



# UN SUDAN RESULTS REPORT 2018, 2019 AND 2020



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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym	Name
AfDB	African Development Bank
AMU/AMR	Anti-microbial Use and Anti-microbial Resistance
ART	Anti-Retroviral Treatment
CBCPN	Community-Based Child Protection Network
CBRM	Community Based Reconciliation Mechanism
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CM	Child Marriage
CMC	Community Management Committee
CMR	Clinical Management of Rape
CRSV/SGBV	Conflict Related Sexual Violence/Sexual and Gender Based Violence
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DD	Demographic Dividend
EmONC	Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care
EPI	Expanded Programme of Immunization
FCPU	Family and Child Protection Units
FGM/C	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
FP	Family Planning
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HH	Household
HIPC	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
HRC	Human Rights Commission
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IGA	Income Generating Activities
INFF	Integrated National Financing Framework

INGOs	International NGOs
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
JCC	Justice and Confidence Centre
LAC	Land Arbitration Committee
LLITNs	Long Lasting Insecticide Mosquito Nets
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
MCV	Measles-containing-vaccine
MDSR	Maternal Death Surveillance and Response
MICS	Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey
MISP	Minimum Initial Service Package
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoD	Ministry of Defense
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoFEP	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoINT	Ministry of Interior
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoLSD	Ministry of Labour and Social Development
MPCG	Multi-Purpose Cash Grants
MRRC	Migrant Resource and Response Centre
NCCW	National Council for Child Welfare
NCD	Non-communicable Diseases
NFI	National Forest Inventory
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
NHIF	National Health Insurance Fund
NPC	National Population Council
NHRC	Nation Human Rights Commission
NMRF	National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up
ODF	Open Defecation Free

OOSC	Out-of-school Children
OPV	Oral Polio Vaccine
PHC	Primary Health Care
PMO	Prime Minister Office
PMTCT/VCT	Prevention of Mother-to-child Transmission/Voluntary Counselling and Testing
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RMNCAH	Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child, and Adolescent Health
RRR	Recovery, Returns, and Reintegration
RUTF	Ready-to-use Therapeutic Foods
S3M	Simple Spatial Survey Method
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SC	Stabilization Center
SCCW	State Councils for Child Welfare
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SFSP	Sudan Family Support Programme
SLF	State Liaison Function
SMA	Surface Management Agency
SOP	Standard Operational Procedure
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SSB	Stabilized Soil Block
SSTL	State Sponsored Terrorism Listing
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
TJC	Truth and Justice Commission
U5	Under five years old
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UN	United Nations
UNAMID	United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur
UNCT	United Nations Country Team

<b>UNDAF</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
<b>UNITAMS</b>	United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan
<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review
<b>VAC</b>	Violence against children
<b>VGGT</b>	Voluntary Guidelines for Governance of Tenure
<b>VLSAs</b>	Village Savings and Loans Associations
<b>VRRC</b>	Voluntary Return and Resettlement Commission
<b>VTECs</b>	Vocational Training and Entrepreneurship Centres
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>WII</b>	Weather Index Insurance
<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organization

## UN Country Team

The United Nations in Sudan comprises of 33 resident and non-resident Agencies, Funds and Programmes and missions.



UNITED NATIONS

الأمم المتحدة  
ESCWA



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



IFAD  
INTERNATIONAL  
FUND FOR  
AGRICULTURAL  
DEVELOPMENT



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency



International  
Labour  
Organization



IOM

UN MIGRATION



OCHA



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



UNITED NATIONS  
SUDAN



UNAIDS



UNAMID



UNDSS



UNECA



## Key Government Partners

Central Bureau of Statistics  
Combating Violence Against Woman and Child Unit  
Commission for Refugees  
Family and Child Protection Units  
Higher Council for Migration  
Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources  
Human Rights Commission  
Humanitarian Aid Commission  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Ministry of Animal Resources  
Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities  
Ministry of Defense  
Ministry of Education  
Ministry of Environment  
Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Guidance and Endowments  
Ministry of Health  
Ministry of Higher Education  
Ministry of Industry and Commerce  
Ministry of Information, Communication, and Information Technology  
Ministry of Interior  
Ministry of Justice  
Ministry of Labour and Administrative Reforms  
Ministry of Social Development  
Ministry of Urban Planning and Infrastructure  
Ministry of Water Resources, Irrigation and Electricity  
Ministry of Youth & Sports  
National/State Council for Child Welfare  
National Council for Environment  
National Intelligence Service  
National Mine Action Centre  
National Population Council  
National Strategic Council  
Prime Minister Office  
Sudan Judiciary  
Sudan Meteorological Authority  
Voluntary Return and Resettlement Prosecutor General

# Message from United Nations Resident Coordinator in Sudan

**Ms. Khardiata LO NDIAYE**

Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HC)



I am delighted to share with you the United Nations Result Report for 2018, 2019 and 2020. This report describes the UN’s collective contribution to Sudan’s peacebuilding and development goals. It summarizes the main contributions of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) to the Government of Sudan’s development effort. We highlight some of the very important achievements to which the UNCT has contributed, which have had an impact on the lives of Sudanese people.

Our collective development support to Sudan covers a range of objectives distributed among five UNDAF focus areas: Economic Development and Poverty Reduction; Environment, Climate Resilience and Disaster Risk Management; Social Services; Governance, Rule of Law and Institutional Capacity Development; and Community Stabilization.

The strong leadership of the Government of Sudan in its partnership with the UNCT has been instrumental in achieving the results detailed in the report. Building on the achievements of the UNDAF 2018 -2021, we look forward to strengthening our collaboration with the Government and all key stakeholders on the response to national development challenges to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

We reaffirm our commitment to working with all partners to attain the objectives set forth in the UNDAF 2018- 2021, and express appreciation to our development partners for their generous support and continued cooperation.



# CHAPTER 1. Development Contexts in Sudan

## 1.1. Key Developments in the Country and Region

2018 began with protests in Sudan, against austerity measures and the worsening economic situation. There was some improvement to the security situation which resulted in 35,000 Sudanese returning, however there remained 1.8 million internally displaced people and 1.2 million refugees within Sudan's borders. Sudan continued to be included in the USA State Sponsored Terrorism Listing, and held vast international debt, which severely impacted access to development funding, although economic sanctions were beginning to be lifted.

Major peaceful demonstrations, with striking participation and leadership of youth and women, started in late 2018 again against the worsening economic and political situation and continued spreading to all states of Sudan through early 2019. These demonstrations culminated with the removal of President Bashir in April 2019. Negotiations were then launched between the civilian demonstrators and the military, which led to an agreement between the Transitional Military Council (TMC) and the Forces for Freedom and Change (FFC) in July, agreement on the constitutional declaration and the appointment of a civilian Prime Minister in August, and the formation of a joint military and civilian Transitional Government in September 2019.

The humanitarian situation continued to be challenging throughout 2019, with a slight increase in the number of food insecure (5.85 million). 1.87 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 1.1 million refugees and asylum seekers continued to need humanitarian assistance and protection support, both in and out of camps and within host communities.

Furthermore, the COVID-19 epidemic began to have a devastating impact on life in Sudan since March 2020 and the containment measures including lockdown of the country have compounded the impacts on the already struggling economy and collapsing health and education system. The pandemic severely affected the formal and informal economy, from cross-border trade to local daily labour opportunities. The impacts have been far more challenging to vulnerable groups of people including refugees, IDPs, persons with disabilities, women, and children.

Despite the years of positive economic performance, Sudan entered recession in 2018, witnessing negative GDP growth rates of 2% in 2018 and 2019. During 2020, the Covid-19 emergency and climate shocks have had a major impact on Sudan's economy, and GDP is projected to have declined by 3.6%. As a result, Sudan slipped from a lower middle-income country to a low-income country in the World Bank rankings.

Weak growth has been accompanied by deteriorating fiscal and external positions. Expanding fiscal deficits have been monetized, leading to increased inflation (reaching 154% in 2020, the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest inflation rate in the world) and exchange rate depreciation.

Under the lower-middle income countries poverty line (USD 3.20 a day), the incidence of poverty is 46.1 percent, with higher rates in rural areas as well as in the west, south and east of the country. Human development outcomes are very weak: in the World Bank's Human Capital Index, Sudan ranked 160 out of 174 countries in 2020, while according to the 2020 Human Development Index, Sudan ranked 170 out of 189 countries.

As the Transitional Government began to implement political, legal, and economic reforms, the

international community has shown its readiness to support the country's transition in building peace, democratic governance, and inclusive economic recovery as well as in progressing towards debt relief. During the Sudan Partnership Conference, held in Berlin, Germany in June 2020, donor nations pledged approximately USD 1.8 billion to support the Transitional Government's work in the areas of its humanitarian, development, and social impact mitigation.

In successfully pressing with a challenging economic reform program, Sudan has become eligible for debt relief, through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) of the World Bank, and entered the IMF Staff Monitored Programme, designed to support the economic reforms. Assuming full application and creditor participation, Sudan's debt is expected to decline from about USD 56 billion to around USD 6 billion at Completion Point by 2024.

The Transitional Government, in a joint effort with the international community, is developing a three-year Programme for Stability and Economic Development, 2021-2023. The program aims to achieve economic stability by reducing the budget deficit, eliminate the current account deficit, increase public revenues, achieve economic growth, reduce inflation, and improve the investment environment.

While the national and international community have contributed their efforts to mitigate the negative impacts of the economic crisis, Sudan has been heavily affected by different shocks throughout the 2020: desert locust infestation; unprecedented flooding affecting the lives of nearly 900,000 people across 18 states, COVID-19, and new displacements, especially in the East, as a result of the Tigray crisis in late 2020.

## 1.2. Regional Relationships

The African Union has played a mediatory role throughout the reporting period, both with regards

to the political crisis which led to the ousting of President Bashir in 2019, and the formation of the Transitional Government. The change of regime has brought an improvement in bilateral relationships between Sudan and its neighbours, although tensions remained in some areas.

Inter Government Authority on Development (IGAD) has also played an important role in regional dynamics, supporting the response to desert locusts, regional development, and durable solutions for internally displaced persons and refugees, notably across the Sudan – South Sudan border.

The eruption of armed clashes in the Tigray region of Ethiopia in November 2020 between the Ethiopian National Defence Forces and the Tigray People's Liberation Front resulted in almost 60,000 newly displaced into Sudan by the end of December 2020. Also, tensions continued between Sudan, Egypt, and Ethiopia over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) on the Blue Nile, particularly after Ethiopia announced that it had started filling the GERD's reservoir, despite continuing, and sometimes stalled negotiations led by the African Union.

## 1.3. Juba Peace Agreements

The August 2019 Constitutional Declaration requires that a peace agreement be made within the first six months of the 39-month transition period. The first round of these negotiation took place in Juba, South Sudan, in September 2019. The talks, mediated by South Sudan, covered five different 'tracks', each focused on a geographical area of Sudan. Two of the major armed groups, Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) and Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) boycott this peace process.

The final agreement of this multi-track process was signed at the end of August 2020 between the Transitional Government, the Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF) and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA)-Minni Minawi. This Agreement is a

crucial step forward in the implementation of the political benchmarks of the transitional period as outlined in the Constitutional Document. It includes several region-specific protocols and one protocol on national issues. The national protocol notably stipulates that the 39-month-long transition envisaged in the Constitutional Document is to start from the signing of the Agreement. Following the signing of the Juba Peace Agreement, the Sovereign Council and the Council of Ministers amended the Constitutional Document in a joint meeting held on 18 October, thereby incorporating the Agreement into the Constitutional Document as an integral part.

#### 1.4. UN Missions

In early 2020, the Transitional Government of Sudan wrote to the United Nations Security Council requesting the introduction of a 'Special Political Mission' to support the transitional process in Sudan. United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) then

received its mandate from the Security Council on June 3, 2020, which launched the planning process of the mission with four major focus areas: Political transition and democratic governance; Support to peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements; Peacebuilding, Protection of Civilians (PoC) and Rule of Law (RoL), in particular in Darfur and Two Areas; and Mobilization of economic and development assistance and coordination of humanitarian assistance. UNITAMS brings the Mission and the UN Country Team in Sudan under the leadership of the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG), and DSRSG/RC/HC, and was mandated to reach operational capacity by January 1, 2021.

United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) continued its drawdown through this period, using programming innovations such as the State Liaison Functions to transfer to the UNCT, with its mandate ended by the Security Council on December 31, 2020.

## CHAPTER 2. Programmatic and Operational Results

The UNDAF 2018-2021 is comprised of **five outcomes** arranged under the following focus areas:

- 1) **Economic Development and Poverty Reduction**
- 2) **Environment, Climate Resilience and Disaster Risk Management**
- 3) **Social Services**
- 4) **Governance, Rule of Law, and Institutional Capacity Development**
- 5) **Community Stabilization**

19 UN agencies have worked collectively towards the achievement of the five UNDAF outcomes, and a total of USD 432,087,465 was mobilized by UN AFPs in contribution to the UNDAF programmes.

### 2.1 Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

#### **Economic Development and Poverty Reduction**

The UN has supported the Government in developing coherent and evidence-based policies and strategies for sustainable development, including an agriculture strategy and action plan, national plans for natural resource management, national food security and nutrition policy, sustainable food supply, fisheries, and aquaculture. The UN has also supported data collection and analysis to inform policy making, such as through the implementation of the Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey.

Further, the UN has provided direct support to vulnerable communities in order to strengthen productivity and improve livelihoods and opportunities for decent work. Key results include increased crop yields in rural areas, improved access to microfinance, and enhanced access to renewable energy. Capacity building actions have targeted government officials, communities, and direct beneficiaries, including IDPs, returnees, refugees, and other vulnerable groups.

#### **Environment, Climate Resilience and Disaster Risk Management**

The UN has enhanced household and community resilience by propagating adaptive livelihood strategies and actions. Newly developed and upgraded policy documents such as the Clean Water and Sanitation Plan, which includes integrated water resources management and disaster risk reduction components, an environmental governance paper, an updated Renewable Energy Policy, and the National Urban Policy.

More than half a million individuals benefited from productive safety net programmes, including water initiatives, income diversification, homestead gardening, reforestation, and asset creation.

Further, resilience has been enhanced through improved environment and climate management data based on early warning systems. Improved weather and climate information has informed climate risk finance interventions. The Weather Index Insurance was launched for the first time, crop yield monitoring was introduced, and weather and market information was disseminated by using mobile-based applications.

The Sudan Soil Map and Soil Information System were developed, along with an upgrade of the hydrogeological information management system and groundwater monitoring system. Capacity building activities targeted the areas of wildfire monitoring, sustainable management of marine fisheries and water management for efficient farming.

## **Social Services**

The UN supported the development of sectoral policies and strategic plans, such as the National Health Policy, Family Planning National Strategy, Education Sector Strategic Plan, and Early Childhood Development Strategy. Community-based surveillance and early preparedness instruments as a response to disease outbreaks and health events were established. In 2020, the National Female Genital Mutilation Criminalization Law was enacted, and a related surveillance system established.

The UN has supported the comprehensive vaccination of children, including IDPs and refugees, and has developed an accurate multi-year forecast for vaccines. As a result, the share of the non-vaccinated population has been dramatically reduced. Specific efforts were also dedicated to reaching out vulnerable groups with HIV prevention packages.

Access to health services has improved through the construction and renovation of health facilities, provision of essential medical supplies, integration of refugees in the national health system and capacity building of health care workforce.

The UN has supported the development of a multi-sectoral nutrition strategy and directly targeted children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and refugees. At the same time, mothers' knowledge on infant feeding and capacities of nutrition service providers were enhanced.

The UN efforts further led to increased access to improved water sources and basic sanitation services. Capacities of government officials and communities on waste and water management were also addressed.

Concerted UN efforts led to improved access to education through improved infrastructure, an enhanced learning environment and better capacities of government officials and teachers.

A social protection strategy and toolkit have been developed, which cover several interventions, including the comprehensive Sudan Family Support Programme (SFSP).

In addition, the UN has provided multi-sectoral support to Sudan in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. Health services for Sudanese people were enhanced through the assessment of the indirect impact of the COVID-19 on reproductive, maternal, new-born child, and adolescent health. The Ministry of Labour and Social Development (MoLSD) was supported through the COVID-19 social protection response to reach 570,000 families with food and hygiene assistance. In response to the school closures, the UN reached more than 222,000 students to ensure their continuous learning, including enabling 67% of refugee children to have access to normal educational support.

## **Governance, Rule of Law, and Institutional Capacity Development**

The UN has supported legal and strategic reform processes that aimed to produce political commitment towards strengthening human rights, in particular children's rights: a childhood strategy, a prevention plan to end violence against children, as well as a plan to reduce female genital mutilation were produced. There has been improved coverage of social and child protection, in terms of both increased number of social workers and greater access to justice and protection services. A child

protection information management system has been set up.

The UN has provided legal aid services and advice, developed standard operating procedures in prison operations, and built the capacities of civil society on trial monitoring; developed a training manual on the protection of children victims of trafficking; and developed three standard operating procedures on family tracing and reunification and the protection of children victims of trafficking. Further capacity building interventions have targeted human rights standards, anti-human trafficking, and improved access to justice.

### **Community Stabilization**

The UN has made significant progress in increasing levels of security and promoting community stabilization and social cohesion by delivering improved basic services, infrastructure and sustainable income generating activities (IGA), in order to address roots of cause of conflicts among pastoralist, sedentary, IDPs, and returnee

communities, therefore strengthening community stabilization and promoting durable solution. The community stabilization initiatives and integrated durable solution components targeted vulnerable local communities, children, adolescents, women and youths in conflict-affected areas as well as migrants including IDPs, returnees and refugees.

The UN further supported peace dividends to create an enabling environment for community stabilization by reducing the drivers of conflict amongst different groups of stakeholders and mitigating protection threats and risks. It supported the prevention of reoccurrence of forced displacement in conflict-affected communities and ensured safe return and integration of displaced communities by removing explosive ordinance contamination. The UN also promoted livelihood opportunities through increased access to farmlands and lands for animal herders. Capacity building and awareness raising activities with community leaders and state authorities addressed protection platforms, conflict prevention and solutions mechanisms, and actions for building resilience and identifying durable solutions.

## 2.2 Cooperation Framework Priorities, Outcomes, and Outputs

### Focus Area 1: Economic Development and Poverty Reduction

By 2021, people in Sudan, with 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.



*Female farmers inspect the early growth of wheat after building the much-needed canals to collect the water*  
©UNDP

The UN has supported the Government in developing coherent and evidence-based policies and programmes aiming at sustainable economic development and poverty reduction. Furthermore, the UN support has focused on the poorest households in rural areas engaged in the agriculture sector.

## **Support to Evidence-based Policies and Strategies for Sustainable Development**

In 2018, the UN provided technical support to national institutions in formulating policies, strategies and action plans such as the Agriculture Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2020; the national plant breeding programmes for crop improvement; technical support to review the fisheries sector; the One Health National Action Plan for Antimicrobial Resistance; and a needs assessment of Sudan's capacity to implement measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in Red Sea State. The UN also supported the drafting of a Labour Migration Policy that ensures the protection of labour migrants, while enhancing their economic benefits. Jointly with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the UN assessed the impact of the economic crisis on the urban poor in Khartoum State to inform rapid response programming and policy making processes, essential to achieve poverty reduction.

In 2018, the UN enhanced the capacity of the government stakeholders in Darfur states to understand and use VGGT (Voluntary Guidelines for Governance of Tenure) principles and tools. A regional action plan on agriculture land registration and dispute resolution on infringement of land tenure rights was developed and a comprehensive action plan for VGGT implementation was under consultation.

In 2019, national policies and plans for sustainable food supply, agricultural and fishery development were further supported. The UN conducted a study to assess sorghum losses across three different farming systems – traditional, semi-mechanized and irrigated systems, aiming to highlight weaknesses in the sorghum food supply chain, in order to propose intervention strategies to reduce food losses and improve the efficiency of the sorghum food supply chains, which informed the National Food Loss and Waste Strategy and Action Plan.

The UN assisted the Government in developing sectoral strategies in the areas of natural resources management, control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TAD), and fisheries and aquaculture, supporting government efforts to develop evidence-based policies to improve economic development and poverty reduction.

The UN also assessed legislation relevant to Anti-microbial Use and Anti-microbial Resistance (AMU/AMR) in Sudan. The assessment analysed the following regulatory areas: veterinary medicinal products; animal health and production practices to prevent animal disease in terrestrial and aquatic animals; animal feed, including feed additives and medicated feed; pesticides; food safety; environment, soil and waste; water quality; and plant health. The assessment recommended that the national legal and institutional framework for AMU/AMR governance be strengthened, and a national body or committee be created for coordination between the relevant institutions. Further, the UN supported the sensitization of national stakeholders on issue of AMR in food and agriculture sectors, and production of extension materials on AMR such as leaflets, posters, seminars, flyers, radio and TV programs, targeting livestock farm owners, pastoralist, agro-pastoralist, and veterinarians.

With the UN's financial and technical support, the Government led and championed the Sudan Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS) to provide much needed data about children and women. This contributes towards an open data policy within the new Transitional Government in order to have credible data for planning and policy formulation. Further, the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW) facilitated the participation of children ensuring their voices were considered when setting priorities. The survey also helped the Government to move forward with its first fully-fledged poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP), which is a prerequisite for consideration for debt relief within the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative.

