



UNITED
NATIONS
SUDAN



UNITED NATIONS IN SUDAN ANNUAL REPORT 2022





2 Cover photo: Fatima Mohammed, a farmer, widower, and mother of five from East Darfur improved her income and was able to purchase five goats and a horse. Community stabilization efforts initiated by the UN have significantly improved prospects for local economic recovery, improved livelihoods, peace and social cohesion. ©UNDP Photo

Photo above: Children and adults at a water facility in Ashat village, Tokar Locality. UN upgraded low yield water systems in the remote villages of Gorora and Tokar, Red Sea state. @UNICEF Photo/Ammar



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Photo: Amna (14) plays an education game on her solar-powered tablet.
@UNICEF Photo/Florine Bos

FOREWORD

This report focuses on 2022, which was another challenging year for Sudan as political crises remained unresolved, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact education and governance and the economy contracted, further hampering development goals and increasing humanitarian needs.

The United Nations' support for national development priorities is outlined in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The latest UNDAF (2018- 2022) was extended until the end of December 2023. At the start of 2022, in order to operationalize the UNDAF within the current context, outline UN priorities and guide planning until the end of 2023, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Sudan drafted the UN Common Approach, which is organized around three pillars (lifesaving and sustaining basic services, community stabilization and resilience; protection of civilians, human rights, and rule of law; and peace, conflict prevention, and democratic transition).

Despite the socio-political challenges in Sudan, several key achievements were realized through UN programmes and interventions, including the provision of almost 12 million COVID-19 vaccines; the provision of nutritional assistance for over nine million people; access to quality education provided to five million children; the provision of basic water service for nearly one million people; over 500,000 conflict-affected communities engaged in livelihood and economic recovery activities; over 256,800 people received explosive ordnance risk education; more than one million meters² of area cleared of landmines and explosive remnants of war; the development a Crisis Risk Dashboard; the launching of the Coalition for Peace, Justice and Tolerance in Darfur; and the development of a draft transitional constitution.

The UN has been supporting the Sudanese democratic transition through the efforts of the UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS). Throughout 2022, the UNCT

in Sudan supported Sudanese-led and -owned political consultations and talks, developed a road map for the implementation of the Juba Peace Agreement (JPA), and joined the Trilateral Mechanism with the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to support the development of an agreed upon framework for the next phase of the political process.

The military leadership and a broad range of civilian actors signed the Political Framework Agreement in December 2022 to lay the ground for the formation of a new civilian-led transitional government. As part of that process, five workshops were implemented to ensure a common understanding among stakeholders and facilitate the signing of the final agreement. This unfortunately was not signed. On 15 April 2023, fighting broke out between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces.

Sudan is confronting a catastrophic humanitarian crisis, jeopardizing the lives of the already vulnerable and threatening the lives of millions of children. Insecurity and looting of humanitarian assets and supplies have challenged the humanitarian response. In the face of these challenges, the UN in Sudan remains committed to supporting political negotiations to end the conflict, while continuing and expanding its lifesaving work, and the alleviation of human suffering.



Clementine Nkweta-Salami

Clementine Nkweta-Salami

Deputy Special Representative
of the Secretary-General,
Resident and Humanitarian
Coordinator in Sudan



UN COUNTRY TEAM

The UNCT in Sudan is composed of 26 resident and 7 non-resident entities.

Resident: FAO, IFAD, IMF, IOM, OCHA, OHCHR, RCO, UNDP, UNDSS/ISS, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNIC, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNISFA, UNITAMS, UNMAS, UNOPS, UNV, UN Women, WFP, WHO, World Bank

Non-resident: ECA, ESCWA, IAEA, ILO, UNAIDS, UNDRR, UNODC

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) works with the Sudanese people, the national authorities, and other humanitarian and peacebuilding partners to help promote equity in economic and social opportunities; support national institutions to improve and increase coverage of basic services; support the establishment of sustainable climate adaptation infrastructures; support the creation

of an enabling environment for evidence-based planning and budgeting; support peace efforts and strengthen social cohesion; and provide support to displaced populations, refugees, returnees and host communities.

In 2011, the UN Security Council established the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), whose mandate is to monitor the border between Sudan and South Sudan and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid. UNISFA is authorized to use force to protect civilians and humanitarian workers in Abyei. In addition, the UN has been supporting the Sudanese democratic transition through the efforts of the UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS), a special political mission created through Security Council Resolution 2524 (2020). On 2 June 2023, the Security Council renewed UNITAMS mandate until 3 December 2023.



KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

The UNCT in Sudan works closely with national and international partners, including critical government ministries, international and national non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, academia, the media and the private sector to promote sustainable development, peace and human rights, and to deliver humanitarian aid. The UN will seek to further expand these collaborations and encourage private sector partnerships where feasible.

FUNDING PARTNERS

The UNCT in Sudan continued efforts to promote partnership and financing for the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from domestic, international, public and private sources. The Friends of Sudan (FoS) group (which includes representatives from the European Union, France, Germany Norway, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations, and the World Bank) has been an effective vehicle for building consensus on priority areas of support and mobilizing donor resources for Sudan's economic and peacebuilding transition.



