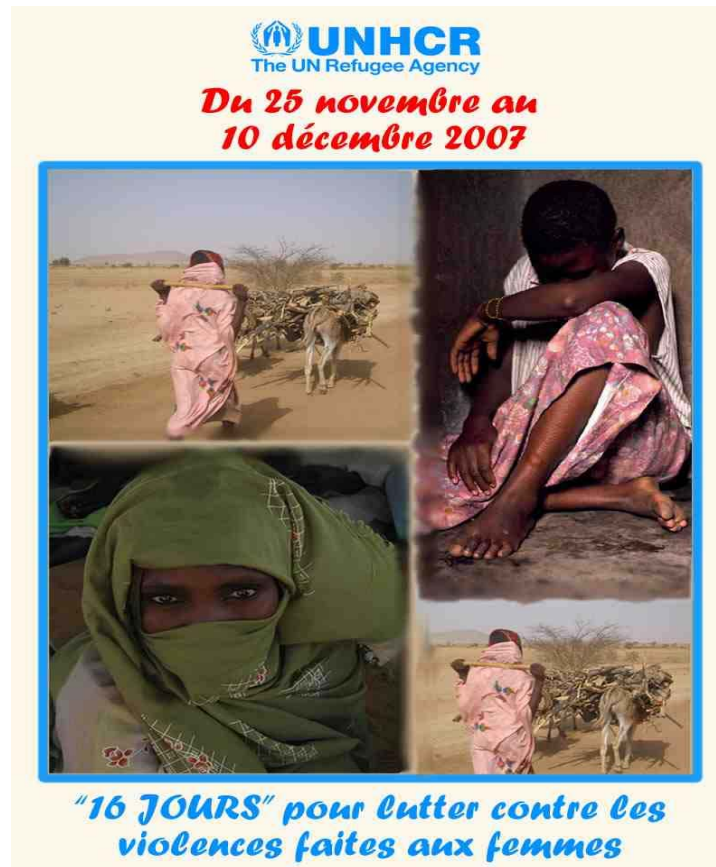
A refugee woman told her husband that she will seek employment outside the camp since they did not have enough money to survive. She was unable to find a job and hesitated to pick wood or fetch water as it was dangerous. A friend of the family came for a visit and advised the woman to consider income generating activities like soap production, gardening, and catering. The woman followed the advice and was able to earn money for her family by setting up a small grocery store in the camp.

## **2 – Global Campaign against GBV**

From November 25-December 10, 2007, our GBV team took an active part in the global campaign against gender-based violence. Daily newscasts and messages were produced on the campaign and on GBV issues in partnership with UN agencies (UNHCR, UNFPA) and other NGOs (MSF, CORD, IMC). It was also a good opportunity for local NGOs such as *Association des Femmes Avocats* (lawyers), *Association pour la Promotion des Libertés Fondamentales*, and *Association des Femmes du Ouaddai* to communicate their GBV related activities. In support of the global campaign, Internews produced a series of 2 min. broadcasts on the following subjects:

- purpose of the global campaign against GBV
- women's roles in the defense of women's rights
- women's participation in decision-making (state, society, family)

- discrimination against women affected by HIV/AIDS
- Schooling of girls
- Rape
- Genital mutilation
- Family planning (contraception, abortion)
- Collecting firewood



UNHCR poster for the 16 Day Campaign against GBV

UNHCR coordinated the campaign in Eastern Chad. However, as Marcel van Maastrigt (UNHCR protection officer) pointed out, it is difficult to measure the immediate impact of such a campaign on the targeted populations. Reliable statistics on IEC activities (Information, Education and Communication) are difficult to establish.

### 3 – GBV in Public Service Announcements

As part of sensitization on GBV issues and in collaboration with UN agencies and NGOs, public service announcements were broadcast on our stations regarding:

- Healthcare for pregnant women to prevent infantile diseases (in collaboration with Save the Children).

- Maternal healthcare for mothers and children, including malnutrition and fistulas (in collaboration with UNHCR).
- Breastfeeding (in collaboration with UNFPA, UNHCR, and Save the Children).

