The United Nations Country Team in Sudan
Key Development Achievements in 2013-2015

Summary of main contributions of the United Nations Country Team in Sudan as part of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)
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Message from the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan

On behalf of the United Nations Country Team in Sudan, I am pleased to share with you this report summarizing our main contributions as part of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), in support of the Government’s development efforts for the period 2013-2015. The UNDAF, which was formulated through a consultative process with the Government and is closely aligned to the national development agenda, maps the common priorities and strategies for United Nations development cooperation in Sudan in 2013-2017. As our common strategic planning framework, the UNDAF has brought greater coherence and results orientation to the work of the United Nations Country Team in Sudan, represented by the 19 United Nations agencies that are part of this exercise.

This report outlines the areas where the United Nations Country Team has partnered with the Government in its pursuit of national development objectives. It also highlights concrete development achievements to which the United Nations Country Team contributed in the three-year period in the fields of poverty reduction, inclusive growth and sustainable livelihoods; basic services; governance and rule of law; and social cohesion, peace consolidation and peace dividends. The preparation of this report has been an opportunity to take a step back and reflect not only on progress made in UNDAF implementation, but also on the challenges encountered and emerging opportunities for future programming.

Our gratitude goes to our national and international development partners, whose support is key to advance common goals and achieve tangible development results. The United Nations Country Team in Sudan remains committed to collaborating with the Government on its response to national development challenges, and looks forward to strengthening its partnership with all stakeholders to continue building an equitable and sustainable future for all Sudanese, towards the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Marta Ruedas

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan.
Executive Summary

UNDAF Pillar One: Poverty Reduction, Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Livelihoods

As a contribution to poverty reduction and the enhancement of food security during the reporting period, the UN provided support to thousands of households which increased their income and gained new livelihood opportunities through skills development; introduction of new crops, environmentally sustainable practices and new technologies; distribution of inputs such as seeds; and provision of extension services and advisory services. With assistance from the UN, 33,000 households gained access to microfinance services. Another area of UN engagement was the rehabilitation and construction of water sources, schools and health facilities, which provided short-term employment equivalent to 55,012 work days for hundreds of women and men in three states of Darfur, as well as in Blue Nile, Red Sea, Kassala and Gadarif states. Furthermore, the UN helped in the establishment of four employment agencies within four vocational training centres in Khartoum state.

With UN support, a number of national and state-level strategies were developed to improve environmental protection, climate resilience and adaptation, and natural resource management, while one international environment-related protocol and two conventions were implemented. Household resilience was strengthened with UN support with the implementation of Community Environment Plans in 30 villages (14,782 households). The UN also contributed to the adoption of alternative/renewable/environmentally sound technology. In this regard, 298,519 households in Darfur secured access to fuel-efficient stoves and alternative livelihood opportunities; over 200,000 households in North Darfur benefited from agricultural extension messages and integrated water resource management techniques; and smallholder farmers received training in irrigation techniques and adaptive farming techniques. Capacity development was another area of work for the UN, for example in the area of climate change, the Great Green Wall initiative (reforestation/afforestation to combat desertification) and agricultural research, as well as in connection to 25 Community Environmental Action Plans in all Darfur states and through 75 community-based plans in Kassala state. The UN also supported awareness raising on persistent organic pollutants.

UNDAF Pillar II: Basic Services

The following policies, strategies, plans and frameworks were developed and/or implemented during the reporting period with UN support:

- **Health**: the primary healthcare expansion plan 2012-2016; the Maternal and Child Health Acceleration Plan 2013-2015; the National Health Sector Strategic Plan; a multi-sectoral action plan for control of non-communicable diseases; a disability strategy; the strategy for community-based management of acute malnutrition; a national policy for promoting local pharmaceutical manufacturing; the framework for good governance for medicines; the national herbal policy; the antibiotic prescription policy; the hospital pharmacy policy; the health research policy and strategy; a policy on accreditation of medical schools.
- **Nutrition**: the 2014-2021 National Strategic Plan for Nutrition; the Infant and Young Child Feeding Strategy (2016-2025); an action plan for maternal, infant and young child nutrition; a national law for the use of iodized salt.
- **HIV/AIDS**: the HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan 2014-2017; the National Plan for the Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV.
- **Water, sanitation and hygiene**: the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene National Policy.
- **Integrated planning**: two regional spatial strategic plans for Darfur and Blue Nile; two urban strategic structure plans (2016 - 2031) for Ed Damazine and El Roseiris towns in Blue Nile state.
To enhance evidence-based policy-making, the UN helped with bottleneck analyses to investigate high levels of anaemia and for the water, sanitation and hygiene sector. Similarly, the UN supported data collection through a Lot Quality Assurance Sampling Survey in Red Sea, Kassala, Gadarif and River Nile states; a reproductive health commodity security and family planning health facility-based national survey for all states in 2014 and 2015; national health accounts; and the National Simple Spatial Sampling (S3M) Survey. With UN advocacy efforts, the President signed the Sudan Country Pledge towards the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health (2016-2030), and the local compact with partners was signed in 2014 as part of the commitment to the International Health Partnership (IHP+) and aid effectiveness. The UN also contributed to the launch of the National Health Observatory, and the development of a nutrition investment case for multi-sector interventions for reducing wasting. A national policy review of technical and vocational education and training was supported by the UN, as well as the production of the 2010/11 and 2011/12 Education Year Statistics Book, the preparation of the 2012/13 Annual Education Book, and the development and piloting in six states of the Education Management Information System software. The UN also focused its support on the development and endorsement of the national drinking water specifications and standards, and the technical guidelines for environmental health interventions during emergencies, as well as the decree for vector-borne disease control, which was passed by Parliament in 2014.

In the area of access to health services, the UN supported the establishment, equipping and functioning of 25 health facilities in Darfur, White Nile, Blue Nile and Khartoum, benefiting more than 290,000 persons. Similarly, with UN support, 155 health facilities were rehabilitated and equipped to provide emergency obstetric and neonatal care, and 580 health centre personnel were trained on emergency obstetric and neonatal care. The UN also contributed to the implementation in all states of maternal death surveillance and response. With UN support, 500 fistula cases were surgically repaired and 4 fistula centres were rehabilitated and equipped. In addition, UN assistance helped 7,000 community midwives graduate and 2,490 midwives receive in-service training, while the community midwife curriculum was updated and printed, and eight midwifery schools were rehabilitated and 12 were equipped. Furthermore, the UN assisted in the distribution of 10 million bed nets. In Darfur, UN-supported eye health campaigns reached more than 12,000 internally displaced persons, returnees and host community members, while another 13,000 individuals benefitted from UN-supported mobile health services. The UN also assisted in the establishment of health referral mechanisms that served more than 1,100 conflict-affected individuals. Vaccinations were provided to 3,200 conflict-affected children and pregnant women in Darfur, with UN support. The UN similarly helped in the development of the capacity of 2,761 healthcare providers on family planning service provision and logistics management information system. Through UN assistance, warehouses in five states were rehabilitated, and modern contraceptives and lifesaving drugs at the needed quantities for all states of Sudan were procured. Furthermore, the UN supported the implementation of a community-based integrated package of services (reproductive health, family planning, HIV, gender and gender-based violence), which reached 4,296,579 individuals through awareness raising and resulted in the establishment of 107 community-based referral mechanisms for emergency obstetric and neonatal care and gender-based violence. With help from the UN, 35 percent of all health facilities have integrated severe acute malnutrition treatment services, about 350,000 children were treated for severe acute malnutrition, and the supply pipeline for treatment of severe acute malnutrition to 15 of 18 states is maintained. UN efforts also helped vitamin A supplementation campaigns in 2014 that reached 98 percent of children aged 0-5 years, as well as a polio and measles campaign that reached 4,476,294 children. In the area of HIV, prevention service packages were delivered with UN support to 15 states along with advocacy and capacity building for non-governmental organizations and healthcare professionals. Furthermore, with the UN’s contribution, approximately 50 percent of the key population was reached with HIV prevention measures, and by the end of 2015, anti-retroviral therapy was delivered to 4,374 people living with HIV.

With regards to education, the UN helped more than 1,000,000 children gain access to education. The UN also assisted in the rehabilitation of the National Centre for Early Childhood Care and
Development. With UN support, national pre-school standards and a pre-school curriculum were developed and disseminated, teachers’ guides and other learning materials for inclusive basic education were developed, and 100 trainers from all states and 150 teachers from Kassala and South Darfur, covering 2,000 disabled students, were trained. Furthermore, the UN contributed to the delivery of 17,914 metric tonnes of food in 2015 alone through school feeding activities. In addition, the UN helped in the development of child-friendly school construction standards. The UN was also active in supporting the construction of classrooms, latrines, teacher’s offices, provision of furniture and support to parent-teacher associations benefiting over 20 schools in Darfur for internally displaced people and returnees; the construction in White Nile state of 31 classrooms in host communities; and the rehabilitation of six schools in North Darfur, benefiting 480 students. The capacity of the National Council for Literacy and Adult Education was similarly developed with UN support.

In the area of water and sanitation, the UN helped 1,414,061 people in 11 states gain access to improved water sources through the construction of new water supply schemes, rehabilitation of water pipes network and improvement to water source capacities, installation or rehabilitation of hand pumps, hand-dug wells and water yards, among other interventions. Similarly, with UN support, 147,480 school children gained access to improved drinking water sources. As part of the UN’s contribution, 255,368 conflict-affected people received access to safe means of excreta disposal, and close to 2 million conflict-affected people, internally displaced persons and returnees were reached with hygiene messages and sensitization activities. In the case of shelter, with UN support, some 50,000 beneficiaries (9,882 returnees or protracted internally displaced families in rural areas) in South, North, and West Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile states were provided with transitional shelters and training on the manufacture of soil stabilized bricks and shelter construction. Furthermore, the UN assisted some 45,000 beneficiaries (9,356 newly displaced households) in the Darfur and Blue Nile states with basic shelter construction material for emergency shelters, whilst almost 2,000,000 beneficiaries (389,723 displaced and returnee households) in Darfur and South Kordofan states were assisted with life-saving non-food items.

Enhancing access to child protection services, the UN helped 163,455 children in areas of armed conflict and displacement benefit from psychosocial services. In addition, with UN support, 20 child-friendly spaces and child protection committees/networks in Darfur were constructed or rehabilitated. The UN contributed as well in the development and piloting of nine minimum standards for child protection in humanitarian contexts and the psychosocial services training package. The UN also helped in the registration of 2,679 unaccompanied and separated children and the reunification with family of 2,005, as well as the placement in foster family care of 791 children. The knowledge and skills of 1,037 professionals providing care and protection services to 17,253 children in 34 localities in Khartoum, South Darfur, South and North Kordofan, White Nile, Blue Nile and Central Darfur were improved with UN support.

