



PHOTO: UNAMID



**SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PEACEBUILDING FUND**  
DSRSG'S OFFICE IN SUDAN

JUNE 2021 BI-ANNUAL REPORT



**SUMMARY**

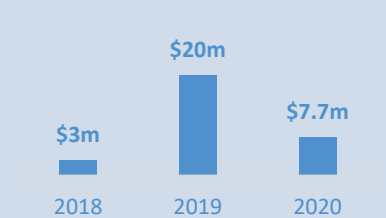
**CURRENT PORTFOLIO**

\$27.7m 8 projects

**THEMATIC AREAS**

- Durable Solutions
- Rule of Law
- Local Peacebuilding
- Peace Process Implementation
- Women's Participation

**PBF ANNUAL APPROVALS**



**FUND RECIPIENTS**

\$ 12.3m	\$ 1.1m	\$ 0.6m
\$ 6.3m	\$ 1.0m	
\$ 5.5m	\$ 0.9m	

Since 2018, the PBF has approved **over \$30 million** in peacebuilding projects in Sudan. Overall, Sudan is the largest recipient of approved PBF funding since the start of PBF's 2020-24 Strategic plan, and the 10<sup>th</sup> largest funding recipient since the Fund's inception.

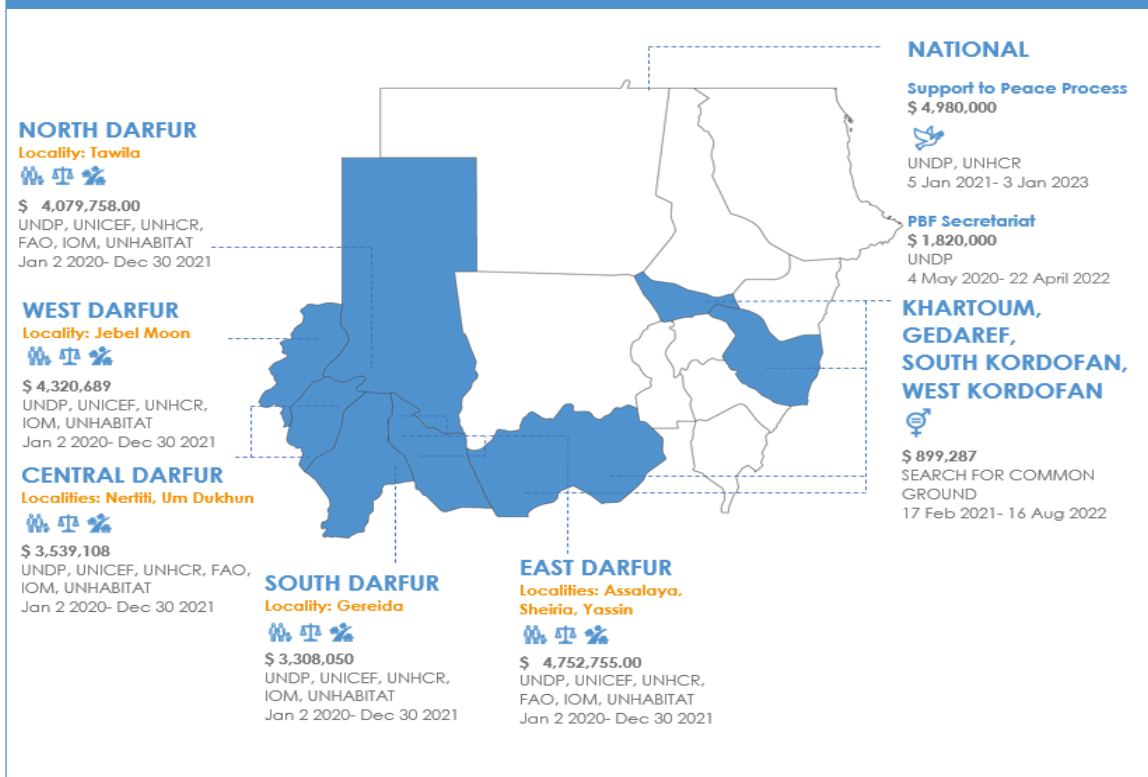
This report provides an update on the status of the PBF-funded portfolio in Sudan as of the June 2021 bi-annual reporting period. As of this report, the PBF has 8 active projects totaling \$27.7m in approved funding, as well as 5 projects in development and 1 completed project.