CHAPTER 1: KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND REGIONAL CONTEXT



SUDAN'S ECONOMIC SITUATION REMAINED DIRE DUE TO INCREASED GLOBAL FOOD AND OIL PRICES, HYPERINFLATION, CIVIL UNREST, RECORD-SETTING FLOODS, DISRUPTED ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND SUSPENDED INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

The political crisis in Sudan remained unresolved, although domestic, regional and international efforts continued, aimed at facilitating a political solution to restore a credible civilian-led democratic transition following the military coup of 25 October 2021. Since the coup, the country has been governed by a de facto government. In January 2022, only six weeks after he resumed his role following the signing of an agreement with the coup leaders, Prime Minister Dr. Abdalla Hamdok resigned from his role. This and other political impasses were accompanied by protests and a deteriorating socioeconomic situation across the country—all of which undermined many of the political and development achievements made by Sudan, including in the areas of legal and institutional reform, transitional justice, civic space, equality and non-discrimination, and women's rights.

During the first half of 2022, an alarming escalation of violence, including sexual violence against women was witnessed, mainly in Darfur but also in South Kordofan and the Blue Nile. The drivers of violence included conflicts over resources, intercommunal tensions and a failure to make progress on key provisions of the Juba Peace Agreement (JPA), in addition to other root causes such as climate change and the ongoing drought.

In July 2022, the military announced it would withdraw from politics. On 5 December 2022, the military leadership and a broad range of civilian actors signed a Political Framework Agreement to lay the ground for a final political accord and the formation of a new civilian-led transitional government for a two-year political transition period. However, in April, a debate over whether the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) would be

placed under civilian oversight and plans for the integration of the paramilitary group Rapid Support Forces (RSF) into SAF, delayed the signing of the final agreement. On 15 April 2023, fighting broke out between the RSF and SAF, engulfing the country in conflict.

Sudan's economic situation remained dire due to increased global food and oil prices, hyperinflation, civil unrest, record-setting floods, disrupted economic activity and suspended international financial assistance. The International Monetary Fund estimates that in 2022, Sudan's economy contracted by 2.5 percent (-2.5) and inflation was nearly 140 percent. Inadequate public revenues, weak governance and institutional capacity further limited the Government's ability to provide access to quality social services and social protection to its population. Since the military takeover in October 2021, international development financing has been frozen, and UN development activities in Sudan have decreased by around 40 percent. As a result, humanitarian needs across Sudan are at an all-time high, with nearly 16 million people (around one-third of the population) in need of humanitarian assistance.

With the outbreak of conflict in April 2023, the UN evacuated its staff from Khartoum and other insecure locations, and alternate UN offices were established in Port Sudan, where some Government offices are also operating. The UN is committed to staying in Sudan, and, with humanitarian partners, is negotiating humanitarian access to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to those in need.



CHAPTER 2: UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK



2.1 OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS

The collective response of the United Nations to national development priorities is outlined in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and is supported by the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO). The latest UNDAF (2018-2022) was extended until the end of December 2023.

In addition, at the start of 2022, the UNCT in Sudan drafted the UN Common Approach to outline UN priorities and guide planning until the end of 2023. The Common Approach is organized around three pillars. These are:

Pillar 1: Lifesaving and sustaining basic services, community stabilization and resilience.

Pillar 2: Protection of civilians, human rights, and rule of law.

Pillar 3: Peace, conflict prevention, and democratic transition.

Seven Outcomes were adopted under these Pillars, and these guided the UNCT's work in the country during 2022:

- **Outcome 1.1:** Populations in vulnerable situations have improved health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation, and social protection outcomes.
- **Outcome 1.2:** People in Sudan, with an emphasis on small producers and micro-entrepreneurs, have access to improved productive capacities that contribute to inclusive and sustainable livelihoods, job creation and ending extreme poverty.
- **Outcome 1.3:** People in Sudan, with growth in entrepreneurship, technology development for research and innovation, and access to small-scale industrial enterprises through financial services and integration into the value chain, will enhance their infrastructure through strengthened governance, guidance, tools and knowledge.

- **Outcome 2.1:** People of Sudan, including migrants and vulnerable populations, have enhanced prevention and protection against all forms of human rights violations and conflict-related risks.
- **Outcome 2.2:** National, state and local institutions' systems and capacities are improved to respect human rights, freedoms and justice for service delivery and rule of law, including to migrants and vulnerable populations.
- **Outcome 3.1:** Political transition progresses toward democratic governance where national, state and local institutions are more effective to carry out their mandates efficiently.
- **Outcome 3.2:** Effective conflict management mechanisms, peace dividends and durable solutions that augment peaceful coexistence and social cohesion for community security and stabilization of people are improved.

Under the overall guidance of the UNCT, the Integrated Programme Management Team (IPMT) played a pivotal role in coordinating the implementation of the UN Common Approach, facilitating transition priorities planning and leading the formulation process for the UN Interim Cooperation Framework (ICF) 2024-2026.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The UN Common Approach and the UNDAF share the guiding principles of leaving no one behind; human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment; sustainability and resilience; and accountability. These principles are reflected in the 2030 Agenda and are grounded in the UN Charter.

Achievement Highlights



Draft transitional constitution developed.



The Coalition for Peace, Justice and Tolerance in Darfur launched.



A Crisis Risk Dashboard developed.



11.7 million
COVID-19 vaccines provided.



9.2 million
people received nutritional assistance.



5 million
children had access to quality education.



1.2 million
children received the measles vaccine.



1,033,631m²
of land previously contaminated with explosive ordnance released for use.



940,000
people gained access to basic water service.



256,834
people received explosive ordnance risk education.



27,369
unexploded devices, including mines, destroyed.



1,136
emergency jobs created.



1,321
communities publicly abandoned FGM.

2.2 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES, OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

OUTCOME 1.1 BASIC SERVICES

Achievement Highlights



21 million

people reached with health messaging.



18.4 million

mosquito nets distributed.



11.7 million

COVID-19 vaccines provided.



9.2 million

people received nutritional assistance.



