



UNITED
NATIONS
SUDAN



**UNITED
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IN SUDAN**
**ANNUAL
REPORT
2023**



Cover photo: Nineteen-year-old Aziza Mohammed Izak was about to start her final year of secondary school in Khartoum, eager to move on to university. Instead, she is living her in anguish after Sudan's war upended her life last year, forcing her to leave her home in the capital and everything she knew. Photo: WFP/Leni Kinzli.

Photo above: The UN and partners are implementing an integrated multisectoral cholera response action plan to contain the spread of the life-threatening disease. Photo: UNICEF Sudan.



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Photo: Women and children continue to bear the brunt of conflict, emergencies and hardship. To ensure a bright future for the children of Sudan, the UN and partners deliver multi-year, integrated health, protection, education and WASH services to create a safe and enabling environment for children to survive and thrive. Photo: UNICEF Sudan/Algalla.

FOREWORD



This report focuses on 2023, another challenging year for Sudan as political crises escalated and remained unresolved. As of April 2024, one year into the devastating country-wide conflict, half of Sudan's population, 25 million people, are in need of humanitarian assistance. Additionally, 8.6 million people are displaced inside and outside Sudan, and over 14,000 women, men, and children have reportedly been killed.

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Sudan responded to the outbreak of violence in April 2023 by relocating many programmes and agencies to Port Sudan. We quickly adjusted programmatic and funding priorities to open new offices and warehouses to meet the most immediate needs in an ever-changing and worsening situation. The need for shelter, food, water, sanitation, protection, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention, trauma care and other assistance continues to increase throughout the country.

In 2024, UN partners appealed for US\$4.1 billion through the 2024 Sudan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan and the 2024 Sudan Refugee Response Plan to address the most urgent humanitarian needs in Sudan and neighbouring countries hosting large populations of Sudanese refugees. This represents a significant increase from the 2023 appeal of \$2.56 billion which was the largest appeal for the country at the time, highlighting the severity of the situation on the ground.

Insecurity and looting of partners' assets and supplies have challenged the humanitarian response, as have floods and other destruction of infrastructure. Nonetheless, several key achievements were realized through UN programmes and interventions, including: 15.4 million children screened for malnutrition; 8.5 million children under-five vaccinated against polio; 6.2 million people benefitted from food assistance; 313,400 children received lifesaving malnutrition treatment; nearly 200,000 children and women accessed GBV risk mitigation, prevention, or response interventions; over 150,000 people learned about mine and UXO risk and peacebuilding; nine human rights forums organized; and the Darfur Permanent Ceasefire Committee established and operationalized.

I thank our partners and the dedicated UN staff in Sudan and elsewhere for their dedication, commitment and contributions amidst this challenging environment. The UN is committed to continuing and expanding our lifesaving work, with a focus on returning to political negotiations and alleviating human suffering.

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, UNEP, UN-Habitat, UN Women, UNDP, UNDSS/ISS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNIC, UNISFA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNITAMS, UNMAS, UNOPS, UNV, 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. The UN was also 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). In December 2023, the Security Council terminated the mandate of UNITAMS and began winding down its operations over a three-month period.



Photo: Children in Sudan have been engulfed in a war that is violating their basic rights on a daily basis—including depriving them of their right to quality education. Photo: UNICEF/Mohamdeen.



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 different sources such as 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. In July 2023, they reiterated their support for UNITAMS and the Special Representative of the Secretary General and their work to assist the Sudanese people.

Photo: Once a promising young doctor in Khartoum, Razan now lives in a makeshift camp for people displaced by Sudan's conflict, where she is using her skills to help her community. Photo: UNHCR/Mohamed Rached Cherif.



CHAPTER 1: KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

THE DISPLACED POPULATION HAS LOST ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL ASSETS LIKE LAND, FOOD, HOUSES AND PRIVATE PROPERTY, WHILE ALSO EXPERIENCING INADEQUATE ACCESS TO HEALTH, WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES.



The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have been fighting since 15 April 2023 in a nationwide armed conflict that has killed tens of thousands and displaced millions from their homes. As a result, Sudan is facing one of the fastest unfolding crises globally, with unprecedented needs emerging in a short period. About 25 million people—over 14 million of whom are children—need humanitarian assistance and support. More than 8 million people – about 15 percent of the total population of the country – have fled their homes since the conflict started, making Sudan the largest internal displacement crisis globally.

The displaced population has lost access to essential assets like land, food, houses and private property, while also experiencing inadequate access to health, water and sanitation services. Critical civilian infrastructure, residences and markets have been subject to looting, damage, and destruction. Suspected cholera cases continue to increase, with 10,783 cases and 296 associated deaths reported in 11 states. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that 15 million people across the country lack access to health care, and between 70–80 percent of health facilities are not functioning due to the ongoing conflict. Moreover, 19 million school-aged children risk losing out on their education, with grave implications for their prospects.

The food security crisis in Sudan has escalated. The devastating conflict and organized violence, coupled with the continued economic decline, have driven about 17.7 million people across Sudan (37 percent of the population) into high levels of acute food insecurity. The 2023-2024 agricultural season is expected to be below average. The latest World Food Programme



(WFP) data indicate that wheat flour prices have increased by 103 percent since the conflict started, while the price of sorghum, the staple food for most people in Sudan, has increased by 45 percent. The price of the local food basket has also increased by 83 percent since the first quarter of 2023.

The Sudanese pound's decline against foreign currencies continues, fueled by military spending, a weak economy, high import needs and an increasing demand for foreign currency by Sudanese citizens, who seek to leave the country. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates that Sudan's gross domestic product (GDP) has declined by around 18 percent in 2023, however internal estimates of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning point to a much deeper economic contraction of around 40 percent due to the disruption of production, exports, national and international projects and poor revenue collection.

In addition to internal displacement, the conflict in Sudan has caused the mixed cross-border movements of around 1.9 million individuals into neighbouring countries as of February 2024. The majority of arrivals were reported in Chad (37 percent), South Sudan (31 percent) and Egypt (25 percent), exacerbating already-dire security and humanitarian situations in the region. In border areas with Sudan, the prices of fuel, medical goods and essential food staples have reportedly spiked, negatively affecting both local populations and migrants.



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.

Six 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. However, following the suspension of the finalization of an ICF for 2024–2026, the United Nations Country Team and UNITAMS jointly updated the United Nations Common Approach to complement the existing United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which was extended until 31 December 2024.