Furthermore, the UN supported the development of the country's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) strategy and National Qualification Frameworks and developed the Country Background Report on the status of TVET in Sudan, whilst continuing to gather relevant information for the National Qualification Framework. With the strategy developed, 52 instructors (36.5% women) from vocational training and entrepreneurship centres (VTECs) were trained on competency-based training approach and pedagogy techniques; 67 VTEC staff (42% women) were trained on planning and monitoring, basic entrepreneurship, financial management and communication techniques; 20 VTEC's instructors (85% women) were trained on entrepreneurship, enterprise development and business planning; and 20 VTEC instructors (15% women) were trained on technical English and pedagogy techniques.

In 2020, the UN, using a multi-layered approach, simultaneously working with the authorities at the central and state levels, created data driven policies and strategies, with empowering governmental and non-governmental organizations to increase their capacities to support poverty reduction activities, as well as working directly to improve income generation capacities, and the resilience of individuals and communities.

The UN conducted a study on the coherence between agriculture and social protection. The analysis of the findings of the study enabled strengthening of coherence between social protection and agriculture, food security and nutrition (FSN), natural resources management and rural development by contributing to more effective policy and programmatic synergies.

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Ministry of Animal Resources, respectively, with the support of the UN, amended the 'National Food Security and Nutrition Policy' and the 'Production of National Sectoral Adaptation Strategy for Livestock'. These policies will contribute to the creation of an enabling

environment to address the underlying factors of food insecurity and malnutrition in the country.

The UN also supported the Transitional Government in developing a social protection strategy and toolkit to properly target social protection systems. The strategy includes a number of interventions, which the UN supports, such as the Sudan Family Support Programme, Shamel Programme, National Health Fund, Zakat Fund, Pension and Social Security Fund, and Student Welfare Fund.



*Communities engaged in the broadcasting of seeds, a method of scattering seeds mechanically or by hand over large areas, to enhance land productivity ©FAO*

### **Support to Vulnerable Communities**

During 2018, the UN accelerated the efforts toward reducing poverty and improving resilience of the most vulnerable communities in Sudan. With special attention to youth, women, and populations in need, the UN agencies have worked in strengthening productivity, thus, improving livelihoods and opportunities for decent work, and ensuring that they are better protected from external shocks. The UN contributed to improving livelihoods, with interventions in areas such as land ownership, provision of seeds, seedlings, energy, tools, equipment, fertilizers, and herbicides, as well as loans and credits, and inputs for forest

development. The UN agencies have also collaborated to implement a pilot project for a hydroponic production system for fodder to improve the livelihoods of people who were forcibly displaced by the conflicts in Darfur. The UN further contributed to improving livelihoods and productive capacities through infrastructure development, i.e., traditional terraces for irrigation; demarcation of livestock routes, establishment of primary and secondary livestock markets, women farms, women home 'Jubraka', and established individual and community range and forest reserves.

farmers and pastoralists in promoting two new products through Ebdaa Microfinance bank.



*Enhancement of food production and livelihood of the community ©FAO*

The UN worked with 247 key microfinance (MF) actors including banks, microfinance institutions, government entities, and regional institutions, such as the Greater Darfur MF Apex to enhance effective and affordable access to microfinance, reaching around 9,000 people. Technical support was provided to Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) involving a total of 6,431 members, and 1,734 project ideas evolved covering almost 2,000 households (of whom 58 percent were female beneficiaries) which successfully started their own businesses and supported their livelihoods. Also, in collaboration with Ebdaa Microfinance Bank and Mishka Microfinance Institution, the UN developed three finance policies, which supported 5,633



*Financial support to farmers in Sudan ©IFAD*

UN agencies supported 7,026 refugees and host households in Kassala State through trainings/capacity development, inputs for agriculture/livestock and fisheries activities, which have improved their livelihoods through organizing and linking refugees and host community potentials to agricultural and livestock value chain. According to the end-of-project survey, the intervention has increased the number of refugees who were self-reliant in sustainable manner ("middle" and "better off").



*Line planting technique ©IFAD*

In 2019, the UN support focused on the poorest households in rural areas, using bio-fortified sorghum and millet to increase yield. In order to further increase yield, the UN supported the government to undertake trials in Kassala State and Gezira State, paving the way for new National Variety Testing Protocols, which are necessary for the registration of new cultivars prior to their release, and a National Strategy and Policy for Food Fortification in Sudan, accelerating the fortification of staple foods and increasing consumers' access.

In addition, the UN designed and delivered community-led livelihood activities to enhance economic growth among the vulnerable migrants such as IDPs, returnees, refugees, and other affected communities in West Kordofan, South Kordofan and South Darfur States. Following community priority, agricultural support was delivered with a special focus on small-scale farmers, who face major constraints due to the high cost of agricultural inputs and post-harvest losses. Community agricultural management committees were established at each project site and the committee members were trained to expand agricultural business and marketing methods for local agricultural production.

The UN further supported farmers by creating agricultural bank accounts to ensure funding became available for the upcoming agricultural season, especially for the purchase of improved seeds and exploration of new agricultural business opportunities.

Using a gender sensitive approach, the National Adaptation Project, led to empowered women headed households and created women's solidarity networks in six states.

In order to increase access to renewable energy resources, the UN established the Solar Fund scheme through which the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MoFEP) contributed USD 3 million for solar powered irrigation system, which are now being installed in the Northern state, in addition to the wind energy turbines. Civil society

was engaged in establishing the Small Grant Programme, with strengthening their capacity to address environment, energy, and climate change, and building partnership with key local organizations and actors. Over 90 percent of beneficiaries stated that they perceived their livelihoods to be resilient and less likely to engage in conflicts related to access to natural resources.

This work continued in 2020, with the UN providing technical assistance to farmers and pastoralists aiming to increase income generation and reduce poverty by using small-scale agriculture and industrial production, access to seeds, agricultural tools and tree seedlings, observing the international standards. The targeted farmers increased their agricultural productivity by implementing low-cost technologies, leading to a decrease in harvest losses and increase in productivity through improved seed technology, crop rotations, weeding control, and spacing. The UN also supported vulnerable groups, women, and youth to enhance their economic capacities through IGAs such as livestock management, food processing and preservation.

The Loans Associations and community committees further increased inclusive access and management of local natural resources, promoting rural development.



*Women's access to rural finance ©FAO*

With the overall objective to strengthen national capacity on sanitary and phytosanitary standards and pave the way for Sudan to become a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the UN trained government officials, targeting technical officials from the MoA, Ministry of Animal Resources, Ministry of Health (MoH), Central Research Laboratories and the Sudanese Standards and Metrological Authority.

In rural areas, the UN provided technical trainings covering multiple areas of agricultural production: post-harvest activities, transportation, traceability, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)/Integrated Pest Management (IPM), sesame seed oil extraction, and testing and certification requirements, production technologies and micro agri-entrepreneurship. Financial support was offered to enhance the access to water through the 'Solar for Agriculture and Climate Risk Finance'. The UN continued technical support for the Food Security Information and Knowledge Sharing System Management, including the website for Vocational Training and Entrepreneurship Centres (VTECs) and the Supreme Council for Human Development and Labour SCHDL1.

### Good Practices

- The livelihood interventions in creating alternative IGAs and agricultural practices were designed not only for community's economic growth, but also promoting social cohesion between migrants, local community, and other vulnerable populations such as youths and women. Effectively linked with financial institutions, women and youth engagement in the development structures further enhanced their contribution to the development process through provision of financial resources and space to address their concerns.
- The formation of the Village Saving and Lending Groups, which has enhanced the culture of saving money among vulnerable groups as the first step in the initiation of small business projects, was very successful when applied with post-conflict communities who were at the brink of destitution. Starting from small business grants out of the saving boxes, it paved the way for the poor communities to access start-up capital that enabled them to tap into existing microfinance from the savings group members, and they have observed positive results. Up to 60 percent of beneficiaries acknowledged that there was increase in their income which had improved their livelihood.
- Remote Sensing Authorities (RSA) delivered GPS/GIS training for 28 participants comprising of extension agents, insurance brokers and Surface Management Agency (SMA) agents. The newly established six units and the Enhanced Wetland Classifications (EWC) are expected to support efficient, robust collection and interpretation of weather/climate information for risk mapping, rainfall forecasting and drought early warning which will help reducing or preventing further environmental degradation.
- The "Climate Risk Finance Project" will achieve its objectives to: strengthen institutional and technical capacity for climate observation, forecasting and early warning at national and local levels; address residual climate risk to rural livelihoods in the states of greatest rainfall variability through parametric insurance products; and improve access of vulnerable farmers and pastoralists to financial services for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. In addition, the third National Communication and Biennial Report focused on

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<http://fsis.sd/Pages/FoodSecurity/Index.aspx?lang=EN&DId=0&I=103892&CId=0&CMSId=5003214>

capacity building activities in climate change adaptation and mitigation across different sectors.

- The interventions delivered during 2020 had a strong focus on strengthening capacities and initiatives of local Non-governmental

Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) that can support direct participation of marginalized youths and women in designing and implementation process, therefore increasing community's ownership. This contributed to facilitating durable solutions and stabilizing community.



*Mohamed Sameer, a solar advocate lifelong farmer ©UNDP*

### **Success Story**

For Mohamed Nour Idris in Al-Silaim, North Sudan, farming has become a challenge in recent times. Residing in an area known for its arid weather and desert landscape, high gasoline prices (or unavailability) mean intermittent power for his crop-irrigating water pumps and potentially ruinous risks to harvests, combined with rising, livelihood-sapping expenses.

However, through the Global Environment Fund-supported project to replace diesel-powered irrigation with solar, Mohamed and others in the project have been able to significantly increase their productivity and income by using solar energy to see

two harvests per year with sufficient supply of water without additional overhead costs.

Overall, 29 farms covering 463 acres took part in the initial pilot, with an additional 1,440 solar pumps rolling out to farms by 2022. An analysis of harvests showed an average increase of 46% for land under cultivation, 47% increase in total production, with summer crop production – generally more costly due to increased water requirements, thus requiring more diesel – increasing 87%.

Furthermore, to reduce the cost of 'going solar' which is between USD 5,000-7,000, UNDP and the MoFEP secured tax and duty exemptions for most solar pump components, and UNDP is advocating for

a 'National Solar Fund', designed to combine finance from national banks, the Government, and international donors to make low-cost loans and subsidies available for farmers to invest, and similar opportunities for solar technology in other rural sectors.

As Mohamed noted:

“Once you produce using solar, you become a producer and not a consumer, so I certainly hope the usage of the solar can become more widespread.”

For more information, please visit the website:

<https://undparabic.exposure.co/this-could-not-have-been-possible-without-solar-energy>

## Focus Area 2: Environment, Climate Resilience and Disaster Risk Management

*By 2021, people's resilience to consequences of climate change, environmental stresses and natural hazards is enhanced through strengthened institutions, policies, plans and programmes.*



*Adoption and replication of successful water harvesting techniques, including IWRM in Sudan ©UNEP*

The UN has supported the enhancement of household and community resilience by propagating adaptive livelihood strategies and actions. Further, resilience has been enhanced through improved environment and climate management data based on early warning systems and increased capacity for data collection and management.

## Support to Adaptive Livelihood Strategies and Actions

In 2018, the UN delivered agricultural support to build resilience of people and communities, especially of vulnerable migrants such as IDPs, returnees and local communities affected by displacement, conflicts, and climate change. For instance, UN agencies supported up to 70,000 heads of households (HH) or 350,000 beneficiaries with productive safety net programmes, including a combination of cash payments, strengthening skills and education, and collectively developing assets for community use. UN agencies also jointly organized a National Workshop on “Safe Access to Energy for cooking and Lighting” aimed at boosting the promotion of renewable energy technologies in Sudan, while some agencies collaborated to create a community-based hydroponics project in Darfur. In October 2018, the project was jointly piloted in Beliel Camp, which hosts a population of 28,000 people including a mix of IDPs and 4,000 refugees. Further, in collaboration with the state governments and local communities, several livestock routes were mapped and demarcated in South and West Darfur.

In 2019, the UN support enabled Sudan to become a member of the Partnership for the Development of Nationally Determined Contributions as part of the country’s commitment to the Paris Agreement. The UN also supported the launch and operationalization of the Council for the Coordination and Management of Natural Resource Policies in East Darfur State. In addition, support has been provided in the area of Access to Benefit Sharing (ABS) of genetic resources to develop legislative, administrative and policy measures for Sudan and an advanced draft of the ABS law was adopted and proceeded through the approval process in 2019. Also, various workshops shared knowledge of environmental issues and data requirements, including the Water Diplomacy Workshop; the 2nd National Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Conference: IWRM towards Sudan SDG 6 (Universal Access to safe

Drinking Water and Sanitation Services); and a workshop on the status of urban water management in Khartoum.



*Capacity building for State Government on the development of climate adaptation plan through diaspora’s engagement ©IOM*

In addition, the UN supported government research centres in water resources assessment in the Transitional Zone of Jebel Al Diar Biosphere Reserve, and a study of the community-based management of water harvesting for rural communities in Sudan to enhance the capacities of rural community members at all levels and to empower women in a transparent, participatory environment. The study aimed to strengthen livelihoods by increasing agricultural production and related value-chain activity through effective use and management of the local natural resource, and linked hydrological/water assessment, water management, agricultural development/food security and conflict reduction.

The UN supported the Government to develop capacity with regards to various environmental policies, plans and strategies. The UN provided technical supports to develop the Sudan SDG 6 Plan with clear IWRM objectives, expected results, interventions, and budget; the Environment Background Paper as a contribution to the development of the PRSP; Environmental Governance working document; the 6-month emergency plan of the Transitional Government; an updated renewable energy policy; and Feed-in

Tariffs Renewable Energy document. The UN also provided technical support on solar technologies to three vocational training centres and technical schools in Darfur States, and a solar pump testing laboratory within the Sudanese Standards & Metrology Organization is being established.

160,000 beneficiaries benefitted from the Productive Safety Net that included water initiatives, income diversification, homestead gardening, reforestation and asset creation, provision of relevant National Forest Inventories (NFIs), and the provision of agricultural related technologies.

Around 82,500 community members benefitted from solar-based water supply systems and a total of 42,050 individuals have benefitted from solar for agriculture and solar for basic needs, with 258 kw of water solar pumping systems installed in 29 demonstration farms across seven localities.

Furthermore, 8,657 households including 5,989 men and 2,567 women headed households in South Darfur, West Darfur, Central Darfur, and North Darfur States benefitted from enhanced pastures for livestock grazing, demarcation of livestock routes, and trainings on the impact of climate change on natural resources and land use, restoration techniques (seeds collection, planting, maintenance), agroforestry system, and water harvesting techniques were provided to extension officers and beneficiaries.

A total of 585 women focused HHs in 10 villages in Kassala state benefitted and 756ha of degraded lands was restored. 25 communities have improved resilience to climate change in the five states of Darfur, Blue Nile, and White Nile through access to improved environment friendly and flood-resistance building materials. 200 women in South Suakin Locality were supported with goats as drought resistant animals and 10 women associations were supported in small scale cultivation to improve crop productivity.

In 2020, the UN also contributed to developing environment chapters in strategic Government of

Sudan documents, which specifically indicated the access to benefit sharing framework; publishing Genetic Based Value Change Report, the Third National Communication Report, and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness and Preparatory Report; and formulating the National urban policy. Further, the first Sudan State of Environment and Outlook Report, entirely compiled by Sudanese experts was published at the end of 2020, showing trends in the major environmental components such as atmosphere, land, water, and biodiversity since the baseline year of 2011. It further comprises of sections on persistent and emerging environmental issues, as well as sections on policy analysis and forward-looking scenarios. This in combination with social and economic conditions will provide decision-makers with entry points to design a future based on sustainable development.

The development of the National Urban Policy was the key step for reasserting urban space and territoriality. It is also vital in providing the needed direction and course of action to support urban development. The Policy provided an overarching coordinating framework to deal with the most pressing issues related to rapid urban development, including slum prevention and regularization, access to land, basic services and infrastructure, urban legislation, delegation of authority to sub-national and local governments, financial flows, urban planning regulations, urban mobility and urban energy requirements as well as job creation, which resulted in the identification of urban development priorities, guidance on the future development, better coordination and guidance of actions, and increased and more coordinated investments.

Further, the UN provided training in monitoring and tracking the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and supported the decrees on protecting weirs and the illegal construction of water works in North Darfur.

Also, the UN supported the Water Research Centre to enhance the scientific research capacities and publish a policy brief in floods disaster risk

management. On the other hand, the UN supported an assessment of the impact of the 2020 floods on archaeological and the World Heritage Sites.

In 2020, with the UN's support, additional 20,000 people now have a better access to renewable energy, including upgraded hand pumps and solar powered pumps into mini water yards; 5,000 people found jobs in farming through the "Solar for Agriculture" Project; the "Climate Risk Finance" supported 4,250 households; and 8,250 people were reached with MF and WII products.



*Transplantation of 60,000 seedlings of native varieties in North Darfur ©UNEP*

The UN further supported 8,000 people through restoration of degraded lands, sustainable land/forest management and boosting agricultural livelihoods (e.g. crop production, honey production), which reduced the risk of disaster by strengthening livelihoods. The UN also contributed to building resilience of 105,000 communities with implementing the Post-Harvest Losses (PHL). 6,060 people were trained on agriculture, natural resources, and livestock. 20,000 economic tree seedlings were planted in six villages distributed upstream, midstream, and downstream in Wadi El Ku, North Darfur. 15,500 animal owners benefited from the natural pasture conserved for the livestock use by making fire lines break in the downstream of Wadi El Ku, which covered the length of 360 km.

The UN also enabled the environment in rural areas by constructing/rehabilitating carbon dioxide emission free solar water sources; creating concrete/plastic slab latrines for 535,500 people to contribute to reducing the forest degradation; and implementing the IWRM and to enhance management, control and use of water resources in a sustainable manner and contribute to the overall objective of establishing climate-resilient livelihoods and reducing natural resource conflicts and displacement due to the loss of livelihoods in North Darfur.

In addition, the UN supported the World Water Day 2020 with theme of "Water and Climate Change" through media campaigns, promotional documentary film and a song to raise the awareness and knowledge sharing.



*Community members participating in mapping their natural resources in North Darfur ©UNEP*

### **Development of Data Management Systems**

To further support work on resilience, the UN worked with the Government to improve data collection and management. In 2018, UN Agencies conducted Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) studies to document water resource availability and existing operation and management mechanisms of community water resources; trained farmers to monitor rainfall and report to local meteorology stations by phone; promoted the use of solar power in agriculture; and provided training in the use of



In 2020, the UN continued to support an early warning system for climate risk finance interventions. Farmers and pastoralists have improved access to weather observations and WII services. In addition to crop yield monitoring by drone technology and disseminated weather and market information by using mobile based application to enable farmers to access to MF and WII services.

### Capacity Building for Data Collection and Management

In 2018, UN agencies have undertaken a range of programmatic support, including training for conducting the National Forest Inventory (NFI); wildfire monitoring and remote sensing; construction of the Forest Reference Emission Level, Greenhouse Gas Inventory and National Forest Monitoring System; and development of a National Soil Information System and Early Warning System to monitor the risk of drought and dry spells. UN agencies have also conducted natural resources assessments in Darfur and produced digital maps that identify settlements, farmland, rangeland, livestock routes, land use, land cover, and water sources. Additionally, the UN agencies have supported the renewal of licenses for the Remote Sensing Authority and Sudanese Meteorological Association for high-resolution remote sensing data and the installation of rain-gauges, automatic weather stations to increase monitoring, observation and sharing of information.

Furthermore, the UN provided capacity building for sustainable management of marine fishery in Red Sea State and assisted with compliance to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. To be specific, The UN provided technical support to the Red Sea State government for fisheries management through the introduction of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, establishment of a fish databases, and capacity building of government officials in data compilation

and analysis. 20 staff of ministries were trained in fisheries statistics; fisheries database management; underwater photography interpretation and analysis; and fisheries resource surveys.



*Community forests nursery in Um Gidabo, North Darfur*  
© UNEP

Also, UN support was provided for policy reviews, strategies, and action plans in the areas of forest policy, fire management, and climate-smart agriculture.

In 2019, the UN provided training to 28 participants (extension agents, insurance brokers and SMA agents) on GPS and GIS and supported the establishment of six drought and crop monitoring centres in several states. There was also training of 400 technicians in 10 locations on natural refrigerant conversions, and 11.8 Ozone Depleting Potential (ODP) ton of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC-141b) has been phased out by conversion to cyclopentane foaming technology in four companies in the rigid polyurethane subsector.

In 2020, to improve the water management for efficient farming, the UN also trained 60 households in the selection of vegetable, introducing the “water-smart” innovations which increased water use efficiency and water productivity suited for small scale farmers. The communities strengthened their coping mechanism to tackle the future climate and environmental change and lower the cost of

operation and maintenance of water yards with small-scale vegetable farms using a drip irrigation system and local materials kits.