Sudan was declared eligible to receive PBF funding on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Subsequently, in 2019 the PBF approved 5 projects totaling \$20 million in all 5 Darfur states, focusing on durable solutions, strengthening rule of law institutions, and supporting local peacebuilding initiatives.

These projects built on a previous \$3 million pilot project funded by the PBF in 2018 to support sustainable returns for displaced populations, rule of law, and youth livelihoods in Golo, Jebel Marra. Later, in 2020, the PBF approved 3 additional projects totaling \$7.7 million to support the ongoing peace process and National Peace Commission, women's participation in national and local peace processes, and the establishment of an in-country PBF Secretariat to oversee and coordinate the PBF portfolio. In 2021, the PBF will support five new projects.

Through its investment to Sudan, PBF also aims at supporting UNITAMS' mandate to assist the transitional government and the people of Sudan in political transition towards democratic governance, sustainable peace, promotion of human rights, strengthening rule of law and protection of civilians.

## MAP: ACTIVE PBF PORTFOLIO



## PBF DARFUR PROGRAMME

Status: *Ongoing* (Jan 2020 – Dec 2021)



5 projects



\$20.0m



The Darfur programme is the flagship of the PBF-funded portfolio in Sudan. The programme adopts an inter-agency and area-based approach to address three main priority areas: durable solutions, rule of law, and local peacebuilding. The programme is implemented by 6 recipient UN agencies, in partnership with over 20 implementing partners, targeting 8 localities across all 5 states of Darfur.

State	Target Localities
North Darfur	Tawila
East Darfur	Assalaya, Sheiria, Yassin
Central Darfur	Nertiti, Um Dukhun
South Darfur	Gereida
West Darfur	Jebel Moon

## RESULTS AT A GLANCE



**377 individuals benefited** from income-generating and vocational training activities, including 146 women



**264 Sudanese Police Force staff trained**, including 38 women, in land laws, community patrols, intelligence-led policing and early warning response



**57 community-based resolution and reconciliation mechanisms** with **780 members** established or re-activated



## 1. Support to Durable Solutions for Refugees and IDPs

Access to land remains a key driver of conflict in Darfur. Millions of Darfuris were forcibly displaced from their homes during decades of armed conflict, with an estimated 2.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sudan and 800,000 refugees in neighboring countries as of 2021. According to IOM, 85% of Sudanese IDPs are in Darfur, 57% of whom are in a situation of protracted displacement. Among these, 70% wish to remain in their current location, while 30% wish to return to their area of origin.



FIELD MISSION TO GEREIDA LOCALITY-  
JUNE 27-29 (PHOTO: UNICEF)

The Juba Peace Agreement commits to sustainable and durable solutions for forcibly displaced persons across Sudan. Yet significant challenges remain for displaced Darfuris, including obstacles to proving formal ownership of their original lands, a lack of sustainable economic opportunities in communities, and ongoing intercommunal tensions and threats to personal safety. To help support long-term, durable solutions for forcibly displaced populations in Darfur, the PBF-funded programme implements an inter-agency and multi-pronged approach to address these various obstacles for displaced persons and ongoing conflict drivers.

Through a series of activities implemented by UNDP, UNHABITAT, UNHCR and their implementing partners, the PBF programme is building the capacities of government counterparts to resolve land disputes at locality level, including support to consultations on land reforms and legislation, and capacity-building to key land institutions in roles such as arbitration and land registration. To support an evidence-based and coordinated approach to supporting durable solutions, UNHCR, IOM and their implementing partners have carried out a comprehensive data collection exercise of displaced and non-displaced community perceptions in all eight target localities to inform ongoing durable solutions locality action planning. Finally, UNDP, UNHCR and FAO are supporting income-generating activities, community support projects, and national resource management plans to improve economic opportunities of both displaced and non-displaced communities.

As of this reporting period, a total of 9600 household surveys have been conducted across Darfur to assess intentions and perceptions of IDPs, returnees and host communities in support of locality action planning, as well as to provide baseline data for PBF programme peacebuilding indicators. The project has also so far identified and registered 9326 individuals to be supported with obtaining formal civil documentation and provided income-generating activities and vocational skills development for 377 individuals, all with a view to laying a firm foundation for durable solutions activities.