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



15.4 million

children screened for malnutrition.



8.5 million

children under-five vaccinated against polio.



6.2 million

people benefitted from food assistance.



2.6 million

people received cash and food transfers.



1.8 million

people benefitted from WASH facility construction and rehabilitation.



313,400

children received lifesaving malnutrition treatment.



418,185

people benefitted from climate-resilient agricultural practices.



186,743

children and women access GBV risk mitigation, prevention, or response interventions.



152,851

people learned about mine and UXO risk and peacebuilding.



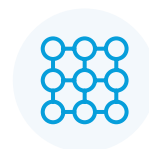
28,713

individuals received protection assistance.



168,420

people received shelter assistance.



Nine human rights forums organized.



The Darfur Permanent Ceasefire Committee established and operationalized.

2.2 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES, OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

OUTCOME 1.1 BASIC SERVICES

Key Achievements

 <p>15.4 million children screened for malnutrition.</p>	 <p>313,400 children received lifesaving malnutrition treatment.</p>	 <p>8.5 million children under-five vaccinated against polio.</p>
 <p>6.2 million people benefitted from food assistance.</p>	 <p>3.4 million people vaccinated against COVID-19.</p>	 <p>2.6 million people received cash and food transfers.</p>
 <p>2.39 million people benefitted from WASH facility construction, expansion and rehabilitation.</p>	 <p>1.02 million out-patient consultations were made.</p>	

To adapt to the evolving context, the UN expanded its network with international and local NGOs, private sector and community actors, and increased delivery through direct cash. The UN also established new offices and warehouses in Madani, Atbara, and reopened its office in Gedaref. As a result of the UN's ability to quickly adapt to the challenging operating environment, normal food assistance operations resumed just three weeks after they were temporarily suspended on April 15, when the conflict began. From April 2023 through December 2023, the UN

assisted 6.2 million internally displaced people (IDPs), refugees and residents through general food assistance, including in-kind food, cash and nutrition across all the 18 states of Sudan.

The UN also reached 15.4 million children with malnutrition screening—313,400 of whom received lifesaving treatment. Over 7.5 million children under five-years old benefited from services for the early prevention, detection and treatment of child wasting. More than 2.6 million people received cash and food transfers,

facilitated by the restructured Sudan Emergency Safety Net Project, and the Mother and Child Cash Transfer Plus (MCCT+) programme reached more than 50,000 pregnant and lactating women. At community level, 684 health workers were trained on community management of acute malnutrition, 731 volunteers were trained on community outreach.



Displaced but Empowered

“The war displaced my whole family and my children never healed from the horror they felt,” says Awadeya Mahmoud. She and her family of 10 had to flee their south-Khartoum neighbourhood. Two days after the bombing, Mahmoud and her children made it to Albageir village in Gezira state. “I had to sell [many of] my belongings to be able to take my family to safety,” says Mahmoud, who leads a cooperative of women caterers, including tea vendors like herself. Luckily, the families she had fled with found a house to cram into with a total of 37 children. Using food such as flour, oil, and yellow split beans from the UN, Mahmoud put her skills to work and started cooking for fellow displaced people. “We are on full stomachs now,” she says of the families who escaped with hers.

To respond to the worsening health crises, the UN adapted the primary health care (PHC) acceleration plan to crisis response and reached 720 PHC facilities across all 18 States, provided medical equipment to health facilities, and distributed lifesaving health supplies for 6.4 million children and their families. As health workers have not received salaries, the UN paid incentives to over 3,000 frontline health workers. Over 2.6 million children and mothers received services at PHCs, over half a million children and

mothers received integrated management of childhood illnesses. The UN also provided life-saving health services through multi-disciplinary mobile clinics and reached over 6.4 million people with health care supplies. In addition to physical health services, the UN provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services to over 640,000 people.

Throughout the year, UNICEF maintained the national cold room in Khartoum and ensured

continuous distribution of vaccines to all states. This was possible through a new vaccine supply hub and replenishing destroyed items. A total of 899,292 children received pentavalent first dose and 960,800 received measles vaccines (83,734 in areas with outbreaks). In addition, 8.5 million children under-five received a polio vaccine and 3.4 million people (including adults) received COVID-19 vaccination. In addition to serious constraints of access and capacity to deliver services Sudan was hit with unfolding disease outbreaks – cholera, measles, dengue fever and malaria. In 2023, Sudan reported 8,709 cholera cases with 242 deaths in nine States. Throughout the country over one million Sudanese suffered from malaria, and 6,942 dengue cases were registered.

Moreover, the UN’s oral cholera vaccine campaign covered 99.6 percent of the target population in Gedarif, Gezira and Madani states, and 64.5 percent in Khartoum. And to further combat the outbreaks, the UN procured and delivered over one million anti-malaria tablets, 326,276 antimalarial injections and 33,173 diagnostic tests to the Ministry of Health.

The UN also supported communities during cholera outbreaks by providing water treatment resources and assisted in enhancing basic healthcare facilities and infrastructure. In addition, 1,000 community hygiene promoters and WASH committee members strengthened their capacities in WASH-related cholera control measures, and over three tons of liquid chlorine and six tons of household-level water purification products for major riverine cities were procured and distributed. Beyond the cholera response, the UN supported the rehabilitation and construction of water supply systems and sanitation facilities, such as latrines, washing units and waste disposal units (incinerators), reaching 1.8 million residents of Kassala state, and 570,000 refugees and 20,500 refugees and IDPs in Doka. Overall, 5.9 million people were supported with safe drinking water and 130 supported communities were certified as ‘open defecation-free’.

A flagship training on ‘community management for operation and maintenance’ strengthened the capacities of 3,214 local community members to operate and manage their own WASH services and led to the formation of 310 WASH committees.

The conflict pushed 12.5 million children out of school on top of 7 million children already not in school pre-war. The UN and partners established 842 child-friendly safe learning spaces that provided structured learning and psychosocial support to 231,000 children (51 percent girls) by trained and attentive teachers while most schools remained closed. Over 6,750 facilitators were trained and equipped with skills to support children’s well-being and learning. The Learning Passport initiative continued to support uninterrupted learning for 35,000 children in areas of active conflict, displaced or on the move in Sudan and in neighboring countries.