### Good Practices

- An innovative and participatory approach to natural resources planning and management as well as capacity building, speeds up the implementation process and assists in raising awareness among stakeholders. The examples are the formation of a state-level council and participatory forest management models in East Darfur; establishment and empowerment of community-based enterprises to disseminate Stabilized Soil Block (SSB) technology; and engagement of trained youth in income generation.
- With a large population of highly skilled Sudanese professionals migrating to other countries, Sudan has a potential to build capacity of communities through transfer of knowledge and skills, whilst engaging local expertise and contributing to local employment. For example, a Sudanese agricultural expert living abroad was hired to transfer skills and knowledge for agricultural development of a target community and to develop a climate change adaptation plan. Further, partnerships with the government stakeholders and academic institutions are good opportunities to support future participatory approach to design and deliver programs.

### Success Story

In September 2020, Sudan was hit by its worst flooding in decades. Weeks of torrential downpours and the resulting rise in level of the river Nile caused deaths, displacement, and massive destruction to key infrastructure and livelihoods across the country. Over 120 people lost their lives, and another 860,000 people were critically affected, according to the Government's Humanitarian Aid Commission.

Numerous archaeological sites throughout the country were also impacted by the disastrous floods, as ancient Sudanese civilizations were mostly located near the Nile. Heavy water infiltrations have been recorded, among others, at two sites inscribed on the World Heritage List: the 'Archaeological Sites of the Island of Meroe' at the heartland of the Kingdom of Kush, a major power from the 8th century B.C. to the 4th century A.D, and 'Gebel Barkal and the Sites of the Napatan Region', which are outstanding testimonies to the Napatan (900 to 270 B.C.) and Meroitic (270 B.C. to 350 A.D.) cultures.



*UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund supports post-flood assessment of archaeological sites in Sudan ©UNESCO*

Following a request of support from the Sudanese authorities, UNESCO, through its Heritage Emergency Fund, organized an emergency assessment mission to the affected sites from 2 to 17 November 2020. The mission, composed of four experts in geology, hydrology and archaeology and restoration, as well as a representative of the

UNESCO Office in Khartoum, visited sites and museums in the River Nile State, Northern State and Khartoum State, where meetings with national and local stakeholders were also organized.

Among the main findings, contained in the report released on 8 December 2020, water infiltration at several sites loosened their sandstone foundation and may in the future result in collapse if not addressed. Furthermore, stagnant water (up to a height of 38 cm) led to loss of colour in the painted surfaces of buildings and statues. Issues related to the overall management framework were also identified.

“Beyond the damage that we could identify, and the emergency measures that we proposed for the safeguarding of these unique sites, we recommended the setting up of an overall disaster risk management policy, and its articulation in

emergency preparedness plans and protocols for individual sites” said Professor George Okello Abungu, leader of the mission.

The mission provided a comprehensive set of costed recommendations, ranging from the setting up of flood protection and drainage systems, to sand removal interventions, fencing, surface cleaning, surveying, and documentation. Priorities were set in terms of the development of a Master plan for the Royal City at Meroe and protection measures to counter the rising ground water level at the pyramids in Nuri.

In the immediate aftermath of the mission, a research team focusing on water impact on archaeological sites and an operational team for the implementation of urgent safeguarding measures were set up by national authorities.

### Focus Area 3: Social Services

By 2021, the populations in vulnerable situations have improved health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation, and social protection outcomes.



*School students at an event organized by the UN ©UNRCO*

The UN has supported Sudan in improving equitable access to comprehensive health, nutrition, water and sanitation services that aim to build social cohesion and resilience. Further, the UN has also strengthened institutional capacities for quality service delivery, especially to vulnerable groups.

## Health

### Policy and Strategic Support

In 2018, UN agencies together with their partners supported the Government in generating sectoral evidence-based policies and strategic plans for health sector such as the Sudan Family Planning National Strategy (2019-2023); National Midwifery Strategic Plan (2019-2022); and national food fortification and maternity protection policies and strategies which are currently awaiting final signature, conducting the National Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care (EmONC) Need Assessment, and adopting professional midwifery education programme aligned to the global International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) standards; and developing and translating the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Strategy.

Moreover, the UN with other partners supported the implementation of the simple spatial survey method (S3M), an innovative sub locality-level multisector survey to generate evidence nationally in all sectors of nutrition, health, WASH, education, and protection. The data will be used for multisector policies and plans to holistically address critical health and nutrition needs of women and children.



*Training for the staff from El Fasher and Nyala Cancer Centers 8-19 March 2020 ©WHO*

In 2019, the UN supported in revising the National Health Policy 2017–2020 and developed the National Health Recovery and Reform Policy & Strategic Plan 2020-2022 with the vision to achieve the highest attainable level of health for all, defining the priority benefits package for universal health coverage (UHC), comprising, inter alia, a core list of essential primary care and lifesaving interventions available for all people living in Sudan. As such, the UN worked to strengthen the decentralized health system as a vehicle for primary health care (PHC) and supported the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) including review of structures, roles and responsibilities of local health authorities, capability building, and community systems strengthening.

Despite the disruption of the Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) services in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN significantly contributed to promoting health services for Sudanese people: the UN assessed the indirect impact of the COVID-19 on the RMNCAH services and identified mitigation measures; supported the integration of perinatal and neonatal death review in the Maternal Death Surveillance and Response (MDSR) system; developed the EmONC national guidelines; and implemented the National Maternal and Child Health (MCH) COVID-19 protocols with training 850 health workers on the protocols and procuring personal protective equipment (PPE) to MCH facilities to avoid disruption of the RMNCAH services.

In addition, guidelines on Family Planning (FP) were introduced and adopted following the finalization of the National Strategy for Family Planning by the National Task Force on Family planning. Early Essential New-Born (EENC) care was also introduced in 10 health facilities in Khartoum state where around 240 health care providers including medical doctors, nurses and midwives from the selected health facilities were trained with the coaching methodology. 850 community midwives (CMWs)

also received training on the updated integrated CMW in-service training package.

Furthermore, the UN implemented Community Based Surveillance in 14 states, including 11 bordering states that have high disease burden, with more than 5,500 community volunteers trained in more than 5,000 villages. The surveillance ensured active surveillance for major outbreak alerts/rumours for rapid response, including Guinea Worm Disease (GWD), where risk of its importation is very high from South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Chad borders.

In conflict-afflicted Darfur region, for the interruption of Trachoma transmission, the UN successfully implemented a record population coverage of 1.5 million with Zithromax treatment within a month and reduced burden of trachoma in two localities (Kalamindo and Dar el salam; North Darfur state) to less than 5 percent where its transmission was prevented.

Moreover, substantial attention was given to early preparedness and responses to the outbreaks and health events through capacity building; early detection and timely reporting; and implementation of preventive activities and preparation of buffer stock in refugee camps. As such, the response to containment of Dengue Fever outbreaks was very effective.



*Training of Community Rapid Response Teams in West Darfur State ©WHO*

In 2020, with the policy support by the UN, the Government endorsed the article (141) of the amendment to the Criminal Law and established the FGM surveillance system which has been integrated into the Health Information System; and developed the National Early Child Development Policy, National Extended Program for Immunization, and Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct for health care providers. Furthermore, under the leadership of NCCW and through joint work of the UN, Government related institutes, NGOs, CSOs and activists; a final draft of ending child marriage national strategy was developed pending endorsement by the Ministers Cabinet.

After almost 30 years since the last Micronutrient Survey was conducted in Sudan. MoH with support of UN and EU conducted National micronutrient survey. The survey was led by the National Nutrition program, National Public Health Laboratory and WHO supported by UNICEF and WFP. The survey results will help in providing representative national and state baseline data for the Micronutrient situation in the country and to use this evidence for the advocacy of mandatory national food fortification and other decision making in the country.

## Vaccinations

In 2018, 1,241,577 children under five (U5) were vaccinated against measles, including 454,119 IDPs and 8,800 South Sudanese Refugees living in both camps and host communities in Darfur States, West and South Kordofan, White Nile and Blue Nile.



*Children vaccinated against polio ©WHO*

Two rounds of sub-national polio vaccinations were conducted as part of efforts to sustain polio-free Sudan, reaching 3,016,657 U5 children (98 percent of the planned target, half of whom were girls) in round one and 4,477,692 (100 percent of the planned target, half of whom were girls) in round two. The polio campaign was delivered integrated with vitamin A supplementation, reaching 2.4 million children (of whom 50 percent were girls) in round one, and 3.7 million children (of whom 50 percent were girls) in round two. The integrated polio campaigns prioritized localities hosting IDPs and refugees, as well as newly accessible localities in conflict-affected states, to ensure that no child was left behind.

In 2019, with the UN support, the nationwide integrated measles, oral polio vaccine (OPV) and Vitamin A campaign and routine vaccination

immunized 13,027,696 children between 9 months to 10 years against measles, and U5 with OPV and vitamin A, ensuring efficient utilization of resources and reducing transaction costs by using the same teams to deliver multiple antigens and further expanding access through 47 mobile clinics in hard-to-reach areas in nine states. 575,982 children under one year old in humanitarian settings including IDPs and refugees received the first dose of measles vaccination and a campaign-style delivery of vitamin A. Over 6.1 million boys and girls between 6–59 months were vaccinated at no additional cost, particularly at a crucial time of cash and fuel shortages.

7,559,097 U5 boys and girls, including 5 million under one year, reached by polio vaccination at 95 percent coverage, which resulted in polio-free, 83 percent of children under one year immunized against measles, representing a 14 percent increase from 2018, and a decline in measles outbreaks by 91.4 percent since April 2019.

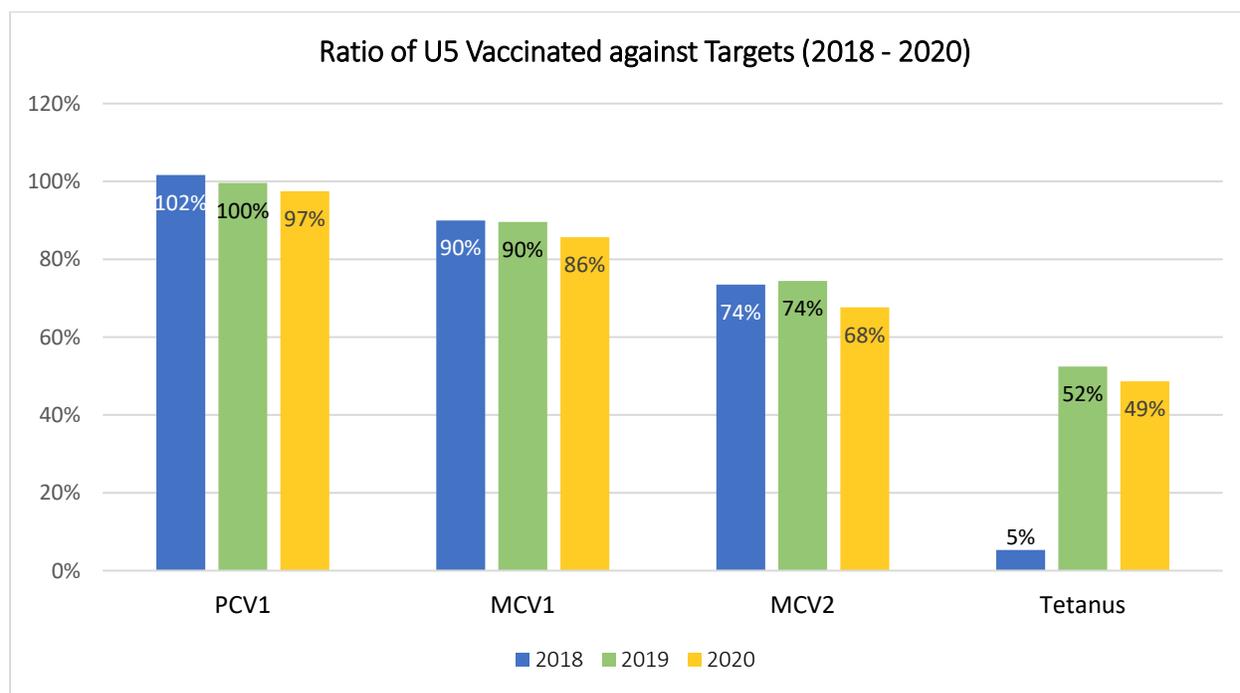
The UN further supported the development of accurate multi-year forecasts for vaccines and injectable supplies for the period 2020-2024 and the revision of Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) micro-plans for all 189 localities in Sudan. Based on these plans, the UN mobilized funding, including leveraging government contributions to procure all non-GAVI traditional vaccines (measles, polio, tetanus toxoid and bacillus Calmette–Guérin used against tuberculosis). As a result, the government increased its commitment and budgetary allocation for non-GAVI vaccines and injection supplies by releasing USD 1 million covering 39 percent of the cost of the traditional vaccines and all required syringes and associated supplies.

In addition, the UN supported the response to the Diphtheria outbreak that hit the country in the last quarter of 2019, with most of the cases from Alsunta locality in South Darfur states, technically and financially supporting implementation of Diphtheria containment campaign targeting children up to

under 15 years and using Penta vaccine for children under 7 years and 7 to under 15.

In 2020, the UN continued vaccination campaigns across the country, showing a remarkable reduction in the ratio of non-vaccinated population. To be specific, 84% of the children under one year old in Sudan were vaccinated with three doses of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) against pneumonia and measles respectively through accelerated routine immunization sessions; the coverage of Pentavalent vaccine reached 90% of the targeted children but with serious drop of 10% of the children not reached despite all effort to reach them through acceleration routine campaigns; the

measles-containing-vaccine first-dose (MCV1) dropped from 90% (2019) to 68% (2020), and the measles-containing-vaccine second dose (MCV2) from 74% to 68%; 77% of children under one received the oral poliovirus vaccine type 3 (OPV3) and the inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) while the IPV dropped from 91% to 90%; and 8.2 million (97.2%) U5 children were vaccinated against the monovalent type 2 oral polio vaccine (mOPV2) through a nationwide outbreak response. The recently reported 58 polio cases (the circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2)) were isolated and treated after being notified through the Environmental surveillance system.



Vaccine	2018		2019		2020	
	Target	Reached	Target	Reached	Target	Reached
PCV1	1,548,415	1,573,641	1,635,788	1,629,262	1,684,151	1,641,720
MCV1	1,548,415	1,392,994	1,635,788	1,465,532	1,684,151	1,443,006
MCV2	1,548,415	1,138,163	1,635,788	1,217,167	1,684,151	1,139,490
Tetanus	1,773,635	904,239	1,831,434	960,611	1,884,466	916,604

Table 1. Number of U5 Vaccinated per type of vaccine (2018-2020)

## HIV/AIDS

In 2018, 702,916 individuals from the key population and vulnerable groups were reached with HIV prevention package which included awareness raising, HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) testing, counselling, and referral as well as distribution of male condoms. The UN also supported the establishment of 35 community-based obstetric referral mechanisms.

Also, to reduce the transmission of HIV, UN agencies in collaboration with the MoH have undertaken series of coordination meeting to strengthen reproductive health in refugee's camps by providing refresher training to midwives to enhance their skills to ensure safe deliveries in health facilities, various awareness sessions on family planning, antenatal care and postnatal care to refugee communities at both health centre and community level. Voluntary counselling and HIV testing were also implemented in refugees' camps, with a total of 2,510 mothers benefited from Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) services throughout the year.

In 2019, with the UN support for sexual reproductive health (SRH) including HIV/AIDS prevention, 48,475 women received consultations and 11,098 women and girls at reproductive age received information on SRH services through 366 mobile clinics in five states. Further, 16,698 people were reached with awareness raising on FP in four states; different methods of contraceptives were distributed and used by 194,914 women; 157,000 individuals from the key population and vulnerable groups were reached with a HIV prevention package which included awareness raising, HIV and STIs testing, counselling and referral; 707,000 male condoms were distributed to key and vulnerable population; 1,590 People Living with HIV (PLHIV) benefitted from the prevention package and 717 People Affected with HIV (PAHIV) were reached through the peer outreach sessions while 554 were tested, of which 24 HIV were positive cases that were linked to the Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) services through active referral mechanisms.



*Health Unit constructed in collaboration of UNAMID and WHO ©WHO*

## Access to Services

In 2018, the UN constructed and/or rehabilitated 19 health facilities in 17 localities across five states of Darfur and benefited about 2.9 million people in urban and rural areas, including 1.62 million women and 580,000 U5 children. For example, the clinic in

Um Shalaya, West Darfur, received 14,775 patients for consultation while providing a place for 1,865 U5 children to be immunized. The clinic has a record in providing health services to patients as follows: 2,160 women were supported with reproductive health care, around 10,419 laboratory tests

conducted for 9,416 patients, as well as 7,900 patients received PHC/inpatient services.

With the UN's support, 1.8 million people in the five Darfur states now have improved access to health services with the health facilities being renovated and/or newly constructed. For example, 18,000 people including returnees, IDPs, communities, road users, transporters and the State Government directly benefitted from six road drainage structures which improved access to better health services in West Darfur.

In East Sudan, the essential medical supplies (FP and vaccines) and equipment were provided to all health facilities in the refugee camps on a regular basis. Health facilities were operational and staffed by qualified national personnel, who were assisted by refugee community workers trained on the job. Essential drugs were provided, in accordance with the WHO and MoH regulations. Refugees with non-communicable diseases (NCD) were provided regular treatment monthly and budget was allocated under the local drug purchase to avoid any interruption of medicine in the camp.

The UN, with the support of Emergency Health Action and Epidemic Control (EHA) and Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS), also conducted nine prevention of mother-to-child transmission/voluntary counselling and testing (PMTCT/VCT) campaigns in all the refugee camps and 4,550 refugees have been diagnosed with their HIV status and currently 23 are on ART without interruption. Through the support and coordination with the State Ministry of the Health, the UN supported the PMTCT services of which coverage rated at 20% and 100% of recipients received post-test counselling.

Further, the UN concluded a project partnership with the MoH in South Darfur with the aim of integrating refugees in the region into the national health system and improving access to health for refugees. A total of 1,973 CAR refugees received health services from Nyala Teaching Hospital; 111

referral cases were supported in Nyala hospitals; and 27 patients were referred to Khartoum during the first quarter of 2018.

In Khartoum, more than 23,000 refugee cases received the appropriate primary, secondary or tertiary health care. Access to the Khartoum's Open Areas (hosting many South Sudanese refugees) was granted by the Government in the fourth quarter of 2018. Mobile outreach activities were undertaken in these locations where communities were empowered to identify and refer cases to the health partner (Al Manar) offering health services through mobile clinics and providing further support for medical referral cases to hospitals in Khartoum. Through mass and routine distribution, a total of 345,591 Long Lasting Insecticide Mosquito Nets (LLITNs) were distributed aimed at reducing the incidence and mortality due to malaria. Countrywide, over 17 million people including 5 million children and 700,000 pregnant women benefitted from 8.6 million LLITNs which were distributed in 12 states.

Moreover, with the joint efforts, coordination for the multisector action to scale up nutrition has been significantly improved, which contributed to leveraging the Government's provision of USD 5 million for ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF) procurement. In addition, the UN played a key role in supporting the development of national food fortification and maternity protection policies and strategies which are currently awaiting final signature, in addition to the launching of the National Roadmap for making Sudan Open Defecation Free (ODF) by 2022.

The UN trained health personnel on GIS mapping in five pilot states to establish the EmONC network; supported the surgical repair of 172 Obstetric Fistula (OF) cases; trained 1,738 health care providers on different SRH issues (FP, EmONC, midwifery, Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP)); procured and distributed different methods of contraceptives used by 215,117 women; rehabilitated three model FP centres to provide quality FP services; delivered

SRH services to 75,900 affected population in humanitarian settings; and raised SRHR awareness reaching more than 3,300 individuals in 295 communities.

The UN reached 39,026 beneficiaries delivering an integrated package of health and nutrition services in the return areas of El Fasher locality in North Darfur; and provided direct medical assistance services to 4,365 migrants through the Migrant Resource and Response Centre (MRRC) in Khartoum.

In 2019, health sector coordination mechanisms were further enhanced linking humanitarian and development efforts and contributed to the operationalization of the Humanitarian Development and Peace Nexus (HDPN). The UN continued to advocate with the MoH and other health sector partners for the inclusion of refugees into the national health system, including the health insurance scheme, and this commitment was reaffirmed through the Government's pledges at the Global Refugee Forum in late 2019.

Under the State Liaison Function (SLF), the UN also contributed to building resilient health systems in conflict-affected areas, such as Darfur states, by developing and training Community Rapid Response Teams (CRRTs) to better respond to health emergencies; enhance community engagement through community dialogue, capacity building of the Locality Health Management Teams with providing IT equipment; assessment of health insurance services and improving population awareness of their entitlements; support of NCD services; and construction and rehabilitation of family health centres. Furthermore, 19 community-based obstetric referral mechanisms were established and supported to provide SRH services. These community structures referred more than 500 emergency cases to secondary and tertiary health facilities. The UN also supported function of MDSR at national and state level with production of national and state-level MDSR reports, including the investigation of 400 maternal deaths in the focus states.

The UN also supported establishment of El Fasher Chemotherapy Centre for treatment of cancer patients in addition to strengthening the capacities of staff working in Nyala Oncology Centre.