### III – MEETING WITH LISTENERS GROUPS

#### A –Understanding the Needs of Our Listeners

Over the past year, organizing and maintaining listening groups with women in the refugee camps and host communities has been an important aspect of the GBV program (women in the refugee camps and host communities form the core of our target population. Please see report Annex B for a breakdown of the refugee population). The groups provided a safe venue for women to talk



GBV reporter Houda Malloum and refugee women from Gaga’s listening group listen attentively to a *She Speaks, She Listens* broadcast on rape.

openly about the sensitivities of gender based violence and enabled the GBV team to gather important feedback on the effectiveness and appeal of *She Speaks, She Listens*. A representative of a listeners group in Abeche recently said, “...women are so happy to gather in this group and speak freely. For example, on early marriage, on genital mutilations, on the lack of schooling for girls...those women come to me and ask when we will meet again. It’s a place of free expression for them. Women are constantly dominated at home, they don’t talk. If they have a problem, who are they going to tell about it?”

Furthermore, our listening groups have found that refugee women not only require information, but also need to be able to express their views *through* our programs as well as *on* our programs. For both the fulfillment of our objectives and the enhancement of our programs, the listening groups have helped determine whether the timing of our GBV program is adapted to women’s daily life in the camps, if programs are understood by the audience, if women feel free to discuss GBV issues and suggest topics to our producers and if the suggested topics are effectively addressed in our programs.

Moreover, meeting with ongoing listening groups on a regular basis has been crucial to gathering feedback on already produced GBV radio features and measuring the impact of our broadcast on a panel regarding attitude (such as avoiding the outcast of rape victims), knowledge (such as whether to resort to modern or traditional justice) and expertise (for example, when to bring victims to health centers). The groups have also helped define GBV subjects that are closer to the actual needs of Sudanese refugee and Chadian IDP women. While the groups meet on a weekly or bi-monthly basis, our GBV reporters meet with these groups every 2 months. Following are 2 examples of meetings that have taken place during the year.

## **B– Meetings in Host Communities**

A listening group was organized in Abeche in May 2008 with 15 Chadian women to discuss the prevalent issue of forced marriage. They carefully listened to our radio feature, and were asked the following questions regarding the program:

- 1 – Could you tell us what you understood from this program?
- 2 – Do you think that the issue of forced marriage reflects the concerns of most women around you? If yes/no, why?
- 3 – Did this magazine contribute to a better understanding of the problem? If yes/no, why?
- 4 – Will this feature cause you to change your perception of forced marriage?
- 5 – Is there an issue related to women and gender based violence that you would like to suggest for the coming weeks?

A review of the women’s responses highlighted a number of opinions regarding forced marriage including:

- Religion and tradition are the cause of forced marriage.
- Parents don’t consult with their children regarding the selected bride or groom.
- Mothers are often opposed to their husband’s choice, but feel like they can’t voice their opinion.
- Some mothers are reassured by forced marriage, since they believe it prevents promiscuity.
- Young couples who have been forced to marry are frustrated and do not enjoy a happy life.
- Parents are often held responsible for their children’s frustration.

The listening groups also learned important information regarding forced marriage including:

- The Chadian government has signed a convention against gender based discrimination, according to which the choice of a partner should remain free.
- The law determines the minimum age for marriage.
- A woman can legally annul a marriage that took place without her full consent.
- Children have rights that should be respected.

In addition, the discussion illustrated how some women have thought and behaved regarding the issue of forced marriage, such as:

- They fear the reactions of their peers.
- They experienced the frustrations of forced marriage, and feel guilty about letting their husbands determine whom their daughter will marry.
- They have given up the right to make decisions regarding their daughter’s education.
- Some women believe they can sensitize their communities on forced marriage.

After the discussion on forced marriage, listeners suggested various topics for future GBV radio features such as genital mutilation, payment of dowry, women’s participation in decision

making, women's participation in maternal health, schooling of girls and women's silence regarding gender based violence.

### **C – Meetings in Refugee Camps**

In addition to host communities, regular listener group meetings are also held in camps with Sudanese refugee women. For instance, from February to April 2008, 3 meetings were organized with groups of 10 women in Treguine, Farchana and Djabal refugee camps. Each group was given a radio receiver with batteries, and a schedule of our GBV broadcasts in Arabic, Masalit and Zaghawa. After the group listened to one of our editions of *She Speaks*, *She Listens*, a questionnaire was provided to the listeners. Following is an example of a discussion based on a feature heard by a group on sexual mutilation:

1 – What was the magazine about?

*Sexual mutilation and its consequences.*

2 – Can you tell me what you have understood?

*Sexual mutilation has serious consequences on the health and the welfare of girls and women.*

3 – Do you think that this subject is a matter of concern for the women of this camp?