5 million

children had access to quality education.



1.2 million

children received the measles vaccine.



940,000

people gained access to basic water service.

Throughout 2022, the United Nations provided nearly 51 million direct services, including almost 12 million COVID-19 vaccines, 1.2 million measles vaccines for children, nutritional assistance for over nine million people, access to quality education for five million children, sexual and reproductive health information for persons with disabilities, HIV testing and antiviral therapy, and basic water service for nearly one million people.

As a result of the UN's sexual and reproductive health services, an estimated 47 maternal deaths, 11,049 unsafe abortions, and 28,041 unsafe pregnancies were averted. Through the



UN's other health interventions, 674,000 people stopped open defecation and 510 communities received open defecation-free certification; 260,000 people received assistance through the Mother and Child Cash Transfers Plus programme; 80,000 IDPs and refugees received medical consultations; over 1,000 health care facilities received PPE, equipment, solar power technology, medicine, and access to water or sanitation; and 51 people graduated with the newly created Midwifery Diploma. Moreover, over 21 million people received health messaging on COVID-19 and hygiene promotion.

Over 600,000 people (including state and federal officials, health care centre workers, teachers, farmers, national education curriculum developers) received training in basic service provision, such as child-feeding practices, midwifery, emergency obstetrics and neonatal care, tuk-tuk ambulances, clinical management of rape cases, inclusive education, literacy education and improved agricultural practices.

KEY CHALLENGES

- Due to funding constraints, the UN was forced to reduce food rations for refugees.
- The rapid introduction of the COVID-19 vaccine created challenges for the supply chain reporting system, requiring rapid action and greater digitalization.

SDGS SUPPORTED



UN ENTITIES



Empowering Women through Cash Transfers

Mahasin Mohamed Al-Rayih, is a 26-year-old mother in Red Sea State, one of the poorest areas in Sudan. She was heavily pregnant when she registered for the Mother and Child Cash Transfers (MCCT+) programme at the Al-Lalaloba health centre. MCCT+ provides cash grants to pregnant women and women with children under two years of age. The aim of the programme is to support the first thousand days of a child's life and promote women's health by providing care services for pregnant and lactating women. The programme ensures that women attend regular prenatal visits and organize their priorities to better utilize the moneys. "The [programme staff] taught me how to develop a delivery plan and I used the funds to buy essentials for myself and the baby," said Mahasin. "I bought food and milk that is critical for lactation." The MCCT+ programme is currently being implemented in Kassala State and Red Sea State in partnership with government entities.

OUTCOME 1.2 LIVELIHOODS AND LOCAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Achievement Highlights



6,000

people received tailored vocational training.



3,000

people gained access to markets and health centres.



1,964

women improved their financial literacy.



1,136

emergency jobs created.



35

producers' associations and 11 agricultural cooperatives created.

Through UN programmes, 1,000 farmers throughout Sudan were trained on cooperatives development and the benefits of aggregate selling and input procurement, which led to the formation of 11 cooperatives that sold the 2022 harvest with prices that were 10 percent higher than the market prices. In addition, 35 new producers' associations, representing 1,003 farmers, were established. In May 2022, the UN produced SMS messages on improved agricultural extension packages that were sent to 1,889 farmers.

For the first time, the UN was able to transfer non-food items from government- to SPLM-N-held territory when two new tractors were delivered to aid food production in a region that is 85 percent reliant on agriculture using rudimentary tools. In North Kordofan and White Nile, the UN offered tailored vocational training courses in the most promising economic opportunities for 6,000 beneficiaries in 48 rural community areas.

The UN supported nearly 6,500 direct beneficiaries, including women, in advanced agricultural practices, financial education, and institutional capacity development. An additional 2,507 beneficiaries (farmers, agri-entrepreneurs, and staff of intermediary and public institutions) gained skills in innovative financial instruments and public and private investment gaps and opportunities.

Over the course of 2022, 1,047 entrepreneurs received training using the Start and Improve Your Business Methodology. In addition, 404 business plans were drafted, 294 business plans were appraised, 255 were linked with financial institutions and 21 financed to date.

Over 3,000 participants gained access to markets and health centres through the Food Assistance for Asset programme across 10 states. An additional 1,136 emergency jobs were created through temporary employment through cash for works, resulting in the completion of eight health centres and five schools that serve 65,000 beneficiaries.

Trainings extended to Government officials and ministries with 42 intermediary institutions and Government bodies receiving training in entrepreneurship and innovative financial instruments. In addition, 218 Government officials received capacity-building on quality management in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions, Rural Economic Empowerment Methodology, market-based livelihoods, microfinance to improve financial inclusion for refugees, improved agricultural practices and English.

More than 415,000 people benefited from the UN's climate resilient agricultural packages and interventions in the water sector in nine states. In North Darfur, the UN established Natural Resources Management Committees (NRCs), community-based mechanisms for managing the water resources at the catchment and sub-catchment levels, and a Catchment Management Agency (CMA) for the management of the water catchments and sub-catchments.

SDGS SUPPORTED



UN ENTITIES



KEY CHALLENGES

- The political landscape in Sudan necessitated reprogramming of some planned interventions.
- Economic instability affected the design and delivery of livelihood interventions.
- Systematic groundwater/surface water resource monitoring systems were unavailable.
- Funding shortages disrupted surveillance and control measures and led to new vector invasions.