*Newborn baby at the Damazine maternity hospital  
©UNFPA*

The UN also maintained medical referral mechanisms in all refugee camps in East Sudan as per the medical referral standard operating procedures. Throughout the year, a total of 2,563 cases with severe medical condition were referred and supported with medical treatment at both secondary tertiary levels. Medical referrals for South Sudanese were undertaken for secondary and tertiary care services with 5,417 referrals facilitated for camp-based populations. In Khartoum, more than 25,000 refugee cases received the appropriate primary, secondary or tertiary health care. The MISRP for RH services was also implemented in the respective refugee locations.

The UN contributed to expanding and improving the access to maternal and new-born healthcare services through the training of 334 health care providers on basic health and EmONC, as well as through provision of essential maternal and new-born health supplies to 48 health facilities and 1,990 midwives. In focus localities, 88 percent of women were reached with skilled delivery and 66 percent of these women sought postnatal care (PNC) within two days of giving birth. Thus, increased PNC rate had a significant impact on detecting and managing new-born-related complications early enough to

improve child survival. Further, EmONC prioritization and network development was completed in 13 states that had not been covered in 2018 and GIS maps were produced.

The UN trained 697 health care providers on different SRH issues (95 midwifery, 180 on post-abortion care (PAC), 9 fistula repair team members, 20 on visual inspection of cervix, 91 on MISP, 25 on contingency planning, 55 on Maternal and Perinatal Death Inquiry System, 222 on FP provision and logistics management information system (LMIS).

In 2019, yellow fever mass preventive campaign was also conducted in Gazira, Blue Nile, Sinner, Khartoum, River Nile, and Northern states targeting a total of 17,314,570 people aged 9 months up to 60 years. The UN also fully supported in fund raising and submission of a proposal for the Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV) and operation cost support and implemented high-quality campaign in eight localities in Blue Nile and Sinner, targeting to benefit 1.65 million people aged one year and above, including pregnant women.

In 2020, the UN promoted the quality of 19 health facilities in refugee camps by rehabilitating, equipping, and providing operational support, which increased access to health services for 81,8341 people. The PHC and reproductive health (RH) services were provided through the facilities/clinics, where more than 330,000 outpatient consultations were reported, translating to health facility utilization rate of 1.65 refugees/person/year (target 1-4/person/year).

The UN enhanced the universal access to essential health services by supporting 58,356 people to receive HIV prevention services and providing direct medical assistance services to 1,253 migrants through the MRRC. Comprehensive reproductive health services were also implemented in the respective refugee locations, with more than 14,000 reproductive health consultations registered in camp clinics where women received antenatal care,

delivery, post-natal care, and FP services among South Sudanese.

The COVID-19 prevention messages were also disseminated to 1,861 migrants, IDPs, refugees and communities via SMS, radio and TV messaging, and the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) awareness through mobile messages, microphones, media, and mobile theatres as well as the immunization campaigns were conducted.

More than 12 million people were targeted for four preventive chemotherapy neglected tropical diseases (PC-NTDs) in 17 states, while approximately 75 percent (provisional) were treated as part of achieving UHC.

During the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN rehabilitated several health facilities as its designated isolation centres and points of entry/exit (PoEs); increased access to handwashing facilities and sanitation services; provided disinfection solution and machines; expanded the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test lab by constructing waiting area; and renovating one hospital and constructing 17 health facilities in Sudan.

The UN trained medical and health service providers, community health workers (CHWs) and community members including women to promote continuity and sustainability of community-based outreach services with community initiatives. Approximately, 133,942 patients were assisted by the services.

Additionally, cervical cancer screening using Visual inspection with Acetic Acid (VIA) service was made available in 50 health centres in five states, and treatment services were made available in 5 hospitals in the same states. Cervical cancer is the second most common women cancer worldwide.



*Health work takes MUAC readings from a child's arm  
©UNICEF*

### Nutrition

In 2018, the UN reached 237,604 children, of whom 51 percent were girls, suffering from SAM and treated 1,447 through the Outpatient Therapeutic Programs (OTPs) at 139 stabilization centres (SCs). More than 90 percent of children admitted were treated and cured. More than 70 percent of the children treated were refugees, IDPs and vulnerable host populations from Darfur, West Kordofan, South Kordofan, Blue Nile and White Niles states. As part of integrating WASH services in the management of acute malnutrition, 655 OTPs (47 percent) were provided with improved water, sanitation, and handwashing facilities.



*Child before and after treatment  
in the nutrition stabilization center ©WHO*

In addition, the UN supported the implementation of a nutrition surveillance system (NSS) in Blue Nile state since 2014 and seven new states have been included in 2019. With a protocol developed, sentinel sites were selected, and the process of piloting in Khartoum as first step started. Similarly, the UN also supported the development of a national framework for diet related NCD risk factors (sugar, salt and fats).

The UN supported refugees to have better access to health and nutrition services as well. In Darfur, the nutrition centre in Um Shalaya camp was rehabilitated in 2018, with the following services provided: U5 327 children received treatment services of severe and moderate malnutrition; routine medicines were provided to 1,500 Children; 2,815 individuals were reached through extensive awareness raising for the refugees and host community; 41 community volunteers were received in-kind incentives on a regular basis; and 2,000 registration cards have been printed and distributed.



*Nutrition Services at the Laiba Stabilization Center,  
East Jabel Marra, South Darfur ©WHO*

The UN has further supported nutrition services in the new accessible areas (Laiba Stabilization Center in East Jabel Mara) in South Darfur. The SC was established based on the urgent need identified by the government and nutrition sector to provide

nutrition lifesaving support to the malnourished U5 children. On annual basis, the center has supported the needs of more than 1,300 U5 children with severe acute malnutrition with medical complications.

In East Sudan, the UN agencies together with partners implemented a nutrition and food security programme consisting of a provision of general food distribution (GFD), Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM), and food-based prevention of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) along with other programmes like the promotion and protection of optimal infant and young child feeding practices. The recovery rate of the community-based management of acute malnutrition programme was well within acceptable standards throughout the year in both the inpatient and outpatient components.

In 2019, the UN agencies supported the Scale-Up Nutrition (SUN) functionality where the coordination body was improved in the first half of 2019, resulting in the achievement of key milestones including the development of the operational manual for SUN, and key coordination structures with specific terms of references (TORs) at both *federal and state levels*. Under the movement, the UN also supported the mapping exercise for the development of a multi-sectoral nutrition strategy with the government and relevant partners, and operationalization of the civil society alliance (CSA) by conducting the first CSA consultation workshop to develop 2019 work plan. Through the CSA, the UN established the Sudan Nutrition Research Committee to list and prioritize research.

250,568 children with SAM were treated, representing 83.5 percent of the annual target of 300,000. About 92 percent of children admitted were successfully cured and discharged. Secured the nutrition supply pipeline resulted in zero stock-out of the RUTF, which allowed Outpatient therapeutic programme (OTPs) to operate, maintain and provide lifesaving services for SAM, essential drugs and kits such as 5,470 metric tons of RUTF including therapeutic milk, medication for both inpatient and

outpatient care, SCs kits, anthropometric equipment and registers.



*Nafisa Ali Abd Abdullah, Health Awareness Counsellor, shows how to feed a child who suffers from malnutrition in Zam Zam IDP camp ©UNICEF*

In collaboration with MoH and partners, the UN further supported SC for management of SAM with medical complications through human and institutional capacity building. In 2019 HRP, 44,000 children were targeted for SAM inpatient care, 55 percent of which was covered by treatment during 2019. The UN carried out an assessment of SCs with MoH in all states, which showed the gap of nutrition services including medications, quality of the services, capacity of the staff, monitoring, reporting and follow-up for management of inpatient care for SAM. The UN and MoH agreed to develop a model SC (Center of Excellence) for the management of inpatient severe and acute malnutrition, and conducted an analysis of the micronutrient survey and continued for the rest of the indicators for calcium, ferritin, C - reactive protein, retinol, and vitamin D.

882,511 mothers became more aware of recommended IYCF practices and have enhanced knowledge of key family-based actions and skills on key behaviours including exclusive breastfeeding and other types of feeding. The achievement in 2019 exceeded the target by about 100,000.

A network of 3,000 mothers' support groups established with the UN support also enhanced capacities and skills to support community-based nutrition interventions. Support groups were able to conduct initial screenings of children with SAM and refer these children to OTPs. Mothers who promoted exclusive breastfeeding provided peer support for other mothers with malnourished children across Darfur, Kordofan states, Blue Nile, White Nile, Sennar and the East of Sudan (Kassala, Gedarif and Red Sea).

313,775 farmers and pastoralists have also improved food and nutrition security through accessing clean water from seven constructed subsurface dams in three states of West, Central and North Darfur.

In 2020, all children from 6-59 months, pregnant women, and lactating women (PLW) were selected or targeted in the feeding program, and those identified as malnourished were admitted into the nutrition program. To be specific, the number of CMAM and Inpatient Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) services, OTPs sites increased from 1,478 in 2019 to 1,660 in 2020 while children in the community were supported through the SC program, community outreach and the IYCF program. The nutrition interventions were integrated into the national system to include refugees to have access to these services as well.

With the UN's support, a total of 5.2 million U5 children were screened for malnutrition and 255,010 children (85%) with SAM received appropriate treatment, with technical and operational support for 11 SCs to ensure that children with SAM and complications have access to care; 730,360 beneficiaries received the IYCF counselling at health facilities, which reached 81.2% of the annual target although the IYCF counselling trend displayed decline as consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic affected on community-based gatherings. In addition, a total of 11,054 malnourished U5 children among South Sudanese and 8,442 in East Sudan were provided with

nutritional treatment and recovered from malnutrition.

The UN trained 11,463 volunteers on Care –IYCF services; 1,512 staff members on Foster –IYCF services; and 295 service providers on the provision of essential nutrition interventions under the COVID-19.

At the policy level, the UN has supported the MoH in updating the National Nutrition Policy 2021-2025, with technical contribution of UN agencies and nutrition partners. The UN also carried out the Cost Benefit Analysis of Flour Fortification to demonstrate that staple flour fortification has both health and economic benefits to countries that are planning for mandatory flour fortification, which showed that the investment of one dollar in flour fortification will have an estimated economic benefit of \$14.96 to the country of Sudan.

## Water and Sanitation

In 2018, the UN provided support to 737,000 vulnerable rural and emergency-affected children (368,000) and family members (358,000 males, 379,000 females) with access to improved water sources, and 226 communities creatively adapted to the Community Led Total Sanitation and certified as "Open Defecation Free (ODF)".

The UN conducted an Inter-agency WASH Knowledge Attitudes and Practices (KAP) survey in the South Sudanese refugee camps in December 2018. The objective of the survey was to establish baseline information regarding current WASH knowledge and attitude so that risky practices/behaviour are prioritized for improvement. Results of this KAP survey in White Nile have been used to design some of the interventions for 2019.

The UN initiated a partnership with the Water and Environment Sanitation (WES) to ensure the provision of potable water to refugees and host

communities in South Darfur. Several activities including pipeline extensions were carried out targeting CAR refugees and host communities. Water trucking also ensured that 2,145 CAR refugees and host communities had access to improved water with the average distribution of 12.3 litres per person per day. Training was conducted for 12 individuals involved in water chlorination.

With the UN's support, additional 35,268 beneficiaries now can access clean drinking water through five constructed and/or rehabilitated water mini/yards.

In 2019, Sudan 2019-2030 WASH SDG 6 comprehensive budgeted plans were developed for all 18 states. Additionally, 2018-2021 WASH Strategic Plan, WASH Sector M&E framework and Water Tariff setting that target universal access to basic water and basic sanitation were developed under the leadership of Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources and MoH. Also, the web-based WASH information management system (IMS) covering water, sanitation and hygiene indicators in communities, schools, and health centres has been rolled out in eight states.



WASH Information Management System @UNICEF

Further, with the UN support, the Ministry of Education (MoE) conducted a national assessment for WASH in schools for the first time, and a National multi-dimensional study, covering planning, design, construction, socio-economic and environmental factors on hafirs (water harvesting bodies) in Sudan, was developed with a draft strategy for the sustainable management of hafirs in the country.

In 2019, nearly 510,000 vulnerable people including approximately 255,000 children (130,050 girls and 124,950 boys) and their 255,000 family members (130,500 women and 124,500 men) realized access to newly constructed or rehabilitated basic water sources. Approximately 509,314 community members (256,029 males, 253,285 females) were supported to construct and use sanitation facilities, with substantial progress on the ODF initiative, under which 454 communities in 10 states achieved ODF certification status.

A coordinated approach within the education sector further enabled nearly 120,800 school children (60,000 boys and 60,800 girls) to gain access to WASH services, encouraging them not only to attend schools but to participate actively in school health clubs. Also, the effective coordination with State MoH enabled 57 health and nutrition centres gain access to water supply, and sanitation facilities became available in 41 centres.

The banner for the Sudan Sustainable Development Goal Six (SDG6) Plan Validation Workshop features the logos of the Ministry of Health (وزارة الصحة) and the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources (وزارة الري والموارد المائية). It includes the slogan 'Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all' in both Arabic and English. The UNICEF logo is also present. The banner includes images of water supply and sanitation facilities, and a central graphic with the number '6' and the text 'CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION'.

WASH Sudan SDG6 Plan National Validation Workshop @UNICEF

Furthermore, several technology-wise interventions were implemented: a hybrid technology pilot project was initiated to convert hand pumps to a motorized facility by equipping the existing borehole with solar technology in Blue Nile, North Darfur and currently ongoing in three other states; adoption of locally available Ibrik as tippy taps allows scaling-up of proper handwashing practices with its introduction in few households in El Fasher locality, which became a common sight for handwashing in several neighbourhoods in El Fasher, and spread to other localities within North Darfur and other states (e.g. Central Darfur, Kassala and Blue Nile).



*Small-scale Solar Water Supply System ©UNICEF*

As a major support for cholera response interventions, approximately 1.4 million cholera affected/at-risk population in the most endemic areas were provided with disinfected improved water. Over 5.2 million people were reached with hygiene promotion interventions with focus on key hand-washing practices and cholera prevention

procedures using interpersonal and mass media approaches.

In 2020, the UN supported access to basic sustainable drinking water for a total of 997,534 people in Sudan and increased access to safe and clean water sources through construction of 61,000 water yards and water pipelines, 15 water points by upgrading borehole/handpump to mini water yards and using the solar power systems to improve the suitability of the services, with assisting the vulnerable people including migrants, IDPs, returnees and local communities to access to the services.

The UN also supported access to basic sanitation services for 193,971 people by engaging the community in designing the responses and supporting construction of more gender, age and disability sensitive latrines, and rehabilitation and maintenance of the sanitation facilities to prevent groundwater contamination and reduce open defecation.



*Hand-free community handwashing station ©UNICEF*

The UN further reached 2,324,826 people with messages on appropriate hygiene practices in communities including schools, health/nutrition centres, and child friendly spaces.

In addition, the UN enhanced the capacity of government personnel and communities on waste and water management; supported the IMS for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); and developed the Water policy in Sudan which made access to safe and adequate water supply available to all people of Sudan both in rural and urban areas and nomad.

## Education

In 2018, the UN supported 192,398 previously out-of-school children (49.5 percent female) to access education in formal and non-formal opportunities through various interventions and provided in-service teacher training for 11,446 primary school teachers (55 percent females) that enhanced their skills in using learner-centered teaching approaches. More than 23,309 adolescents (51 percent female) were equipped with life skills through the establishment of 800 child clubs in schools. In addition, a total of 59,639 South Sudanese Refugee students enrolled in basic and secondary schools and were provided with educational support throughout the country. The disaggregation by gender was approximately 50/50.

The UN further supported the access to education in refugee setting. The Sudan's Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP) 2019-2023 was finalized and endorsed by the Minister for Education, the Cabinet and international agencies, and other stakeholders, which for the first time included refugee education. The document also proposes to absorb the refugee volunteer teachers into the MoE systems, for which the federal MoE set up a team to develop a sub-strategy on refugee education to ensure that it will be fully mainstreamed into the national system. Also, to advocate for increased budgetary allocation to education, the UN provided technical support to

the technical council of undersecretaries (a high-level government body composed of all undersecretaries of 21 federal ministries) to discuss and approve the cost and finance study report which was finalized in 2018. This has raised awareness among senior government officials on the need for more resources to be allocated to education.

Learning environments were improved in 147 schools through the construction/rehabilitation of 493 classrooms and construction of 117 latrines, benefiting 22,185 children with support from the UN. Moreover, the UN constructed three primary schools for IDPS in return and integrated areas in South and East Darfur States.

In 2019, additional 189,267 children enrolled in basic education and 33,272 children in pre-school, with the gender parity index (GPI) for basic education increased from 0.94 to 0.96, which clearly shows the Government and its partner commitments to achieve the SDG 4. Out of the 2.9 million out-of-school children (OOSC) (6-13-year-old), 177,082 (49.5 percent girls) were supported by the UN to enrol in schools and alternative learning programs, including 52,717 children affected by emergency situations. Also, a total of 265,440 children (48 percent girls) in emergency-affected areas received education-in-emergency supplies from the UN. Without this vital support, many children would either have been excluded from or dropped out of school.

In addition, 65 percent of refugee children were enrolled in primary education. The overall primary education enrolment rate of refugee children in the camps increased from 77 percent (15,393 (50 percent females)) in 2018 to 82 percent (16,319 (50 percent females)) in 2019. Moreover, the total number of children enrolled in UN-supported primary schools increased from 12,984 in 2018 to 13,043 (50 percent female) in 2019. 97 percent out of 624 (60 percent females) refugee children had successfully passed the national basic certificate examinations conducted in 2019. To retain secondary education refugee children, a total of 478

(61 percent females) students were provided with scholarships that contributed to their education expenses.

The UN supported 34 national senior officials to be trained on the UN 1960 Convention against Discrimination in Education, gaining the Government by-in for ratification and Sudan signing the Convention. 41 national literacy experts were also trained in community learning centres for rural communities, and 106 national trainers from all states of literacy programs were trained in supervision of literacy classrooms.

Nearly 11,300 children benefited from an improved school environment in 272 schools which were supported by construction and rehabilitation of classrooms. 216 semi-permanent and permanent classrooms were constructed (135 completed, 81 ongoing). The rehabilitation of 409 semi-permanent and permanent classrooms (348 completed, 61 ongoing) will provide safe learning spaces, while the construction of 118 latrines (100 completed, 18 ongoing) are expected to support enrolment and retention of students, particularly girls.



*Children play games at Atfal El Gad Friendly Centre in Tawila, North Darfur ©UNICEF*

A framework for Inclusive Education in Sudan, TOT materials and a Teacher's Guide for Inclusive Education in Sudanese schools were developed. The UN supported the Country Background Report for Smart Learning in Sudan and a study of the presence

of existing Global Citizenship Values in curricula of Sudanese formal and non-formal education. 64 educators were trained in inclusive education and 78 educators in non-formal education. 4,689 primary school teachers (44 percent women) benefitted from in-service teacher trainings. In addition, eight highly experienced Sudanese educators participated in different conferences and workshops of the Arab Region for peer learning.

On the contrary, 2020 was a difficult year for schools in Sudan as schools were closed from March until the end of the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While schools opened briefly between July and August for the exam classes to sit for their end of academic year examinations and in November for exam classes, but they were closed again by the MoH due to the COVID-19 challenges.

However, despite the pandemic, the UN reached more than 222,000 students to ensure their continuous learning, with 67% of refugee children had access to normal educational support. Over 75,000 refugee students received support for school retention activities ranging from school construction/rehabilitation, provision of school supplies to sit for end of grade 8 or secondary 3 examinations. Overall, 85,505 refugee students were enrolled in school in the 2019/2020 academic year, and 88% of those who sat for grade 8 exams with financial assistance passed, which was quite impressive given the challenges with access to distance learning.

In the tertiary programs, 463 scholars received tuition fees and monthly allowances to enable them to continue their university studies.

The UN also built 13 permanent classrooms and 17 semi-permanent classrooms with 16 latrine units under the Safe-Back-To-School initiative, while building the capacity of teachers and school management committees on the COVID-19 protocols and distributing the hard copies.



*Adam Musa, social worker, sits assists children with playing at Atfal El Gad Child Friendly Centre in Tawila  
©UNICEF*

## Social Protection

In 2018, the UN SAFE Strategy provided South Sudanese refugees with safe access to basic commodities such as cooking fuel and energy for lighting, in addition to fuel efficient stoves (FES) to 6,200 families in White Nile and East Darfur), and 800 FES to the surrounding hosting communities.

Furthermore, the clinical management of rape (CMR) services map was updated twice (latest update in September 2018) to assess the availability and quality of services provided and inform 2019 planning. Accordingly, seven health facilities were supported (3 in North Darfur, 3 in West Darfur, 1 in Blue Nile) to provide CMR and psycho-social support services.

Community mapping, spatial KAP studies and Gender Based Violence (GBV) assessments were also conducted to inform programming and policy making. The UN reached 60,157 IDPs, refugees and host community members with GBV information and services in 15 localities in six states. The direct beneficiaries were women of reproductive age, female headed households, young girls, GBV survivors and men and boys reached through awareness sessions and community protection network interventions.

The UN also worked with religious discourse to positively change the knowledge and attitude towards Female Genital Mutation (FGM) and child marriage (CM) by supporting the development of guidelines and messages on CM with printing 600 copies of the manual to enhance positive social norm change; and establishing 48 community-based protection networks for FGM and GBV in humanitarian settings and built the capacity of the networks' members.