**UNDAF Pillar III: Governance and rule of law**

The UN worked to help strengthen the capacities of institutions at all levels to effectively plan and deliver on their mandates. In this regard, 10 state strategic and 60 locality development plans were formulated with UN support, and state macroeconomic frameworks and policies were formulated to spur economic growth and stability by upscaling ongoing reforms. The UN also contributed to the process of policy and programme reviews toward better targeted/more effective actions using data from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2014. The administrative data collection system of Family and Child Protection Units was sharpened with UN support with the inclusion of 22 gender-sensitive questions and in the provision of guidelines and tools to enhance and promote the integration of gender including in the Poverty
Reduction Strategy and the National Development Plan. With the aim of enhancing accountability, the capacities of more than 120 federal and state auditors were developed with UN assistance, and the National Audit Chamber developed the “Comprehensive Strategic Plan 2013-2017”. Furthermore, the UN supported the ratification of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2014. Specifically in the area of elections, the electoral law was amended in 2014, with UN advocacy, raising the quota for women’s representation in legislative bodies from 25 percent to 30 percent. Furthermore, the UN contributed with the introduction of database management software for voter registry management and training on electoral cycle management, with some National Election Commission officials receiving accreditation as facilitators. The UN was also active in awareness raising on electoral laws concerning pastoral communities that were adopted in 2013.

With UN advocacy efforts, a bill was signed by the President of Sudan in February 2015 amending several provisions of the Criminal Law, including the controversial Article 149 on the definition of rape. Similarly, with UN support, the Government enforced the prohibition of the child death penalty, and six regulations supporting the implementation of the 2010 Child Act were finalized. In the area of female genital mutilation/cutting, the UN supported an assessment of relevant laws in South Kordofan, South Darfur, Red Sea and Gadarif, which was used to enhance enforcement of the laws, and also contributed to initial drafts of laws in Northern, River Nile, Blue Nile and White Nile states. A draft National Action Plan on Security Council Resolution 1325 was prepared with UN support, as well as the draft Child Marriage National Strategy. The UN also contributed to the adoption of the Anti-Trafficking Law in 2014 and the drafting of a manual on the law. In this same area, the UN assisted with training and sensitization on subjects of international migration law, implementation of the national Anti-Trafficking Law, human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, psychosocial support to victims of trafficking, the risks of irregular migration and migrant exploitation. With the UN’s support for the protection of the rights of children, Family and Child Protection Units were established in the 18 state capitals and in 43 localities in the different states, and child-friendly services were provided to 17,253 children; and child prosecutors and child courts and judges were similarly available in all the states across Sudan. Contributing to strengthening the rule of law, the UN assisted in the construction and equipping of more than 15 police stations and police posts in Darfur, which helped approximately 8,000 refugees and more than 21,000 returnees, and training was provided for more than 200 police personnel and government officials on the rights of displaced populations in Darfur. In that same region, the UN supported the establishment of five Community Safety Information Centres, and the development and endorsement of a Five-Year Strategic Plan for Prisons Development. To help strengthen the protection of basic rights and equal access to justice for all, the UN supported the provision of legal assistance, and in 2014 alone 500 paralegals at state level provided services to over 35,000 individuals. UN assistance also helped in the establishment of 50 legal counselling centres in Darfur and eastern states. Through expanded legal aid and mobile counselling services available through UN support at least 400 individual cases were resolved. Furthermore, the UN contributed to the opening of the Regional Office of the Human Rights Commission in El Fasher, as well as the drafting of internal regulations for the human rights complaints committee and a comprehensive manual to address all procedural stages of the life cycle of a human rights complaint.

**UNDAF Pillar IV: Social Cohesion, Peace Consolidation and Peace Dividends**

The UN provided support to government and community-led peace-building initiatives that promoted stability, inter-communal reconciliation and peaceful coexistence. Activities included the establishment of 21 peace committees, and the organization of peace-building events and peaceful coexistence sporting events. Nineteen UN-supported Peace and Development Councils are now benefiting 300,000 people in Darfur. Also in Darfur, with UN assistance, 48 community centres, including centres specific for youth, women and the elderly, were constructed and rehabilitated, equipment and furniture were supplied to vocational and youth centres, and a Community Management Committee was established. To help address root causes of conflict, the UN supported projects to improve access to water services and water governance, and seeds were distributed on
grazing corridors. In support of social dialogue, the UN helped strengthen and develop the capacities of government, traditional community-based and civil society-led peace-building and conflict resolution mechanisms. With UN support, training for stakeholders was conducted on peace building; conflict reduction, management and transformation; leadership skills; and community management of natural resources. Peace awareness-raising campaigns, including crop and livestock protection peace campaigns promoting peaceful coexistence between farmers and herders, were also carried out with assistance from the UN. Furthermore, the Peace Innovation Hub at the University of Khartoum was established, and the Darfur Joint Needs Assessment was finalized and the Darfur Development Strategy was drafted with UN support.

To promote sustainable return, reintegration and recovery, the UN supported the delivery of 54 peace dividends directly linked to inter- and intra-communal peace agreements, as well as 77 large and small social infrastructure and productive assets, providing basic services and livelihood opportunities in eastern states, southern border states, Abyei and Darfur. Targeted socio-economic reintegration assistance was provided to ex-combatants with UN support, with 27,000 reintegrated to start new civilian lives in Blue Nile, South Kordofan, central sector states and Darfur. To assist in local recovery, the UN supported training on entrepreneurial and business management skills imparted by volunteers.
1. Introduction

United Nations (UN) work in Sudan encompasses development cooperation, humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping operations. A total of 19 UN agencies\(^1\) collaborate with the Government and other partners in implementing development programming in Sudan.\(^2\)

The UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2013-2017\(^3\) summarizes the UN Country Team’s collective contribution towards national development priorities and guides agency-specific development programmes during the period. The current UNDAF presents eight outcomes that the UN Country Team, in collaboration with the Government and other partners, is striving to achieve in four pillars, namely: 1) poverty reduction, inclusive growth and sustainable livelihoods; 2) basic services; 3) governance and rule of law; 4) social cohesion, peace consolidation and peace dividends.\(^4\) Resources available in 2013-2015 are estimated at $760 million, whereas the resources required to implement the programming contained in the current UNDAF are estimated at $937 million for the period 2013-2016.

This report summarizes the main contributions of the UN Country Team, as part of the UNDAF, to development in Sudan in the three-year period from 2013 to 2015.\(^5\)

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\(^{1}\) Throughout this report, “agencies” refers to “agencies, funds and programmes”.

\(^{2}\) UN agencies implementing development programming in Sudan are: FAO, IAEA, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UN-Habitat, UN Women, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNMAS (which restarted operations in Sudan in 2015 and is hence not part of this report), UNOPS, UNV, WFP, and WHO. OCHA, UNDSS, IMF, World Bank and two peacekeeping missions, UNAMID and UNISFA, are also present in the country but do not implement development programming as part of the UNDAF.

\(^{3}\) The current UNDAF was initially formulated to cover the period 2013-2016. It was later extended to cover 2017 too to help align the next UNDAF with other processes such as the process to develop the National Development Plan and the Humanitarian Response Plan.

\(^{4}\) The UNDAF summarizes the greater part of UN development programming during the period. The few UN development activities that do not fall within these four areas are excluded from the UNDAF.

\(^{5}\) The UN’s humanitarian and peacekeeping work is not captured in this report. Similarly, there are some UN development activities that fall outside of the UNDAF and are hence not captured in this report.
2. Key Development Achievements

2.a) UNDAF Pillar One: Poverty Reduction, Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Livelihoods

UNDAF Outcome 1: People in Sudan, with special attention to youth, women and population in need, have improved opportunities for decent work and sustainable livelihoods and are better protected from external shocks, thereby reducing poverty

Reporting agencies: FAO, IAEA, IFAD, ILO, UNIDO, UNOPS

Contributing to improved livelihoods, the UN has supported income generation in targeted areas and for priority groups. In 15 villages in Kassala state targeted by the UN, for example, a total of 11,594 households received increased income through support in the areas of fishery, livestock, horticulture, sunflowers as a cash crop, water harvesting and skills development. In the Eastern region, a target population of 1,500 farmers benefited from the UN support to income-generating activities, with total production increasing by 20 percent and women’s livelihoods improving in 14 out of 23 targeted villages across Kassala state. In a separate intervention targeting 1,024 beneficiaries in Kassala state, employment and livelihood opportunities were improved for 641 men and women (504 women, 137 rural) who accessed new employment opportunities in 2013-2015. The UN also helped train more than 800 women in a range of income-generating skills in Kassala, Khartoum and South Kordofan.

Rehabilitation and construction of infrastructure facilities consisting of various water sources, schools and health facilities was undertaken with UN support. These activities provided short-term employment equivalent to 55,012 work days for 670 men and women in three states of Darfur, as well as Blue Nile, Red Sea, Kassala and Gadarif states: 180 youth (approximately 125 men and 55 women) in North Darfur (13,700 work days); 230 youth (180 men and 50 women) in West Darfur (19,500 work days); 190 youth (with a ratio of men to women of 3 to 1) in East Darfur (18,300 work days); 20 men in Red Sea state (1,200 work days); 12 men in Kassala state (480 work days); 15 men in Gadarif (900 work days); 23 persons (20 men and 3 women) in Blue Nile (932 work days).

With the aim of helping reduce rural poverty, the UN has worked with partners in the states of Kordofan (North, South and West), Sennar, Kassala, Gadarif, River Nile, Khartoum and Gezira to provide appropriate incentives to significantly improve agricultural production and, at the same time, consolidate peace initiatives. Through environmentally sustainable practices, distribution of improved seeds and extension services, UN interventions co-financed by the Government have helped increase agricultural production, for example by 128 percent and 97 percent for sorghum and sesame, respectively, in targeted areas in Sennar state, and by 85 percent in the Kordofan region for groundnut. The UN has also contributed to improve access in rural areas to services and markets through infrastructure, and to enhance partnerships with private sector and service provider networks. Also with UN support, 33,000 households gained access to microfinance services. As part of these interventions, community dialogue has been fostered around sensitive topics like natural resources management, promoting improved land reforms, harmonization of resources for nomads and farmers, and equitable distribution of resources through participation of local communities in decision-making. Furthermore, the UN helped 300 women start group-based income-generating activities/cooperatives in Kassala and Gadarif states and provided grants to 13 of them by linking them with micro-finance institutions as well as by setting up revolving funds.

Different crops (sorghum and millet), cash crops (sesame and groundnut) and vegetable food crops (sweet potato) were introduced with UN support to a number of localities of South Darfur state in a range of agro-ecological zones. Certified seeds totalling 8 metric tonnes and 12.5 metric tonnes were produced in 2014 and 2015, respectively. A programme of capacity building (training workshops and in-service training) was undertaken, where a seed laboratory supervisor, extension agents, farmers
groups (both sexes), technicians from the Nyala Research Station, and young graduates from the State Ministry of Agriculture were trained in different aspects of seed production. Agro-technical trainings regarding the growing of Moringa crops and the industrial processing/manufacturing of Moringa-based products were organized in Khartoum state and an investment policy framework was developed.