## 2. Support Rule of Law and Provision of Basic Services

Sudanese state authority remains weak at state and locality levels in Darfur, meaning communities often do not benefit from the protection, security or basic services they expect from their government. As a result, communities in Darfur regularly express low levels of trust towards locality

and state authorities, and report feeling unsafe or physically threatened in their communities. Without properly functioning and impartial state institutions at the community level, disputes over access to land and resources remain largely unaddressed and continue to provoke inter-communal violence.

With a view to rebuilding the social contract between communities and state institutions, UNDP and their implementing partners are providing capacity-building support to local government bodies, formal and informal justice institutions, and Sudanese police forces, both through trainings as well as construction and rehabilitation of key infrastructure. To bolster the government's capacity to provide basic services to its citizens, UNICEF is supporting the provision of sustainable drinking water and sanitation facilities, including establishing community water committees to resolve tensions over access to and provision of water. UNICEF is also supporting local parent teacher associations and rehabilitating schools and classrooms to improve access to and quality of education for children and young people in Darfur.

As of this reporting period, the PBF-funded programme has trained 264 Sudanese Police Force staff on conducting community patrols, intelligence-led policing, and early warning response protocols. The intentions and perceptions survey exercise has also furnished extensive data on community perceptions of personal safety and satisfaction with formal and informal rule of law mechanisms, with a view to better understanding the longer-term impacts of the project interventions in target communities.



### 3. Support Local Peacebuilding Initiatives and a Culture of Peace and Rights

While the signing of the Juba Peace Agreement represents an important advance in Sudan's peacebuilding trajectory, such national-level developments will need to be complemented with local-level peacebuilding initiatives to make peace truly sustainable in Darfur. Despite important political developments in Khartoum during the first half of 2021, inter-communal conflicts continued to erupt between different tribal groups in Darfur, as well as between farmers and nomadic herders over the use of land and migratory routes.

To support community-led conflict resolution and peacebuilding capacities, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF and FAO are supporting a constellation of community-based structures to support the resolution of conflicts, reconciliation between communities, and the provision of essential protection services to women and young people. So far, the project has helped establish or re-establish 57 community-based resolution and reconciliation mechanisms with 780 members, of whom 187 are women, to resolve disputes, including those over land and resources, as well as

## CONFLICT SENSITIVITY WORKSHOPS

From May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 10<sup>th</sup>, the PBF Secretariat, with the support of UNDP, UNHCR and UNICEF, delivered five Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding Workshops in all five Darfur States.

Approximately 100 participants from UN agencies, national implementing partners, and government representatives participated in the trainings. The workshop provided theoretical background to concepts of conflict sensitivity, as well as practical tools relevant to project implementation in the 8 target localities



refer cases and information to other government bodies such as formal police forces and Native Administrations. The PBF project has also supported the establishment of 29 community-based protection networks (CBPNs) comprising 247 members as a platform to deliver locally-led protection and assistance programs. So far, these networks have identified 2151 individuals to receive paralegal or referral mechanism services.



## Challenges

As with all peacebuilding programmes in 2020, the PBF Darfur Programme was significantly affected by restrictions imposed due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, which limited the movement of staff and restricted access to key project sites. As a result, project implementation was largely halted for approximately six months. Despite these challenges, the programme was able to significantly scale up implementation towards the end of 2020 as restrictions were reduced, and by early 2021 was fully implementing activities under all three outcomes.



FIELD MISSION TO JEBEL MOON - MAY 25-27  
(PHOTO: UNHCR)

The project has also been affected by bouts of intercommunal violence across Darfur. On 15 January, the security situation in El Geneina, West Darfur, deteriorated due to the eruption of intercommunal violence, which impeded access to Jebel Moon -- the target locality for the PBF project. A second wave of violence and conflict-related displacement took place in April, further disrupting implementation. As of May 2021, the situation in El Geneina began to stabilize, with PBF activities largely resuming.

Gereida locality, South Darfur, has also experienced periodic tribal clashes since late 2020. As of the time of writing, there have been five clashes, resulting in over 150 fatalities, more than 180 injured, and roughly 3000 households displaced. These incidents impacted access to target PBF villages and thus significantly hindered project implementation. In an effort to resolve the issue, UNICEF has worked closely with the Governor's office to prepare for peace conferences with the tribes and set up a Peace and Development Committee in Gereida.