KEY CHALLENGES

- Limited availability of local suppliers for procuring medicines and medical items, exacerbated by transport restrictions and supply chain interruptions due to the conflict, led to several cancellations of planned procurements.
- The worsening food security situation observed in Sudan continued to directly affect the nutrition status of populations in need.
- Needs have rapidly increased since the outbreak of conflict, stretching the capacities of existing specialists and partners.
- Delays in obtaining permissions from governmental institutions like the Ministry of Interior and Humanitarian Aid Commission were experienced, in addition to unique administrative difficulties associated with each region and state.

SDGS SUPPORTED



UN ENTITIES



OUTCOME 1.2 LIVELIHOODS AND LOCAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Key Achievements



418,185

people benefited from climate-resilient agricultural practices.



2,917

people received vocational training



120

community forests established.



35

farmer cooperatives established.

During 2023, the UN produced a baseline report to assist informal enterprises in Sudan in transitioning to sustainable growth and formalization. Through the Integrated SDG Financing Framework, the UN is assessing the negative impact of the triple crisis (food, energy, and financial) on food insecurity and livelihood impoverishment among Sudan's resident population, internally displaced people, and host communities. The first chapter of the assessment was written and distributed, including amendments after the outbreak of the conflict.

Furthermore, the MPI assessment included Sudan's 18 states and 185 localities has been completed, and the field survey final report is under preparation expected to be finished by early 2024. The goal of the survey is to quantify poverty across all its dimensions. Survey training was provided to 319 researchers, supervisors, network and IT teams.

The UN published a study on 'Climate Change, Conflict and Migration Nexus and Water Scarcity' in Sudan and Libya, following the close engagement of IOM Sudan's field teams in data collection and validation. Throughout 2023, the UN also helped improve peoples' resilience and natural resources management in nine states, through the adoption of climate-resilient agricultural packages, including the distribution of improved seeds and interventions in the water sector, benefiting a total of 418,185 people. Climate smart packages also included the improvement of rangelands, opening of 750 km of fire lines, and the establishment of 120 community forests covering 107,933 feddans. The UN also promoted the Sudanese market for efficient electrical appliances by conducting studies and formulating policy documents.



Photo: An aerial view of relief items being distributed to newly arrived Sudanese refugees at the Madjigilta site in Chad. Photo: UNHCR/Colin Delfosse.



Six community consultations were conducted in River Nile, Aj Jazirah, North Darfur, Gedaref, Blue Nile, and White Nile states, ensuring the active participation of local communities in the planning and implementation of livelihood initiatives. A total of 1,000 women farmers cultivated 2000 feddans of sorghum/millet, an additional 5,252 farmers and agro-entrepreneurs participated in trainings, and 35 farmers' cooperatives were established.

Trainings were conducted to improve the capacity of government partners from vocational training and employment centres (VTECs), the Supreme Council for Human Development and Labour, the Supreme Council for Vocational Training and Apprenticeship, the Federal Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Khartoum State Ministry of Industry. Nearly 3,000 people strengthened their capacities in different vocational skills, including English language, computer and entrepreneurship in four supported VTECs. Moreover, the UN built five training facilities, equipped with learning materials providing lifelong learning opportunities to 165 youth in Darfur.

Before the eruption of war, planners, engineers, and surveyors from the Ministry of Infrastructures and Urban Planning strengthened their knowledge, skills, and abilities related to land administration, mobile data collection, and utilization of survey equipment, aiming to improve the security of land tenure, and a Land Information Centre and an urban observatory centre were established.

The UN also supported asset recovery for vulnerable groups, including livestock restocking,

donkey carts, and seeds to more than 23,000 vulnerable individuals throughout the country, and nearly 600 individuals participated in workshops, training sessions, and livelihood assistance programmes, fostering economic empowerment and resilience-building within local communities in West Darfur and Gedaref.

KEY CHALLENGES

- Market conditions and context changed rapidly due to the conflict, requiring geographic and thematic shifts of food security and livelihoods (FSL) programming.
- Maintaining engagement on higher-level or pre-existing issues of climate change, environmental degradation, and their intersection with conflict and human mobility was challenging in the context of conflict, as immediate humanitarian interventions were naturally prioritized.

SDGS SUPPORTED



UN ENTITIES



OUTCOME 1.3 CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Key Achievements



90,000

people benefitted from productive infrastructure support.



28

solarized water distribution points and 37 solar pumps provided.



21

water supply systems constructed, repaired, expanded, and upgraded.



Two agro-processing industrial infrastructures established.



Two solar-based agro products introduced.



168,420

people received shelter assistance.

The UN has provided productive infrastructure to support economic recovery and peaceful co-existence, benefiting over 90,000 individuals, including nomads, IDPs, returnees and host communities. This included constructing or rehabilitating three warehouses and water pumps for small irrigation in Central, West Darfur, and East Darfur states; the establishment of two agro-processing industrial infrastructures; two new solar-based agro products introduced in the market; 21 water supply systems constructed, repaired, expanded and upgraded; 28 solarized water distribution points provided in Wad Madani and 37 solar pumps for irrigation in agriculture provided. Five water supply solar pumping systems were upgraded in White Nile. Nearly 170,000 people (IDPs, refugees, asylum seekers and host community members) benefitted from tukul construction and emergency shelter support.

The UN procured equipment for conversion of foaming technology in two companies, which will phase out over 160 metric tons of HCFC-141b. The technology is currently stored in Port-Sudan because of the ongoing armed conflict.

In addition, the UN constructed and rehabilitated 5,168 latrines and installed 223 handwashing facilities.

KEY CHALLENGES

- There are bureaucratic and administrative impediments preventing the UN from reaching out to conflict-affected populations to support the restoration of basic services impacted by the crisis and expanding access to key infrastructure.
- Funding sources have been reduced drastically, affecting UN's ability to respond adequately.

SDGS SUPPORTED



UN ENTITIES



OUTCOME 2.1 SUPPORT PREVENTION AND PHYSICAL PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

Key Achievements



152,851

people learned about mine and UXO risk and peacebuilding.



28,713

individuals received protection assistance.



12,000

new asylum arrivals registered.



1,698

community members trained to act as paralegals.



400

Government officials received legal training.

As of 30 December 2023, 5.85 million Sudanese are internally displaced, and 1.52 million have crossed borders into neighboring countries. The conflict has also led to an increase in human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, and forced displacements.