Additionally, charcoal briquettes were distributed to 2,000 households from the most vulnerable families of South Sudanese refugees and 500 families from the hosting communities. The UN continued to provide Multi-Purpose Cash Grants (MPCG) to vulnerable people of concern monthly as a temporary safety net. Other situations are linked with livelihood opportunities such as women at risk are referred to livelihood services and provided with specific vocational trainings while receiving the MPCG until the cycle ends, with the beneficiaries having acquired a specific skill that will support him/her to practice an IGA and independently once they phase out of the MPCG.

The UN also reached 7,553 women and girls of reproductive age in IDPs' and refugees' settings in Darfur, South Kordofan, Kassala and Khartoum, and they benefitted from Personal Hygiene Kits (PHKs). 16 women centres, with more than 2,000 women were equipped with women-friendly services including GBV and life-skills training and to serve as a safe space for accessing psychosocial support and counselling, activities of social interaction, awareness, and income generation activities. In 2019, the UN also provided the similar support to 14 women centres in IDP camps in addition to providing dignity kits to 32,000 vulnerable women in reproductive age in humanitarian settings, of which 7,553 were refugee women, in Darfur and Eastern Sudan.

Further, the UN supported 71 community-based protection networks for FGM and 44 community-based GBV referral pathways in humanitarian

settings with enhancing the capacity of the networks' members; 43 health facilities to provide CMR and psycho-social support for GBV survivors, with the development of Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) for GBV prevention and response for government endorsement, and a new approach to establish four "girls club" in White Nile and Blue Nile states where school teachers were trained to support activities including awareness-raising, life-skills and small-scale businesses.

The UN has continued its support to prevent FGM/C practices: application of the religious discourse to positively change the knowledge and attitude towards FGM and CM; training of 80 religious leaders to lead the approach; training of 651 service providers and community workers (505 community facilitators, and 146 key figures and religious leaders) on FGM abandonment; and awareness campaigns on FGM for 24,316 individuals by trained community facilitators through drama, mobile theatre, and inter-generational dialogue. As a result, six public declarations on abandonment of FGM (3 in Blue Nile and 3 in White Nile states) were made and 51 communities prepared to declare FGM abandonment during 2020 and 2021.

The UN also continued to prioritize identification, assessment, and support to populations with specific needs in 2018. The UN and protection partners focused on establishing community-based protection mechanisms and providing capacity building to enable the community members with essential knowledge and skill to identify persons with specific needs and refer them to appropriate services. For example, during the year, 66% (11,036 from 16,706) of children with specific needs received specialized child protection services, including individual case management.

In 2019, pre- and in-service curricula for midwives, nurses, medical doctors, medical assistants, and joint cadres (vaccinators, nutritionist, and community promoters) were also updated with integrating FGM component as a part of the health system response approach. An accountability

framework for midwives was developed based on the updated code of ethics and code of conduct for nurse and midwives, which prohibits FGM practice and its medicalization under the "Do No Harm" section.

The UN further established 41 Women's Protection Networks for IDPs in all the displacement camps in the Darfur states by 2019. The networks are a platform for women to familiarize with the procedures to seek physical, legal, health and psychosocial support in the event of sexual violations at the IDP camps, connecting all entities that work on combating SGBV, including government entities, CSOs, police and the Child and Family Unit.

The UN also conducted a study on the "Coherence between Agriculture and Social Protection". The study mapped the types of interactions and design approach of policies and programs in agriculture and social protection. Mapping of policies, programs, and implementation performance identified gap areas and is expected to support the MoA and MoLSD to identify entry points in which their coherence could be improved.

Also, a study to estimate the coverage of social protection in Sudan is being finalized with an analysis of social groups, risks, and programs in the country, identifying the risks that affected each group and the schemes that addressed them. The coverage rate was then estimated using two approaches, one of which considers only participation and the other considers the importance of each risk for the vulnerable social groups and the level of protection offered by the benefit against such risks.

For the first time in the country, 19 media personnel were trained on ethical reporting for GBV survivors, aiming to increase their skills and ensure the safety and confidentiality of the survivors. As part of the joint SLF interventions in support of the UNAMID mandate and transition in Darfur, the UN supported the establishment of 40 gender desks in West

Darfur, North Darfur, South Darfur, and East Darfur. It also trained 933 law personnel on human rights standards in investigation, prosecution of Conflict Related Sexual Violence/Sexual and Gender Based Violence (CRSV/SGBV) cases, GBV and relating laws, and proper documentation of SGBV and GBV cases; built their capacities on investigation of SGBV and domestic related violence and child abuse cases in compliance with international standards of policing; and provided sensitization on SGBV/GBV. The trainings also covered accountability and justice delivery for victims and survivors of CRSV/SGBV.

In 2020, the UN supported the MoLSD through the COVID-19 social protection response to reach 570,000 families with food and hygiene assistance and 100,000 families with cash assistance, which covered over 86% of the targeted population, in addition to the newly developed cash plus programme targeting pregnant women and children in their first 1,000 days.

In terms of the GBV prevention, the UN conducted mapping of GBV to assess the health facility's readiness to respond to GBV and trained 50 health care providers on the first line and 60 Health Cadre Personnel (HCP) on treatment of GBV cases, while there still is a gap on mental health services. During 2020, 81 GBV cases have been supported through referral pathways and access to secondary and tertiary health care with 46 facilities supported for clinical management and care for GBV survivors and 9,694 referrals facilitated. In addition, a total of 550 migrants was provided with psychosocial support and counselling via MRRC.

### Good Practices

- The umbrella modality for implementation of some programmes (GBV and HIV/AIDS) has contributed to organizational efficiency by reducing the number of partners with direct agreements with the UN. This has substantially reduced operational and management costs.

- A solarization project targeting 100 health facilities in rural areas leveraged power supplied primarily for cold chain for the entire health facility. The benefits were enormous, including a greater access to modern diagnostic equipment that requires electricity to function, and thus, better quality of care for women and children. It is a major infrastructure and capacity improvement in the PHC sector, maintaining the safety of health and nutrition supplies and enhancing integrated PHC, including expanded access to EmONC services. The improved health facility also provided a conducive and comfortable environment for patients and healthcare workers, which is environmentally friendly and sustainable at the same time.
- The use of mobile clinics was an effective method of reaching needy people in remote rural areas with SRH services and information. Coverage of mobile clinics run by partner NGOs increased from 28,000 women in 2018 to 36,000 in 2019 where an integrated service package of RH, FP and HIV/AIDS was provided. In addition to the curative services, the campaigns provided preventive care to masses of people through awareness raising. It has been perceived as a good opportunity for those who cannot afford the cost to access the service delivery points. This approach, however, requires good planning by means of human resources, equipment, medicine, and timing to ensure effectiveness and comprehensive coverage.
- As the common Ibriq does not allow “hands free” handwashing under running water, the UN supported a simple modification to Ibriq’s by adapting simple foot operated Ibrig (tippy tap) allows hand free hand washing which is resulted in more hygienic handwashing under running water.

- One of the best practiced approaches is the “Can’t Wait to Learn” project which was designed and implemented to reach OOSC in remote areas without education services through e-learning. The e-learning centres were used as an entry point to reach children and their families with other services such as birth registration, vaccination, awareness messages on FGM and hygiene issues, which proved to be an excellent model for integrated programming to meet children’s needs through a whole child life-cycle approach in which the education section could work with other sectors. Currently, 5,136 children have been enrolled in 80 e-learning centres using 2,370 tablet computers in three states with well-established buildings, tablets with accessories, trained facilitators, and solar power units. So far, approximately 2,500 children started playing the tablet based educational games with different level of achievements, which could be seen online at ‘Can’t Wait to Learn’ portal dashboard with monthly data upload.
- A pilot project for the life skills under the UPSHIFT programme, which is a customized model of the global “Generation Unlimited” initiative, reached 145,733 adolescents from which 4,033 were reached with upshift programme (50 percent girls), including refugees, by equipping them with social innovation skills. This project achieved interesting and promising results in the areas of empowerment, skills building, social innovation and social entrepreneurship which are highly needed in the Sudanese context. This is especially important since the environment is more conducive to the voicing of young people’s concern and opinions.

## Success Story



*Amina with access to clean water ©UNICEF*

### ***Amina now can have clean water in 30 minutes***

In the absence of improved water sources, Amina, an 8-year-old girl who lives in Garajeem of Korno locality of North Darfur, used to spend significant time commuting back and forth fetching polluted water from hafirs (reservoirs) and seasonal water streams as part of their household chores.

This was a difficult work for her, other girls, and women in her community. In some places girls and women feel insecure, especially if the water source is located at a distance from their village, which was the same source that stray and domestic animals drink water from. It can be difficult for a small girl of Amina’s age to find a place amongst the animals to fill a mediocre plastic jerrycan with water and carry it on her head or on a donkey back home.

However, Amina now joins people queuing at the newly established UNICEF-supported nearby water yard which takes less than 30 minutes to fetch clean safe water for her family. The water yard also provides water to the nearby health centre and school. The water yard has been designed to serve humans and animals separately, which improves water quality and protects women and small children from livestock.

Amina now has time to spend on other things like doing her schoolwork and enjoying time with her playmates.

**Focus Area 4: Governance, Rule of Law, and Institutional Capacity Development**

*By 2021, national, state, and local institutions are more effective to carry out their mandates efficiently including strengthened normative frameworks that respect human rights and fundamental freedoms and ensure effective service delivery.*



*Inmates’ handcraft activities under exhibition in the Omdurman Women Prison ©UNODC*

The UN has supported legal and strategic reform processes that aimed to produce political commitment towards strengthening human rights, in particular children’s rights. Capacity building interventions have targeted human rights standards, anti-human trafficking, and improved access to justice.

## Support to Normative and Strategic Frameworks

In 2018, the UN supported the updating of policies and law reforms, including the development of the childhood strategy; adoption of two laws criminalizing FGM/C in Northern State and North Kordofan and the development of training manual for the treatment of children victims of trafficking. To combat trafficking, smuggling, and kidnapping through provision of specialized education, health, legal and psychosocial services, the UN supported the establishment of seven one-stop centres in Kassala, Gedarf and Red Sea, which will increase accessibility to services.

The delisting of Sudan from the State Sponsored Terrorism Listing (SSTL) gained momentum with the Government developing a prevention plan to end grave violations against children. For example, the SOPs for the release of children from armed forces were developed and rolled out.

The UN also supported the amendment of articles in the national law, namely the Article 141 of the Penal Code, banning FGM. To that end, 35 parliamentarians from relevant circles/caucus were trained and sensitized on FGM and CM issues. The amended version of the law article was approved by the cabinet and pending for the parliament for endorsement. In addition, the UN continued advocacy campaigns targeting legislators, policy makers and media for enactment of laws criminalizing FGM and CM in West, East, North, Central Darfur, and Khartoum states.

In 2019, In terms of FGM prevention, efforts to accelerate the reduction of FGM yielded significant momentum in building diversified partnerships, advocacy and policy dialogue, coordination and mass community mobilization and awareness using innovative approaches. Despite the low progress made in policy and law development at national and state levels, it has signalled the creation of an enabling environment that complements community interventions for social norm change.



*Workshop on the preliminary findings of the assessment on the Sudanese media environment @UNESCO*

Specific results include: the development of the FGM Abandonment National Strategy; two consultative workshops for developing the 2020-2030 Action Plan, which were attended by 35 participants from 18 states, and derived an agreement to create a road map with focus areas and monitoring mechanisms for the action plan; development of national SOPs for GBV prevention and response, which were submitted and endorsed by the Government; support for functionality of the FGM national task force and establishment of 18 locality task forces for FGM abandonment as coordination mechanisms in nine states (two each), affiliated to states MoH and MoLSD, to have regular coordination meetings to follow up on plans and interventions at locality level and assess the capacity of existing taskforces and updating the membership with stake task forces; and training of the network of 30 NGOs working on FGM abandonment and technical support for development of training manuals and mapping for service provision.

The GBV Sub Sector strategy and action plan for 2020 was updated, and a comprehensive training package on women empowerment was developed in collaboration with the MoLSD. Also, in support of knowledge management collaboration with the Combating Violence against Women (CVAW) Unit, the UN supported a study on Refugee Women Safe Spaces in Khartoum and East Sudan. The study findings were used to inform the GBV programming. In humanitarian settings, the UN continued its role

as the lead coordinator of the GBV sub sector at the national and sub-national levels.

The UN also supported the Government in developing a labour migration policy And the National strategy for children living and working in the street. In partnership with the MoLSD, the UN conducted an assessment to identify gaps in the existing labour migration policy and conducted two workshops attended by key stakeholders such as relevant ministries, educational institutions, and NGOs, with a total of 50 participants in each workshop, to share the assessment and provide inputs for the draft of the policy. The draft policy mainly focused on the protection of Sudanese labour migrants and migrants in Sudan.

Support was also provided to the National population Council (NPC) to conduct the mapping of the Sudan national migration policies and legislations at both federal and state levels. A consultation meeting was held for 25 representatives from relevant line ministries to review the first draft of the mapping report. The second draft was reviewed by a team from the NPC, UN, and the international consultant.

The coverage of social and child protection services was also improved as the availability of social workers increased, reaching 13 social workers per 100,000 children as of 2020, exceeding the Government's target of 8/100,000. The MoLSD and MoFEP at national and state levels, the NCCW and State Council of Child Welfare (SCCWs) are better able to assess challenges and opportunities and have contextual knowledge and data of the social service workforce through the mapping exercise conducted in 2019.

The UN also supported the Minister of Culture and Information to review of the state of the media sector in Sudan using the Media Development Indicators (MDI). The purpose was to accompany Sudan in the process of democratic transition by contributing to the development of free, independent, and pluralistic media through a

comprehensive assessment report on the national media landscape to identify gaps, provide recommendations for policy, law and regulatory reform, and to list appropriate tasks for implementation. It was further noted that the constitutional reform process defined in the Constitutional Declaration to be conducted over the next three years provides an opportunity to review and strengthen Sudan's foundational guarantees of media freedom and the freedom of expression.

In 2020, in relation to family tracing and reunification and protection of children victims of trafficking, the coordination and clarity of roles and responsibilities of different actors were improved with the development and adoption of three SOPs by the MoLSD, NCCW, and roles of professionals working for children without parental care, which have increased the level of coordination with enhancing the reporting mechanism and referral pathways, paving the way for enhancing systems and institutional response across all sectors including prevention of violence against children.

The UN further supported the legal reform process to support political commitments towards human rights, especially child rights, which was evidenced by: adoption of different amendment of the Criminal Law, among which revised the definition of the child as "anyone who did not exceed the age of 18", raising the criminal responsibility to 12 instead of seven, abolished infliction of death penalty of children, criminalized FGM/C with the new FGM/C Strategy and Child Marriage Strategy (which was adopted by the Technical Committee of the Council of Ministers) with costed action plans, and introduced alternative measures to detention for pregnant and lactating women; adoption of the Regulation on Prohibited Sanctions in Educational Settings which prohibited corporal punishments, the Regulations on child Labour and Hazardous Work, the Right of the child to accompany his mother when travelling, which is against the arbitrary decisions by fathers, and the SOPs on professionals working with

children without parental care. All these reforms provide a protective legal environment for children.

One of the major outcomes of the UN's advocacy and technical support was the establishment of the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow up (NMRF) of Sudan for permanent coordination body within the Government. Its efforts to engage and follow-up on the recommendations of the international and regional human rights mechanisms. The UN provided technical assistance to the Government of Sudan for developing the Decree and the mandate establishing the NMRF. Considering Sudan's upcoming Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

The UN organized a training module on the UPR for the members of the NMRF as to carry out national consultations for the preparation of its national report. In parallel, the UN organized a capacity building training for over 60 civil society organisations from the East, Blue Nile, Khartoum, Darfur and South Kordofan to enhance their capacity to engage with the UPR including to prepare and submit a stockholder report.

Furthermore, the UN strengthened the overall child protection system, which supported 220,320 children's access to justice and protection services and quality and appropriate care with communication for protection. As a result, the number of children in detention decreased from 207 to 164 per 100,000 children, while three prisons were reconstructed as child-friendly spaces with visiting bays to enhance the living conditions of children incarcerated with primary caregivers and visitation rights of detained persons in compliance with the Mandela Rules<sup>2</sup>. The formal foster care system was also strengthened to support 5,894

<sup>2</sup> The Mandela Rules give guidance on all aspects of prison management, from admission and classification to the prohibition of torture and limits on solitary confinement. The revised Rules were adopted unanimously by the UN General Assembly (UN-Doc A/Res/70/175) on 17 December 2015.



*UPR Training for Civil Society in Khartoum, 10-12 November 2020 @OHCHR*

children, enjoying the protective environment in families.

In addition to such child right promotion including four new Child Acts, the UN supported adoption of the Passports and Immigration Act, the Personal Status Law<sup>3</sup>, the Trafficking in Persons Law, and Cross Border Case Management SOPs as well as statute laws to establish commissions on transitional justice, anti-corruption, peace, and human rights, while providing advisory services to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in the consultative processes to draft related laws and conduct its institutional reform.

The UN further supported the drafting process of two key laws that enable accountability for human rights violations - the Nation Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the Truth and Justice Commission (TJC) laws, whilst supporting the Government to review the legal system from a

<sup>3</sup> Personal status laws in Sudan govern legal procedures that pertain to familial relations, including marriage, divorce, child custody and inheritance.

gender perspective, taking human rights as its conceptual framework to inform its legal reform strategy in the women rights domain.

Throughout 2020, the UN stepped up its advocacy and provided technical support to the MoJ toward engaging in a comprehensive transitional justice process, including assisting in drafting of a law to establish the Transitional Justice Commission (TJC) in a participatory and consultative manner. The UN supported efforts ensuring that the TJC law recognizes the need of nation-wide consultations on transitional justice and includes the victims, affected communities, traditionally excluded groups, namely victims of GBV violations. The UN also supported civil society organizations (CSOs) in their meaningful participation during the drafting process of TJC law through facilitating public consultation meetings with CSOs (two online on 2 September 2020 and 12 October 2020 respectively, and one in-person workshop on 11 November 2020) bringing together over 90 participants, including 40 women representatives of various CSOs.

The UN provided technical assistance and expert advice to the MoJ in drafting the law to establish the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in line with the Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions (the Paris Principles). The CD envisages establishment of the new NHRC. With the UN support, the Ministry of Justice, held public consultations on the first draft of the law in Khartoum bringing together civil society, national experts, and academia from the regions. The second draft will be subject to further three rounds of consultation in regions.



*Consultation with experts on the TJC draft law ©OHCHR*



*Participant sharing her comments on social protection and social system in Sudan at Santa Cruz Inaugural Global Dialogue on ESCR ©OHCHR*

### **Institutional strengthening and capacity development**

The UN contributed to promoting access to justice for the vulnerable groups of people in Sudan, including those affected by conflicts and forced migration. To ensure a fair access to justice, with raising awareness on laws and principles, the UN has engaged multiple stakeholders to support their capacity building.

In 2018, the UN continued advocating with the law enforcement authorities and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that people of concern continue to have access to legal remedies without UN and its partners' legal assistance and access to

work permits that would enable them to access livelihood opportunities and protect them from exploitation from employers. In addition, the UN conducted extensive capacity building such as a training of 223 officials including judges, prosecutors, police officers, lawyers, community leaders, civil servants, and other relevant officials on national and international legal frameworks, protection of people of concern, access to legal remedies, refoulement, and human trafficking.

The UN facilitated workshops, training and meetings for law makers, policy advisors and other influential entities including legal professions, academia, CSOs and media: six workshops were organized on the rights of refugees and access to justice for law enforcement authorities and other legal entities in different locations across the country, and 50 trainings and sensitization workshops, seminars and events targeting government officials from different relevant departments were further carried out with the purpose of influencing the general policy relating to nationality/civil documentation.

Additionally, complaint mechanisms were established to support monitoring and follow up on cases of violation against children, and more than 1,000 security forces officers and 500 law enforcement officials were trained on the action plan to end child recruitment and child friendly procedures for children in contact with the law. during 2018 to 2020, a total of 175,546 (Boys: 106,870 & Girls: 68,676) benefited from specialized child friendly services, with 56% of the child offenders' cases diverted outside the judicial system.

A research was undertaken in collaboration between Khartoum and Gedarif universities and the UN. The focus of the research was on structural and social drivers, revealing the protection risks and vulnerabilities of children on the move.

Further, the UN supported strong coordination of the Councils for Child Welfare at national and state levels, which led to the development and adoption

of a multi-sector and multi-stakeholder childhood strategy which has been translated into an action plan. The plan paved the way for enhanced systems and institutional response across all sectors, including prevention of VAC, improved reporting mechanisms and response services. With the adoption of the strategy and SOPs, the proxy indicator for an enabling environment reached 14, surpassing the target set at nine for 2020, arguably a success during the period of political upheaval and transition.

With the endorsement of the protocol in 2019, the child protection information management system (CP IMS) at the NCCW now generates a broad range of routine data on FGM/C, CM, GBV, children on the move, child labour and children affected by land mines and armed conflicts. Through the National Mechanism of the FCPU, comprehensive and disaggregated data on crimes committed against or by children and the perpetrators are available. The independent evaluation of the justice system and FCPU revealed areas needing improvement, which consequently will advance the quality of services provided to the children. It recommended critical restructuring to establish the general directorate for FCPU and additional resources.