Vocational Training for All

Islam Gatar Neiala, a 26-year-old internally displaced person with a polio-related impairment, lives with her extended family of 21 in South Kordofan State. Before she graduated from the UN-supported Almwada Training Centre, life was tough for Islam and her family. They depended on handouts from aid organizations and the Government and her brother's modest income from subsistence farming and unskilled work. Since graduating, Islam has begun a tailoring and handicraft venture, earning about 40,000 Sudanese Pounds (\$63) per month—double what her brother makes. Islam dedicates around 70 percent of her monthly income to support her extended family, from the provision of food and health care to covering the education fees of her younger sister who is in secondary school. "I feel fulfilled now that I can support my brother in taking care of our family and improving our living standards," says Islam.

OUTCOME 1.3 CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Achievement Highlights



512,803

conflict-affected communities engaged in livelihood/economic recovery activities.



Over 123,000

youth acquired necessary job skills.



Over 1,000

people attended a job fair with 14 institutions.



129

infrastructure projects were established in conflict-affected communities

Through UN actions during 2022, over 123,000 women and youth acquired skills needed to join the job market; 700 semi-urban migrants, refugees, underemployed and under-skilled youth living in host communities in Khartoum State were trained in market-relevant trades; and more than 1,000 people attended a job fair for technical and vocational education training with 14 institutions.

A total of 129 infrastructure projects were established in conflict-affected communities throughout the country, including water yards, traditional water harvesting and storage techniques such as irrigation canals and mini-grids. As a result of asset provision, infrastructure construction, capacity-building, and linking primary producers to the private sector for markets, finance and improved technologies, 512,803 conflict-affected communities engaged in livelihood and economic recovery activities.

The UN also supported the installation of solar mini-grids and solar electrification of basic facilities such as schools, health care clinics and water yards. The UN also developed guidelines to identify opportunities to integrate environmental actions into structural plans, such as the planting of trees to reduce the speed of flood water and protect critical infrastructure.

In addition, the UN supported the establishment and operationalization of a cold storage facility and sesame cleaning machine for a farmers' association in Kassala State in East Sudan; the upgrade of another cold storage facility, and the installation of sesame cleaning machinery in New Halfa.

KEY CHALLENGES

- Erratic and unpredictable weather fluctuations.
- Water is a source of conflict between different groups in conflict-affected areas.
- Political instability and physical insecurity.

SDGS SUPPORTED



UN ENTITIES



OUTCOME 2.1 SUPPORT PREVENTION AND PHYSICAL PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

Achievement Highlights



2,700

lawyers, judges and security forces trained on human rights laws and standards.



185

police received protection training.



The Coalition for Peace, Justice and Tolerance in Darfur launched.

During 2022, over 3,000 people received capacity-building and informative trainings on topics such as international human rights laws and standards; human rights documentation, advocacy, monitoring and reporting skills; protection standards; and the role of civil society organizations (CSOs) in advancing human rights treaties. For example, in East Sudan, police and prosecutors strengthened their capacities on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) response and exchanged best practices on criminal prosecution coordination.

Throughout the year, there was a great focus on the Darfur region. For instance, 90 members of CSOs and native administration learned more about Juba Peace Agreement provisions and protocols related to justice and national reconciliation, and 60 rural court judges and native administration officials strengthened their capacities on record keeping and court proceedings. The UN launched the 'Coalition for Peace, Justice and Tolerance in Darfur' (comprised of 45 community, religious and civil society leaders) and another network to monitor gender integration into Darfur's transitional justice track. Moreover, the UN conducted awareness-raising campaigns for native administration officials on the peaceful resolution of conflict through mediation and for IDPs on reporting crimes.

The UN also supported efforts to trace missing persons, advocated for the right to truth and accountability, and promoted the use of a standard inter-agency child protection information management system (CPIMS+).

Moreover, the UN provided explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) to 256,834 people (in addition to UN and NGO staff) in conflict-affected areas. Through UN efforts, 1,033,631 square meters of land were confirmed free from explosive ordnance contamination and 27,369 unexploded devices (including mines, unexploded ordnance and small arms ammunition) were destroyed. Furthermore, over 64 km of roads opened in the Blue Nile region and two main roads were assessed in the Nuba Mountains, allowing for critical humanitarian delivery.

KEY CHALLENGES

- Hesitation by national authorities to create necessary committees.
- High turnover and weak capacities of partners made it difficult to identify and address needs for civil/birth registration and nationality procedures.
- Staff turnover decreased the UN's ability to effectively advocate for legal and policy reform.
- Conflict resulted in the suspension of a number of initiatives and activities.

SDGS SUPPORTED



UN ENTITIES



OUTCOME 2.2 ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE

Achievement Highlights



1,321

communities publicly abandoned FGM.



102,400

girls supported through the Saleema Initiative.



1,192

police, prosecutors and community members trained on SGBV prevention and response.



530

community-based child protection networks established and supported.



345

community volunteers trained on GBV prevention.

During 2022, the UN developed a road map on the implementation of the Juba Peace Agreement (JPA), organized four roundtables on international human rights standards and principles, and continued to monitor and report on grave violations of children's rights. The re-activated Country Task Force for monitoring grave violations was instrumental in ensuring the verification, release and community-based reintegration of children associated with armed forces and armed groups.

Through UN support, an action plan for Article 141 criminalizing female genital mutilation (FGM) was approved by the Minister of Social Development, and 150 law enforcement personnel were trained on Article 141. UN agencies continued work on a study, 'Rights of Women and Girls with Disabilities in Sudan's Legal and Policy Frameworks from the Lens of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities'. To inform the study, a roundtable discussion on legislation, policies and mechanisms relating to persons with disabilities was organized with 29 experts in attendance.