As part of the UN’s support, appropriate farm mechanization solutions for increased agricultural productivity were piloted in Kassala state. Local craftsmen, blacksmiths and end beneficiaries were trained and equipped to provide services to beneficiary communities in manufacturing and repairing tools, implements and machinery used in agricultural production and agro-processing.

To help improve the livelihoods of female vegetable farmers affected by water stress, the UN introduced easy-to-use drip irrigation technology to 187 small-scale farmers in 14 villages in Kassala state. In a test conducted on onion crops, such technology, which is operated by gravity and is suitable for small land areas, resulted in a 43 percent increase in yields, 63 percent savings in water, and a 56 percent rise in profits.

Drip irrigation helps Sudanese women turn dry lands into vegetable fields. (Photo credit: N. Jawerth/IAEA)

In all states, the UN contributed to regional trade capacities in food through a harmonized regional conformity assessment and to enhancing food safety systems. Four technical and entrepreneurial training courses were conducted in Khartoum and South Kordofan states. Value chains of selected agricultural commodities were analyzed and upgrade strategies were developed among stakeholders. The UN further supported the provision of sustainable extension and advisory services and approaches to target beneficiaries. Women and youth were supported in managing their own development activities in a participatory way.

In addition, the UN supported the establishment of four employment agencies within four vocational training centres in Khartoum state—the first-ever such agencies to be established in Sudan within an educational institute in Khartoum state. In a separate intervention, different entrepreneurship toolkits were used with communities in South Kordofan, Kassala and Gadarif states, and 900 beneficiaries from urban and rural communities were targeted for income-generating activities and value chain production. Life skills training and the setting up of handicraft and agribusiness groups were other areas of UN support, which served to disseminate peace messages and facilitate communication between different communities in Kassala and Gadarif states.
Sewing a New Life with Fishing Nets

Adverse environmental conditions, armed conflict and economic problems in Kassala have had a disproportionate impact on women in different localities, including Khashm el-Girba. The role of women in traditional agricultural and livestock production is barely recognized, while access to other opportunities remains limited. Furthermore, the income-generating capacity of rural women is low, with social and cultural barriers impeding their capacity for action. This has a direct impact on the ability of communities and families to develop productive assets sustainably and to increase their incomes.

Suaad Mohamed is a 22-year-old woman who married at 18 and lives with her husband in Khashm el-Girba. Her husband is a fisherman and supports his family, albeit their economic situation is precarious owing to the seasonality of their mainstay. The ordinary fisherman in Khashm el-Girba makes a subsistence living working in very poor conditions.

“My husband and I were living in difficult circumstances and although we don’t have children. My husband works as a fisherman in order to provide for our needs as well as his parents’ needs”, says Suaad.

Through one of its responses to poverty in the Khashm el-Girba town, the UN embarked on developing the skills of women for income generation. When Suaad discovered that the UN provides training for women in net-making and repair, she sought to obtain a new skill that would primarily help her husband by bringing an additional income for their household. Suaad was one of 30 women who were trained to weave nets, along with 800 other women who were also trained in a range of income-generating skills as part of a broader vocational skills-building initiative.

“I always wished that one day I would learn about fishing as my father was a fisherman. I felt it will help me to provide even a small income, especially to covers my personal needs”, says Suaad, who also states that she heard about the skills training programme from one of her neighbours, prompting her to go the next day to explore fishing net making. “I was so happy when I was told that I was enrolled at the nearest training session and will have the chance to learn how to make fishing nets”.

During the training offered through the UN’s “Integrated Food Security Project in Kassala”, Suaad was determined to acquire skills and knowledge around different types of fishing nets used by the fishermen in Lake Girba, and specifically how to make and repair them. Upon the completion of the training, Suaad, like the other female trainees, was provided with twine and other tools to start net-making and repair small-scale businesses.

“I was full of joy because I was able to learn something I loved in addition to the income”, states Suaad, who also now has created a customer base with orders in the pipeline.

Today, like many other women in her town, Suaad works during her spare time to make new fishing nets and repair old ones, while caring for her children. With the extra income she made, Suaad bought a refrigerator, a ceiling fan and improved her home’s furniture, all of which were impossible to finance from her husband’s income.

Having become more confident and socially active, Suaad regularly contributes to social events in the town and no longer asks for money from her husband.

“My life has completely changed after the new skills I acquired during the training because now I earn more than SDG400 per month by selling new nets and repairing old nets”, said Suaad, who also declares that her family and members of her social circles now respect her more. “I am planning to open a new shop in Khashm el-Girba to sell nets and other grocery items to further improve my income and increase my business”, says Suaad, feeling fulfilled due to her new livelihood.

A change in men’s perception of women was noted by the project managers. Like Suaad’s husband, men became more supportive of the participation of women in such skills-training programmes. The contribution the women made to their families’ hygiene, diet, children’s health and education as a result of increased family income was well noted.
UNDAF Outcome 2: Populations vulnerable to environmental risks and climate change become more resilient and relevant institutions are more effective in the sustainable management of natural resources

Reporting agencies: FAO, UN-Habitat, UNEP, UNIDO, UNOPS, WFP

During the three-year period the UN made contributions to six national strategies and action plans in this area: i) Regulatory and Policy Framework for Power Purchase Agreement and Low Carbon Development Strategy, including Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action Plan; ii) National REDD+ Strategy and Framework for Action; iii) National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change; iv) 2nd National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan; v) adoption of Integrated Water Resource Management approach; and vi) National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy (ongoing). At state-level, a Resilience Strategy was approved by Khartoum state. With UN support, climate change adaptation measures were mainstreamed in North Kordofan and Gadarif states’ Agricultural Development Plans, and climate change and environmental governance were integrated in the Darfur Development Strategy Foundational and Short-Term projects for the five Darfur states. Furthermore, two plans were developed for flood-affected urban settlements in Karari and East Nile localities in Khartoum state.

The UN has also assisted the Government of Sudan in the implementation of one international environment-related protocol and two conventions: i) Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer; ii) Minamata Convention on Mercury; and iii) Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the National Implementation Plan.

With UN support, over 200,000 households in North Darfur benefited from agricultural extension messages and integrated water resource management techniques. Thirty villages (14,782 households) were reached through the implementation of Community Environmental Action Plans.

A farmer beneficiary proudly exhibits one of many seedlings planted to help stabilize wadi bank erosion (Photo credit: UNEP staff)

In the area of alternative/renewable energy and environmentally sound technology, UN support helped reach a total of 298,519 households in Darfur in securing access to fuel efficient stoves and
alternative livelihood opportunities; 80 percent of the projects were targeted towards women (e.g. community centres, income generating activities). In Kassala state, 11,594 households benefited from solar home systems. Furthermore, a wastewater treatment facility was established in a White Nile tannery with UN assistance.

In the context of a natural resource management strategy and action plans with the Ministry of Agriculture, the UN supported capacity development addressing climate change, the Great Green Wall initiative (reforestation/afforestation to combat desertification) and agricultural research. Awareness was raised on persistent organic pollutants through a television video clip and workshops.

The UN provided assistance with natural resource management trainings in connection with 25 Community Environmental Action Plans in all Darfur states and through 75 community-based plans in Kassala state, contributing to improved livelihoods and natural resource management. Smallholder farmers also received training in irrigation techniques and adaptive farming techniques.

Located near North Darfur’s capital city El Fasher, the Wadi El Ku (Wadi meaning valley) is an area that has seen a substantial population growth over the past 10 years. The current population, which is estimated to be well over 700,000 people, depends on the valley’s water supply mainly to support livelihoods that include farming and livestock raising. The overuse of water resources has led to dropping groundwater levels and increased environmental degradation, which in turn has affected livelihoods and undermines economic recovery.

“The environmental situation in the area is deteriorating and worsening, especially in the upper area of the Wadi where the agriculture is suffering from the loss of vegetation cover, unlawful cutting down of trees, sand encroachment into the artificial land as well as drifts”, explains Mohammed Bashar Abd al-Rhman, representative of the networks and communities in Wadi El Ku area. “This deteriorating environmental situation has its effects on the communities. For example, drifts reduce arable lands and thus affect people’s livelihoods negatively. We also find that the lack of vegetation affects the areas available for grazing and consequently leads to conflicts over land and other natural resources”, he adds.

With such environmental and economic challenges facing the community, it was time for a community-owned and -born collaborative forum to be set up and to collectively face the growing environmental problems facing the community. Such a gathering had never existed in the valley.

With assistance from the UN to bring all stakeholders together, in December 2015, the Wadi El Ku Catchment Management Forum was established with a mission to coordinate, advocate and advise on key water resources issues in the Wadi El Ku catchment.

The community’s reasons to set up the forum are thus described by Mohammed Bashar Abd al-Rhman: “There are many incentives, for example the forum is a body that helps institutions and communities dependent on natural resources to communicate and collaborate more. Moreover, the forum brings communities closer to decision-making centres.”

Made up of 48 primary and alternate members, the forum is composed of representatives from government technical institutions at the Darfur state level, members from the legislative council, farmers as well as pastoralists. The forum also includes members of the local media outlets and community-based organizations that advocate for sustainable resource management. In addition to those members, native administration personnel, landowners and community representatives from within the area are also active members of the forum.

“There has been a very high and successful rate of attendance by forum members. Discussions always seem to be carried out in a democratic and transparent manner”, says Mohammed Bashar Abd al-Rhman.

So far, the catchment management forum is seen as a novel platform that brings together users and custodians in the water sector from across Government and communities in Wadi El Ku. Some future ambitions of the forum include establishing a unified front on how key water issues should be handled, and then jointly advocating for and bringing about change in the way local residents use their water...
supply from the valley.

Members of the forum has thus far met four times. According to Mohammed Bashar Abd al-Rhman “the key impact of the Wadi El Ku forum, which is already gaining significant attention from locals include: coordination to bring about changes that improve the use of water resources; advocacy to change the concepts around water use; advocacy to develop regulations governing the just use of water; provision of advice to users, technicians and politicians on the issue of optimal use of water and resources.”

In Sabarna locality, North Darfur, beneficiaries express their happiness at the construction of an environmentally sound, low-cost engineering structure which demonstrates how to stabilize deep gullies and spreads water for maximum agricultural benefit (Photo credit: UNEP staff)

2.b) UNDAF Pillar Two: Basic Services

UNDAF Outcome 3: Government and stakeholders have evidence-based policies, strategic plans and mechanisms to ensure an enabling environment for improved basic services

Reporting agencies: FAO, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO

Health

A number of new policies, strategies and guidelines have been developed with UN assistance in the past years that will influence the delivery of services for men, women, boys and girls. Such efforts were pursued in humanitarian interventions as well, in order to ensure consistency across UN activities.