The capacity of 248 Rural Court judges in Darfur was strengthened in the fields of land-related inter-communal conflicts and adjudication procedures before Rural Courts and legal guidance manual was produced for Kadugli, South Kurdufan State.



*Training for rural judges in South Darfur ©UNDP*

The UN also continued its role as the lead coordinator of the GBV sub-sector in four states in Darfur (West, North, South, and Central Darfur) in addition to the national forum in Khartoum in which the GBV sub-sector strategy was developed.

Further, 60,157 IDPs, refugees and host community members were reached with GBV information and services in 15 localities in six states. The direct beneficiaries were women of reproductive age, female headed households, young girls, GBV survivors and men and boys reached through awareness sessions and community protection network interventions. Approximately, 35,280 community members were reached with GBV awareness sessions for teachers, medical staff, women, girls, social workers, and community leaders using sessions, focus group discussions, GBV campaign, local drama, and mobile cinema.

To further enhance prevention and response to GBV and CRSV in Darfur the UN supported the establishment and functioning of 44 community based GBV referral pathways in different localities such as Jebel Moon (West Darfur), Sortoni (North Darfur) and trained 417 of its members also sensitized 90 persons representing various state and non-state actors (i.e. Sudan Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), MoLSD, NGOs, CSOs and Women Networks on GBV issues. 43 health facilities were also supported and trained 320 medical personnel to provide CMR and psycho-social support to SGBV survivors; and to establish and equip SGBV corners in three health facilities in Darfur.

During the collective programming between UN agencies and UNAMID, the State Liaison Functions (SLFs) Programme was created. Under the SLF, the criminal justice chain was supported in areas of return and resettlement, and the justice institutions in Darfur were supported to provide effective, equitable and timely justice and protection services in line with the international standards through infrastructural development. In this respect, two district courts in El Tina and Abu Karinka were built and functioning in priority areas where inter-

communal conflict exists: investigating and prosecuting serious crimes, including conflict related SGBV.

The UN also provided training on investigating and prosecuting counter-trafficking cases for a total of 69 judges, prosecutors, legal advisors, and police officers in Gezira (15 participants), North and West Darfur (33 participants) and Blue Nile State (21 Participants). Further training on smuggling of migrants and trafficking of persons was provided to 90 passport and immigration officials in Gedarif (30 Participants), Port Sudan (30 Participants), and Genenia (30 Participants).



*Mock trial on human trafficking case for criminal justice practitioners, law enforcement officials and defense lawyers in Khartoum ©UNODC*

The UN also conducted seven workshops on the rights of refugees, access to justice and anti-human trafficking for law enforcement authorities. The main topics were the International Refugee Law, International Human Rights Law, 2014 Asylum Regulation Act, and 2014 Counter Human Trafficking Act. Seven trainings and workshops were conducted in different locations with a total of 232 officials participating. As a result, the participating officials' knowledge and understanding of refugee protection was enhanced, which was then applied in improving the situation of people of concern in Eastern Sudan.

In addition, a total of 813 law enforcement and government personnel were trained on human

rights standards, investigation, prosecution, and proper documentation of CRSV/SGBV cases. Moreover, 120 judiciary personnel (prosecutors and judges) in Darfur were trained on accountability and justice delivery for victims and survivors of CRSV/SGBV.

In 2020, 40 officials from the MoFEP, NCCW, MoLSD and other child protection actors strengthened their skills on child-friendly budgeting, whilst the social welfare system was strengthened with increased number of social workers, development of a mandatory training manual, and the revision of the university social work curricula as forementioned.

Moreover, the UN strengthened the capacities of 422 members from civil society on trial monitoring; developed a training manual on the Protection of Children Victims of Trafficking; trained 114 community based networks in human rights, in particular, women’s and children’s rights; trained 398 paralegals on provision of legal aid services which led to 126 females receiving legal aid (court representation) and 110 females receiving legal advice in IDP camps and areas of return; trained 1800 members of 72 community-based mechanisms to address legal disputes over land, which are monitored by paralegals in Darfur; built the capacity of “Change and Services Committees” in six states to support the local authorities in provision of legal services to their different constituencies; trained 389 police officers on conducting lawful arrests and safeguarding the rights of detained persons, field training exercise, community policing, command, and control; and trained 387 prison officers on security, record management, and application of the SOPs in prison operations.

In addition, evidence, and analysis on children on the move have become available because of two major research products: the research to inform the strategic directions, policies, and programmes (INNOCENTI) and the International Social Service (ISS). The validation and development of the research and the development of an action plan to implement the recommendations by the

government officials is expected to improve the quality of the services and lives of these children. An assessment of children in institutions also provided evidence of the gaps in the welfare system for children without parental care and highlighted the need for more focus on de-institutionalization and provision of alternative family care.

To enable the conditions to promote access to justice in Darfur, the UN also constructed three rural courts; equipped three prosecution offices with ICT equipment and furniture; and provided supplies for three Justice and Confidence Centres (JCCs) to enable mediation and dispute resolution among communities.



*Gobi Rural court building constructed in West Darfur  
©UN-Habitat*



*Land Conference in Sudan (15-16 April 2018)  
©UN-Habitat*

Under the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN also provided support to ensure the continuity of

government operations by restructuring the Prime Minister Office (PMO); providing communication equipment to the PMO, MoJ, and the Ministry of Infrastructure; provided five prison directorates and police forces and the Sudan National Human Rights Commission with medical equipment. In addition to eight JCCs, three Bar associations, and three women groups were also provided with the COVID-19 prevention supplies.

## **Population and Development**

In 2018, the UN also supported the development of the National Reports on the implementation of the recommendations and commitments of Cairo and Addis Ababa Declarations, respectively as a part of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Global Review Process, with a strong advocacy for advancing the SDGs with special focus on ICPD-based SDGs. The high-level advocacy consultations underscored that implementation of ICPD Programme of Action will assist in realizing greater achievements in sustainable development, hence stronger linkage between the ICPD and SDGs needs to be flagged for people-centered approaches in implementing the SDGs in the context of Sudan.

In addition, in cooperation with the National Population Council and Sudanese Population Network, activities to strengthening national capacities were supported, including advocacy and evidence generation for advancing the SDGs with special focus on ICPD-based SDGs, and particular attention was given to young people and women from national NGOs and CSOs to ensure their roles in achieving the SDGs and ICPD beyond 2014 issues. A series of the ICPD and SDGs sensitization forums was organized in North Kordofan, Khartoum, Central and East Darfur States for 185 young persons on the SDGs and ICPD issues to solicit their support to the ICPD agenda.

The forums created a momentum of debates and discussions around the issues related to population and sustainable development that resulted in a

recommendation for integration population issues and the SDGs into the planning process and alignment of the SDGs in local development plans. As a result, Central Darfur agreed to establish the SDG Networks at state level, and the participants in East Darfur developed a plan to improve the capacity of already existing NGOs Network with integration of population issues and the SDGs in their agenda.

In 2019, the UN continued its support to the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD/PoA) despite the challenging security situation in Sudan. To that end, the UN supported the participation of a high-level delegation comprising of the Government, youth and CSOs representative in the Nairobi Summit “ICPD@25” while an action plan will be developed in consultation with the partners to track and follow implementation of the commitments made during the Summit; and sensitization of 213 youth parliamentarians and NGO representatives on ICPD and its linkages with the SDGs.

The UN also supported Sudan to progress towards harnessing the demographic dividend (DD) of its youth population. These efforts resulted in 175 government personnel and CSO representatives sensitized and trained on DD concept and information pertaining to young people; a Technical Working Group established as a national mechanism for DD; and provision of orientation on DD to some university lecturers in collaboration with the NPC and Ministry of High Education, aiming at increasing supporters to DD and encouraging research and studies around the subject to integrate it in the syllabus both at graduate and postgraduate levels; update of the National Demographic Dividend Road Map with advocacy and collaboration with the NPC. These efforts will continue to eventually launch the ‘National Strategy for Harnessing the Demographic Dividend in Sudan’ in 2020.

The UN also advocated at higher level for the importance of conducting the Population and

Housing Census in Sudan stressing the link between the census and coming elections which included discussions among the UN, development partners, the MoFEP and the Prime Minister. In this regard, the UN conducted a readiness assessment for the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) to ascertain its capacity in carrying out two censuses - Population and the Comprehensive Agricultural Censuses, in addition to a risk analysis of the organization and timelines of the two censuses. The assessment showed that the CBS has the technical capacity to run both censuses but suggested to start preparations in early 2020 and conduct the two censuses in early 2022 to have ample time to organize and prepare for digital censuses, which would need new infrastructure and capacity to use advanced technologies.

The UN also supported the development of a country-specific Leadership Training Manual for youth that is responding to the needs of Sudanese young persons for building skills in leadership. The Youth Leadership Manual was drafted, tested, and finalized in consultation with the Ministry of Youth & Sports. The UN supported the establishment of four youth centres in Darfur and provided support to 10 existing centres. In the reporting year, approximately, 1,500 youths were trained on leadership, management advocacy, and life skills for small-scale businesses as well as basic and advanced y-peer education. A Bus Tour (“Love and Peace tour”) reached out to Kosti, Obeid, El Fasher, Damazine, Medani, Gedarif, Kassala, and Atbara to engage young people, create attention and generate knowledge on the massive role youth themselves can play in addressing youth-related matters and most importantly, involving in decision making regarding their own issues.

### Good Practices

- In addition to knowledge gained by rural court judges through trainings, the opportunity of bringing them together with the Sudan Judiciary

in one place provided a forum for dialogue among them who were also heads of native administration and the Sudan Judiciary. These practices have empowered the indigenous communities in Darfur to make their voices heard and become able to lobby for fair representation in the legislative power to leverage the law-making process and reform for a more responsive law.

- The UN supports to the establishment of the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF) toward enhancing the government and the civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Also, combining priorities and the UPR recommendations helped designing the one-UN advocacy message and reflecting one UN and government priorities. This approach helped in speeding up all the legal and institutional reform.
- With the increase of the COVID-19 in the country, the UN managed to evacuate children from Khalwas and take them back home while also supporting increasing number of child offenders diverted outside the judicial system to be assigned with a place into the Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) plan for children living and working in the street.
- The mandatory unified training manuals for social workers were developed and included within the different government training institutions, which are planned to be implemented across the country in a coherent manner.
- Strengthened and more effective child protection legislation, policies and budget requires working in strong, diverse, and unconventional partnerships with multiple actors at different levels. The UN used its comparative advantage of convening role on

child protection effectively in relation to adoption of laws, bylaws, and policies as well as SOPs through collaboration, coordination and partnership with the NCCW and SCCW, Ministry of Security, Ministry of Interior (MoINT),

Ministry of Defence (MoD), MoH, MoLSD, National Assembly, State Legislative Councils, justice actors including FCPUs, prosecution attorneys for children and child courts, and CSOs.

## Success Story



*Family of Hanan with the nationality certificate @UNHCR*

### ***Sudanese Mother Wins Citizenship for Her Children***

Sudanese Mother won citizenship for her children after seven-year legal struggle. Her victory came on the heels of recent positive court rulings and paved the way for her children to continue their education, find work and belong to their country.

When South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in 2011, Hanan Jaber Abdallah had no idea the historic move would make her five children invisible, by rendering them stateless. However, like thousands of people with parents of mixed South Sudanese and Sudanese descent, they lost their Sudanese nationality immediately after the split, having no eligibility to issue their birth certificates in Sudan.

As a non-citizen of Sudan, her daughter, Benazir, had to register as a foreigner in her school, as did her

younger siblings, for which she had to pay ten times higher tuition than for Sudanese students.

However, after learning from a community volunteer that the UNHCR provided legal aid to those facing statelessness, Benazir urged her mother to ask for help, and thanks to the support from UNCHR and Hanan's own determination, Hanan learned to navigate the complex legal system, meeting regularly with a lawyer to prepare for court appearances.

Finally, on 15 December 2019, Hanan finally received the nationality certificate for which she had fought. Her children's lives immediately changed. Benazir, who had entered university, knowing she can get a job when she graduates. Her sister can enter university without paying exorbitant fees. A younger sister in elementary school no longer has to worry about the cost. The entire family told UNHCR they were relieved and felt their dignity had been restored.

"My heart is full of joy and I feel like a new dawn is breaking in my life," Hanan said. Even so, she remains determined to continue advocating for mothers in similar circumstances to the Sudanese Civil Registry, which has further helped some 1,300 Sudanese women pass citizenship to their children since 2018. UNHCR, for its part, has provided legal aid to over 500 families who lost their Sudanese nationality and were unable to obtain South Sudanese nationality following South Sudan's independence.

## Focus Area 5: Community Stabilization

By 2021, community security and stabilization of people affected by conflict is improved through utilization of effective conflict management mechanisms, peace dividends and support peaceful coexistence and social cohesion.



Demira Women harvesting Gum Arabic ©IFAD

The UN has promoted the establishment of effective conflict management mechanisms and the identification of durable solutions that lead to community stabilization and social cohesion.

In 2018, UN agencies made significant progress in increasing levels of security and promoting community stabilization and social cohesion by delivering improved basic services, infrastructure and sustainable IGAs and capacity building activities. Durable solutions for local integration and reintegration were promoted as an integrated component of community stabilization, social cohesion, and peace building. Community stabilization initiatives and integrated durable solution components targeted vulnerable migrants including IDPs, returnees and refugees, local communities, children, adolescents, and youths in conflict affected areas, and those affected by displacement, especially in the states of Darfur, West Kordofan, South Kordofan, Blue Nile, White Nile, Sennar, Gedarif, Kassala and Red Sea.



*Support of oil pressing machine and groundnut shelling machine ©IOM*

The interventions were designed and implemented in a peaceful and culturally sensitive manner and included the rehabilitation of more than 32 basic service facilities, such as water yards, primary schools, primary health centres, police posts, etc. They also included community-based health and nutrition activities, such as capacity building

activities for community health providers, mothers, and volunteers to support the continuity and sustainability of community outreach services through direct participation of communities.

Economic reintegration was supported and strengthened through community-led livelihood interventions, such as agricultural inputs (seeds and farming tool distributions) to facilitate early economic recovery, establishment of climate smart livestock and agricultural farms, support for small businesses and the development of other IGAs including, grinding mill production and bee keeping, etc. Some activities, such as entrepreneurial development and vocational training, were specifically designed to mitigate or prevent the recurrence of displacement and irregular migration, especially faced by youths, through promoting the voluntary return and sustainable reintegration for Sudanese returnees. Value chains integration was also introduced for different commodities including groundnuts, hibiscus, hides, skins, and animal fattening, etc. These community stabilization and durable solution initiatives benefited approximately 170,838 beneficiaries. The UN further helped vulnerable IDPs and host communities by ensuring land tenure and title as well as providing cost-effective and environmentally friendly housing to support sustainable local integration and reintegration while mitigating the risk of conflicts related to land issues. Baseline and mapping exercises were conducted to identify the existing community platforms and institutions which provide land tenure services, while community consultation processes were strengthened to determine possible and appropriate community-based tenure systems across 20 localities in Darfur.

In addition, the UN contributed to strengthening the capacity of stakeholders on conflict resolution, management of community-based activities to resolve communal conflicts over natural resources and create protection environments addressing the special protection and security needs of women, children, and youth. Beneficiaries included relevant

government institutions, community-based service providers (e.g., teachers, community midwives, social workers), community-based associations (e.g., Parent Teacher Association, Community Based Reconciliation Mechanisms (CBRMs), Community Management Committees (CMCs), Land Arbitration Committees (LACs)), tribal/community leaders and community members including youth and women.

For instance, strengthened child protection mechanisms and informal child protection systems including Community-Based Child Protection Networks (CBCPNs) About 934 CBCPNs established and active in providing preventive and response services to children in their communities and integration of manuals and SOPs in the training curricula for all service providers facilitated monitoring GBV, birth registration, justice for children support, responding to different child protection violations, and empowering communities to demand their rights and stand for them.

Several needs assessments and trainings were organized, with the aim of building community and local capacity to improve planning, implementing, and monitoring of community-based actions for resilience building, conflict resolution and prevention networking and durable solutions. Joint assessments were carried out, in close coordination and partnership with relevant government institutions, community leaders, and implementing partners to determine priority community needs and interventions which would facilitate community stabilization and durable solutions.

For example, in North Darfur, South Darfur and West Darfur, several CMCs, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding Committees and Peace Negotiation Platforms (PNPs), CBRMs, and LACs were re-activated or newly established and trained to act as community feedback mechanisms to communicate challenges and resolve conflicts including land-related dispute resolution, while strengthening ownership at the local and state level. Representatives of government institutions, such as the staff from the Ministry of Physical Planning and

Public Utilities were trained to enhance their leadership and coordination skills to improve village profiling with the aim of promoting peaceful coexistence. Approximately, 4,673 people benefited from these interventions.

In 2019, at the national level, the UN supported the development of a National Youth Policy through a wide consultative process at state and community levels. The policy identified peace as one of the pillars that is affected by and influences youth. The transitional government showed commitment to the implementation of the policy provisions, which would support harnessing the demographic dividend and contribute to the SDGs.

The work of the UN built upon previous UN projects that targeted mitigating tension, preventing re-occurrence of forced displacement, addressing root causes of conflicts while promoting community stabilization and durable solutions: the UN supported vulnerable migrants from conflict or displacement affected communities in North, West, Central and South Darfur, Blue Nile and White Nile states and Abyei Box (PCA). The root causes and effects of instability and displacement are complex and inter-related, and conflict-affected fragile communities with migrants such as IDPs, returnees and refugees require access to all sectors to achieve safety, security and to sustain their living. Hence, the UN supported them by implementing multi-sectorial, integrated interventions as the means to address the number and complex drivers of instability and insecurity. In the efforts on protection measures leading to increased stabilization and promoting durable solutions across Darfur States, the UN also continued to assist the Government in creating a long-term protective environment, which is in line with the international humanitarian laws and human right standards.

As such, the UN worked with relevant authorities, such as the Voluntary Return and Resettlement Commission (VRRRC), HAC and the Recovery, Returns, and Reintegration (RRR) sector to monitor and analyse protection risks and the needs of vulnerable

peoples; identify protection interventions to mitigate protection issues and concerns; enable them to participate in society; and access to improved based services and equal protection services.

In addition, the UN provided peace dividends to promote livelihood with access to farmlands and lands for animal herders safely: a cleared road that re-connects communities, shortening the detour; construction and rehabilitation of water facilities; and livelihood interventions with a strong focus on agricultural and livestock supports along with IGAs.



*Newly built South Darfur Riyad Box Culvert ©UNOPS*

A safe return of the displaced community was also ensured by removing explosive ordinance contamination remained in villages: a total of 1.8 km<sup>2</sup> of lands affected with explosive ordinance through survey and clearance back to local communities. The UN continued its survey efforts in areas that had gone through armed conflicts, identifying potential explosive ordinance hazards, and recording them in a database for clearance as well as providing risk educations to at-risk population. Further, the UN supported the Sudan National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) to improve its technical and managerial capacity for providing key coordination services such as planning, prioritization, quality assurance and accreditation of mine action operations with increased effectiveness and efficiency.

The UN further supported the revision of the national mine actions standard, operational procedure, and quality management system by developing mine action policies including the one on Gender and Diversity and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and supported the establishment of a hotline call centre.

Multi-sectorial, integrated interventions facilitating durable solutions, community-based protection and stabilization were delivered with a focus on improving access to basic services; enhancing economic recovery and growth; and strengthening the capacity of the community to promote more sustainable recovery from limited livelihood opportunities. For example, the UN contributed to promoting durable solutions for IDPs, returnees and affected communities in North Darfur (return village of Sarafaya, El Fasher locality, Abushouk and Alsalam IDP camps, hotspot areas within Kutum Alwaha and Kabkabiya), West Darfur (return and IDP communities in Geneina and Krenik localities, Habilla, Farabaranga), South Darfur (Al Salam locality), Central Darfur (Um Dukhum locality), Blue Nile State (Ed-Damazine) and White Nile State (Al Jabalain locality). These communities benefited when the UN implemented multi-sectorial integrated projects including the rehabilitation of basic service facilities (schools, health and nutrition centres, youth and women centres, local markets, etc.); construction of police offices, courthouse and community centres; the construction and rehabilitation of water facilities (e.g. hand pumps, mini water yard equipped with solar system); diversified livelihood strategies such as agricultural and livestock related support (e.g. provision of improved seeds and farming tools, support of small-scale irrigation farms, and the provision of goats with livestock management training); the provision of oil pressing and groundnut shelling machines; and IGAs (e.g. provision of donkey carts, tuk-tuks, solar mobile chargers, SSB machines, food processing, honey keeping and fishing, together with the promotion of general business training, etc.).

Profiling exercises in IDP camps and durable solutions consultative meetings were also conducted focusing on protection needs and concerns of vulnerable youth and women living in hotspot areas (e.g., localities of Kutum Alwaha, Kabkabiya in North Darfur and localities of Habilla, Farabaranga in West Darfur), and prioritized protection activities were integrated into designing and the implementation of multi-sectorial and integrated interventions.