During 2022, the UN carried out three assessment and mapping missions in Darfur to better understand the situation regarding SGBV and conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) to provide recommendations for further action. As a result of these missions, the Women Protection Networks in 21 IDP camps were reactivated and 41 focal points identified to lead the networks. Moreover, the UN launched an awareness campaign against gender-based violence and piloted GBV case management capacity-building initiatives.



KEY CHALLENGES

- Inadequate access to essential services and livelihood opportunities exacerbated vulnerabilities and the risk of SGBV.
- There was a lack of partner support for SGBV prevention and response actions.
- Access to justice was severely restricted by distance to service locations, a scarcity of female police officers, a lack of legal knowledge, and language hurdles.
- Political instability and physical insecurity.

SDGS SUPPORTED



UN ENTITIES



Protection Against FGM

Nine-year old Fatima (not her real name), from Al Sunut village, West Kordofan State, is caught between her homelife, where she is protected from FGM, and her community, which is unfriendly to her being uncircumcised. Although legislation in Sudan criminalizes FGM, the harmful practice remains common and primarily done secretly. To protect Fatima, her family relocated. Fatima's mother, Hanadi, is now a member of the Al Sunut Child Protection Network. She has benefitted from several UN-supported child protection trainings, including those on FGM through the 'Saleema' initiative. The knowledge and information acquired have greatly changed her perception on female circumcision and today, she is determined to protect not only her daughters but all girls in her community against traditional harmful practices.

Photo: "My wife and I will do everything in our power to keep our daughters safe from getting circumcised. We have witnessed and felt the negative consequences of FGM in our communities, and it is our responsibility as parents and citizens to educate our people about this harmful practice," says the father of a nine-year old girl from Al Sunut village, West Kordofan State. @UNICEF Photo

OUTCOME 3.1 DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION

Achievement Highlights



Political framework agreed upon.



Draft transitional constitution developed.



40
women strengthened their capacities for effective political participation.



6,747
people reached about the dangers of extremism.

Throughout 2022, the UN supported Sudanese-led and Sudanese-owned political consultations and talks to agree on a way out of the ongoing political crisis. In early 2022, the UN launched an inclusive intra-Sudanese political process, which included extensive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders across Sudan to raise awareness and listen to concerns and demands on how to address Sudan's political crisis. Based on its conclusion, the Trilateral Mechanism formed with the African Union and IGAD and developed a framework for engagement for the next phase of the process.

The UN supported the greater inclusion of political parties to a Political Framework Agreement, promoted inclusive and broad-based consultations throughout Sudan, and empowered women's groups to be accepted as a formal party to the political talks. The Women's Rights Group provided gender-specific recommendations and perspectives, and received capacity-building and technical support from the UN on mediation and negotiation. With technical assistance from the UN, the Sudanese Bar Association developed a draft transitional constitution in August. On 5 December 2022, the Sudanese-led process culminated in the signing of the Political Framework Agreement between

the military and civilian parties, which laid the groundwork for a final political accord towards the restoration of a new civilian-led transitional government in Sudan. UN support ensured the inclusion of gender provisions in the Political Framework Agreement.

Through a UN workshop, 40 women in political parties, armed movements and civil society strengthened their capacities in mediation and negotiations. The UN also facilitated a workshop on countering hate speech with women's groups from conflict-affected regions, and 6,747 people were reached through awareness-raising campaigns focused on the dangers of extremism and the promotion of peace.

During December 2022, a focus group discussion was conducted with 12 members of the Catchment Management Agency in North Darfur to review the impacts of the various capacity-building activities, including conflict resolution and natural resources management. These talks led to the drafting of two state-level natural resource management decrees and helped reduce farmer-pastoralist tensions.

KEY CHALLENGES

- Insecurity, a lack of long-term solutions to land-related problems and political instability hindered sustainable reform efforts.

UN ENTITIES



UNITAMS

UN WOMEN

SDGS SUPPORTED



Including Women's Priorities in the Transition

A nation-wide consultative process, organized by the UN, brought together women from CSOs, political parties, women's groups, and armed movements; women with disabilities; internally displaced persons; academics; active members of professional associations; and women working in informal sectors, such as domestic workers. Participants discussed the challenges and opportunities facing the formulation of a unified women's agenda, including lessons learned from the previous transitional period, generational gaps between women rights advocates, and the absence of platforms for diverse women's groups to engage in constructive dialogues. Participants highlighted the importance of women's meaningful participation to achieve these priorities, whether in legislative bodies or the executive government. Common priorities emerged, including the need for inclusive security, equitable economic development, and improved access to basic services such as health and education. Discussions across consultations highlighted the issue of violence against women, especially domestic violence, and the urgent need for legislative and institutional support. "The agenda must be a rights-based agenda that includes all women's rights issues, even when localized to a culture or a context or a region," said one young participant.

OUTCOME 3.2 SOCIAL COHESION AND INCLUSION

Achievement Highlights



The Permanent Ceasefire Committee began actively monitoring the ceasefire in Darfur.



160

adolescent boys and young men reached through Peace Clubs.



75

officials sensitized on migration and mixed migration issues.



A two-day exchange between farmers and pastoralists in North Darfur.



A Crisis Risk Dashboard developed.

Progress was made in the operationalization of the ceasefire monitoring mechanism in Darfur as outlined in the Juba Peace Agreement (JPA), which contributed to a significant reduction of conflict between the armed movements in the region. Chaired by the UN, the Permanent Ceasefire Committee (PCC) established its headquarters and field offices and began to actively monitor the ceasefire in Darfur, including investigating ceasefire violations, complaints and incidents.