With UN guidance, a bottleneck analysis was carried out to investigate high levels of anaemia; it identified social norms (such as anaemia during pregnancy being considered normal in most communities), limited programme integration, and lack of national legislation (e.g. food fortification laws), among others, as issues. A Lot Quality Assurance Sampling Survey was conducted in Red Sea, Kassala, Gadarif and River Nile states to collect data on key maternal and child health interventions at locality level, and data are being used for challenge analysis and planning. The Ministry of Health,
supported by the UN, conducted the reproductive health commodity security and family planning health facility-based national survey for all states of Sudan for the years 2014 and 2015. The results were used to strengthen the logistics management information system and the family planning programme. To promote evidence-based planning, the data collection for national health accounts was completed in 2015 with UN support, and the report is about to be finalized.

Equitable coverage and accessibility to health services cannot be achieved without a sustainable and efficient health financing system. In 2015, with support from the UN, the revision of the national health financing package started, covering also the national health insurance.

In regard to health system strengthening, the UN is supporting the Government of Sudan’s move towards the “one plan, one budget, one report” approach to health to increase coordination and collaboration between all stakeholders. The UN has provided support to the primary healthcare expansion plan 2012-2016 launched to extend coverage of primary health care services from 86 percent to the whole population, and to improve their quality. As part of the plan, the Maternal and Child Health Acceleration Plan 2013-2015 was launched and implemented by the Government and the UN. Following UN advocacy efforts, in 2015, His Excellency, the President, signed the Sudan Country Pledge towards the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health (2016-2030). The UN also provided technical support for the National Health Sector Strategic Plan, and advocated for the signing, in September 2014, of the local compact with partners as part of the commitment to the International Health Partnership (IHP+) and aid effectiveness.

The UN contributed to the development of a multi-sectoral action plan for control of non-communicable diseases, which is in the endorsement stage, as well as the disability strategy that was endorsed in 2014, and the strategy for community-based management of acute malnutrition. The steering and technical committees for the Social Determinants of Health and the Urban Health Equity Assessment and Response Tool have been formed with technical support from the UN and approved by the Government.

In addition, with UN support, the Government endorsed a national policy for promoting local pharmaceutical manufacturing that emphasizes increasing accessibility to medicines and making use of the allowances provided by the Doha Declaration on the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Agreement and Public Health. With UN support, the framework for good governance for medicines, the national herbal policy, the antibiotic prescription policy, and the hospital pharmacy policy have been endorsed. The health research policy and strategy were launched, as well as a national Health Observatory (www.sho.gov.sd) in 2014 to be an open-access tool for information sharing and dissemination.

There is an increased focus on improving the quality of health services (public and private), starting with stronger standardization of medical education. In this regard, the policy on accreditation of medical schools (including development of tools and training of assessors) has been developed as a result of policy advocacy and support by the UN. National accreditation tools for health facilities at primary and secondary levels have been finalized to facilitate the advocacy for the implementation of a national accreditation system in Sudan.

**Nutrition**

With UN support, the 2014-2021 National Strategic Plan for Nutrition was endorsed along with the Infant and Young Child Feeding Strategy (2016-2025). In addition, in 2013 an action plan for maternal, infant and young child nutrition was developed. The Ministry of Health and the UN are about to sign an agreement with the Sudan Association of Paediatricians for combating malnutrition in Sudan.

The National Simple Spatial Sampling (S3M) Survey was completed with support from the UN, and data were gathered in all 18 states. The survey collected information on 64 indicators on health, water, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition.
In partnership with the UN, a nutrition investment case for multi-sector cost-effective interventions was developed, scaling up an integrated package of nutrition, health, water, sanitation, hygiene and livelihood interventions to 90 percent national coverage.

For the prevention of micronutrient deficiency, the UN supported the development of the national law for the use of iodized salt, which is under process to be passed by the Parliament, as well as the signature of the agreement between the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Industries, UN and other partners (including factories) for universal salt iodization in Sudan.

**HIV**

The UN, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, endorsed the first HIV Integrated Bio-Behavioural Surveillance Survey that was conducted in 2012, including key population size estimations for Sudan. The UN facilitated the development and finalization of the HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan 2014-2017 in 2013, which has set eight key strategic priorities to ensure that HIV prevalence remains below 0.2 percent. Likewise, technical support was provided for the development of the National Plan for the Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV, which was finalized in 2013.

A national commitment to fast-track the HIV response by 2020 was launched by the First Lady and federal and state-level ministers in 2015, setting the stage for scaling up and intensifying HIV response in Sudan. As a result, HIV prevention service packages for different population groups were contextualized and adapted. A situation assessment and programmatic gap analysis of HIV interventions in the humanitarian context of Darfur were also completed in 2015 with clear recommendations of programmatic and resource needs.

**Education**

UN upstream support to the Ministry of Education has focused on developing strategic plans. Eighteen states have developed equity-based and budgeted education state plans with UN support, which informed the development of the National Interim Education Sector Strategic Plan 2015-2016.

With UN support the National Council for Child Welfare developed an early childhood policy and strategy for Sudan in line with international standards to guide the work of developing a multi-sectorial action plan (2014-2016). The UN also technically supported the Federal and State Ministries of Education in the drafting and finalization of the Interim Basic Education Strategy 2015-2017. Similarly, the UN contributed to the development of secondary education policies and the national strategic plan for secondary education (2013-2014).

In the area of vocational training, the UN conducted a national policy review of technical and vocational education and training in Sudan with the aim of engaging in developing a policy and thus improving vocational training in the country in 2014-2016.

The UN and the World Bank started the process of conducting a comprehensive education cost and finance study to inform the elaboration of a costed Education Sector Strategic Plan 2017-2021, which is under development.

Furthermore, the UN provided support for the production of the 2010/11 and 2011/12 Education Year Statistics Book and the finalization of the 2012/13 Annual Education Book, which provide valuable sex-disaggregated data on key education indicators. The Education Management Information System software has been developed with the technical support of the National Information Centre and piloted with the UN’s support in six states. It is expected to be rolled out in all 18 states in 2016.
Quality education for both boys and girls is critical for sustainable development and creates a ripple effect of opportunities that influence generations to come. (photo credit: UNICEF/2015)

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene National Policy, which is the single most important sector document, was finalized with the UN’s technical guidance, was approved by the Ministry of Health, and is pending further action by the Ministry of Water Resources and Electricity. Through a bottleneck analysis of the water, sanitation and hygiene sector supported by the UN, critical sector bottlenecks were identified and analyzed in detail by international and national sector experts, and solutions were identified. The outcome of the sector bottleneck analysis is currently being utilized to advocate with senior government and donor partners at all levels for systemic sector performance improvement.

Through technical inputs and policy advocacy by the UN, the Ministry of Health finalized and endorsed the National Environmental Health Plan for 2015-2019, whose implementation will be supported through the National Strategic Hygiene and Sanitation Framework that is under development. In addition, the national drinking water specifications and standards, and the technical guidelines for environmental health interventions during emergencies, developed with UN support, have been endorsed by the Ministry of Health and contribute to strengthened national capacity for emergency response.

A decree for vector-borne disease control was passed by the Parliament in 2014 through advocacy efforts of the UN. Fourteen out of 18 vector-borne diseases are endemic in Sudan and pose a growing burden on the communities and health system.

The UN helped initiate the process for the establishment of an overall water, sanitation and hygiene sector coordination mechanism to ensure that sector stakeholders’ objectives and approaches are in line with the national sector policies and strategies. Five nationwide commitments were signed by three national ministers (Water Resources and Electricity, Health and Finance), focusing on: increased federal sanitation budget; scaling up sanitation; establishing sanitation and water, sanitation and hygiene sector coordination mechanisms; and developing an equity-based monitoring and evaluation system.
Integrated Urban and Regional Planning

Two regional spatial strategic plans for Darfur and Blue Nile were developed and validated with the UN’s support. The plans intend to function as a tool to facilitate the smooth transition from humanitarian relief to early recovery, reconstruction and economic development in Darfur and Blue Nile, by providing concrete strategic solutions from a spatial perspective. The UN helped develop two planning tools (matrix of functions–Ministry of Finance and spatial multi-criteria evaluation), and trained relevant staff involved in planning on the application and usage of the tools. In addition, two urban strategic structure plans (2016 - 2031) were developed for Ed Damazine and El Roseiris towns in Blue Nile state.

A nationwide nutrition survey conducted in 2013 in Sudan is revealing for the first time the difference in performance of health and nutrition services in each of Sudan’s 18 states. This has been thanks to the Simple Spatial Survey Methodology (S3M) used to collect data on child malnutrition. The S3M survey methodology has been used in other countries before, including Niger, Sierra Leone and Ethiopia, but the Sudan S3M has the greatest number of indicators so far: 64 in total, covering child and maternal health and nutrition, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene services.

Up-to-date, reliable data are indispensable to realize the right of the most vulnerable population in Sudan, especially children. The survey results, which are disaggregated at the locality level, provide evidence where the pockets of high need are located, so investment can be tailored to make sure that every person in need could be reached.

The survey has demonstrated high levels of chronic malnutrition as well as low levels of coverage for safe water and sanitation in some areas, enabling development partners and government to prioritize interventions in these areas.

Poor child feeding practices area a challenge across the country, with localities in Eastern Sudan—notably Kassala and Gadarif states, among the most critical. The Eastern region and the three Kordofan states have also the lowest coverage of safe drinking water and improved sanitation facilities, while Red Sea, Blue Nile and the Darfur region show the highest prevalence of diarrhea among children.

Data collection for the S3M survey was conducted in 2013 with UN’s technical, logistical and financial support, involving 532 enumerators and 39 supervisors from state and federal government, at an estimated cost of US$1.5 million.

The implementation and use of the survey outlines of a solid, tailored and evidence-based response to child malnutrition in Sudan.

The survey results have fed into the development of multi-sector strategy for nutrition. A national nutrition council has been formed and a comprehensive investment plan for addressing child malnutrition has also been developed.

UNDAF Outcome 4: People in Sudan, with special emphasis on populations in need, have access to equitable and sustainable quality basic services

Reporting agencies: FAO, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO

Health

With UN support, twenty-five health facilities were established, equipped and are functioning in Darfur (18), White Nile (5), Blue Nile (1) and Khartoum (1)—14 of them benefiting 290,000 persons with access to improved health services. The capacity of 115 health workers was strengthened by a series of UN-supported trainings.
The UN contributed to the rehabilitation and equipping of 155 health facilities to provide emergency obstetric and neonatal care in different states, especially in those affected by conflict, and the training of 580 health centre personnel on emergency obstetric and neonatal care. The UN also supported the implementation of maternal death surveillance and response in all states to strengthen the decision-making process in improving emergency obstetric and neonatal care services. With UN support, 500 fistula cases from different states were surgically repaired and four fistula centres, including the national centre in Khartoum, were rehabilitated and equipped.