A number of capacity building activities were implemented including but not limited to: capacity building for community leaders and local authorities on voluntary guidelines for governance of tenure of land concepts, principles and strategy to resolve land disputes and monitoring of land tenure policies; capacity building for the agriculture committees on mitigation of conflicts over natural resources between farmers and nomads; capacity training for a total of 320 community members of the existing 20 PNPs on strengthening their peace building and conflict resolution skills; consultation forum/workshop for locality government, line ministries (including police officers, prosecutor), academia, CSOs/NGOs, community leaders, international representatives from women and youth on peace building and migration of protection risks and threats.

For example, in West/North/South Darfur, four capacity building workshops targeting the existing committee members on resolution and conflict mitigation were conducted. Two capacity trainings were also conducted with 60 participants from the MoLSD and VRRRC in South Darfur on strengthening their leadership and responsibility to create an improved protection environment. In addition, capacity training for social workers aimed to strengthen their roles as the frontline of community personnel providing psychosocial assistance.

The UN also continued to work with communities and local institutions such as the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) staff to strengthen their capacity on the best use of NHIF. In close

coordination with state-level NHIF departments in four Darfur States (Central/West/East/South Darfur), the UN conducted a number of activities such as focus group discussions and surveys with community leaders, IDPs, returnees, women and youth and held consultation meetings with NHIF staff and health care providers to identify obstacles to apply NHIF. The results of these activities were utilized in a training workshop for community members, NHIF staff and health providers on enhancing their capacity and leadership for future expansion of community led NHIF.

In 2020, the UN supported community consultations with community leaders and relevant local stakeholders in the targeted areas to determine priority interventions and the current gap, resulting in at least six community management committees were re-activated through delivering the multi-sectoral approach by inter-agency cooperation. The UN also created 79 community-based conflict resolution mechanisms and developed community-based approaches to encourage the involvement of local communities, marginalized populations (IDP, returnees, women, and youth), local and state level authorities, and CSOs/NGOs. This participatory approach contributed to improving community members' capacity and encouraged local ownership of the interventions, leading to the establishment of community dialogue which promotes intra/inter-community interactions and social cohesion that will help reduce current and future tensions.

The UN continued to provide technical support to the CBCPN, police, SCCW and Civil Registry Office, which resulted in the overall strengthening of child protection systems, including birth registration to prevent and reduce statelessness, in addition to activating 49 refugee community-based committees to raise and address child protection issues and the best interests' procedures for refugee children at risk. Also, the UN supported capacity building for partners, the Government and CBCPN members on referral pathways, which resulted in their improved

knowledge on case identification, incident reporting and available service referrals.

The establishment of a SGBV manual resulted in improved coordination and information sharing on SGBV particularly. The UN also enhanced prevention of SGBV with awareness raising sessions including radio talk shows and door to door initiatives targeted refugee communities across Sudan.

Moreover, a total of 9,954 children with specific needs were supported including the provision of assistive devices to children with disabilities, material support including clothes and shoes, cash assistance and livelihood programming families fostering unaccompanied children and service referrals. The in-kind support encouraged families to foster unaccompanied and separated children and improved community-based mechanisms. The identification of children at risk was done through community outreach and included conducting home visits which enabled a better understanding of the economic, social, psychosocial and security environment in which the child lives, and the provision of better support.

The UN built the capacity of key stakeholders such as local and state-level authorities, local CSOs/NGOs and community members to establish community-level protection platforms and conflict prevention mechanisms to handle displacement-related conflicts, root causes of displacement and communal conflicts, manage security and mitigate protection risks and threats, faced especially by vulnerable and marginalized groups (women, children and IDPs).

For instance, state police officers and prosecutors were trained in early detection, reaction and mitigation and prevention of inter-tribal conflicts related to migration (seasonal migration, farming migration); and the capacities of local CSOs/NGOs and community were strengthened in handling migration and land related conflicts and taking initiatives for organizing social events (sports, cultural exhibitions, focused discussions, organized

market) where specific protection concerns, such as the human trafficking and protection and security needs for women who are at serious risk of attacks, including sexual violence, were also addressed.

The UN further delivered a capacity building workshop in Khartoum, targeting National NGOs and CSOs. This was aimed at enhancing their capacity on the best use of available human and financial resources to design and deliver community stabilization and durable solution initiative programming. The workshop stressed the importance of leadership and supported the initiative of CSOs/National NGOs for creating a longer-term protective environment and stabilizing communities through community-led/prioritized intervention.

### Good Practices

- Community stabilization and resilience initiatives respond to evidence-based approaches through analysis of displacement and migration patterns. For instance, the analysis based on the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) informs essential, accurate, and up to date information on displacement. This ultimately supported community stabilization and durable solution projects to identify target locations.
- Continuous monitoring for spontaneous returns through RRR and initiation of interagency assessments to identify the need of returnees in the return areas were managed well by communicating with different agencies and government departments, which then contributed to meeting the needs of returnees and make the returns more sustainable.
- Community participation was strengthened as it encouraged communities to identify their most prioritized needs while providing opportunities for community dialogue and mutual

- understanding of community stabilization interventions among affected population on migratory routes between various segment of the community, e.g., pastoralist, sedentary community, returnees, and refugees.
- The continuation of addressing needs and priorities identified by communities through previous projects was used for designing a new project, hence increasing sustainability, impacts and synergies. With the various successes and lessons learnt from the previous community stabilization initiative the possibilities for replication of interventions into similar context while utilizing the strengthened partnership were identified. This eventually assisted design and implementation of an integrated, multi-sectional interventions to address various needs of communities.
  - Livelihood interventions were designed to strengthen a linkage between income generating business activities and local production. For instance, the beneficiaries from agricultural interventions (especially women) also benefited through alternative income generating interventions such as food processing activities. Also, the interventions were lined up through value chains to support better production, packaging, transportation, and marketing. This achieved better sustainable incomes and allowed producers to move away from humanitarian needs to be more self-sufficient and productive community members.
  - Community-managed integrated livelihood assets provided a unique opportunity to move whole community segments out of humanitarian needs and provided a community dialogue that enhanced co-existence among IDPs, refugees and host communities.
  - The Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM) is an innovative software program, open source and a precise, cost-effective, and participatory method for land use planning, resource assessment, monitoring, and conflict resolution. The process of collecting information on land and the ability to discuss land issues freely enhanced transparency, participation and built trust between community members, the community, and planning staff. The system facilitated improved accessibility to land information, with a build-up conflict resolution mechanism that is cost effective, time saving, and streamlines land registration procedures. Integrating that with the land information centres provides excellent grounds for modernization of the land tenure system across Darfur and Sudan.

## Success Story



*Community Health Dialogue in Abu Gao village, North Darfur, and Durti IDP Camp in West Darfur with active participation of women and youth (February 2020) ©WHO*

### ***Health equity means leaving no one behind***

Community engagement is an important and integral process for any health system development effort, especially to improve health equity and achieve UHC. Pursuing health equity means striving for the highest possible standard of health for all people and giving special attention to the needs of those who are at the highest risk of poor health, because of their low socioeconomic conditions.

Sudan's Darfur region has faced many difficulties over the past decades, with its population suffering from the devastating impact of the war leading to

death, disease, and displacement for millions. Now, many people who previously fled to IDP camps are returning to their home villages. They arrive back to find little infrastructure remaining, and extremely limited health services available.

"The bottom-up approach is important to strengthen community engagement and to enable our societies to be part of the decision-making process. The community's role is a cornerstone towards attaining universal health coverage in Sudan," said Dr Arwa Gaddal, Director of states support and local health system strengthening Department, Federal Ministry of Health.

### ***Income Generating Activities for Women and Youth in Conflict-Affected Darfur States***

The UN contributed to an enabling environment for community stabilization and social cohesion amongst pastoralist, sedentary and returnee communities in cross-border areas in North Darfur, West Darfur, South Darfur, and East Darfur that have been historically known to compete for natural resources. The UN employed a community-led and multi-sectoral approach to address the various socio-economic needs of the targeted communities



*Women benefited from soap making activities in Radom, South Darfur 2019 ©IOM*

while addressing the root causes of conflict, through the implementation of SLF (phase 1 and 2). The participation of women and youth was specifically supported through promoting empowerment and representation in decision-making and participation in designing and implementation of livelihood interventions.

As such, small IGAs were preferred by rural women in South Darfur, especially for those who lost their husbands to war and conflict. It was also a way to establish small businesses in their private homes and to generate income thanks to its relatively low cost to start and maintain. A total of 107 women, from both farming and pastoralist communities, were provided with the sustainable means to generate income and trained in multi-purpose soap making (62 women) and cheese manufacturing (45 women)

for personal use to be sold at the local market. Many women expressed their happiness with women-led livelihood projects, and they continued to practice building linkages with market traders.

In West Darfur, youth were supported through the installation of oil pressing and groundnut shelling machines facilitating the local production of oil from the available ground nuts. The machines enabled beneficiaries to contribute to the existing groundnut value chain with better quality products (shelled groundnuts worth 20 percent more) and a higher-quality derivative (groundnut oil worth 30 percent more). The intervention strengthened community collaboration as the targeted youth beneficiaries shared the equipment with other community members, thereby supporting community agricultural development activities.

### 2.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

The UN supported the first Voluntary National Report on the SDGs which was presented at the High-level forum in New York in August 2018. Major development partnerships that helped in advancing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs during the reporting period include, inter alia:

1. FAO promoted the agricultural sector in Sudan as a South-South cooperation accelerator through the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme. Under the programme, FAO supported Sudan to implement the National Agriculture Investment Plan that aimed at transformation of agriculture through allocating a minimum of 10 percent of the Government budget to agriculture and achieving a 6 percent annual growth in Agriculture GDP. The programme managed to establish further partnerships with IFAD and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD).  
communities, jointly with the UNICEF, UNHCR, IFC and the World Bank. There are also area-based partnerships such as the one that acts as a unique direction cabin, maximizing the impact of various initiatives having similar scope, and some partnerships agreements have been signed with different international agencies active in Kassala, including GIZ, AfDB and World Bank. The institutions involved work to achieve the SDGs 8 and 9 as per the Entrepreneurship Development Centre (EDC)'s mandate and through a partnership platform as per SDG 17.
2. IFAD has been an advocate of 4Ps partnerships (public-private-producers' partnerships) in Sudan. Within its Livestock Marketing and Resilience Programme, partnerships were created between small livestock keepers and the private sector for the integration of smallholder farmers into the meat, hides and skin value chain. This type of innovative partnership empowered local actors, benefitting both the producers through connection to markets and the private sector companies through increased supply, which contributes to the SDG 1, SDG 2, and SDG 8.
3. ILO-AfDB Partnership on Building Capacity for Inclusive Service Delivery established sustainable safety net platforms in North Kordofan and White Nile. ILO also launched the "Prospects Partnership" with the Netherlands to improve socioeconomic inclusion of forcibly displaced and resilience of vulnerable host
4. UNIDO-European Union (EU) in Khartoum State worked to build the capacity of VTECs and streamlined partnership with the private sector for industrial best practices to accelerate the progress on SDG 9 and 1. This partnership strived to enhance the institutional capacities of vocational training providers, as well as employment creation for youth migrants, refugees, and host communities. The great role of the private sector strongly featured in this partnership, by engaging the business community as key partner in the provision of on-job training opportunities for youth. This initiative made it possible for the demand (job-market) and supply (skills and competencies) sides talk to each other; allowing training providers to deliver the skills needed by the local market.
5. On the other hand, UNIDO also partnered AICS (Italian Cooperation) to advance local agro-value chains in Kassala State, including supporting effective and efficient storage

capacity for local producers in form of business/farmers associations. The partnership aimed at Fostering inclusive economic growth through agro-value chains development and access to financial services. The initiative worked with associations of producers and supported them in accessing finance; they were also helped to improve their productivity through accessing cold storage capacity.

6. To pursue Zero Hunger in Sudan, WFP works collaboratively with partners, including governments, UN agencies, NGOs, private sector, and other civil society groups. In addition, WFP also worked closely with international financial institutions like the World Bank to support the Government in strengthening social protection systems to respond to the challenging economic situations, while contributing to developing an effective and comprehensive Government-owned social protection system. WFP and the World Bank supported the government's Sudan Family Support Programme (SFSP), which aims to provide direct cash transfers to vulnerable families.
7. WFP engaged with the private sector for the development of innovative and sustainable solutions to improve food security and nutrition. To curb post-harvest losses, WFP worked with the private sector to create a retail network, with the goal of making affordable hermetic storage bags available to smallholder farmers in Sudan. WFP also collaborates with government entities, FAO, WHO and private sector on key food fortification initiatives such as the 'Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN)'.
8. UNIDO-FAO partnership to improve quality of Sudanese commodities through standardization and conformity achieved remarkable breakthroughs in building the capacity of both upstream and downstream value chains stakeholders. This joint UNIDO-FAO initiative is funded by Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF); a technical arm established by FAO, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Bank, WHO and the WTO to supports developing countries in building their capacity to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards and guidelines to gain and maintain access to markets.
9. To advance health related SDGs targets, WHO continued support to the Health Partners Forum chaired by H. E. the Federal Minister of Health. This forum involves all health sector partners and stakeholders at national and sub-national level. The forum unified different fragmented coordination fora and mechanisms to improve efficiency and reduce the transaction cost. The forum also brings together development and humanitarian actors under the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus.
10. The DFID – UNOPS Partnership on integrated water supply in Darfur engaged with federal and state level institutions responsible for drinking water provision, while a series of community-based organizations and local communities were also consulted and participated in overall design and implementation.
11. UNDP and UNICEF are leading an initiative to develop Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) for Peace and Sustainable Development in the Sudan, the objective of the INFF is to support the Transitional Government to harmonize its financial policies and reorient public and private financing towards the achievement of justice, peace, equity and social equality, accountability and fair allocation of income and resources. The joint programme is meant to build the capacity of the financial system in line with the Transitional

Government's economic reform policies and actions. By doing so, the INFF will put the Sudan right on the road of financing for peace and sustainable development. The project was jointly developed by the UNDP and UNICEF and submitted for funding under the umbrella of the RC.

12. UNDP, UNICEF and UNHCR jointly developed the Solar Revolution for Transforming Lives in the White Nile and Kassala states of Sudan Project through a National Solar Fund Scheme. The intervention will directly contribute to the achievement of SDG 6, 7, and 13, as outlined below. In addition, the proposed intervention will indirectly contribute to the achievement of SDG 1, 4, 5, and 17 which is described in Section C of this proposal. The objective of the project is to Increase access to clean energy by rural communities by increasing the financial viability and promoting scaled-up commercial investment in solar facilities across White Nile and Kassala states. The Project was developed jointly by UNDP, UNICEF and UNHCR and submitted for funding under the umbrella of the RC.

13. With multiple partnerships with stakeholders of the education sector in Sudan, the UNESCO is supporting the 2030 Education Agenda in Sudan in relation to SDG 4 and Arab agenda for 2030 Education by supporting the implementation of policy recommendations from the "Policy Review Report completed in 2017: system-wide planning; teacher training; literacy education; capacity building in Sudanese Ministry of Education for inclusive and gender education; refugees' education; and Global Citizenship Education. For example, Agreement was signed on September 2020 between ILO and UNESCO marking the start of a 12-month joint project, which aims at establishing community learning centres (CLCs)

and strengthening sheep and goat breeding skills of rural women in North Kordofan and West Nile. Another agreement between UNESCO and its national partner, National Council for Literacy and Adult Education (NCLAE) was signed in October 2020.

14. UNICEF has supported the development of a tool to identify the exact costs to resolve nutrition cases in the Sudan in partnership with the WFP as key contribution to achieve the SDG 2, which would be useful for further resource mobilization. In addition, the UNICEF has supported the cost and financing of education sector in Sudan.

15. As a joint support with donors, the UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP and WFP are providing technical and financial support to sector line ministries in developing five years' sector strategic plans of Education, Health, Nutrition, WASH and Child Protection at federal and state levels as well as the One Health Plan to address comprehensive elements of health services to be delivered, which is a key contribution to the SDG 3. UNICEF is also supporting the Federal MoLSD to develop its first national social protection strategy. Those sector strategic plans are being well aligned to the SDG targets for children. UNICEF also signed an MoU with UNFPA to further increase collaboration and coordination to enhance efforts towards speeding the achievement of the SDGs in relation to health, child protection and education and to establish a mechanism for a joint fund raising for maternal, new-born, child, and adolescent development.

## 2.4. UN Working More and Better Together: Coherence, Effectiveness, and Efficiency

Strong partnerships and continuous cooperation are important instruments for achieving the SDGs. In implementing the UNDAF, the Sudan UNCT worked through inclusive partnerships at the global, regional, national, and local levels as reflected throughout this report. However, more can be done to ensure that the UN has an agreed common vision and approach, as well as capacities, especially in the field, to successfully respond to and accompany the fast-paced national transition process.

More progress is needed in the area of strategic planning and coordination. While institutional governance arrangements for the implementation of UNDAF were put in place, including the creation of interagency focus groups corresponding to the UNDAF focus areas, a more strategic approach to coordination is now required. As a result, there was less opportunity for the UNCT to have a more coordinated approach towards programme design, implementation and monitoring as well as resource mobilization.

The Operational Management Team (OMT) has worked continually to offer a One UN approach to support. Key highlights came during the political transition, when the OMT supported staff in challenging circumstances.

Moving forward, and following the direction of the UN General Assembly, the UN in Sudan is implementing changes to pursue “more cost-efficient support services, by reducing the duplication of functions and administrative and transaction costs through the consolidation of support services at the country level; and the

requirement for integrated support across the United Nations system for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In 2019, the new Business Operations Strategy (BOS) development was launched, a process which was completed in 2020. This new BOS focuses on common services that are implemented jointly or delivered by one UN entity on behalf of one or more other UN entities. Common services for future collaboration were identified in the areas of Common Human Resources, ICT, Finance, Administration including common Facilities/Premises, Logistics, and Procurement services. The following UN Agencies are participating in the Sudan BOS: FAO, UNDP, UN, IOM, UNODC, UNICEF, UNV, UNOCHA, UNIDO, UNOPS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNEP, WHO, UN WOMEN, WFP, UN HABITAT, UNAIDS, IFAD, ILO. The BOS is now being implemented.

As the UNCT embarks on the preparation of a new Cooperation Framework, it will be essential that UN embrace the spirit of UN Development System Reform, ensuring a collective vision and effective response of the UN system to national development priorities and establish institutional governance structures with the adequate mandate and capacities for the planning, coordination, and monitoring of results. Furthermore, the Cooperation Framework’s successful implementation will depend on whole-of-society cooperation and partnerships across the Government, private sector, and civil society.

## 2.5. Challenges and Lessons Learned

The political, economic and security situation in the country continued to affect implementation of activities. The key challenges were as follows:

- The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated Government containment measures for restriction of movements have greatly impacted delivery in the first half of 2020, coupled with the weak communications. For example, infrastructure at the government level limited counterparts' access to online platforms for communication and online work. Further, the lockdown, closure of markets across Sudan made it difficult to purchase materials and equipment, obtain access, and deliver materials/equipment to the project sites.
- Critical economic crisis impacted project planning and caused delays in project implementation. The rapid inflation and high rise of price of basic commodities including fuel, fluctuating exchange rates and devaluation of the Sudanese Pound, and food shortages were all factors for implementation delay. Specifically, as nationally implemented projects (NIM) use official rate of exchange, 1/5-1/4 of the parallel market rates, the discrepancy of exchange rate caused reluctance of individuals and service providers to support these projects. While the recent government decision to devalue, the Sudanese Pound will have a positive impact on implementation of the projects, the situation needs close monitoring.
- The entire social system is fragile and overstretched at all levels. For example, in addition to the mentioned impact of the COVID-19 which resulted in closure of primary healthcare facilities in the beginning of the pandemic, the National Extended Program for Immunization (EPI) has also been affected by the economic situation which led to late disbursement of the budget and the high turnover of qualified health personnel, and not-reached children reflected in many VPDs outbreaks, cVDPV2, measles, Diphtheria, and pertussis as well as disrupted the provision of routine RMNCAH services. Also, significant gaps and constraints persist in terms of high cost of medical referral for secondary and tertiary referral, high turnover of qualified health personnel, high health facilities operational cost, lack of proper linking with national health system, lack of sustainable power supply, and lack of adequate budget for rehabilitation of infrastructure.
- The security situation and eruption of political instability such as tribal conflicts in different parts of the country, including Abyei area, is adding another layer of delay on project implementation, and thus, vulnerability of conflict-affected population in Sudan. Further, in early 2020, there were some inaccessible areas in Blue Nile, Darfur (Jebel Mara) and Kordofan states before the Juba Peace Agreement was signed, which required the UN to advocating continuously at different levels to gain a safe access to the areas.
- During the course of turnover of the last Bashir regime and rise of the new transitional Government of Sudan, the national development priorities have changed but not been reflected to adjust the current UNDAF due to the loss of coordination mechanism between the Government and UN. Moreover, responding to the urgent needs arise from the outbreak of the Revolution, series of humanitarian and economic crises, and the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN missed its opportunity to timely develop a joint work plan (JWP) for UNDAF and COVID-19 SERP

while each agency conducted its own operation to support Sudan. This challenge led to another one to report against the outdated UNDAF JWP, which was not able to fully address what the UN had contributed on the ground. To resolve such inconsistency, a joint coordination mechanism should be established with the transitional Government to discuss the current UNDAF implementation and further develop a future development cooperation framework, in cooperation with UNITAMS.