## Next Steps

In the coming six months, the project will continue to scale up implementation across all three major thematic areas. With UNDP's support, the project will help convene state and locality-level peace conferences under the auspices of the Darfur State Governors, involving the participation of community leaders, community-based resolution mechanisms (CBRMs), internally displaced persons, nomads, and other key peacebuilding stakeholders. The project will also facilitate locality- and community-level peace dialogue forums with the participation of community members, native administration, and rule of law actors. In South Darfur, UNICEF will continue to lend its support to the mediation process led by the Governor, as well as the establishment of a Gereida-level Peace and Development Committee to resolve the land dispute between the Fallata and Masalit.

In support of the durable solutions components of the project, UNHCR will lead on the further construction and rehabilitation of community support projects across all five Darfur states, including classrooms, handpumps, and multi-purpose community centers. The comprehensive durable solutions baseline assessment exercise will also be finalized in mid-2021 to inform locality-level action planning workshops across all five states. UNHABITAT will also continue undertaking sketch mapping and demarcation of return villages to identify common services locations, buffer zones, and livelihood maps. For its part, FAO will hold validation workshops on digitally mapped livestock routes and physical demarcation along the hotspot areas, as well as lead trainings on climate change, natural resources and conflict. FAO will also convene inter-tribal and inter-communal dialogues over the use of natural resources and joint planning for provision of services along migratory routes

Under UNICEF's leadership, community-based child protection networks will be established across Darfur and trained on peacebuilding, psychosocial support, and community-based protection (e.g. code of conduct, child rights, child protection, and referral). Moreover, UNICEF will lead youth discussions to identify priority issues for young people, and train youth and adolescents on peacebuilding and conflict resolution. UNDP, UNHCR and FAO will continue to streamline and coordinate various community-based structures established under the project, including through locality-level coordination structures to oversee village-level committees, and co-facilitated trainings on community reconciliation.

## SUSTAINABLE RETURNS AND PEACEBUILDING IN GOLO

Status: *Completed* (Aug 2018 – Aug 2020)



\$3.0m



### RESULTS AT A GLANCE



**15,450 individuals benefited**  
from livelihoods and  
economic recovery activities



**86%** of endline survey  
respondents reported  
**decrease in communal  
conflicts** (from 53%)



**90%** of community members  
surveyed reported **increased  
trust between members of the  
community** (from 42%)

The PBF-funded project in Golo, Jebel Marra (Central Darfur) was the first project funded by the PBF in Sudan in almost five years. With an emphasis on strengthening rule of law institutions and encouraging durable solutions in one of the most conflict-affected localities in Darfur, the project functioned as a “proof of concept” for the interventions that would be scaled up in the subsequent PBF Darfur programme.

The PBF-funded project in Golo ended in August 2020, with the final evaluation concluding that it “implemented successful and innovative activities, and contributed measurably to sustainable peace and durable solutions in the targeted region.”<sup>1</sup> The evaluation commended what it considered one of the first projects of its kind to embrace an “explicit focus on peacebuilding through a range of innovative entry points via a complex and integrated approach.”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> End of Project Evaluation Report for Sustainable Returns and Peacebuilding Through Durable Solutions and Rule of Law in Golo, Jebel Marra, Sudan, May 31, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> End of Project Evaluation, May 31, 2021.



## 1. Support to Durable Solutions and Community Livelihoods

Golo locality has been one of the areas most affected by conflict in Darfur. While some community members who were initially forced out due to violence have now started to return, socioeconomic opportunities and living conditions that would incentivize further resettlement remain sparse. In response, the project implemented a multitude of interventions to enhance agricultural productivity in support of community livelihoods, particularly for youth, and foster local economic recovery.

Among other activities, the project equipped and trained animal health workers, with a specific emphasis on previously marginalized nomadic communities, and supported the construction of water harvesting facilities. Notably, the final evaluation highlighted the project's context-specific interventions, which were easily integrated into everyday life and did not necessitate major paradigm, culture, and norms shifts, such as the distribution of higher-yield potato and tomato seeds, and the installation of agricultural refrigeration units. Overall, 15,450 individuals benefitted from economic recovery opportunities supported by the project, while 88% of community members surveyed reported improved perceptions of social cohesion, due to the "collective work among diverse communities" that was fostered.



