

SUDAN | DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES TO DISPLACEMENT

Context – Displacement Situation

Sudan's position at the crossroads of the Horn of Africa's constantly evolving migration routes has made it host to an extensive population of refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants, both temporary and long-term. Many people choose to move onwards to North Africa and Europe due to concerns over protection and socio-economic challenges, such as the lack of education and livelihood opportunities. Among those on the move are new arrivals, predominantly Eritreans, driven into Sudan by the situation in their country of origin, as well as refugees in a protracted situation – including second- and third-generation refugees. Along the migratory routes, people often use smuggling networks and are exposed to various forms of exploitation and abuse, resulting in widespread human rights violations that include human trafficking and kidnapping.

East Sudan, one of the poorest regions in Sudan, is characterized by some of the harshest living conditions in the country and constitutes a particularly challenging and complex context.¹ The existing resources in East Sudan are insufficient to meet the basic needs of vulnerable host populations and the growing number of migrants and refugees. Most of the population faces acute poverty, recurrent drought and related food insecurity, limited access to services, and high levels of unemployment, especially among youth. Environmental stresses induced by climate change and the related El Niño phenomenon (i.e., degradation, shrinking pasture areas and diminished agricultural production) are severely limiting the availability of arable land.



Adult education classes for displaced women have improved livelihoods in Gerdarf State, East Sudan
 (Photo: UNDP Sudan)

RESULTS

UNDP supported crisis-affected communities including the provision of livelihoods assets and vocational skills training to 5,200 households (of which 40 percent were IDPs and returnees) which enabled an average increase of 51.7 percent in annual incomes for the beneficiaries.

8,000 households across 19 crisis-affected communities benefitted from improved access to critical infrastructure and economic assets such as wells, dams, markets, boreholes, hand pumps, schools, and youth and community centres. This helped reduce competition and conflict over resources between different sectors of the communities.

Peace Development Councils were developed across the communities to support peace dividends and conflict resolution.

UNDP reinforced its role as the sector lead of the return, recovery and reintegration sector in Sudan and worked on mainstreaming early recovery and resilience into the 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan.

¹ 2015 UNDP Development Mapping for East Sudan



Learning new skills at UNDP supported Kassala vocational centre
(Photo: UNDP Sudan)

Joint Framework for Migration and Displacement

UNDP, UNHCR and IOM, in collaboration with the Government of Sudan and other partners, have long been working to improve the situation of vulnerable migrants, refugees and host communities in Sudan, based on the recognized need to link relief aid and development assistance.

The three agencies have developed a coordinated programme framework, the *Regional Development and Protection Programme in Sudan: Responding to Refugee and Migratory Situations in Khartoum and East Sudan (RDPP)*.

This framework addresses the challenges of migration and displacement, focusing on protection, security and legal empowerment, integrated service delivery and other development solutions to migration and displacement.

The *East Sudan Community Resilience programme* is UNDP's contribution to the joint programme, operating under the premise that migration-related pressures can be addressed sustainably only as part of a wider area-based development approach. Under the joint RDPP, UNDP will focus on enhancing livelihoods opportunities through value chain development, microfinance services and vocational training; building government capacities for public sector approaches to migration and displacement; and strengthening local government capacity for integrated public service strategies that account for host communities and the displaced.

Other partnerships include UNDP and IOM working together on the stabilization of conflict affected regions in Sudan through the development of the Joint Conflict Reduction Programme, demonstrating complementary approaches to building community stability and peace. UNDP and UNHCR are also working closely together on supporting durable solutions and early recovery, with area-specific interventions to displacement, such as the Transitional Solutions Initiative in East Sudan, and the Promotion of Sustainable Return and Reintegration of IDPs and Refugees project in Darfur.

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