Through two advocacy forums organized by the UN, 75 officials from the Government, academia, CSOs, and the media were sensitized on migration and mixed migration issues. An additional 55 personnel from the National Population Council (NPC), the Central Bureau of Statistics, and other Government officials enhanced their capacities on migration and mixed migration data and statistics, and 27 NPC staff enhanced their capacities on project management.

Throughout 2022, the United Nations conducted a series of peacebuilding assessments in seven states of Sudan, which facilitated a shared understanding of conflict and peace dynamics at the sub-national level. The UN also supported the capacity-building of sub-national government

partners on land management as a key enabling factor for durable solutions and peacebuilding.

In Darfur, the UN focused on supporting Crop Protection Committees, which are responsible for resolving disputes between farmers and pastoralists during the agricultural season. The UN established the foundations for a conflict early warning system through the Crisis Risk Dashboard (CRD), a mechanism for conflict monitoring and reporting.

Peacebuilding practitioners in the UN system and national NGOs/CSOs in Sudan built their capacities in conflict-sensitive programming. Twelve (12) Living Peace Clubs reached more than 160 adolescent boys and young men. Along with the Sudan Volunteers Club, the UN trained 60 young persons from four states on leadership, citizenship and team-building skills. To counter misinformation and disinformation, young journalists were trained on conflict-sensitive reporting.

In late 2022, the UN brought together host community and refugee representatives in Gedarif (where there is an influx of refugees from Tigray, Ethiopia) to form a joint committee and set priorities together for further community

development and cultural exchange. In October, a two-day visit to the pastoralists' settlements upstream was organized with 30 participants from North Darfur, representing 21 villages, to build trust and social relationships between the farmers and pastoralists.

KEY CHALLENGES

- Insufficient support for control and collection of small arms and light weapons.
- A lack of support for local-level peace agreements that promote community engagement, mediation, and efforts at reconciliation aimed at minimizing intercommunal violence, especially conflict between farmers and pastoralists.

SDGS SUPPORTED



UN ENTITIES



Peacebuilding through Local Committees

As a member of his local Farm Protection Committee (FPC), 46-year-old Abdel Aziz Bashr Dahab Suliman works to build peace, juggling time between resolving disputes, teaching at the local elementary school, and farming. Access to legal systems to resolve disputes is limited in some of Sudan's remote areas. The UN trains local communities to settle disputes and resolve conflicts, building on existing traditional conflict resolution mechanisms. More than 250 UN-supported conflict resolution committees and groups work across Darfur to mitigate and resolve local agricultural or livestock related disputes, and other issues where risk of conflict is high. "The nature of conflicts arising around this area is between farmers and pastoralists," said Abdel Aziz. "The committee acts fast to contain and de-escalate the situation between the two parties." Through the efforts of Abdel Aziz's FPC and others in the area, a recent conflict that erupted in other parts of the locality did not spill over.

2.3 SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIP AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

Because of the immense and unique challenges facing Sudan, the country has not been able to implement much of the 2030 Agenda or achieve many SDGs. Nonetheless, the SDGs were integrated into the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) 2021-2023, and the National Audit Chamber (in charge of accounting and reporting the budget cycle) established a separate SDG Auditing Department. However, SDGs are not yet integrated into the budget, and Sudan has not yet developed an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF), though it has conducted a Preliminary Development Finance Assessment as a step towards an INFF.

In 2022, a Voluntary National Review noted that due to the fragmented sources of financing SDGs, greater support is needed to establish an INFF. The Review also found that in order to achieve the SDGs, the country will need extensive capacity-building across many sectors, as well as financial and technical assistance and policy advice from international partners, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, and the United Nations.

Throughout the year, the UN supported the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MoFEP) in mapping the financing landscape to establish an INFF, provided an overview of development finance flows, supported the Government with policy and institutional recommendations for strengthening the alignment of development finance flows with national priorities and results, and supported planning and budgeting processes in the context of the SDGs.



2.4 RESULTS OF THE UN WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER: UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

TAILORED UNCT CONFIGURATION

The UN in Sudan is committed to working across the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus in order to responsibly and effectively address the root causes of socio-economic vulnerability and humanitarian need. The major clearing house for planning joint interventions across the HDP nexus remains the integrated UNCT structure, including the Integrated Programme Management Team (IPMT) at the Khartoum level and the Area Coordination Teams in the regions, as well as representatives of UNITAMS and UN humanitarian/development agencies.

Different working groups, such as the Rule of Law Working Group and the Peacebuilding Working Group, were a means of enhancing coordination and forging partnerships, including joint programme development. The Integrated Operations Management Team (IOMT) has been driving the joint logistical backbone of the integrated mission in Sudan, including the exercise around the Business Operating Strategy (BOS). Similarly, the Integrated Communications Group (ICG) continued to advance joint communications positioning of the UN in Sudan, while the Integrated Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Group (IMEL) provided rigorous quality control of joint UN work plans and results.

As the highest country-level international humanitarian coordination platform with extended presence in the field, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) continued to ensure that humanitarian action alleviated human suffering and protected the lives, livelihoods and dignity of people in need. A resilience component was incorporated into the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan.

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Network

In Sudan, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HC) has system-wide responsibility for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) in-country and chairs the Sudan PSEA Network, which is made up of UN agencies, NGOs and donor organizations. It is the primary body for technical-level implementation and coordination of PSEA activities as outlined in the 2022/3 PSEA Action Plan.