## 2. Support to Rule of Law and Access to Basic Services

As in the rest of Darfur, conflicts resulting from competition over access to land and natural resources had been further exacerbated by sub-optimal rule of law institutions (both formal and informal) in Golo, and an absence of legitimate and community-supported bodies to resolve conflicts. In response, the project supported capacity building of Sudanese Police Force staff and paralegals, as well as the strengthening of informal mechanisms such as Community-Based Conflict Resolution Mechanisms (CBRMs), rural courts, and child protection networks.

According to the project endline survey, 86% of community members surveyed reported a decrease in communal conflicts, compared to 53% at the project baseline. In addition, 60% of community members surveyed reported being satisfied with informal and formal rule of law mechanisms, up from 36% at the project baseline, while 90% of surveyed community members reported increased trust between members of the community, up from 42%.

“ The paralegals [supported by the project] have now organized themselves in the form of a registered association. Since its establishment, it has been able to solve 18 disputes.[...] [The police volunteers] were also trained to solve everyday problems that happen in the community. Problems which might be beyond the ability of the police volunteer to resolve would then be referred to the police.”

- Evaluation Focus Group Discussion Participant



## Challenges

Despite the many achievements of the PBF project in Golo, the final evaluation highlighted several challenges and lessons learned from the project, involving both contextual factors as well as project design considerations.

Notably, just prior to the launch of the project, Sudan underwent the series of events that would culminate with its national revolution and the deposition of President Omar al-Bashir in mid-April 2019. These events and their aftermath created a range of new challenges in Golo, including restructuring of many key Ministries and scrutiny towards allies of the former regime. At the same time, the revolution resulted in increased insecurity and violence in some regions, and a general perception of instability within communities. However, the project was able to adapt to this new reality through receiving a six-month extension from the PBF, and using additional time to actively engage with key government partners, both existing and new, to ensure the project was still relevant to the specific needs of Golo community members.

In terms of the project's design, the evaluation found that though it was highly ambitious in implementing a diverse range of activities in multiple sectors, this breadth posed challenges to proper coordination across the various components. At the same time, such diversity often made it hard to draw explicit linkages between the project activities and the intended longer term peacebuilding changes, such as improved community social cohesion. Together, this resulted in a lack of a strong "peacebuilding identity" among project partners, particularly local implementing partners, regarding how they were contributing to a renewed vision for peace in Golo. The evaluation therefore recommended for future programmes to undertake continuous activities to emphasize the peacebuilding components of all project activities, as well as foster a project-wide "cohort" for all implementing partners to progressively work towards a shared vision of peace.

## SUPPORT TO THE SUDANESE PEACE PROCESS

Status: *Started* (Jan 5 2021- Jan 3 2023)



\$4.0m



While political will and commitment from national stakeholders remain essential prerequisites for the success of Sudan's political transition, these stakeholders will only be able to achieve a lasting and just peace in Sudan if they possess the capacities, processes, and external support that such an ambitious agenda requires.

To this end, the PBF-funded programme to support the Sudanese Peace Process, which recently began implementation in the start of 2021, supports three main objectives: 1) to provide support to Sudan's National Peace Architecture, including the establishment of the National Peace Commission and development of a National Strategy for Peace; 2) to provide immediate support to ongoing peace processes, including pre-implementation activities, support to communications advocacy and outreach campaigns, and data collection and analysis, and 3) to support effective coordination and reporting, including the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the JPA, and Crisis Risk Dashboard to inform early-warning mechanisms.

While only active for a few months, the project has already engaged extensively with the nascent Peace Commission to strategize and identify areas of technical support and capacity development requirements at national and sub-national levels. The project has also supported the printout of 10,000 copies of the JPA to ensure wide-scale distribution to the public, as well as developed a media, communication and outreach plan in coordination with Ministry of Culture and Information, the United Nations Information Center (UNIC), and local media channels. An advanced preparatory mission was also deployed to the 5 Darfur States to prepare the ground for JPA dissemination, consultation, and outreach workshops.





## Challenges

The project has experienced setbacks given that the law establishing the National Peace Commission was only passed and endorsed by the joint council (composed of the Sovereign Council and the Council of Ministers) in May 2021. In addition, the final governance and organizational structures of the Commission are yet to be established. Together, this leaves the Peace Commission with very limited operational capacity to engage with partners at the present time.