*If a woman is non-excised, she faces a lack of respect. This includes excised mothers who refuse to excise their girls.*

4 – Did this program help you better understand the consequences of sexual mutilation?

*We understood that it often causes complications during birth, especially in the case of a premature marriage.*

5 – What else did you understand?

*Mutilations do not only have physical consequences, but also moral consequences. We see it as normal, but not necessary.*

At the end of the meetings, our listener group members felt more confident, and proposed possible topics for our GBV productions, which was both helpful and encouraging for our reporters.

#### **IV – PARTNER STATEMENTS**

To produce news & radio features, Internews GBV reporters collaborate regularly with partners involved in other GBV activities. This collaboration has been useful in helping determine our activities.

Internews has received accolades from various partners. According to Marcel Van Maastrigt, UNHCR protection officer in Abeche, “our protection/community services section works regularly with the Internews reporters to respond to questions on our activities in recorded interviews or to address the refugee population through the Internews network.

Internews has also proven very helpful in providing information on programs and activities in the camps and, implicitly, helped to curb wrongful rumors and misinformation. Their reporters have helped us to address the problems related to sexual and gender based violence through local news messages and campaigns in November 2007 as well as through their participation in the 16 Days Against Violence Against Women in December 2007. We foresee an even closer collaboration in 2008 in the campaign on the prevention of SGBV, including FGM, as well as on the program to counter child recruitment in the camps.

The collaboration by Internews on a planned pilot project, in which secondary education level courses will be provided to refugee students in 6 camps, is essential (also given the fact that Internews is the only independent radio station in the east of Chad). We need Internews.”

#### **V- CHALLENGES TO IMPLEMENTATION AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS ACCORDING TO INDICATORS**

##### **Security Situation in Eastern Chad**

During the grant period, a number of activities were delayed due to the security situation. For instance, listener group meetings with GBV reporters were delayed numerous times when travel to the camps was significantly restricted: in November and December 2007 due to renewed fighting between the Chadian army and rebel groups and in February and June 2008 due to 2 coup attempts in Ndjamena and Eastern Chad. Activities were also limited following the attacks on humanitarian convoys in Eastern Chad. In addition, the rainy season rendered most of the roads to the camps difficult to navigate.

##### **Translation of Programs to Fur**

Internews did not fulfill its objective to extend the reach of *She Speaks, She Listens* to two of the languages anticipated, which would have reached women in the Darfur.

Internews had planned to translate the program into Fur and Sudanese Arabic and distribute to women in the Darfur via new listening groups arranged by AED. The previous partner we had for his aspect of the project had closed their project in Darfur and AED replaced them. However, due to serious political and security constraints, new listening groups could not be arranged and

existing listening groups ceased to function due to security concerns expressed by participants. Internews has however established more listening groups in Chad which meet on a regular basis. These groups are facilitated by local women in the camps and also by partner NGOs. The groups meet to discuss *She Speaks, She Listens* and Internews has also worked with their local partners to increase the regularity of these meetings to discuss a range of GBV issues covered by other news programs- not just the content related to *She Speaks, She Listens*. The regular meetings provide great emotional and community support to women and their families in the camps.

Although the translation of programs into Fur has not been realized as yet, (it is important to think though all the implications of broadcasting in Darfur, in particular to protect listeners in Darfur and producers in Chad) this project's efforts have laid the foundation for this work. We are very committed to achieving this goal. With the upcoming shortwave broadcast into Darfur, we will be able to realize this objective with support from the Radio Darfur Network.