To support and protect civilians, the UN oversaw the expansion of Migrant Resource and Response Centres (MRRCs) operations, with mobile outreach teams deployed to crisis-affected areas in four states. Victims of trafficking and other high-risk individuals received essential protection responses, food aid, medical assistance, and legal representation facilitated through a legal partner. Throughout the country, 28,713 individuals received protection assistance; 14,558 were assisted at the MRRCs and 14,155 were assisted through mobile outreach operations. Sudan kept its borders open for people who want to seek asylum, and reception, registration, Refugee Status Determinations (RSD) continues in states where access permits. In 2023, about 12,000 new arrivals were registered.

Throughout 2023, 1,698 community members were trained on Sudanese criminal law, laws relevant to child protection and refugees' rights, as well as traditional justice mechanisms to

enable them to act as paralegals, including to identify cases for referral to legal practitioners for counseling and assistance. To improve knowledge on human rights, the UN organized training for 45 civil society organization members and lawyers on monitoring, documentation and reporting on human rights.

Almost 2,200 individuals participated in awareness raising sessions on humanitarian assistance, health services, MHPSS and risks associated with irregular migration; another 415 people participated in awareness-raising sessions on the rights and responsibilities of migrants and displaced persons, as well as sessions on housing, land and property rights; and 235 migrants, IDPs and host community members participated in counter-trafficking awareness-raising sessions.





Youth Helping Refugees

When hundreds of people fleeing fighting in Khartoum started flocking to his hometown of Wad Madani, Abdelraheem Osman immediately mobilized his friends from a local youth group involved in community activities, including tree planting and feeding the homeless. They transformed their former primary school into a temporary shelter for displaced Sudanese and refugees, which now provides daily meals and water to the 360 people crammed into the Bandar Primary School. They also identify and refer the sick and vulnerable to aid agencies that provide them with treatment and psychosocial counseling. With relief efforts severely underfunded throughout the country, the UN is coordinating with other partners to provide essential humanitarian assistance to displaced people, including protection, shelter, water, food and medicine. Abdelraheem and his team start their day by walking through the centre. “The crew you see here are 99.9 percent from the camp,” he said, pointing to some of the young volunteers who live in the centre. “All these people collaborated to help and protect their families and kids who are here.”

During the year, the UN’s legal aid partners provided training and awareness raising sessions for 400 Government officials (including police, civil registry, prison authorities, judiciary, and prosecutors), and an additional 460 law enforcement officials, commissioners, civil servants, healthcare professionals, and community leaders strengthened their capacities in accordance with Article 141 of the Criminal Law, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and other relevant legal frameworks.

Prior to the outbreak of conflict, 77 personnel from the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid

Support Forces (RSF) officers received training in monitoring and reporting and child rights, and 31 police officers received training on international human rights standards, including principles on the use of force and firearms by law enforcement officials, arrest and detention, women rights, children rights, and others in Kadugli (South Kordofan).

During the reporting period, the UN and its partners reached 152,851 children, parents and caregivers, including 7,642 refugees, through community awareness sessions on mine risk prevention, unexploded ordnance (UXO),

peacebuilding and social cohesion. Separately, 3,758 cases of unaccompanied and separated children were given alternative care and/or reunited with their families. The UN also played a key role in developing standard operating procedures for law enforcement personnel, which were approved by the National Council for Children's Welfare.

The UN continued its close coordination with the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking and relevant partners to monitor the implementation of the National Action Plan for Combating Human Trafficking 2021-2023. The results will be used to inform updates as the situation permits.

The UN successfully lobbied the Governors of South Kordofan and Kassala States to establish a human rights and rule of law working group in the state, and the regional Rule of Law Working Group in El Fasher/Darfur reunited 30 participants from police and judicial institutions. However, the establishment of the former was delayed and the next meeting of the latter was canceled due to the conflict.

More than 300 social workers and community activists built their capacities on change communication to prevent FGM and incorporate messaging on conflict prevention, peacebuilding and social cohesion; and the referral and early warning system was strengthened when 150 social workers strengthened their capacities on case management.

KEY CHALLENGES

- Sudan is facing a protection crisis with needs significantly outpacing available funding.
- Beyond the emergency response, there is a lack of adequate shelter and referral mechanisms to ensure proper protection and care of victims of trafficking in Sudan.
- The conflict has paralyzed the overall justice system, with courts being looted, records destroyed and key civil servants relocating to safer areas within or outside the country.
- At present, combating trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants is not a government priority, and law enforcement lacks technical capacities to respond to suspected cases.

SDGS SUPPORTED



UN ENTITIES



OUTCOME 2.2 ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE

Key Achievements



186,743

children and women access GBV risk mitigation, prevention, or response interventions.



15,000

individuals reached through a PSEA-dedicated radio show.



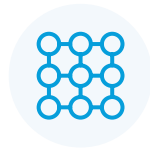
2,848

displaced individuals participated in PSEA awareness-raising sessions.



122

peer-to-peer support groups established.



9

human rights forums organized.



6

visits to places of detention conducted.

Overall, the outbreak of the conflict in April 2023 constituted a considerable set-back to the progress on human rights and justice achieved in early 2023. For example, 42 members of the National Reporting and Follow-up Mechanism (NRMF) from 18 state institutions (including the Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Education, the Unit on Countering Violence Against Women, the judiciary, and the public prosecution) increased their awareness on the concepts, goals, mechanisms, and approaches to transitional justice, as well as guiding principles for the United Nations and African Union. And while

two investigative mechanisms were newly established in 2023, these need additional efforts to become fully impartial and independent human rights mechanisms. The Transitional Justice Commission which complies with international standards, as per law adopted on 24 April 2021, is still not established.

The conflict-related instability has also impeded the training and capacity-building of law enforcement and judicial personnel in addressing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases, and displacement and insecurity have made it difficult for survivors to access support services. Nonetheless, the UN strove to increase awareness, provide services, and offer trainings to prevent and respond to SGBV.

Thanks to synchronized and coordinated interventions over 186,743 children and women had access to gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention, or response interventions (9,337 of whom came from refugee communities residing in Sudan). Furthermore, 148,780 individuals (7,439 refugees) had access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers. More than



Photo: In Gedaref, the UN supported Sudanese displaced by the conflict, including Yasmeen, with cash assistance and essentials like blankets, sleeping mats, buckets and dignity kits. Photo: UNHCR.

160 staff from the UN, Government Institutions and partners strengthened their capacities to prevent and respond to SGBV cases. The UN also continued to offer mentorship to a network of 23 women lawyers, who strengthened their capacities on investigating GBV cases.