More than 10 million bed nets procured by the UN were distributed in 2013-2015, targeting pregnant women and under-five children, reaching about 74 percent of the targeted children under five years.

In Darfur, with UN support, eye health campaigns reached more than 12,000 internally displaced persons, returnees and host community members, while another 13,000 individuals benefitted from mobile health services. Health referral mechanisms were also established and served more than 1,100 conflict-affected individuals. Vaccinations were further provided by the UN to 3,200 conflict-affected children and pregnant women in Darfur.

Seven thousand community midwives graduated through direct support from the Government, while the UN supported in-service training for 2,490 midwives in different states; the update and printing of a community midwife curriculum; and the rehabilitation of eight and equipping of 12 midwifery schools. The UN also supported the capacity building of 2,761 healthcare providers on family planning service provision and logistics management information system, as well as the rehabilitation of five warehouses in five states, and the procurement of modern contraceptives and lifesaving drugs at the needed quantities for all states of Sudan. As a result, national surveys and programme evaluations showed increased number of users of modern contraceptives in some states, which has led to a slight increase in the national contraceptive prevalence rate.

Advocacy with parliamentarians, media, and religious and community leaders supported by the UN was instrumental in mobilizing community action in addressing harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation.

The UN supported the implementation of a community-based integrated package of services (reproductive health, family planning, HIV, gender and gender-based violence), which resulted in successful practices, like the establishment of 107 community-based referral mechanisms for emergency obstetric and neonatal care and gender-based violence.

**Nutrition**

With the UN’s support, 35 percent of all health facilities in Sudan have integrated severe acute malnutrition treatment services, resulting in increased coverage. About 350,000 children (131,227 in 2015) were treated for severe acute malnutrition during the reporting period. The UN continues to maintain the supply pipeline for treatment of severe acute malnutrition to 15 of 18 states, with the Ministry of Health providing for the remaining three states.

The flagship resilience programme supported by the UN targeting the poorest, non-conflict area in the east of Sudan represents a pioneer approach to prioritize the most vulnerable children affected by poverty and acute malnutrition in the context of transition from humanitarian aid to recovery and development. Between 2014 and 2016, stunting among children under 2 years decreased from 66.9 per cent to 57.5 per cent and the percentage of households with improved drinking water sources increased considerably from 43.7 per cent to 70.5 per cent in the 75 villages targeted by the UN in Kassala.

The UN supported the Ministry of Health in conducting mass vitamin A supplementation campaigns for children aged 0-5 years twice in 2014, achieving 98 percent national coverage. However, in 2015, only one round of vitamin A distribution was carried out alongside a polio and measles campaign, reaching 4,476,294 children—103 percent of the target and 77 percent of all children 6-59 months old.
nationally.

**HIV**

The UN contributed to the delivery of HIV prevention service packages to 15 states along with evidence-based advocacy at both federal and state levels, as well as context-relevant capacity building for non-governmental organizations and healthcare professionals across the 15 states. Approximately 50 percent of the key population were reached with HIV prevention measures. The UN also reached out to 4,296,579 individuals through an integrated awareness package on reproductive health/family planning, HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence.

The UN contributed to increasing the treatment coverage for people living with HIV and to creating demand for the treatment. By the end of 2015, the UN was supporting the delivery of anti-retroviral therapy to 4,374 people living with HIV (representing eight percent of the estimated total). The UN supported the establishment and registration of the PLWA Association and provided inputs for income generation activities for more than 500 persons from the most at-risk population as economic empowerment and prevention strategy. In addition, UN support included strengthening institutional and human capacities of 28 non-governmental organizations involved in HIV/AIDS prevention and response.

**Education**

In 2015, 464,228 out-of-school children (46 percent girls and 21.2 percent emergency-affected children) gained access to learning opportunities through the UN’s support to ensure provision of education services and learning materials in basic schools and alternative learning programme centres. Overall, more than one million children (out of 1.8 million target) gained access to education in 2013-2015.

Displaced children in Darfur are continuing with their schooling thanks to UN support to provide learning materials, school feeding and learning spaces. (Photo credit: UNICEF/2014)

The UN contributed to the rehabilitation and operationalization of the National Centre for Early Childhood Care and Development in Khartoum through support to the Federal Ministry of Education.
In addition, support was provided for the development of the national pre-school standards and a pre-school curriculum, which was disseminated to all states.

Extending opportunities for children with disabilities to be in school, the UN worked with the Ministry of Education to develop teachers’ guides and other learning materials for inclusive education in basic education. The UN also contributed to making the education system more inclusive, thus strengthening it: the UN trained 100 trainers from all 18 states and 150 teachers from the states of Kassala and South Darfur, covering 2,000 disabled students.

In 2015 alone, the UN delivered around 17,914 metric tonnes of food through its school feeding activities. Over the course of the 2015/16 school year, 972,985 school-aged children were supported with one wet meal per day at schools in North, West and South Kordofan, Red Sea, Kassala and the five Darfur states, covering around 16.2 percent of the total six million primary-school children in Sudan. Under the UN’s take-home ration project—which helps increase the attendance rate of girls in schools and creates a more positive attitude towards girls’ education in the community by improving household food security—the UN distributed 498 metric tonnes of food to 3,509 girls in Kassala and Red Sea states during the 2015/16 school year.

The UN provided food commodities through school feeding programmes in Sudan, where the retention rate in 2015 improved to 98 percent compared to 95.5 percent recorded in 2014, while the ratio of girls to boys was 0.9 compared to 0.8 recorded in 2014 in 2,337 schools.

To improve school construction, the UN provided technical support to the Ministry of Education to develop school construction standards to ensure that school infrastructure developments are consistent with child-friendly school principles.

In 2013 and 2014, the UN also supported over 20 schools in Darfur for internally displaced persons and returnees through the construction of classrooms, latrines, teachers’ offices, provision of furniture and support to parent-teacher associations. In 2015, the UN constructed 31 classrooms in White Nile state for the host communities to reduce burden on the existing facilities and provide safe learning environment for the children.

A total of 480 students (240 boys and 240 girls) were enrolled in January 2016 in six schools rehabilitated by the UN in North Darfur, reflecting an increase of 15 percent in enrolment following the intervention.

Supporting the National Literacy Campaign in Sudan, the UN contributed to the capacity development of the National Council for Literacy and Adult Education.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

In 2015, 1,414,061 most vulnerable people in 54 priority localities and major internally displaced and refugee settlements in 11 states had sustainable, equitable and gender-sensitive access to improved water sources through delivery of services supported by the UN. Furthermore, UN assistance enabled 147,480 school children (50.7 percent girls) gain access to improved drinking water sources between 2013 and 2015. Out of 400 communities targeted for increased access to improved water sources by 2016, 249 communities gained such access through the construction of new water supply schemes. Through UN support, a total of 353,347 conflict-affected people benefited from access to new improved drinking water sources; 255,368 conflict-affected people (56 percent female) received access to safe means of excreta disposal; and 1,828,683 conflict-affected people were reached with hygiene messages and sensitization activities. Other UN activities were focused on rehabilitation of schools and water sources. In addition, the establishment of water plants provided water to 50,000 beneficiaries in West Darfur and 30,000 beneficiaries in East Darfur.

The UN also supported essential maintenance, rehabilitation of water pipes network and improvement to water source capacities by providing submersible pumps. The total beneficiaries include 800,000 people in all five states of Darfur. In one locality in East Darfur, 20,000 beneficiaries
thus gained access to water. As a result, a total of 16 percent of the population of the five major urban towns in Darfur were provided with access to water. Support was also provided in 2013-2014 for the installation or rehabilitation of over 100 hand pumps, 30 hand-dug wells and five water yards for internally displaced people and returnees in Darfur. In addition, over 25 community-based committees received support to maintain their water systems, and some 25 hygiene campaigns reaching more than 1,500 internally displaced persons and returnees were implemented across Darfur.

Improved water supply systems provide access to safe water for vulnerable communities in Darfur. (photo credit: UNICEF/2014)

Shelter and Non-Food Items

Some 50,000 beneficiaries (9,882 returnees or protracted internally displaced families in rural areas) in South, North, and West Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile states were provided with transitional shelters through UN support, simultaneously with training on the manufacture of soil stabilized bricks and shelter construction to enhance livelihood opportunities towards self-sustainability.

Some 45,000 beneficiaries (9,356 newly displaced households) in the Darfur and Blue Nile states were assisted with basic shelter construction material for emergency shelters, whilst almost 2,000,000 beneficiaries (389,723 displaced and returnee households) in Darfur and South Kordofan states were assisted with life-saving non-food items.

Child Protection

With the UN’s support, the services of the State Councils for Child Welfare, State Ministries of Social Welfare and the Community-Based Child Protection Networks reached vulnerable children in more than 34 localities.

As part of the UN’s contribution, a total of 163,455 children in areas of armed conflict and displacement benefited from psychosocial services through child-friendly space services, including recreational, sports, cultural and counselling activities and referral to specialized services. The UN also supported the construction and rehabilitation of 20 child-friendly spaces and child protection
committees/networks in Darfur alone.

Nine minimum standards for child protection in humanitarian contexts as well as the psychosocial services training package were developed and piloted in internally displaced and refugee settings (Darfur region, White Nile and South Kordofan in five localities) with the UN’s technical guidance. This paved the way for improving the quality and harmonization of psychosocial services in child-friendly spaces, schools and family-based services.

The UN supported the strengthening of the national network on alternative family care system, which allowed registration of 2,679 (1,741 male, 938 female) unaccompanied and separated children. This also led to the reunification of 2,005 (1,303 male, 702 female) of them with their families. Three hundred were South Sudanese refugee children. Through the Alternative Care Programme (Ministry of Social Welfare), 791 (514 male, 277 female) children were placed in foster family care/Kafala.

The UN’s support enabled 1,037 (622 female) professionals working with children to improve their knowledge and skills, and hence provide quality care and protection services to 17,253 children (9,561 male, 7,692 female) in 34 localities in Khartoum, South Darfur, South and North Kordofan, White Nile, Blue Nile and Central Darfur. Among those, 1,933 (1,027 male, 906 female) were children victims of sexual violence. An additional 2,089 (732 male, 1,357 female) children received counselling through the helpline of the police Family and Child Protection Unit.

**Building Resilience in Eastern Sudan**

With an estimated population of approximately 1.4 million Kassala state has the highest levels of chronic malnutrition in the country in the form of stunting (66.9 percent) among children under two years of age. Persistent barriers to women and children’s health in the region include the prevalence of tribal traditions that confine women to the home, which means women often cannot seek professional medical care even if accompanied by their husband or a male relative—a reality contributing to a higher maternal mortality ratio than in most areas in Sudan.

As part of an integrated intervention covering health, nutrition, water, sanitation, food security and livelihoods, the UN has supported the establishment of 24 integrated centres that are used as platforms for activities catered to women, such as the provision of literacy services, food processing activities that promote livelihoods, in addition to sewing and handicraft activities meant to empower women in numerous areas in Kassala. Importantl, the centres provide health services in addition to mother support groups that are especially needed in a state that has the second highest level of child marriages in the country.