#### **Use of Solar Cookers in GBV Programming**

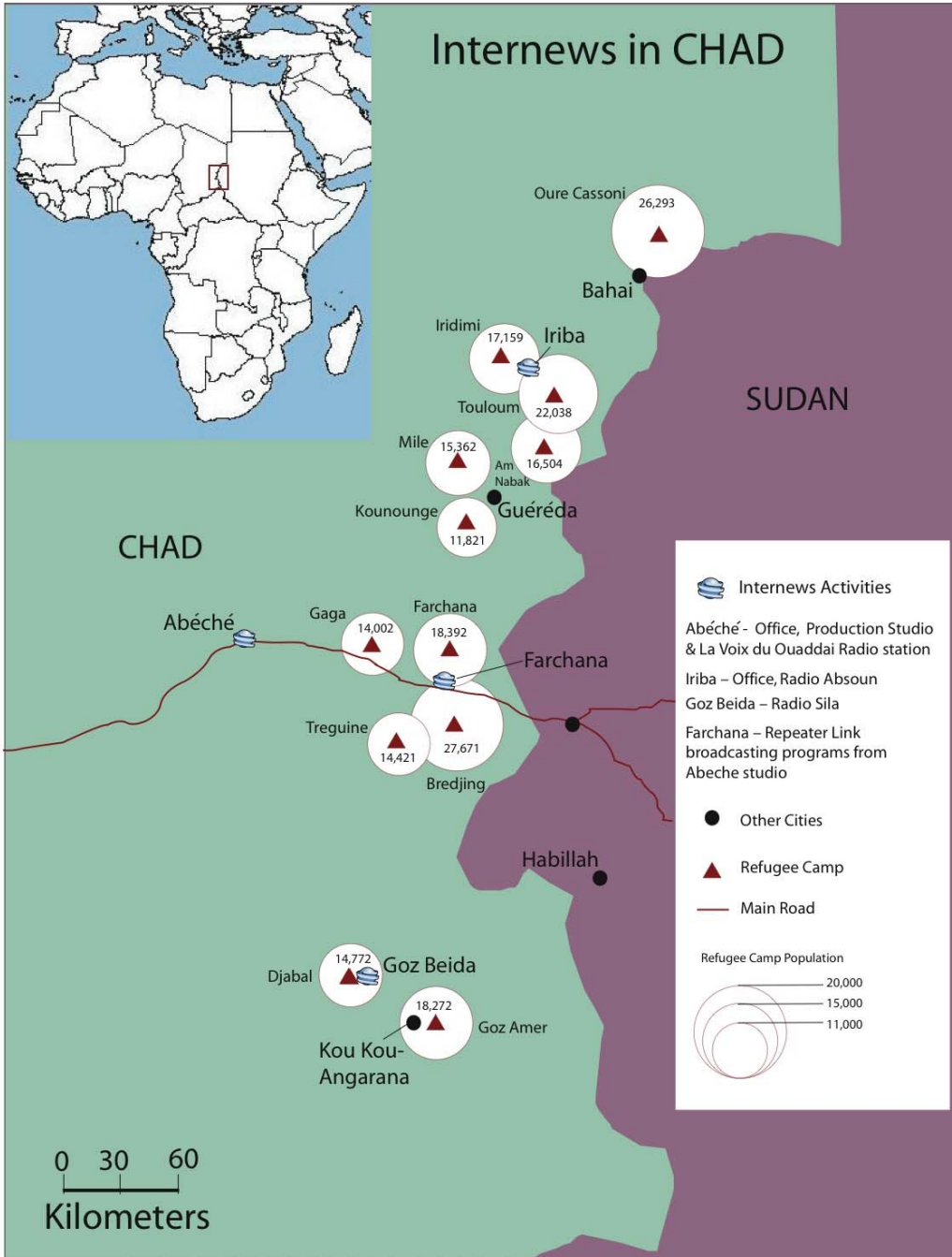
Due to other programming priorities, we were not able to broadcast a full radio program on solar cookers over the past year. In our GBV programming, however, Internews has included information on the importance of using solar cookers to reduce women's vulnerability to violence during firewood collection. We are currently planning a program on the use of solar cookers with UNHCR community service personnel responsible for distribution of this device.

#### **Coverage of Income Generating Activities**

We have often mentioned income generating activities in our *She Speaks, She Listens* broadcasts to increase women's empowerment and decrease their vulnerability. Discussion of these activities has included milling of grain, sewing activities with borrowed machines, small animal husbandry and various small business/market activities.

On following pages see Annex A-D.

# ANNEX A



Map by Internews Network May 2007. Refugee camp data derived from UNHCR, September 2006.