## Next Steps

As a first step to scaling up project implementation in the next six months, UNDP and UNHCR will prepare a consolidated and elaborated workplan in response to emerging developments in the peace process and peacebuilding realities in Sudan. Among the main priorities, the project will initiate development of the National Peace Strategy, including conducting a costing of the peace agreement, financial architecture and overarching framework. The project will also initiate development of Regional Peacebuilding and Stabilisation Strategies for Darfur, South Kordofan, East Sudan and Blue Nile. Undergirding these efforts, the project will support a capacity assessment of the staff of the Peace Commission and commence the design and implementation of a capacity development programme.

Under the project's communications and outreach components, the project will undertake dissemination and consultation workshops for all six JPA tracks (Darfur, Blue Nile, South Kordofan, East Sudan, Central, and North, in addition to Khartoum). The project team will also initiate the development of a clear communication and outreach strategy for the Peace Commission, and design and establish an interactive website to facilitate communication, peace messaging and outreach. In support of this, the project will break down the JPA into short informative brochures and pamphlets for easy reference by the public.

Under the project's analysis and coordination components, the project will undertake a research exercise on voluntary return in South Kordofan and Blue Nile, in partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). It will also conduct a separate research assignment on nomadic populations to deepen understandings of their issues and priorities, and how best to engage them in the peace process. The project will also support research carried out with the youth networks and Peace and Development Centers on the root causes of the hate speech and innovative approaches to prevent it.

### STRENGTHENING THE POLITICAL AND PEACEBUILDING ROLE OF WOMEN

#### IN SUDAN'S TRANSITION

Status: *Started* (Feb 17 2021- Aug 16 2022)



\$0.9m

SEARCH  
FOR COMMON  
GROUND

Women and young women have been among the groups most affected by conflict in Sudan. Young women and men, particularly those from economically marginalized peripheral states of Sudan, also face continuous obstacles to political and economic participation, and often lack clear prospects for their own self-realization. Yet the protests in support of Sudan's political transition highlighted the immense capacities of both women and youth leaders in advocating for positive change.

However, despite this active role, women have not seen equal participation in the subsequent political transition and peace processes. In addition, despite Sudan's youthful population (the median age is 19.7 years) young women in particular are still unable to access decision-making spaces at all levels. While the Sudanese political negotiations and agreements represent hope for

an end to violent conflict in communities, they have remained largely limited to national-level stakeholders, and do not represent the diversity of experiences or concerns of women in peripheral states.

Amidst these factors, the PBF-funded project implemented by Search for Common Ground seeks to empower an intergenerational and diverse group of women leaders from the peripheral, conflict-affected states of Sudan to meaningfully engage in peace, security, and advocacy, some for the first time, and at various levels: both as advocates for community concerns at the local level as well as candidates for the Transitional Legislative Council.

While the project has only been under implementation since early 2021, it has been able to implement several initial activities, including a Common Ground Approach (CGA) training for women political leaders in Gadarif State, involving the participation of 29 women political leaders, as well as for government representatives in Gadarif State, involving a total of 28 participants.



TRAINING IN GADARIF- MARCH 7-9, 2021  
(PHOTO: SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND)



### Next Steps

In the next 6 months, the project will undertake a series of trainings, including a Leadership and Conflict Transformation Training for young women, a Mentorship Reflection and Training exercise for established women leaders, and Peer-to-Peer mentorship and support sessions. The project will also help organize young women-led community initiatives for reconciliation, as well as launch a multi-media campaign, including discussion programs, drama or positive masculinity spots, and stories on successful women's leadership to engage men and women in changing attitudes towards women's leadership roles.

PBF PROJECT PIPELINE		
1. SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE PEACE IN BLUE NILE STATE THROUGH GENDER-RESPONSIVE NATURAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE	\$4.0m	UNEP, UN WOMEN, UNDP
2. IDP AND REFUGEE MAPPING TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE PEACE AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS IN SUDAN	\$2.0m	UNHCR
3. PEACEBUILDING IN SUPPORT OF DURABLE SOLUTIONS: THE RIGHT TO ADQUEATE HOUSING FOR KRINDING IDPS	\$4.0m	UN-HABITAT, UNHCR
4. PEACEBUILDING IN EAST SUDAN	\$3.0m	Ongoing call for proposals
5. STRENGTHENING STATE/REGIONAL AND LOCAL PEACE INSTITUTIONS	\$3.0m	Ongoing call for proposals