In coordination with the interagency prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) network, the UN conducted tailored GBV and PSEA awareness-raising sessions for emergency rooms in Khartoum, addressing specific issues affecting women during this ongoing conflict; 2,848 displaced individuals participated in PSEA awareness-raising sessions in Aj Jazirah, Gedaref, Kassala, Northern, Red Sea and White

Nile states; around 15,000 individuals were reached through PSEA-dedicated radio show in White Nile state; and 6,000 PSEA brochures containing key messages and reporting mechanisms were produced and disseminated among crisis-affected populations.

Community Based Protection Networks (CBPNs) were established or strengthened to identify and refer protection concerns especially from the hard-to-reach areas. Additionally, 122 peer-to-peer support groups have been established through girls' clubs to provide life skills and psychosocial support to adolescent girls and survivors of gender-based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM), and child marriage.



Women-led Organizations Persevere and Protect

Naama (not her real name) runs a women-led local organization in Sudan focused on addressing GBV and promoting the empowerment of women. When fighting broke out in April, she had to flee from Khartoum with her family. "Finding myself displaced never meant that I would pause or stop the work of our organization," said Naama. She and her team continued providing assistance and working to build community resilience and enhance community-based protection mechanisms. Community-based protection structures have proven to be the most accessible, providing immediate support to survivors in recent conflicts. However, funding and other challenges are significantly greater for women-led organizations, like Naama's, engaged in sensitive and risky work. The UN continues to support these organizations to help address the increasing protection needs in Sudan. "My hope for the future is a safer, more peaceful Sudan," says Naama. "One marked by positive changes for women, children, and the entire nation."

The beginning of the year was marked by solid cooperation with the General Director of Prisons and Correction Administration and the directors of Administration of Prisons in El Obeid and Lagawa and Damazine. A total of six visits to places of detention were conducted during which the UN advocated about the shackling of certain detainees facing the death penalty, cases of solitary confinement and reported inadequate access to health care.

The UN continued to support the network of Protection Service Providers, set up in 2022 to facilitate protection of the human rights defenders (HRD) in Sudan and to optimize swift, adapted services to HRD under threat. Four meetings with 50 participants were held. The participation of embassies was crucial to raising the attention of Member States to newly emerging threats and facilitating high-level advocacy, particularly following the outbreak of hostilities in April 2023. In addition, nine human rights fora were organized, bringing together 215 participants.

With UN support an inter-community platform composed of religious and civil society leaders from the five states of Darfur was established in 2023, the 'Coalition for peace, justice and tolerance in Darfur'. To support this Coalition the UN organized a workshop aimed at discussing transitional justice in political and peace negotiations, bringing together 60 participants from civil society and traditional/community leaders, as well as a meeting co-organized with the NGO Sudan Social Development Organization (SUDO) on transitional justice for 26 participants to receive feedback from civil society members on the UN-sponsored activities on transitional justice and to discuss ways to move forward.

KEY CHALLENGES

- The outbreak of the conflict in April 2024 had a chilling effect on the capacity of the civil society and victims to advocate for a transitional justice process in the country.
- The outbreak of the conflict rendered progress on legislative and policy reform elusive. This includes the operationalisation of key transitional justice measures.
- Limited funding hampered efforts to sustain/expand crucial prevention and response initiatives.
- The conflict has undermined the functioning of prisons and detention facilities in Sudan.
- The conflict and relocation of key civil society organizations have further weakened civil society and undermined previous network-building efforts.

SDGS SUPPORTED



UN ENTITIES



Photo: The UN and partners organized a conference to support and amplify calls to end the conflict, highlight its impact on women and girls, and mobilize support to women's peacebuilding and protection efforts. Photo: UN Women.

OUTCOME 3.1 DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION

Achievement Highlights



Five workshops on the five issues as stipulated in the Political Framework Agreement.



80
civil society actors in Darfur participated in a regional transitional justice conference.



Darfur Permanent Ceasefire Committee established and operationalized.

During the first quarter of 2023, the UN supported workshops on the five issues as stipulated in the Political Framework Agreement: 1.) justice and transitional justice; 2.) security and military reform; 3.) the Juba Peace Agreement (JPA) and the completion of peace; 4.) the dismantling of the 30 June regime; and 5.) resolving the crisis in the east of the country. The workshops were facilitated by the Trilateral Mechanism and a joint secretariat of the Trilateral Mechanism and Sudanese signatories to the PFA.

In addition, the UN engaged women from North Darfur on their role in awareness raising on the outcome of the JPA conference; facilitated the participation of 80 Darfur civil society actors (including women and IDPs) in a regional conference on transitional justice; and in early April engaged seven political and civic society actors (Forces for Freedom and Change, the Umma Party, women, the Resistance Committee, IDPs, academics, nomads, and the West Darfur Bar Association) in Darfur.

In support of the JPA, the Permanent Ceasefire Committee was established and operationalised across the five states of Darfur under the leadership of the UN, giving the armed groups and security forces of Sudan a viable conflict resolution mechanism to resolve their differences and ensure the ceasefire was maintained. Through regular outreach and targeted workshops, the local population was informed of the resolution mechanism and encouraged to reach out about any violations to the JPA by the signatories.

Since the current crisis began in mid-April, 15 ad hoc and structured conflict analyses have been produced. In October 2023, the UN participated in a forum organized by the South Sudan authorities with JPA armed movements in Juba on ending the war between SAF and RSF, and later in that month, the UN engaged Sudan Liberation Movement-Abdelwahid Al Nur leaders in Juba, South Sudan to advocate their support and inclusion into Taqadum, a broad civil society campaign to end the Sudan war.

The UN also supported the establishment of three women's Peace Committees in Dar El Salam in North Darfur State, as well as the establishment of the Women Inclusive Stand platform comprising 260 women to address structural barriers to equality and to advocate for peace and advance the women's peace agenda in Darfur. Aligned with the Kampala Declaration and Sudan's broader Women, Peace, and Security and Humanitarian Action agenda, the Women Inclusive Stand platform empowers women to exert greater influence on peace processes and ensures that peace agreements and humanitarian efforts benefit women and girls equally, expanding opportunities for their meaningful participation in shaping peace, resilience, and humanitarian services. The UN also established the "Peace for Sudan" platform with over 50 women-led organizations (WLOs) after April 2023 with the goal of advocating for peace and the inclusion of women in humanitarian actions and peace processes.