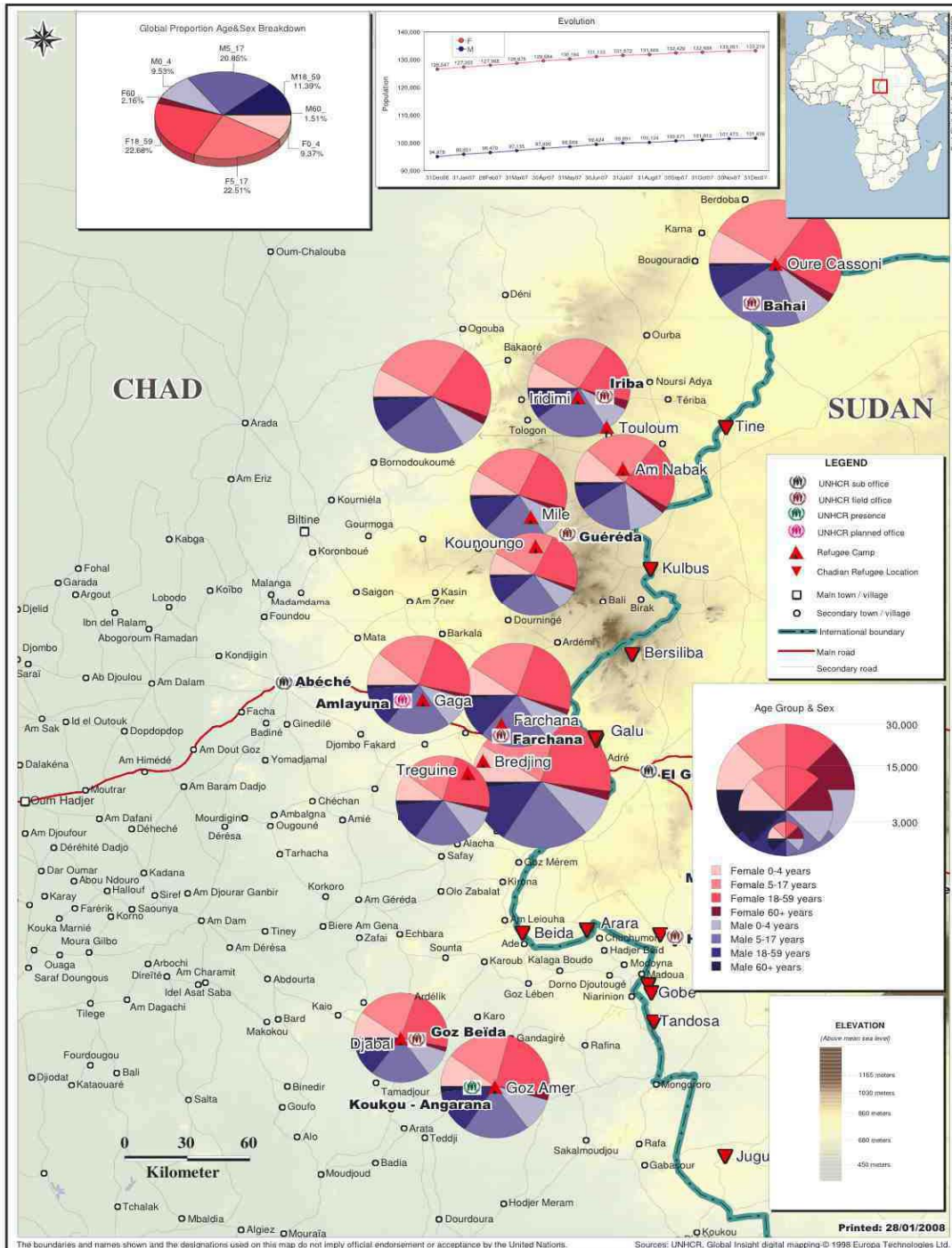
# ANNEX B



## Refugees Population Eastern Chad Age and Sex Breakdown

As of 31 December 2007

**FIGSS in DOS**  
Population and Geographic Data Section  
Division of Operational Support  
Email: kokoue@unhcr.org



## ANNEX C

### INTERVIEW WITH SYLVIE BOWEN

GBV Consultant  
February 13, 2008



**Sylvie, tell me about your first three months with us in Abeche...**

It wasn't easy at the beginning, since I was not used to working in a team. I mean, to produce a radio feature with several other persons. I always produced my broadcasts alone for *FM Liberté* in Ndjamena. But, many people helped me out here.

**Why was it difficult for you to work in a team?**

It wasn't difficult, but it was new for me. I had always produced 1 hour long features, and now I was producing a 15 min broadcast. We had to put everything in 15 min, and it was not easy. So Annick (Resident Journalism Adviser) trained me.

**You come from southern Chad, with a different culture and religion from eastern Chad. People are more conservative. Was it easy for you to integrate?**

Actually, it was not my first time here in Abeche and in the camps. I been here 4 years ago to work with refugees in Bredjing, Treguine, and Farchana. I understood how to fit in, how to dress, and how not to shock the people here. But Abeche is not as conservative as I was told. People were telling me to wear only loin clothes, and no trousers. So I came with a bag full of loin clothes. But people would actually let me wear trousers. I still feel free here.

