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Britain Donates 40 Million Pounds in Aid to Darfur

Britain will donate a further 40 million pounds (\$76 million) to aid efforts in Darfur to help the world's largest aid operation suffering from daily attacks and government restrictions in Sudan's remote west. "As we head towards the new year, it is of critical importance that the international community provides early and adequate finance to sustain the massive humanitarian response needed in Darfur," Hilary Benn, Britain's international development minister, said in a statement on Thursday. Including this donation, Britain has to date given 230 million pounds to Darfur. This week the United Nations launched an appeal for some \$653 million in 2007 to fund emergency aid and development in Africa's largest country, torn apart by multiple civil wars. The government has signed three peace deals in less than two years to end regional insurgencies. On Thursday, the United Nations said an international aid agency convoy was ambushed near el-Geneina town in West Darfur this week. One aid worker was shot in the leg and a policeman escorting the convoy was killed. A U.N. bulletin on Thursday said the AU command had instructed that AU vehicles should not leave their bases in many locations for fear of banditry. One AU source confirmed this in specific areas where attacks were common.

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