In 2022, five PSEA Network meetings were held at the Khartoum level, monthly meetings were held in the refugee response in Eastern Sudan (Gedaref State), and a PSEA Working Group was established in West Darfur. During the year, 4,382 staff, volunteers and partners were trained or oriented on PSEA; 2,418 community members, committees, leaders, local and governmental authorities and service providers received targeted PSEA training or orientation; 11,148 people in affected populations were reached through PSEA awareness-raising activities; and four sexual exploitation and abuse victims were identified, received assistance and had their allegations referred for investigation.

IMPLEMENTATION OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS STRATEGY

In 2020, the Integrated Operations Management Team (IOMT), under the overall leadership and guidance of UNCT, prepared BOS 2.0 to facilitate the implementation of Delivery as One (DaO) by harmonizing operational practices of UN bodies, agencies, funds, and programmes in Sudan. Twenty-five (25) UN entities engage in BOS, including the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator (RCO), the World Bank and three non-resident entities (ILO, UNAIDS and UNODC).

BOS 2.0 incorporated 28 common services across all common service lines. Common services support the collective response of the UN system to national development priorities in Sudan as outlined in the UNDAF, along with the Country Programme Documents of UNDP, UNICEF, and UNFPA, as well as WFP's Country Strategic Plan. All common services, including high-impact common services, are coordinated by IOMT and directly managed by lead agencies



of the IOMT Working Groups (WG), as indicated in the BOS document. Quantitative and qualitative key performance indicators have been established to support the annual monitoring of BOS against fixed targets.

In addition, BOS is being used as a monitoring tool, while providing management of the UN's joint business activities, which has allowed IOMT and UNCT to revise and further strengthen the monitoring, management and evaluation of the "One Office" component of DaO in Sudan. Furthermore, implementing BOS in Sudan has improved the quality and impact of inter-agency business operations by improving the planning, implementation, monitoring and management of IOMT and its activities.

These actions have led to greater time efficiency, costs avoidance, quality improvement, costs recovery, donor accountability and collaborative growth of new innovations and opportunities for further collaboration to reduce high transaction costs. Improvements included increased quality assurance to ensure customer satisfaction, streamlined service management across locations, increased transparency of services and a reduction in CO2 emissions by bringing services to one source. The potential cost benefits of all of these efforts in 2022 are projected to be \$4.6 million.

Moreover, to achieve even greater utility of available resources, the UN conducted a complete mapping and subsequent data quality assurance on the location, space, occupancy and running costs of UN premises in Sudan. The UN used to occupy 108 premises in 28 locations

in Sudan, with almost half of the staff based in Khartoum. Of the total number of premises, only 31 percent were common premises—indicating great potential for consolidation towards cost efficiency and effective utilization of shared resources. IOMT members committed to analyse the data to identify potential locations for premise consolidation and to work towards the development of business cases for new common premises initiatives.

COMMUNICATING AND ADVOCATING TOGETHER

In 2022, the UN Integrated Communications Group (UN-ICG) coordinated, organized and implemented joint activities in observance of UN Days, developed key messages and produced content highlighting the activities of the UN in Sudan.

Key activities included:

- To mark International Women's Day, the UN-ICG launched a digital campaign highlighting the importance of gender equality in the context of climate change and environmental risk.
- In observance of World Environment Day and to mark the historic milestone of 50 years since the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment, the UN-ICG worked with UN entities, civil society, academia and the private sector to hold a panel discussion, exhibition and video screening. The group also developed two videos.

- As part of the joint activities organized in observance of the International Day of Peace, eight Youth Peace Ambassadors involved in the UNHCR/UNDP Youth Empowerment in Civic Spaces project in Central and West Darfur and two refugees from North Darfur visited Khartoum and attended the Peace Day event hosted by the RCO and organized by the UN-ICG.
- To commemorate UN Day, the UN-ICG supported the organization and implementation of a joint event for 600 UN personnel and their families, hosted by the RCO and WFP’s FLOCK (Family Liaison Outreach Community with or without Kids) volunteer network in Khartoum.
- The UN-ICG provided communications support to the UNCT in Sudan in preparation for the transition planning meeting in December 2022, including developing key messages around thematic priorities.

2.5 EVALUATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

In 2022, the UNCT commissioned an independent evaluation of the UNDAF 2018-2021. The report found that several challenges slowed implementation of the UNDAF, primarily the deteriorating economic and political situations and the COVID-19 pandemic. As a

result of the fast-shifting political climate, the UNCT had to repurpose resources from the delivery of basic services to the support of protection of civilians, human rights, and rule of law programmes and activities.

The report also found that a lack of evidence-based data had a negative impact on Government actors’ ability to identify changing and pressing needs, which, in turn, negatively impacted the UNCT’s capacity to undertake projects and interventions.

Among the recommendations in the report were the following:

- Reactivate the Technical Steering Group to monitor the difficulties in implementing the UNDAF/UN Common Approach activities in the country.
- Consistently integrate risk assessments and emergency preparedness exercises into planning and implementation, especially given Sudan’s unstable environment.
- Facilitate innovative resource mobilization and strategic results by strengthening advocacy and strategic partnerships.

The UNCT integrated the evaluation’s key findings, lessons learned and recommendations into the formulation of its new United Nations Interim Cooperation Framework (ICF), which was initially planned for 2024-2026 and will have to be revised in the light of current circumstances.