The UN provided support that resulted in a significant number of women (and an increased number of youth) participating in the workshops and in gender considerations being included in the outcomes.

KEY CHALLENGES

- The current conflict has set back the implementation of the democratic transition agenda. The UNCT is adjusting related programmes and activities to the new circumstances.

SDGS SUPPORTED



UN ENTITIES



Photo: A woman collects water in a village for internally displaced people in Central Darfur.
Photo: UNHCR/Modesta Ndubi.

OUTCOME 3.2 SOCIAL COHESION AND INCLUSION

Achievement Highlights



25,000

community members benefited from the activities of the PDCs.



7,825

local peace committees, women's networks and authorities trained in conflict resolution.



20

peace dialogues organized.



One joint Peacebuilding Fund climate and security project launched.

Throughout 2023, the UN promoted dialogue among diverse communities and contributed to cultivating a more cohesive social fabric and laying the groundwork for a prosperous and peaceful future.

Over 25,000 community members benefited from the activities of the PDCs/CBRMs. PDCs play a vital role in peacebuilding through community dialogue, peace talks, agreements, mediations, and monitoring of conflicts. All the PDC/CBRM members were trained in conflict sensitivity and do-no-harm approaches and how to identify and resolve emerging inter-tribal conflicts. The CBRMs resolved various conflicts, including land disputes, crop destruction, social issues and family disputes. Two community workshops engaging communities from six localities in Northern Abyei and West Kordofan were conducted. These workshops addressed topics such as community needs, factors contributing to cohesion and division, and strategies for promoting peace and stability. Community members elected committees to oversee project implementation, fostering local ownership and accountability.

In Gedaref state, a 20-member community committee was formed, with representation

from the refugee community, to supervise and enhance community stabilization activities. This committee played a vital role in ensuring the effectiveness and relevance of interventions tailored to local needs and dynamics. The UN also launched a joint Peacebuilding Fund project on the climate-security nexus in Gedaref, building an evidence base to identify entry points for women and youth in local conflict resolution through natural resources management, and supported a suite of community events organized by a joint committee of host community and refugee members in November 2023, including a 'peace bazaar' with 60 vendors, a lecture on Ethiopian and Sudanese cultures, and a football tournament including teams from Um Rakuba refugee camp and five host community villages.

Nearly 500 community members actively participated in project planning sessions, contributing their insights and perspectives to the development and implementation of community stabilization initiatives, and in Northern Abyei and West Kordofan, 86 individuals participated in community workshops that fostered dialogue, understanding, and collaboration among diverse groups to promote peace and stability.

The UN organized 20 peace dialogues, bringing different segments of society, including different tribes, nomads, and farmers, together to discuss the need for peaceful co-existence, and enhanced the capacities of 7,825 local peace committees, women’s networks and local authorities to effectively address emerging conflicts and actively contribute to crossline conflict resolution and local community peacebuilding initiatives. Moreover, the UN deployed youth volunteers to support the peace and development process in the five Darfur states and acquired a motor vehicle, five quad bikes, and two internet devices to reinforce the capacity of local peace committees in two areas, enabling prompt responses to emerging conflicts.

- Many NGOs/implementing partners do not adhere to the flexible and adaptive monitoring and evaluation procedure because they are not familiar with it, leading to subpar methods that either produce inaccurate data or fail to create the right data at all.

KEY CHALLENGES

- Limited ability for monitoring and evaluation activities to be in person, due to the ongoing crisis.

SDGS SUPPORTED



UN ENTITIES



Women Peacebuilders Advocate for Peace

“We must work together to formulate a clear vision to achieve the aspirations of the Sudanese people, bringing back security, peace, and the establishment of a civil state where all citizens are equal, and opportunities are provided regardless of their gender, ethnic, religious, or tribal backgrounds,” said Samia Argawi, a lawyer and founder of Women Against War and member of the Peace for Sudan Platform, a peacebuilding initiative of 49 Sudanese women-led organizations and initiatives supported by the UN. In late October, shortly after the conflict passed its six-month mark, the UN (in partnership with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, African Union, and the International Women’s Peace Centre) organized a conference in Kampala, Uganda with more than 400 Sudanese women peacebuilders from 14 Sudanese states. Women joined online from Sudan and in-person, with many refugees and exiles attending. The conference also aimed to enhance women’s leadership, highlighting the leading role Sudanese women play in mobilizing the peace movement. “We hope to work together to develop a political consensus that holds the recipe for political, economic, and social success,” Argawi said.

2.3 SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIP AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

Developing an Integrated National Financing Framework

Because of the immense and unique challenges facing Sudan and currently the ongoing conflict, the country has not been able to implement much of the 2030 Agenda or make significant progress towards the SDGs. Despite the fact that SDGs were integrated into the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) 2021-2023, Sudan has not yet developed an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF). To support and pave the way for producing this important framework, UNCT has mapped the financial landscape in Sudan in 2023. The report concluded that Sudan has various sources for financing sustainable development priorities, including federal revenues, sub-national revenues, zakat, domestic borrowing, private sector credit, public private partnerships (PPPs), microfinance, remittances, foreign direct investments (FDIs) and overseas development assistance (ODA). Despite the large potential of these resources, their performance in meeting the challenges of development financing is weak, requiring major policy reforms.

The overall development finance flows accounted for 31 percent of GDP on average during 2015-2022. These flows showed a declining trend, particularly since 2019, from

38.9 percent of GDP in 2019, to 22.6 percent in 2022; a reflection of political and economic instability. The development finance flows were dominated by federal revenues, and domestic private flow credit to the private sector. Notwithstanding the relatively small contribution of international finance flows, representing only about 12 percent of total flows on average during 2015-2022, their potential is huge.

Developing an INFF roadmap to guide the way forward is the key outcome of the mapping process. The study presented a road map covering the steps to be taken towards building the building blocks of the INFF. These steps included:

- **Recommendations for further assessments and diagnostics:** A priority should be given for undertaking an SDGs national framework. The government must prepare a medium-term plan. The SDGs priorities with costing must be integrated into the medium-term plan.
- **Recommendations and steps to formulate a financing strategy.**
- **Recommendations for monitoring and review:** Activities to be undertaken include strengthening the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit in Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MoFEP), improve SDGs statistics to enable tracking and monitoring, finalize the National Indicator Framework (NIF) and review the PFM management information systems to strengthen them.
- **Recommendations for Governance:** A centralized high-level government committee responsible for overseeing the INFF process needs to be established.