**When you go to the camps, do women there understand the purpose of a GBV program, meaning the necessity to talk about their social condition, their formal rights, and their moral rights?**

At first they don't understand. They don't see what it's all about. They don't know of course what GBV means. You have to explain why it is of interest for them to listen to the program and how it can help them.

**Would you give me an example?**

For example, people here think it is normal for men to beat their wives. Even women find it normal. They will even tell you that it's a way for a man to prove his love. But when you talk with women, it is possible to let them understand that being beaten isn't part of a "woman's duty". And many women come to understand that over the years they have been beaten without knowing exactly why. So, in all we do regarding gender based violence, the most important thing is to talk, understand and explain. And we get feedback! There are many men who also want to contribute to the program. Some even come to us at the radio station, to say "*well I heard your magazine yesterday, I know what you do, and I suggest an idea for the next broadcast, because there is this problem of violence against women that people should be aware of...*"

**What problems do they want to talk about?**

Beaten wives, of course, and it is classic. Everyday I see women who are obviously subject to domestic violence...

**But it's not only about beaten wives...**

Violence is not only physical; it can also be emotional...

**Like what?**

Like... it's difficult to spend two months with a man in the same house who refuses to talk to you. It is true that he pays for the meal and everything, but he ignores you. And it is even more painful than to be beaten all the time. It's like you simply don't exist. And many are afraid or ashamed to talk about this. We help them to understand that they have to talk about it. And it's a relief for them when they succeed in expressing themselves.

**Talking about self-expression and relief, is there a specific feature you are very satisfied with, among the magazines you produced during those last 4 months?**

There are 2 features I was very pleased with... one on beaten women, and the other one on vulnerable women.

**Vulnerable, what does that mean for you?**

Like old women, often abandoned. People think “oh well, she is going to die.” So there is no reason to go to a lot of trouble for her. At her age it wouldn’t make sense, since she is leaving anyway...” But after the broadcast, people told me that those women might be old, but they all the more need to be loved. They understood that an old woman doesn’t only need to eat and have a roof over her head. She also needs to feel love around her. And that brings great comfort.

**Could you meet one of those old women?**

Yes, one in a camp and one next to my house. I have a neighbor who didn’t care about her mother. She thought it’d be enough if her mother gets to eat. And her husband listened to the broadcast. Then he came to me to ask if the feature would be broadcasted again. So he and his wife listened to it in Arabic again. Then they came to me, at around 8.00 pm. The man wanted his wife to understand that her mother needed love. And we talked about it. She then started to cry, for a long time. She promised to pay more attention not only to her mother, but to older women around her. So I think it was helpful.

**And when you speak in French, do women understand?**

They mostly understand Arabic. In refugee camps it would be Masalit, so we need a translator. In Abeche, women can speak French. But outside Abeche, it’s Masalit and Arabic.

**Do you have a special anecdote from your missions in the camps?**

There is that woman I met in Gaga, at a food distribution from the WFP. She was waiting to be served with rice or millet. And she told me “it’s not about quantity, it’s about quality! Look at my skin, the skin of my hands, it all crumpled like a ronnier (local tree)”. I didn’t know what a ronnier looks like. Then I saw one, and I understood what she meant, because the bark of this tree really looked like her hands. And it makes me think about her, each time I see a ronnier tree.

**Do you manage to find new GBV topics each week, or do you have the feeling - sometimes - that you are repeating yourselves?**

The good thing about working with Houda and Samira is that they are very aware of the necessity to think about new subjects. They come and tell me: “Sylvie, look, we have no new topics for the next weeks.” So we sit together and take the time to look back at what we have already done, and try to figure out 2 or 3 new GBV subjects. It can be related to the news. For example, we currently have inflation on commodities like rice, millet, sugar, oil, etc. And many men don’t give enough money to their wives to stock food for the month. So they have to go to the market every day. Women will only get cash for a daily ration. But it becomes difficult when the market

closes down. Some families won't eat for one or two days. And I think this is an important part of women's daily life.

**So the way domestic tasks are shared within a family is a GBV topic for you...**

Definitely. A specific feature on task sharing in families was produced even before I came. A very good broadcast actually.