- In addition, the UNDAF JWP should be developed in more detail for quality monitoring and reporting. For example, while most of the output and activity-level results were supposed to be reported jointly by multiple agencies, some results from joint activities/projects were reported in duplicate by each agency, which made it difficult to figure out the actual total results. In addition, the new UNDAF reporting platform, UN INFO 2.0, which now requires to report disaggregated funding for each activity per each agency as well as different qualitative

markers (i.e., human rights, gender, peace), also posed another difficulty to fully report the annual progress. To advance quality monitoring and reporting, the UN should develop a JWP to address all the requirements, to be coordinated by the Result Groups. It is also highly recommended to establish an M&E Working Group for technical support.

- In 2020, the Gender Working Group carried out the Gender Equality Scorecard<sup>4</sup> for the UNCT in Sudan to review its gender mainstreaming and practice in terms of its programmatic and operational aspects. While the analysis addressed national legal frameworks relevant to the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment and specific measures to follow up the SDG 5 reports, critical capacity gaps were identified in the area, which would require further capacity enhancement and management response at the UNCT level to mainstream the gender throughout its support to Sudan.

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<sup>4</sup> While the UNCT began the preparation and analysis in 2019-2020, the Gender Equality Scorecard 2020 Report was finalized in April 2021.

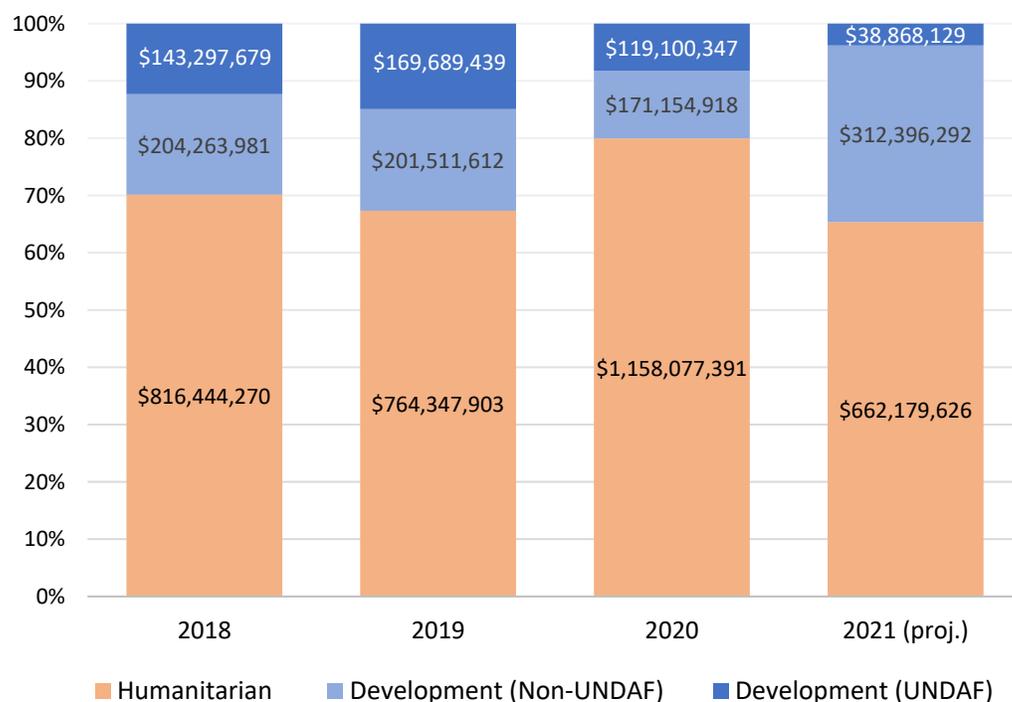
## 2.6. Financial Overview and Resources Mobilization

During 2018-2020, there has been up and down in the amount of development aid for Sudan. In 2018, a total of \$348 million were received, which constituted 30% of the total aid to Sudan including humanitarian assistance, and the amount slightly increased in 2019 to \$371 million (33% of the total aid) while it decreased to \$290 million (20%) in 2020.

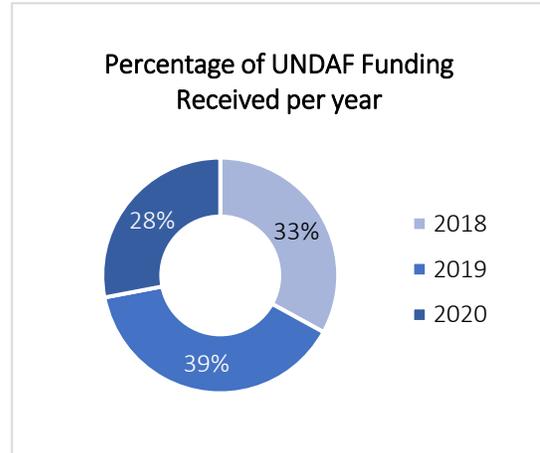
By comparison, the humanitarian aid in 2018 was about \$816 million, declined slightly in 2019 to \$764 million and increased in 2020 to \$1,16 million, largely driven by a surge in humanitarian assistance in response to the droughts, locust infestation, floods, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 2. Funding for Sudan per sector (2018-2021)

Sudan Funding	2018	2019	2020	2021 (projection)
<b>Humanitarian</b> (HRP/SHF/CERF)	\$816,444,270	\$764,347,903	\$1,158,077,391	\$662,179,626
<b>Development</b>	\$347,561,660	\$371,201,052	\$290,255,265	\$351,264,421
<i>Non-UNDAF</i>	\$204,263,981	\$201,511,612	\$171,154,918	\$312,396,292
<i>UNDAF</i>	\$143,297,679	\$169,689,439	\$119,100,347	\$38,868,129
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,164,005,930</b>	<b>\$1,135,548,955</b>	<b>\$1,448,332,656</b>	<b>\$1,013,444,047</b>



Among the development aid, the funded amount for the UNDAF was \$143 million in 2018 (33% of the total UNDAF funding until 2020), which increased to \$169 million (39%) in 2019, and dropped to \$119 million (28%) in 2020. The details per each focus area (FA) are as following:



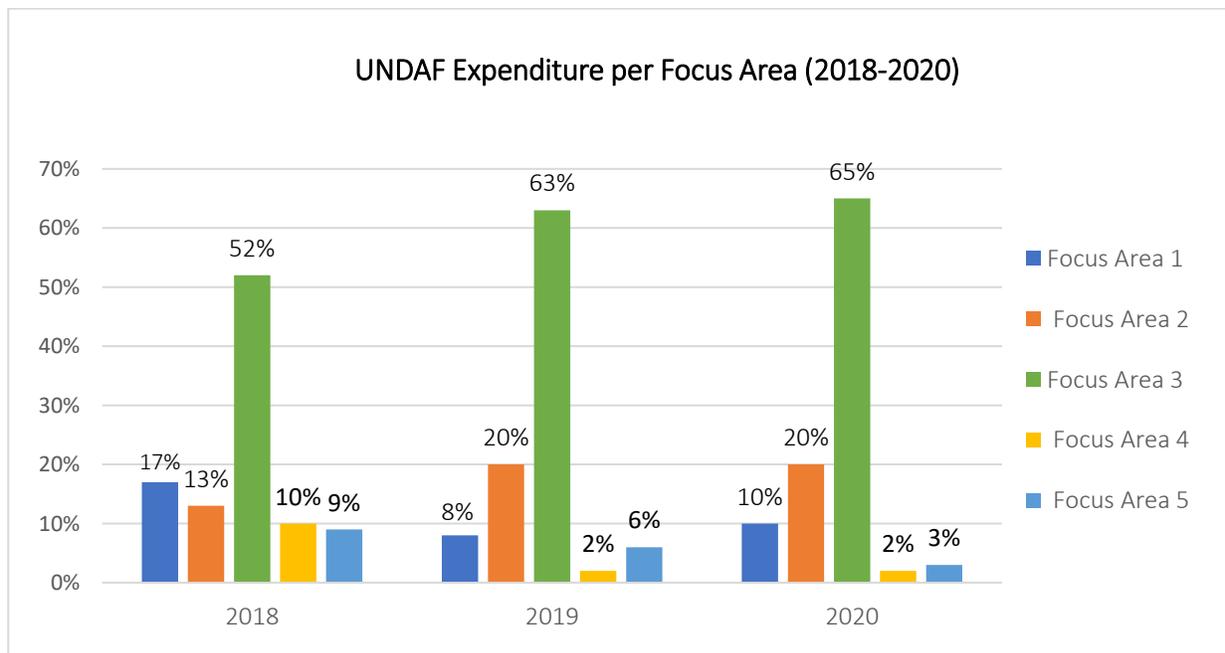
**Economic Development and Poverty Reduction (FA 1)** was supported by \$29 million (21% of annual UNDAF funding) in 2018 with expenditure of \$37 million (**17%** of the total in the year); \$20 million (12%) with expenditure of \$14 million (**8%**) in 2019; and \$13 million (10%) with expenditure of \$13 million (**10%**) in 2020 respectively.

**Environment, Climate Resilience and Disaster Risk Management (FA 2)** was supported by \$34 million (24%) with expenditure of \$28 million (**13%**) in 2018; \$43 million (26%) with expenditure of \$35 million (**20%**) in 2019; and \$27 million (23%) with expenditure of \$27 million (**20%**) in 2020 respectively.

**Social Services (FA 3)** was supported by \$63 million (44%) with expenditure of \$115 million (**52%**) in 2018; \$91 million (54%) with expenditure of \$113 million (**63%**) in 2019; and \$71 million (60%) with expenditure of \$89 million (**65%**) in 2020 respectively.

**Governance, Rule of Law, and Institutional Capacity Development (FA 4)** was supported by \$6 million (4%) with expenditure of \$22 million (**10%**) in 2018; \$4 million (3%) with expenditure of \$3 million (**2%**) in 2019; and \$4 million (3%) with expenditure of \$3 million (**2%**) in 2020 respectively.

**Community Stabilization (FA 5)** was supported by \$9 million (7%) with expenditure of \$19 million (**9%**) in 2018; \$10 million (6%) with expenditure of \$11 million (**6%**) in 2019; and \$4 million (3%) with expenditure of \$3 million (**3%**) in 2020 respectively.



## CHAPTER 3. UNCT Key Focus for the Next Year

### Anticipated Changes to the UNCT Configuration

Due to the rapidly changing context, a mapping of the UN development system capacities in Sudan was carried out in November 2020 by a joint UNDCO-/ UN Transitions Project team in close collaboration with UN AFP in Sudan. The main objective of the exercise was to identify existing UNCT capacities in order to inform UNCT and UNITAMS strategic planning. The mapping contributes to the identification of UNCT capacity gaps to be filled to ensure fitness for purpose in supporting the implementation of UNITAMS mandate, also considering the imminent UNAMID drawdown. It refrains, however, from proposing a list of detailed agency-specific actions and/or additionally required agency-specific positions. Rather, it is suggested that the UNCT jointly considers findings and discusses who among its members will address which gap.

As the UNAMID is being withdrawn as per the UNSC Resolution 2525 and the UNITAMS, a new Special Political Mission mandated to support political transition towards democratic governance and peacebuilding in Sudan, begins its term in 2021, the UN family in Sudan will be restructured accordingly to establish an integrated ground for effective and efficient cooperation with the Mission.

To support implementation of the UNITAMS mandate as well as development needs in Sudan beyond the mission mandate, the UNCT and UNITAMS will conduct integrated strategic planning with joint analysis and programming, strategic risk assessments as well as co-location of premises at the state level for efficient operations. Based on the joint analysis, including the needs assessment and cross-cutting priorities identification, such as on gender and youth, a common integrated strategic framework will be developed, and joint working

groups for each UNITAMS mandate and technical teams will be established to support at the programmatic level.

There is strong collaboration between UNCT and UNITAMS, given that UNITAMS is a time bound Special Political Mission. UNITAMS will not have large scale programmatic funding and is working closely with the UNCT for programme implementation and operationalization. A joint UNCT-UNITAMS integrated -planning document will provide a common framework to guide UN's support to the transition; advance common outcomes across the humanitarian-nexus-development divide; and facilitate joint resource mobilization.

A robust Common Country Analysis is also required to regularly update and capture the latest trends regarding the evolving context in Sudan. Following this analysis, to be undertaken in 2021, the UN will develop a new common strategic framework based on the development in the country and in line with the Government Three Year Programme for Stability and Economic development.

### Resource Mobilization

The UN in Sudan is working to capitalise on the political transition and economic reforms, which will enable Sudan to re-enter international financial systems, and access funding through international financial institutions for the first time in decades. In this rapidly changing context, the UN is working to reinvigorate and enhance development partner coordination, including by building a tripartite coordination platform (Government, UN and development partners) chaired and convened under government leadership.

## Annex. UNDAF Joint Work Plan - Outcome-level Indicators Monitoring (2018-2020)

United Nation Assistant Framework (UNDAF) Work Plan Monitoring (2018 - 2020)					
Indicators	Baseline (2017)	Target	Actual Achievements	Means of verification/ source of data	SDG indicator
<b>Outcome 1:</b> By 2021, people in Sudan, with 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.					
1.1: Number of small-scale producers with secure productive resources by class of production	Agriculture: 4,500,000 (2017) Enterprises: 480,000 (2017)	Agriculture: 5,500,000 (2018 - 2021) Enterprises: 580,000 (2018 - 2021)	Agriculture: 10,547 Enterprises: 7,030	Bank of Sudan – micro finance Unit, Ministry of Agriculture. Ministry of Industry	No
1.2: Number of new or amended policies, strategies and programmes that enable secure and equal access to productive resources	0 (2017)	10 (2018 - 2021)	17	Final policy, strategy, and programme documents	No
1.3: Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	9% (2017)	5% (2018 - 2021)	8%	Central Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture	2.1.2
1.4: Unemployment rate	18.5% (2017)	17.5	16.5	Labour Force Survey	8.5.2
<b>Outcome 2:</b> By 2021, people's resilience to consequences of climate change, environmental stresses and natural hazards is enhanced through strengthened institutions, policies, plans and programmes.					
2.1: Output from smallholder agriculture (resilience sub-indicator 1)	Sorghum : 1,016 (000 tonnes) Millet : 680 (000 tonnes) Total production : 1,696 (000 tonnes) (5-year average 2011/12-2016/17)	Sorghum : 1,067 (000 tonnes) Millet : 714 (000 tonnes) Total production : 1,781 (000 tonnes) (4-year average 2018- 2021)	Sorghum : 7,560 (000 tonnes) Millet : 3779 (000 tonnes) Total production : 7,557 (000 tonnes)	Annual Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission	2.3.2
2.2: Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100) (resilience sub-indicator 2)	5 (2017)	10 (2018 - 2021)	61.30 (2018 - 2020)	Yearly expert assessment by UN Environment based data from across all states captured in a score card	6.5.1

2.3: Percent of forest loss	9% (2015-16) (forest stock in baseline year is 19.2 million hectares)	5% (2018 - 2021)	66.8ha of tree cover, from 2001 to 2020, selected area lost 1.08kha of tree cover, equivalent to a 1.5% decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 217kt of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions.	The Forest National Corporation (FNC)	No
2.4: Fully functional environmental data system properly utilized, referenced, and considered by institutions, policies and plans as a reliable data source	No (2017)	Yes (2018 - 2021)	data not Available during the reporting period	Survey in 2019 and 2021	No
2.5: Number of new or amended policies, strategies, programmes and plans integrating environment and climate management and disaster risk reduction influenced by functional environmental governance and climate resilience-related coordination mechanisms	0 (2017)	4 (2018 - 2021)	14 (2018 -2020)	Decrees, meeting resolutions and recommendations and final policy, strategy and programme documents and plans	No

**Outcome 3:** By 2021, the populations in vulnerable situations have improved health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation, and social protection.

3.1: Under-five mortality rate	Total: 68.4 (2014) Urban: 56.5 (2014) Rural: 72.8 (2014)	60 (this is the value for 2018 from the UNIGME. The last MICS conducted in Sudan is in 2014 whose value is reflected in the baselines)	Data Not Available (Value will be obtained from MICS 2019) but not approved by the government	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey	3.2.1
3.2: Prevalence of stunting (moderate and severe) among children under 5 years of age	Total: 38.2% (2014) Male 40.3% (2014) Female 36.1% (2014)	Total: 25.2% (2019) Male: 27.3 (2019) Female: 23.1 (2019)	Data not Available (Value will be obtained from MICS 2019) but not approved by the government	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey	2.2.1
3.3: Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population by sex, age and key populations	0.13 (2017)	< 0.13 (2018, 2019, 2020 - HIV NSP draft)	0.12 (2018 estimation projection) not reported in 2019 & 2020	HIV estimation for 2015, MoH	3.3.1

3.4: Maternal mortality ratio	217 (2010)	152 (2018 - 2020)	No data after the HHS 2010 (the UN inter agency estimate- he maternal mortality trend report for 2018 reported 295 and this not endorsed by the gov't)	Household Health Survey	3.1.1
3.5: Tuberculosis prevalence rate (per 1,000 population)	35 (2015)	TBC upon finalization of sectoral strategy in 2017 (2021)	0%	WHO, Tuberculosis Profile	No
3.6: Malaria incidence per 1,000 population	17 (2015)	TBC upon finalization of sectoral strategy in 2017 (2021)	46.75	WHO	3.3.3
3.7: Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age	15-49 yrs : 86.6% ( MICS 2014) Poorest: 88% (MICS 2014) Rural: 87.2% ( MICS 2014) Urban: 85.5%( MICS 2014) 0-14 yrs: 31% ( MICS 21)	15-49 yrs : 86.6% ( MICS 2014) Poorest: 88% (MICS 2014) Rural: 87.2% ( MICS 2014) Urban: 85.5%( MICS 2014) 0-14 yrs: 31% ( MICS 21)	Not Available (Value will be obtained from MICS 2019) and not approved by the government	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey	5.3.2
3.8: Gross enrolment rate	Pre-primary: Female: 45.4 (2014) Male: 41.9(2014) Primary: Female: 68.2 (2014) Male: 72.1(2014) Lower-Secondary: Female: 39.0 (2014) Male: 41.2 (2014)	Pre-primary: 46% Primary: 79% Lower-Secondary:43% ESSP 2018/19-2022/23	Pre-primary: Female: 45% (2017) Male: 44.4% (2017) Primary: Female: 71.2% (2017) Male: 73.7% (2017) Lower-Secondary: Female: 42.4% (2017) Male: 38.1% (2017)	EMIS	No
3.9: Percentage of households using improved sources of drinking water	68% (2014)	72% (2019 Target) 74% (S3M II) (2019 Actual)	Not Available (Value will be obtained from MICS 2019)	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey Sudan Water Atlas WASH Outcome Indicator WHO/UNICEF Joint	No
3.10: Percentage of households using improved sanitation facilities	33% (2014)	37% (2019 Target) 32% (S3M II) (2019 Actual))	Not Available (Value will be obtained from MICS 2019)	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey WASH Outcome Indicator /WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme	No
<b>Outcome 4:</b> By 2021, national, state and local institutions are more effective to carry out their mandates efficiently including strengthened normative frameworks that respect human rights and fundamental freedoms and ensure effective service delivery.					
4.1: Proportion of the population satisfied with the quality of public services	45% (2015)	49% (2018) 50% (2019) 53% (2020) 60% (2021)	data not available during the reporting period	Citizen Report Card Survey	No

4.2: Number of regulations and policies aligned, reformed and implemented in line with international standards (including migrants' rights, specifically trafficking and smuggling)	4 (2015)	20 (2018 - 2021)	4	National and UN reports, UPR, Evaluation reports, Surveys	No
4.3: Number of national, state and locality strategies and plans developed (with sex and age-disaggregated data)	0 (2014)	17 (2018 - 2021)	40	National and Strategic plans, Evaluation reports, Surveys; Administrative data, macroeconomic review	No
4.4: Percent of recommendations from UN Human Rights Council on Universal Periodic Review (UPR) implemented	65% (2016)	85% (2018 - 2021)	data not available during the reporting period	UPR, Evaluation reports, UN reports, National Human Rights Commission Report, Government reports	No

**Outcome 5:** By 2021, community security and stabilization of people affected by conflict is improved through utilization of effective conflict management mechanisms, peace dividends and support to peace infrastructures and durable solutions that augment peaceful coexistence and social cohesion.

5.1: Proportion of community members in conflict-affected areas that consider their environment as safe and stable, disaggregated by priority population	80% (Darfur and 3 areas) (2016)	85% (2018 - 2021)	65% (2018 -2020)	Annual perception survey	No
5.2: Number of conflict incidences occurring in affected (identified) regions in Sudan	3,119 (2017)	2,000 (2018 - 2021)	3,192	ACLED database	No
5.3: Number of conflict-affected communities with functional conflict resolution mechanisms in place	246 (2017)	500 (2018 - 2021)	84	Partner reports	No
5.4: Proportion of protracted displaced persons caseload achieving durable solutions	0 (2016) (out of 3.2 million displaced persons)	480,000 (2018 - 2021)	508	RRR/RMS sector data	No