Photo: The conflict in Sudan has worsened the situation of refugees, leaving many vulnerable. Ibrahim Adam, a refugee youth in Shagarab Camp reminds us of the challenges faced by refugees. Photo: UNHCR.

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. 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.

The safety and security of all UN common system personnel is the top priority for the UN common system organizations. The UN was exceptionally fortunate to have avoided casualties during the evacuation and relocation from Khartoum and to have been able to continue providing life-saving support through the establishment of new offices and warehouses and adapting programmatic and funding priorities.



The Integrated Operations Management Team (IOMT) has been driving the joint logistical backbone of the integrated mission in Sudan and played an important role, along with the Security Management Team (SMT), in the evacuation of international staff and the reallocation for UN national and international staff in Sudan after the outbreak of the conflict in April.

UN Agencies developed gender inclusive and responsive humanitarian frameworks and programmes through needs assessments, gender fact sheets, and Gender Tips Sheets, strengthening the participation of women and girls in leadership positions in the delivery of gender-responsive lifesaving services at the community level and ensuring the full consideration of women and girls needs in the humanitarian response.

Until April, 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. These groups have been revitalized in 2024. In addition, 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.

In the field, greater integration within the UN is needed in terms of co-production of analytical products, attendance in each other's planning meetings, and information-sharing. In November 2023, the UN published a study 'The Impact of Sudan's Armed Conflict on the Fiscal Situation and Service Delivery' to guide resource mobilization and advocacy with UNCT, UN cluster coordinators groups, donors, the World Bank and others on preserving systems for services delivery in Sudan.

In December, the UN reviewed its management of the crisis response in relation to the safety and security of UN staff and dependents in the lead-up to 15 April, and following the evacuation. Among other things, the report found that in the context of volatile operating environments, it is paramount to strengthen unity of effort amongst UN entities, and a sense of shared responsibility and ownership for safety and security. While



the DO ultimately carries the burden of accountability for security related decisions, all members of the Security Management Team must bear their responsibilities to ensure safety and security. This is particularly significant given the diminishing space for UN peace operations, and the associated reduction of capabilities and resources to support safety and security and enable programme delivery in crisis contexts.

The UN also updated its administrative guidelines in response to the situation in Sudan for UN common system personnel (both international and national, including staff and non-staff). In addition, it granted a regular hardship classification of “E” (most difficult) for all duty stations in Sudan, including Khartoum, Port Sudan and Damazine, effective from 1 January 2024.

COMMUNICATING AND ADVOCATING TOGETHER

The UNCT consistently kept the general public informed about its facilitation role alongside partners from the Trilateral Mechanism (African Union and IGAD) in the political process. This was achieved through the dissemination of statements, news, articles, and videos on its website, social media accounts, as well as via emails and WhatsApp messages. Additionally, the Mission maintained a robust media engagement plan, which facilitated extensive coverage of Sudanese issues in both national and international media outlets.

Furthermore, before the outbreak of the current conflict, the UN established partnerships with donors such as USAID, the British Embassy, and the British Council to support the implementation of the signatories’ communications strategy during the ‘final phase of the political process’. This collaborative effort ensured a harmonized

communication approach and broad outreach. The Mission also proposed and facilitated media coverage of the final phase of the political process by seven journalists based outside of Khartoum, thus contributing to a broader knowledge and understanding of the process.

Commemorated 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence with crisis-affected populations, engaging 745 individuals (615 female and 130 male) with GBV awareness raising messages in Gedaref, Kassala, and Red Sea states. Beyond the 16 Days of Activism, the UN released several public statements specifically on conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) throughout the year, including two joint press releases and statements specifically on CRSV on 17 August and 30 November and two official communications were sent to parties to the conflict from a special procedure mandate holders in August and October.

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 UNCT had integrated the evaluation’s key findings, lessons learned and recommendations into the



Top photo: UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Clementine Nkweta-Salami speaking to Sudan TV about her visit to Gedaref, where she engaged in discussions with humanitarian partners and interacted with families displaced by conflict in Sudan. Photo: UNHCR.

Bottom photo: Hundreds of Chadian returnees fleeing violence in Sudan have received unconditional cash transfers to help them meet their priority needs. Photo: IOM.



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.

While the UNCT was nimble and responsive to an ever-changing and volatile situation, there were several lessons that were learned during 2023:

Planning

- Decentralizing conflict analysis and sensitivity engagements to the state level is crucial, along with ongoing collaboration with other actors and continuous reflection on conflict-sensitivity risks, to deliver services that are contextually appropriate, principled, and contribute positively to conflict-affected populations.

Partnerships

- The UN underscores the importance of building flexibility into project plans and agreements with implementing partners (IPs) and building relationships with trusted IPs.
 - In Sudan, collaborative partnerships will be prioritized, alongside robust monitoring and evaluation to promote effectiveness.

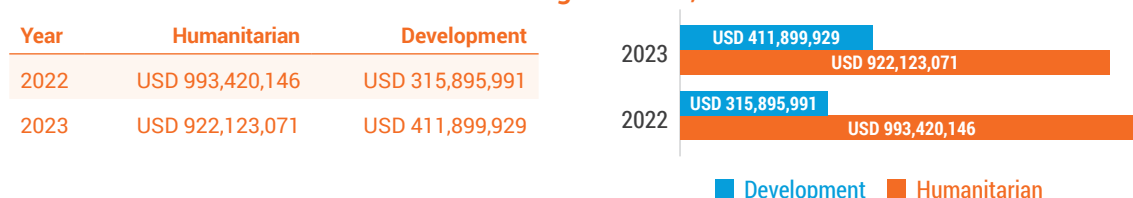
Supply Chain and Border Issues

- There is a need for additional intersectoral and interagency assessments to assess conditions in hard-to-reach areas, to provide a tailored response.
- There is a need to engage more local partners that can more easily facilitate access to hard-to-reach areas.
- Having operational warehouse space and a variety of WASH materials and consumables is essential to meet the needs of displaced populations.
 - To mitigate the supply chain impediments the UN has begun exploring international procurement to obtain vital medical supplies.
- There is a need to concentrate work between November to May, to avoid challenges relating to the rainy season.
- The capacity development of the border officials, including recognizing and responding to suspected cases of trafficking and smuggling, is very much essential for the proper support to the migrants at the border.