2.6 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

2.6.1 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2022 Expenditures by Outcomes (totals)

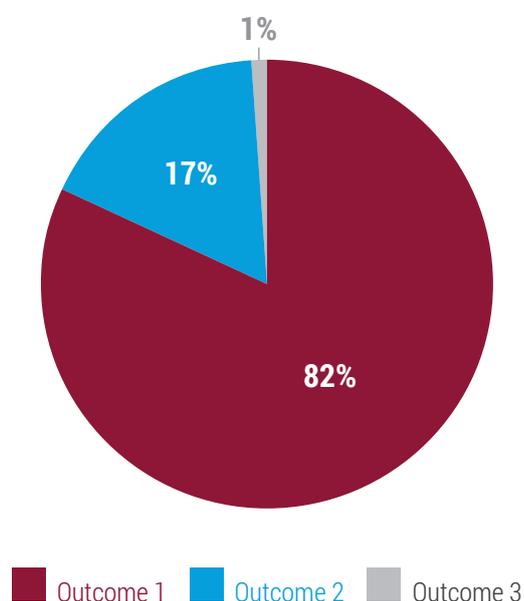
	Projected Available	Total per Agency	Total Expenditures
Outcome 1	753,376,305	755,526,074	520,380,113
Outcome 2	108,615,000	108,615,000	108,615,000
Outcome 3	7,088,458	7,088,458	6,907,222
Total	869,079,763	871,229,532	635,902,335

2.6.2 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

As stated earlier, the political challenges since the coup have led to a sharp decrease in and freezing of funds for development. However, pooled fund mechanisms are critical for the support of peacebuilding, peacemaking and stabilization efforts in Sudan. Two pooled funds are of particular importance: the Sudan Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) and the United Nations Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). In 2022, the UNCT in Sudan endorsed a strategic results framework to bring PBF and MPTF investments together.



2022 Expenditures by Outcome (percentage)



The Sudan MPTF

The Sudan MPTF aims to advance UN integrated planning across the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus in Sudan. It is the primary funding vehicle to operationalize the UNITAMS mandate. As of 2022, its active portfolio comprises three projects totaling over \$6 million, with thematic areas covering the implementation of peace agreements, protection of civilians and rule of law.

- **Programme to support the ‘Good Offices’ functions of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) of UNITAMS** (\$5.9 million) aims to support the SRSG good offices function in supporting the peace process and implementation of current and future peace agreements in Sudan, with a focus on supporting inclusive dialogue to restore a Sudanese-owned way forward for the transition; effective advocacy for human rights and protection of civilians; the implementation of the Juba Peace Agreement; and other peace initiatives.
- **Capacity support to align the National Plan for Protection of Civilians throughout the Government of Sudan project** (\$70,000) provides technical support to the National Mechanism for Civilian Protection in the implementation of the National Plan for Civilian Protection. (Note: *This project is on hold pending greater clarity on the political situation and the status of the National Mechanism.*)
- **Training for the members of the Permanent Ceasefire Committee (PCC) and its structures** (\$184,896), in the context of the JPA, aims to support the operationalization of the PCC by strengthening the capacity of the PCC and its members to monitor the permanent ceasefire in Darfur, including investigating and verifying alleged ceasefire violations to prevent escalation and conflict, using a capacity-building approach.

UN Peacebuilding Fund

The PBF is a global pooled fund and the United Nations’ financial instrument of first resort to sustain peace in countries or situations at risk of or affected by violent conflict. In 2022, the PBF approved four new projects for an additional investment of \$13.5 million (bringing its total investment in Sudan to over \$60 million). One new investment of \$10 million to Red Sea, Kassala and Gedarif states in East Sudan supports strengthening community-level conflict resolution mechanisms, ensuring meaningful participation of women and youth in local peacebuilding processes, and enhancing access to and management of basic services, natural resources and livelihoods. Two additional new projects (totalling \$3.5 million) aim to build the capacities of women-led and youth-led organizations and empower women and young people in Sudan to engage in the political and peacebuilding spheres.

In 2020-2021, a large-scale analysis and community planning process covering eight localities across Darfur’s five states was conducted to provide a shared evidence base for peacebuilding and durable solutions under the UN Peacebuilding Fund. While the locality-level evidence has been informing the Darfur PBF programme, the cross-cutting trends analysis and the locality Action Plans are intended to inform HDP nexus programming and policy.



Photo: On 16 October 2022 in Khartoum, Sudan, girl students attend class at Umhani Primary School in Mayo village, Jabal Aulia locality. More than 300 girls aged 6 – 12 years are enrolled here. © UNICEF/UN0741692/Zehbrauskas



CHAPTER 3: UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR THE NEXT YEAR

The current situation in Sudan is fragile, and there remains a great deal of uncertainty about what the future holds. Due to the outbreak of the conflict in April 2023, most UN staff members have been evacuated, with some UN Agencies and Programmes relocated to a hub in Port Sudan to support the humanitarian response. There is an immediate need for increased shelter, food, water, sanitation, protection, SGBV prevention, trauma care and other assistance. The UN estimates the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance increased from 15.8 million in November 2022 to 24.7 million in May 2023 (more than half the population). As a result, the appeal for the Humanitarian Response Plan for Sudan was recently revised upwards to \$2.56 billion, the largest appeal ever for the country.

Before the immediate crisis, the UNCT was in the final stages of developing its Interim Cooperation Framework (2024-2026), which was

expected to serve as the integrated strategic framework between UNITAMS and the UNCT, outlining the integrated support of the UN and covering programme areas of both UNITAMS and UNCT (e.g., advancing peace, security, the rule of law, human rights, stabilization, resilience, and sustainable and inclusive economic and social development in Sudan). However, due to the eruption of the conflict in April 2023, the draft UN Interim Cooperation Framework was put on hold and the existing United Nations Development Assistance Framework was extended until 31 December 2024.

The UN is committed to supporting Sudan and the people of Sudan in this current crisis and over the long-term in terms of people, peace, the planet, prosperity and partnerships, with a focus on the needs of the most vulnerable and with the participation of all.

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