

the cold chain equipment. Health workers were supplied by the Lebanese government and the ICRC. Every military faction, each of whom had their own transportation and communication equipment, provided logistical support to the vaccination teams. On 23 September 1987, the gunfire stopped and vaccinations took place in 762 centres across the country. After three days it became apparent that the need for childhood immunization was so great that the three days of tranquillity were extended to include a fourth day.

Sudan (1989)

The widespread famine and the resulting death of close to a quarter of a million people in southern Sudan in 1988, moved Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to ask the Sudanese Prime Minister, Sadiq Al-Mahdi, to convene a high-level meeting of UN organizations and donors with the objective of agreeing on a plan of action aimed at avoiding a repeat of the tragedy. The meeting took place on 8 and 9 March at Khartoum. It focused on the need to pre-position food stocks in southern Sudan before the rainy season began in May, when, until November, the area would be cut off from outside assistance. The principal task was to ensure that streamlined procedures were in place to enable the delivery and pre-positioning of supplies. It was calculated that, to avoid the starvation of an estimated 100,000 people, up to 172,000 tons of food relief was required at a cost of US \$121 million. Additional non-food assistance, including immunization and emergency drug kits, was expected to cost another US \$11 million.⁴⁸

The meeting concluded that, effective 1 April 1989, a month of tranquillity should be observed. During this time, supplies would be shipped to the areas in need by road, train, barge and air. Both the Sudanese government and the rebel forces were asked not to attack the different modes of delivery during this month and to respect the neutrality of humanitarian relief. They were also asked to guarantee free access to UN, donor and NGO personnel participating in the relief actions so that they could reach all civilian non-

⁴⁸ UNICEF, *Operation Lifeline Sudan*, 17381, p. 1.