2.6 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

2.6.1 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

UNCT Funding for 2022, 2023



UNCT Funding for the Common Approach per pillar for 2022 and 2023



2.6.2 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Pooled Funding to Support Peace and Development in Sudan

Pooled fund mechanisms play a key role in the UN's approach to strengthening coherence in progressing its strategic priorities in Sudan. Pooled funds are a vehicle for the UN to synchronize its efforts to mobilize resources, better identify and agree on shared investment priorities, and coordinate the allocation of funds to ensure country-wide coherence. Two pooled funds are of particular importance in enhancing integrated planning and a more coherent financing architecture across the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus: the Sudan Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) and the United Nations Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF).

The strategic vision of the two funds is guided by the Joint MPTF-PBF Strategic Results Framework (SRF), which was endorsed in November 2022 to bring together MPTF and PBF investments in Sudan under a shared strategic chapeau and with common high-level outcomes: 1.) stabilization of conflict hotspots, 2.) strengthening of Sudan's 'infrastructure for peace', and 3.) support to the conclusion and sustainability of local level peace agreements and mediation/reconciliation efforts aimed at mitigating intercommunal conflict, including between farmers and pastoralists/nomads.

The PBF and MPTF responded with flexibility and agility to two significant developments in Sudan in 2023: (1.) the outbreak of national conflict on 15 April 2023, which necessitated a strategic re-orientation of the pooled funds to align with the UN's critical priorities spanning

the HDP nexus, with a focus on the provision of humanitarian support, and (2.) the UN Security Council resolution 2715 that terminated the mandate of UNITAMS effective 3 December 2023, necessitating a transfer of certain tasks, where appropriate, to UN agencies, funds and programmes, which the MPTF and PBF are well-positioned to support.

The Sudan Multi-Partner Trust Fund

The MPTF is a country-based pooled fund established in 2019 to advance UN integrated planning across the HDP nexus in Sudan. Following the 3 June 2020 decision by the UN Security Council to establish UNITAMS, it became the primary funding vehicle to operationalize the Mission's mandate. As of 2023, its active portfolio comprised three projects totalling over \$6 million and covering the implementation of peace agreements, protection of civilians and rule of law—all in support of UNITAMS' mandate. All projects ended on 31 December 2023.

The 'Programme to support the 'Good Offices' functions of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) of UNITAMS' (\$5.9 million) aimed to support the SRSG in Sudan to exercise its good offices with a focus on key areas such as supporting existing and future peace processes, effective advocacy for human rights and protection of civilians, implementation of the Juba Peace Agreement and supporting local peacebuilding and mediation initiatives.

In the context of the Juba Peace Agreement (JPA) and its provision related to the establishment of a Permanent Ceasefire Committee (PCC), the 'Training for the members of the Permanent Ceasefire Committee and its structures' project (\$184,896) aimed to strengthen a common approach to monitoring and verifying the ceasefire and for reporting on violations, as well as proactive de-escalation and conflict prevention, using a capacity-building approach.

The 'Capacity support to align the National Plan for Protection of Civilians throughout the Government of Sudan' project (\$70,000) aimed to provide technical assistance to the National Mechanism charged with implementing the National Plan for Civilian Protection by developing and maintaining a sustained

working relationship, liaising between the UN and the National Mechanism, and identifying areas of support the UN may provide at the national and state levels to ensure its integrated implementation. (Note: This project remained on hold pending greater clarity on the political situation and the status of the National Mechanism.)

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. As of 2023, the PBF's active investments in Sudan totalled \$36.7 million following the completion of a project strengthening the political and peacebuilding role of women in the historically conflict-affected states of Sudan. The PBF's total investments in Sudan remained at \$60.7 million.

The PBF responded to the outbreak of conflict in April 2023 by pausing the development of new project proposals intended to operationalize the Sudan Refugee Fund to take stock of the fluid situation and align with the strategic re-orientation of the UN. In the meantime, the Fund focused on assessing the impacts of the conflict on ongoing PBF-supported projects, ensuring that project staff were safe and accounted for. A major accomplishment for the PBF in 2023 was the Fund's ability to capitalize on its niche as a flexible and responsive donor to support making amendments to projects to ensure they can continue implementation and remain relevant amidst new operational constraints and peacebuilding needs.

Overall, the PBF supported five out of 12 active projects to prepare and submit project amendment requests throughout 2023, which included no-cost extensions and the re-programming of activities to relatively more stable states. In areas relatively less affected by active conflict, such as the Eastern states, PBF-funded projects were able to largely proceed as planned, while also adjusting to ensure complementarity with UN humanitarian priorities. This includes a project working to strengthen capacities for peace and social cohesion in Port Sudan and Kassala, which re-sequenced its activities to prioritize livelihoods and basic services interventions.



CHAPTER 3: UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR THE NEXT YEAR

During 2024, the UN Common Approach will continue to guide UN programmatic interventions across three critical areas that span the humanitarian-development-peace nexus: (i.) Basic Services, Community Stabilization and Resilience; (ii.) Protection of Civilians, Rule of Law and Human Rights and (iii.) Conflict Prevention, Social Cohesion and Peacebuilding.

Priority interventions will focus on livelihoods and local economic recovery, durable solutions for IDPs and host communities, enhanced prevention and protection against all forms of human rights violations and conflict-related risks.

The Multi-Partner Trust Fund will continue to serve as an important source of funding for joint UN programmatic activities. In addition, UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes possess and will continue to expand their unique capacities to deliver in a conflict and fragile context. The UN Country Team is also pursuing partnerships with IFIs, regional development banks and bilateral development donors to ensure a coordinated approach to development assistance in the country.

Going forward, the UN intends to expand its activities in the country in line with the UN System Programme Criticality (PC) Framework.

We have recently updated the acceptable space for interventions to include both humanitarian or non-humanitarian activities (PC1 and PC2 activities), which can be implemented in high present risk environments.

Throughout these activities, UNCT is also looking at the six SDG transitions as enablers of sustainability of humanitarian and development results. The six transitions, adapted to a context of violence, conflict and fragility, will be an important frame for the work of the UNCT to enable the resilience of food systems, ensure energy access for displaced populations, reinforce digital connectivity, scale up the provision of education in emergencies and incorporate climate-related risks in development analysis and programmatic interventions.

Through this continued collaboration with inter-agency partners, targeted awareness campaigns, and robust reporting mechanisms, the UN will aim to strengthen protection measures and uphold the rights and dignity of all individuals, particularly those affected by crises and displacement. 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.