"Those who have challenged me at first now accompany their wives and children to the health centres as well" declares Ahmed, who refers to the centres supported by the UN in Kassala.
Mohamed and Fatima with their youngest child at the UN-supported centre

One of the UN-supported centres is Trendily Women Centre, which so far has provided services to over 100 beneficiaries within the community. The centre covers a catchment area of 12,243 people, including 453 children under one year of age and 2,114 children under five. Expanded programmes for immunization, in addition to integrated management of childhood illness and reproductive health assistance are also provided by the centre.

“I have three young children, Adam, Youssef and Mohamed, aged four, three and one, respectively. All in great health because my wife and I are equipped with the knowledge we need to ensure our children stay healthy”, adds Ahmed Mohamed Omer, who is one of the very first men to accompany his wife, Fatima Mohamed, aged 30, to the women’s centre. The visits require a weekly half-hour walk, which his wife Fatima describes as “worth every step”.

The health centre has medical assistants, a midwife, a nutritionist and an immunization technician. Twenty community health promoters are trained in community integrated management of childhood illness and are conducting home visits, weekly public awareness sessions on health and sanitation, and are supporting health nutrition activities in the centre.

“Every time I come here my knowledge is enriched and I walk away feeling empowered because I know how to care for my children. I now understand topics like food and healthy nutrition, which I now know are two different things; the importance of vaccination and hygiene are all covered”, says Fatima.

2.c) UNDAF Pillar Three: Governance and Rule of Law

Reporting agencies: IOM, UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA UNICEF

UNDAF Outcome 5: Governance institutions at all levels are strengthened to effectively plan, deliver and monitor their mandates, particularly public services, in an equitable and accountable manner

In the area of elections, the UN supported the Forum on Amendment of the Election Law. The UN also provided advocacy and capacity development support for the amendment, in 2014, of the electoral law to raise the quota for women’s representation in legislative bodies from 25 percent to 30 percent, and currently there is an unprecedented 30 percent representation of women in the National
Assembly and 35 percent in state councils.

Furthermore, the UN worked with the Government of Sudan, particularly the National Elections Commission (NEC) and its state counterparts to: 1) enhance NEC’s capacity for voter registration by introducing database management software specially designed for management of voter registries; 2) improve the political participation of pastoral communities in democratic processes; and 3) improve NEC’s capacity on electoral cycle management through the introduction of a global curriculum training Building Resources in Democracy, Governance, and Election (BRIDGE). Through 18 training workshops on electoral cycle management, 228 staff from NEC and State High Committees (NEC’s state-level bodies) and 135 representatives from civil society, political parties and media were reached. Among these trainees, 22 NEC officials received semi-accreditation as BRIDGE facilitators, and full accreditation to provide BRIDGE facilitation was received by five NEC officials, who went on to train their state officials on electoral cycle management. Furthermore, through the deployment of national experts, the UN and NEC introduced electoral laws adopted in 2013 concerning pastoral communities to those communities.

Regarding support to planning, the UN has provided guidelines and tools to enhance and promote the integration of gender, including in major strategies such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy and the National Development Plan.

With UN support, 10 state strategic and 60 locality development plans were formulated with clear objectives and cost calculation up to 2016. The process to formulate the state and locality development plans comprised a number of stages: collection and validation of the data about the localities; situation analyses (strengths, opportunities, weaknesses and threats to the localities); development of a vision, goals and development of strategies, activities and ideas for addressing the development priority needs of localities.

At policy level, state governments were supported by the UN in formulating state macroeconomic frameworks and policies to spur economic growth and stability by upscaling ongoing reforms. The programmes strengthened public expenditure management systems and enhanced means of channelling resources to facilitate the implementation of state development strategies. Further support was directed at targeted legal, policy and institutional reform processes, which granted the necessary policy framework, legal basis and institutional arrangements for effective governance.

A recent study\(^6\) indicates that UN support to local governance in Kassala resulted in a more than 25 percent increase in public budgeting and improved service delivery in education, health, water and electricity.

Investment opportunities and expanding the revenue base of the states is one of the areas supported by the UN in eastern Sudan, particularly in Kassala state. Consultations were conducted and technical support was provided to the Ministry of Investment and Tourism in Kassala state to set the bases for investment horizons and highlighting the role and appropriate policies and strategies to involve the local communities in support of investment. As a result, the Ministry of Investment and Tourism developed various strategic entry points for improving investment in Kassala state.

Given the importance of revenue for states in Sudan in order for them to build their local economies, the UN commissioned a study on “Revenue Mobilization at Sub-National Level in Darfur”. The study identifies sound strategies and opportunities for localities and states in Darfur to improve state-owned revenue collection.

In the area of audit, for the first time in Sudan a systematic capacity development programme was designed and implemented to improve the capacity of auditors within the National Audit Chamber. Over 120 auditors were reached through a capacity development programme at federal and state levels.

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\(^6\) Study examining the Impact of Improving Local Governance Capabilities in Public Budgeting and Service Delivery in Kassala State, Sudan, March 2016.
levels. Areas of capacity development included but were not limited to: performance audit and procedures, financial audit, English for auditing, information and communications technology for auditing, and other important areas. Evidence\(^2\) shows that the performance of the auditors and the entire National Audit Chamber has improved due to this support. This engagement with the UN helped the National Audit Chamber develop the “Comprehensive Strategic Plan 2013-2017” for improved performance of the Chamber. The UN also worked jointly with the National Audit Chamber on Sudan’s ratification of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2014.

Legislative councils’ roles in oversight and public budgeting were another area of support for the UN, including through facilitation of inter-state dialogue and exchange among members of parliament to share lessons and experience.

In particular regarding migration, the UN helped enhance the capacity of partner government institutions by providing technical advice on migration governance and planning to support migration management, including IGAD and Khartoum Process; providing assistance to the Government during the Valletta Summit in 2015 to advocate for a National Training Centre for migration to be set up in Khartoum; and strengthening capacities including with the provision of equipment and knowledge through training and workshops for the Ministry of Justice on aspects of international migration law, for the Ministry of Interior on border management, and for the National Commission to Counter Trafficking on counter-trafficking.

In an important contribution to the evidence base for policymaking, with support from the UN, in 2015 there was an increase in data availability related to various topics through the release of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2014 results. In the particular case of child protection, for example, data disaggregated by age, sex and states became available on domestic, physical and emotional violence; birth registration; child marriage; female genital mutilation/cutting; child labour; and orphanage status. These data have informed the process of policy and programme changes toward better targeted/more equitable and effective child programmes.

More in-depth analysis of MICS data related to female genital mutilation/cutting prevalence, trends and associations with other determinants was similarly conducted, and informed and sharpened programmes in the area. In addition, the first phase of the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation system for measurement of the Saleema Initiative to stop female genital mutilation/cutting was completed with UN support. This is a first attempt to establish a baseline for measuring changes in social norms, particularly on female genital mutilation/cutting.

The UN also helped engender the National Household Survey, which is the first post-secession national survey, with the inclusion of 22 gender-sensitive questions which aim to contribute to generating gender data.

The UN provided technical and financial support to key government and civil society institutions to enhance other evidence-based actions. As a result, the Family and Child Protection Units’ administrative data collection system, for example, has been sharpened with the inclusion of indicators related to sexual offences committed against and by children, diversion of child offenders cases outside the judicial system, referral of children in need of care and protection to social welfare services, and consideration of the minimum age of criminal responsibility for child offenders.

Preparations for the 2018 census were supported by the UN through the development of the project document and the establishment of the related technical and coordination structures at national and state levels.

The UN supported government delegates in all regional and international negotiations and expert meetings which informed the development of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This participation particularly in identifying regional priorities resulted in the early adoption and

\(^2\) Evaluation report by independent consultant, 2013.
localization of the SDGs and related documents. Accordingly, the Government launched advocacy efforts through the establishment of the High Level Mechanism on the SDGs headed by the Vice-President and identified a focal point, the National Population and Development Council, for SDGs implementation, monitoring and reviews.

**UNDAF Outcome 6: People in Sudan are protected under an enabling environment that guarantees rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms**

Reporting agencies: IOM, UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF

The UN advocated for and leveraged national capacities on important issues related to governance and rule of law, such as engendering the constitution. The Engendering Constitution Forum developed a “Women Common Agenda” and “Women Bill of Rights”, and managed to bridge some of the gap between the Government and civil society organizations in this area. The “Women Common Agenda” is a national tool that women can use to influence the National Dialogue.

Assistance was also provided by the UN for a bill, signed by the President of Sudan in February 2015, amending several provisions of the Criminal Law, including the controversial Article 149 on the definition of rape. The definition of rape in Sudan is now in line with international norms and standards and no longer exposes rape victims to prosecution for adultery if they fail to provide evidence of rape. The amendment also defines sexual harassment as a crime punishable by up to three years in prison.

As part of the efforts to eliminate gender-based violence, the UN in close collaboration with key government partners, supported the revision of some articles under the Criminal Law to address prominent forms of gender-based violence like female-genital mutilation and child marriage. In this regard, UN support enabled more than 500 communities—both in rural and urban settings—to publicly declare the abandonment of female genital mutilation/cutting.

With the UN’s continuous advocacy on prohibition of the child death penalty, the Government enforced the Constitutional Court Decision on applying the Child Act (2010) as well as another Constitutional Court decision of 2013 which prohibits child death penalty, instead of the Criminal Act (1991) to children cases. Six regulations supporting the implementation of the 2010 Child Act were also finalized with UN support and submitted for signature, namely: Community Service, Diversion outside the Judicial System, Positive Behaviour at Educational Settings, Regulation of Instruction Homes, Regulation of Child Work and Prohibited Sanctions in Education Settings.

With advocacy and technical support from the UN, an assessment of the female genital mutilation/cutting laws that were adopted in South Kordofan, South Darfur, Red Sea and Gadarif was used to enhance the enforcement of those legislations at state level. Commitments were also made to develop female genital mutilation/cutting laws in five other states, with four of these (Northern, River Nile, Blue Nile and White Nile) developing initial drafts. The UN is also technically supporting the national law banning female genital mutilation/cutting. Support for the National Strategy on Female Genital Mutilation and the National Plan for Combating Gender-Based Violence has also been provided.

In the area of women, peace and security, the UN provided support for the preparation of a draft National Action Plan on Security Council Resolution 1325.

The draft Child Marriage National Strategy, for which the UN has provided support, was presented to the Minister of Social Security and Welfare in October 2015. A National Dialogue on the Child Marriage Strategy, under the auspices of the First Lady and the supervision of the Minister of Social Security and Social Welfare, was launched that month and aims to achieve a consensus on issues related to the minimum age from an Islamic perspective.