**What do you plan to produce for the next weeks?**

I would really like to make something about forced abortions. When you see it at the hospital, you can't deny it, but few people would acknowledge it in the camps. I know 2 persons who will introduce me to young women, or young girls. The father would not accept for example that his daughter becomes pregnant without being married or that she has a child with a man other than the one he chose for her. I would like them to understand that they have a right to choose the husband they will live with. And, it is also a matter of concern when young women get pregnant at the age of 13 or 14. They are jeopardizing their own health. Many end up with severe fistulas.

**But how will you get them to talk about their own abortion? How will you find those girls?**

I have good contacts and intermediaries. It is necessary for us to have them talk about their own problems. It will have a greater impact than if we talk ourselves about forced abortions.

**How about theater... is it easier for you to talk about sensitive issues if you use comedians?**

Theater helps a lot. Radio broadcasted sketches; it's quite a new thing here. I have been an artist for years, and played theater for almost 20 years now. And I know that street theater is sometimes the best way to communicate on certain issues. We take a subject, and we try to do the exact contrary as what should be done. And people will react in the crowd, in the audience; they will tell you "no, it's wrong! You shouldn't be doing this!", and will figure out the best way to address the problem. So when we produce a GBV feature, I try to have it adapted to the stage. Because people pay more attention to theater sketches than to serious radio features. It's easier for them to identify with the characters.

**Do you adapt all GBV features to the theater?**

For each one of our features, yes. Our current production is about handicapped women. Why is it, for example, that young disabled girls cannot go to school? They should be helped too. Some families would put their girls on a donkey to go to school. Some others don't have the means to buy a donkey. So we try to figure out a solution to this problem, and help people bring their girls to school.

**With whom do you write those sketches?**

We write them together with the comedians from the theater company *L'etoile des Jeunes*.

**Sylvie, you like your job?**

I love it.

**Why did you choose to do this program?**

At first I did it for myself. Because I had to free myself from a painful experience. I mean, I also went through gender based violence during a long time, for too long. My husband used to beat me. Then a child, my own son, asked me “how long will you live with it? Because I can’t take it any more.” At that time, I was producing usual radio broadcasts for *FM Liberté*. I suddenly started to focus on GBV issues. My colleagues did not understand what I was doing. They thought I was a rebel. But it slowly developed, and the main radio stations in Ndjamena started to produce this kind of program.

**ANNEX D**

**INTERVIEW WITH SAMIRA MOURRA**

GBV Reporter  
June 13, 2008

**Samira, tell me about this micro-phone: do you now know how to use it, how to use your recorder, and the computer?**

Without any problem... I can record, I can edit the sounds, and I can even mix the sounds on the computer. When I am done, I check, and I call my chief to hear it.

**Do you often suggest subjects which are accepted and produced by the team?**

Of course. I suggested we make a feature on economic violence, which was very successful. For example, if a refugee woman works for an NGO, at the end of the month, the husband will collect the whole salary. I often work with 3 women in Gaga refugee camp. They have to give all salary to their husbands. Should they refuse, he will forbid her from going back to work. But it’s not only in the camps. Here in Abeche also, when a female vendor earns money, her husband will take it.

**Do you often meet the husbands responsible for economic violence, or the persons considered as responsible for gender based violence in general?**



In refugee camps, it is very easy. But in Abeche, you can't go to a man, and tell him "well, I know that you take the money from your wife."

**What was the most difficult feature you produced?**

The submission of women to their husbands. In Abeche, all women are totally controlled by their men. The first day we produced this subject, we went out to the market for a voxpop, and all women were saying "my man fully controls what I do." I felt discouraged.

**Does your work as a radio journalist have consequences on your private life? Do you sometimes feel directly concerned by the reports you produce?**

My family listens to the radio, and I have no problem. My husband appreciates my work. It's only my grandfather, who criticized my feature on beaten wives. He said "why are you telling things that don't exist? Since you have been working with "nassaras" (white people), you are becoming nassara yourself!" But I know he never beat his own wife.

**What do you enjoy the most in your job?**

What I am most proud of is our broadcast *She Speaks, She Listens*... I get feedback from many women around me in Abeche. They come to me, they have questions, and they want to know more about women's rights... For example about birth control. My neighbor, she is 22, she bears a child every year, and she is really tired of it! She heard the program, and wanted her husband to listen to it. He first refused, and then he listened to the broadcast and allowed her to see a doctor to talk about birth control. So she met the doctor in charge of the Health Center. He gave her pills to prevent a new birth, and now... she is doing very well!