The UN, with the Government’s strong leadership, made a significant contribution to the promotion of the rights of migrants, exemplified by the adoption of the 2014 Anti-Trafficking Law and Sudan’s hosting the African Union Regional Conference on Human Trafficking and Smuggling in the Horn of
Africa in Khartoum in October 2014, that resulted in strategies for counter-trafficking. To further support these initiatives by the Government, the UN also worked regionally to promote frameworks shared between Sudan and other governments on how to manage regional migration flows. To enhance the awareness and protection of the rights of migrants, the UN worked with the Government on technical capacity through trainings on subjects of international migration law, implementation of the national Anti-Trafficking Law 2014, psychosocial support to victims of trafficking, and sensitization of the media on reporting matters of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants. The UN also commissioned a manual on the national Anti-Trafficking Law, which came into force in November 2014. The manual was piloted at the Sudanese Bar Association and police investigators training. In addition, a media monitoring project was carried out to assess gaps and needs in reporting on migration in order to inform further media interventions. To raise public awareness among migrants on their rights and the complex nature of migration within Sudan, the UN trained 40 government officials, journalists and non-governmental organization staff members, and conducted outreach campaigns with migrant communities and other concerned actors on the risks of irregular migration and of migrant exploitation. The UN has hosted International Migrants Day events to further raise public awareness of migration and migrants, including the screening of a documentary on migrant lives and challenges in Europe and a cultural fair in Khartoum attended by 500 people to promote mutual understanding among Sudanese and migrants from different communities.

Legal and paralegal assistance has been an area of UN support and reached 500 paralegals at state level in Sudan. In 2014, legal assistance services were provided by these paralegals to over 35,000 individuals, of which 25 percent were women. With the support of UN paralegals, 67 percent of all legal cases in Sudan have been handled under customary law. The UN also supported the establishment of 50 counselling centres in Darfur and eastern states. UN interventions thus contributed to improving access to justice, building the service delivery capacity of rule of law institutions at state level, and building confidence and trust between government institutions and local institutions. UN-supported expanded legal aid and mobile counselling services resulted in the resolution of at least 400 individual cases, and the promotion of rule of law through capacity development initiatives, hence increasing confidence in the formal justice system. The simplified processes and procedures of legal aid to vulnerable populations through the established Justice and Confidence Centres created an alternative form of justice that is expeditious, cost-free and easily accessible.

To support equitable delivery of justice services, the UN, with the commitment from the police, managed to establish Family and Child Protection Units as specialized units that provide child friendly services in the 18 capitals of the states and in 43 localities in the different states. With UN support, child prosecutors and child courts and judges are also available in all the states across Sudan. In 2015 alone, child friendly services (medical, social, psychosocial and legal) were provided by Family and Child Protection Units to 17,253 children (9,561 male and 7,692 female). From the 6,654 child offenders, 1,952 (1,555 male, 397 female) were diverted outside the judicial system to family and community measures. Additionally, psychosocial support was provided to 1,933 (906 female and 1,027 male) children victims of sexual offences.

With UN support more than 15 police stations and police posts were constructed and equipped in Darfur, which help enforce the rule of law for approximately 8,000 refugees and more than 21,000 displaced people that have returned to their villages. Training was also provided for more than 200 police personnel and government officials on the rights of displaced populations in Darfur.

The UN established five Community Safety Information Centres in Darfur that are accessible to the public, including victims of crime, allowing them to access information, report crime incidents and receive immediate attention.

UN support to prison services, provided in close collaboration with UNAMID, has resulted in significant improvements in the way prison services in Darfur prioritize, plan for and deal with the correctional
dimension of their work. Support has resulted in the development of a Five-Year Strategic Plan for Prisons Development in Darfur which was endorsed at national level.

Significant efforts were made by the UN towards strengthening the Sudan National Human Rights Commission’s engagement in the promotion, protection and monitoring of human rights in Sudan. In this respect, the UN worked with the Commission to organize interactive workshops devoted to discussing the establishment of the Darfur Regional Office and of the Human Rights Forum. These efforts resulted in the opening of the Regional Office of the Human Rights Commission in El Fasher. Furthermore, the UN helped strengthen the capacity of the Sudan National Human Rights Commission and its complaints committee to manage human rights complaints. This progress is exemplified by newly drafted internal regulations for the complaints committee and a comprehensive manual to address all procedural stages of the life cycle of a human rights complaint. This in turn led to an obvious increase in the number of cases reported to the Commission, and improvement in the complaint management process.

Empowering Defenders of Sexual Violence Victims

Sexual and gender-based violence has affected many vulnerable women and girls in Darfur. The UN, through the Rule of Law Programme in Darfur, has focused on the prevention of and a proactive response to sexual and gender-based violence by: building the capacity of legal professionals (paralegals and lawyers) and health practitioners; providing legal aid services to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and their families; and raising awareness of and changing attitudes towards sexual and gender-based violence amongst local communities (including “omdas” and “sheikhs”) and the general public.

“Acquiring the adequate capacities to be able to gain the trust of victims through specific communications techniques offered by the trainings is vital” says Al Taher Bashiri, who is a paralegal from Kassala and who underwent capacity training from the UN in Sudan. “Learning how to approach victims, particularly with consideration of local customs, is an important skill to acquire” continues Bashiri.

For the last two years, the UN has worked very closely with a range of Sudanese legal experts on the publication of a legal manual on sexual and gender-based violence. With the aim of providing a fundamental guide for legal professionals and health practitioners, the legal manual covers gender justice and international standards; (analysis of) Sudanese domestic legislation and case law; and a range of sexual and gender-based violence supportive litigation strategies.

The UN established seven Justice and Confidence Centres and the Legal Aid Network of Darfuri lawyers to empower local communities and improve access to justice. Each Justice and Confidence Centre is staffed by approximately 50 paralegals who liaise with local authorities and international actors on protection-related issues; raise awareness on rule of law and human rights within their respective communities; provide basic legal information and mediation services; and refer the most serious cases to the lawyers of the Legal Aid Network.

“The centres facilitate the access to justice by the victims of gender-based violence because they raise awareness about the rights of victims and how to acquire justice, with complete privacy and sensitivity to local customs” says Bashiri. “Most importantly, the centres also have access to a wide network of lawyers, community leaders, and paralegals who are ready to support victims even via telephone” further declares Bashiri.

The Justice and Confidence Centres, most of which are located in settings of internally displaced people, are involved in a wide range of conflict resolution activities, from small-scale mediation to resolving camp-wide issues, such as ethnic conflicts. On a monthly basis, the paralegals in Darfur take on well over 300 cases, most of them family matters (including divorce and custody issues), neighbourhood quarrels and petty crime. However, people also come to the centres to report incidents of sexual and gender-based violence (including rape, domestic violence and forced marriage), women charged with adultery, unlawful killings, physical abuse, child abuse and others.

In 2013 alone, 180 paralegals in Darfur received intensive training on sexual and gender-based violence aimed at improving their services and ensuring that victims of sexual and gender-based violence receive the best possible support within the context. Centred around the actual cases brought before them, the training covered relevant Sudanese domestic laws and international
standards; the obstacles survivors of sexual and gender-based violence are facing when trying to access justice and seeking legal redress; the medical risks associated with sexual and gender-based violence and the gender-based violence referral pathway; communicating with survivors; the code of conduct for paralegals; and the importance of consent and confidentiality.

“The role plays and case studies had a very positive effect, particularly the ones that focused on youth and women” declares Bashiri, however “it would have been even better if the role plays would have also addressed the responsibilities of men within their own communities” continues Bashiri.

Recognizing that many cases of sexual and gender-based violence go unreported because survivors feel uncomfortable discussing incidents with a male paralegal, the UN actively worked towards increasing the number of female paralegals in Darfur.

“The capacity given to paralegals had a direct effect on gender-based violence victims because these victims are able to seek better support from more capacitated paralegals in their communities” says Bashiri.

2.d) UNDAF Pillar Four: Social Cohesion, Peace Consolidation and Peace Dividends

UNDAF Outcome 7: Government and civil society initiatives that promote social cohesion, peace consolidation and pluralism are strengthened

The UN continued to promote capacity building of government, traditional and civil society-led peace-building mechanisms and strengthening resilience of conflict-affected communities in more than 50 localities in the Darfurs, Kordofans, Blue Nile, Kassala and Gadarif states. In support of the Darfur Peace Process, the UN, together with the Darfur Regional Authority, provided leadership to the Darfur Joint Needs Assessment and drafting of the Darfur Development Strategy, which identified recovery needs and priorities for the region in preparation for the international donor conference in Doha in April 2013, which raised an additional $1 billion over the $2.6 billion commitment from the Government of Sudan (as per the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur) for recovery and development in Darfur.

Through the Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund, which is implemented by national and international non-governmental organizations, the UN has supported the strengthening of 183 community-based conflict resolution mechanisms, and a total of 146 community-based reconciliation mechanisms are reported to be still functional. In Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, 16 out of 17 peace processes supported by the UN continued to hold despite ongoing state-level conflicts.

Overall, the Community Security and Arms Control in Darfur, supported by the UN, which is linked to the larger framework of the Darfur Development Strategy, is on track. As part of this, situational assessments of the identified target locations have been conducted, as well as needs assessments to collect conflict-sensitive, gender-sensitive and socio-economic information at community level through focus group discussions, interviews and questionnaires. These methods are used to assess the security situation, economic activity, natural resource management mechanisms, and land and agriculture issues for projects that will cater to the communities’ needs and which are aligned to the concept of Community Security and Arms Control. As a result, one youth centre has been constructed in Kulbus, West Darfur; equipment and furniture have been provided for a vocational training centre in Kabkabiya, North Darfur; and information technology equipment and furniture have been supplied to the Ardmata Youth Centre, West Darfur. The needs assessment conducted in Tandalti Village, Geneina locality, West Darfur, has resulted in the formation of an agriculture livelihoods project with 80 direct beneficiaries and 4,000 indirect beneficiaries and the establishment of a Community Management Committee.

To further encourage community resilience and peaceful coexistence for internally displaced persons,
returnees and host communities, the UN constructed and rehabilitated 47 community centres in Darfur, including centres specific for youth, women and the elderly. The centres have served as important gathering spaces for community dialogue and recreation.

In 2014, the UN supported the establishment of the Peace Innovation Hub at the University of Khartoum, which serves as a vehicle for information exchange, networking and collaborative initiatives between peace actors across Sudan. In Blue Nile, with UN support the Peace Council trained 493 key stakeholders in peace building and conflict transformation. Of the 25 percent of participants surveyed, 88 percent reported that they used skills or tools gained in the three-four months following the training.

Working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry of Animal Resources and UNAMID in North and West Darfur states, the UN has contributed to increasing cooperation between conflicting communities. Crop and livestock protection peace campaigns promote peaceful coexistence between farmers and herders, focusing on their mutual interest and the need to protect crops and livestock transhumance routes. The UN peace-building campaigns have helped restore trust, community dialogue and dispute resolution through inter-ethnic village committees; and conflicting farmer and pastoral communities have signed local peace agreements. Community members noted a rise in the number of disputes submitted and successfully resolved, and even communities outside project areas are increasingly submitting cases to the committees. The main result has been a gradual decrease in crop destruction by livestock in the campaign areas.

Through the years 2013 till 2015, the UN worked extensively with civil society organization partners in support of social cohesion and enhancement of communal stability. A total of 49 civil society organizations were trained on conflict sensitivity and project cycle management, and 25 grants were provided to implement projects mainly in areas of: 1) peace-building dialogues in hotspots; 2) natural resource management; and 3) income-generating activities in Blue Nile, South Kordofan and West Kordofan states. Through these projects and other UN-supported activities:

- 117 conflict management trainings and peace-building events were conducted;
- 880 persons were trained in peace building and conflict reduction, leadership skills and community management of natural resources;
- 21 peace committees were established;
- 13,350 persons were reached through peace awareness-raising campaigns;
- 910 households were trained in business management training and received income-generating activities support, including in the area of agriculture;
- 30 animal health workers were trained;
- 33,192 persons received improved access to water services (rehabilitation of one water yard and 31 handpumps, renovation of a 2-km pipeline, and citizen feedback platform on water governance);
- 111 water committee members were trained in operations and maintenance and water governance;
- two metric tonnes of pastor seeds were distributed on grazing corridors;
- two peaceful coexistence sporting events targeting over 5,000 youth from internally displaced people, host and nomadic communities in Darfur were organized, with additional support provided to youth committees.
Community relations between Idd El Fursan and Katila were once strong. “People from Idd El Fursan went to Katila to use the land for grazing and the people from Katila came to Idd El Fursan for ... market,” says Abu Shama Bahar Hamoda, a resident of Idd El Fursan locality in South Darfur, an Ajaweed (traditional mediator), and head of the Peace and Development Council there. “We also traded animals and agricultural products such as groundnuts and the children of Katila used to come to attend Idd El Fursan’s secondary school,” he added.

But recent years have seen tension flare between these two localities. Conflict over crop destruction dangerously mixed with tension over natural resources, including water and grazing areas. Tribal divisions only exacerbated these trigger points. Most violently, conflict between the Beni Halba and Gimir tribes erupted in mid-March 2013 and again in early 2014.

The UN Community Recovery for Coexistence project, funded by the Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund, worked in these communities from January 2012 to September 2014. The project’s main objective was to support community-based reconciliation mechanisms, or Peace and Development Councils, to mediate community and inter-communal disputes and provide a space for dialogue and problem solving. In addition, targeted income generation activities and cooperation over natural resource management provided further opportunities for communities to interact peacefully. Finally, and equally important, the project sought to link local-level peace discussions with high-level Darfur agendas.

Although initially “there was no sign of a peaceful solution”, according to Abu Shama, the Peace and Development Councils were eventually able to support a resolution to the conflict between the Beni Halba and Gimir. Working in conjunction with tribal leadership and local authorities, the Peace and Development Council convinced members of both tribes to engage in negotiations and reconciliation processes. Through this work, in March 2014, the Beni Halba and Gimir reached and signed a reconciliation agreement.

Once the agreement was signed, Peace and Development Councils continued dialogue with the main parties in order to maintain the peace agreement. The Peace and Development Councils also mobilized hakamat (women poets), who are traditionally singing to mobilize conflict, to cheer for peace.

Finally, the Peace and Development Councils organized visits between the communities to build trust and promote peace – “the first [visits] since conflict erupted,” according to Abu Sharma.

The Peace and Development Councils in both localities have since had the chance to be involved in the resolution of similar conflicts.

**UNDAF Outcome 8: Peace dividends are delivered for sustainable return, reintegration and recovery**

Reporting agencies: IOM, UNDP, UNV

During the reporting period, the UN has delivered considerable peace dividends toward improving social cohesion and mitigation of factors related to conflict. With UN support, 54 peace dividends directly linked to inter-and intra-communal peace agreements, and 77 large and small social infrastructure and productive assets were delivered, providing basic services and livelihood
opportunities in eastern states, southern border states, Abyei and Darfur.

The combination of peace processes and peace dividends has proven particularly effective in promoting social cohesion. For instance, in Blue Nile state, where the UN has provided support, the number of tribal conflict incident reports was reduced by 92.6 percent and the number of homicides related to communal conflicts dropped from an average of 20-30 per year to zero.

Nine community security and stabilization programmes supported by the UN helped establish infrastructure/economic assets/livelihood interventions in four states (Blue Nile, White Nile, South Kordofan and West Kordofan). Fifty-one percent of the total 1,975 direct beneficiaries are vulnerable unemployed female and male youth community members, and approximately 50,000 indirect beneficiaries that include internally displaced persons, refugees and other community members are targeted by the programmes. These interventions are intended to stimulate the rural economy through the provision of livelihood opportunities to communities bordering South Sudan that are experiencing challenges in their progress towards creating peace, and towards poverty alleviation and sustained development. The interventions are further aimed at enhancing stability and peace building by strengthening the resilience of communities prone to potential conflicts in these “transitional areas” and promoting their recovery through the involvement and active participation of Community Management Committees trained to manage the socio-economic infrastructure/assets provided by the community security stabilization programmes.

Economic reintegration of 27,000 ex-combatants to start new civilian lives was supported by the UN in Blue Nile, South Kordofan, central sector states and Darfur. Former fighters and–more recently–local community members in places of ex-combatants’ reintegration have been able to create viable livelihoods, reducing the likelihood of rejoining or entering into conflict. Direct beneficiaries in 45 targeted communities in Darfur recorded an average increase of 51.7 percent in annual income, from $500 to about $758, through UN-supported agricultural value chain interventions.

Aimed at helping reduce poverty, making Darfur more stable and more resilient to conflict, under a UN-supported youth volunteer scheme in Darfur, 139 Sudanese youth graduates completed a four-week training in business and environmental management, volunteerism, conflict resolution, gender studies, HIV/AIDS and project management, and were deployed to work as community development volunteers in 48 communities. Through this initiative, youth volunteers trained 14,839 community members to improve their entrepreneurial and business management skills. By extending seed grants and loans to community groups and associations, beneficiaries were able to initiate small businesses. Under this flagship UN-supported project, a new cohort of 150 young graduates are under UN-supported training and will be deployed to support 48 communities in 2016.

Furthermore, the UN contributed to 73 reconciliation dialogue processes on the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, which facilitated consolation of the peace process in Darfur. Fifty non-governmental organizations were qualified to provide recovery and reintegration services.
For centuries, pastoralists have migrated with their livestock in search of grazing land along well-trod migratory corridors in Blue Nile state. With the expansion of mechanized farming and increased livestock densities, as well as variable rainfall and recurrent drought, competition over scarce land and water resources intensified over time.

“If left unchecked, this situation could have ended up like the conflict in Darfur”, affirms Adam Abaker Ismail, who is the General Secretary of the Peace Council and former Minister for Agriculture.

When South Sudan became Africa’s newest nation in 2011, the borders closed, further reducing the land available to pastoralists. With both pastoralist and farming communities reliant on access to land for their survival, mounting tensions often boiled over into conflict. Farming crops were damaged as pastoralists were forced to graze livestock on farm land, reducing the crop yields and ultimately, the food security of farming communities. Police routinely received reports of crop damage or conflict between farmers and pastoralists, with members of the Native Administration called upon to mediate the disputes. Whilst a short-term solution was often forged, problems frequently re-surfaced.

Supported by the UN, the Blue Nile Peace Council and the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources undertook a livestock corridor demarcation and compensation process that led to the freeing up 109 km of livestock corridor.

“We are very happy about this work because it means the animals will no longer enter our land and we can grow crops safely without fear of damage by animals” said Ibrahim Shaga, who is a farmer living in Agadi West, Blue Nile state, who readily gave up a portion of his land in favour of the corridor.

These efforts, together with the provision of water points and a community school, have resulted in a dramatic reduction in the number of police cases of conflict between farmers and pastoralists. According to the Blue Nile Peace Council, 37 police cases were reported in the harvest season ending in March 2014, compared to around 400-500 in the previous season (source: police records). Key informants also confirmed that there has been a significant improvement in relations between farmers and pastoralists in the area.
“Between July 2012 and July 2013, there were around 20-30 deaths related to farmer-pastoralist conflict, and since the demarcation started, there have been no reports of deaths”, said Adam Abaker Ismail.

Abdulrahman Hassan, the head of the Pastoralists Union declared that “no farmer can come and say someone has destroyed his crop”, adding that “the pastoralists now have enough land without the need to graze their livestock on farmers’ land”.

3. Main Challenges to Implementation of the UNDAF

- Insecurity and conflict have resulted in access restrictions to conflict areas. Delays in obtaining travel permits and visas for staff has similarly had an impact on project implementation.
- Coordination between and within Government, UN, donors and other partners has not always been optimal for smooth project implementation.
- Institutional changes in government structures, in addition to overlapping mandates and lack of clear jurisdiction, have posed challenges.
- Existing policies are not always conducive to achieving programme results, for example in the case of food security and land tenure. Furthermore, enforcement of laws and frameworks is sometimes inadequate, while discrepancies between legal frameworks pose additional challenges. Once developed, policies may need updating if there is a gap between the time the policy is developed and it is actually endorsed.
- Commitment and ownership by government institutions has been low in some cases, impacting sustainability.
- The capacities of partners to implement projects have been inadequate in some instances. Partners’ limited funding capacities are similarly a challenge, with Government inability to cost-share contributions to some projects impacting buy-in and sustainability.
- Paucity of data and information, in particular comprehensive, reliable and timely data, has been a challenge for implementation.
- Socio-cultural norms are sometimes not conducive to achieving project objectives. This applies for example in the areas of family planning, HIV, fistula, female genital mutilation/cutting, and education, which is not always valued as a good use of children’s time and household resources.
- Resources mobilized have been below what is required to implement the programming in the UNDAF. This may be linked to the high funding focus in Sudan on humanitarian assistance versus development cooperation.
- There are tensions in the relationship between Sudan and the international community, reflected for example in the departure of key donors from Sudan and sanctions on Sudan, affecting UN work.
- Local inflation and fluctuations in exchange rates have affected project implementation.
- Inadequate media coverage of UN-supported activities does not generate wide public support for UN projects and actions.
4. Emerging Opportunities for the UNDAF

- The Government of Sudan endorsed the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 and has in addition expressed its commitment in a number of areas including universal health coverage, increased expenditure on education and the Scaling Up Nutrition movement. The new commitments present opportunities for the UN to partner with the Government in those areas with clear goals to be achieved.

- The Government is currently engaged in the development of new state and national development plans, strategies and frameworks, as well as a Poverty Reduction Strategy. The Government’s renewed strategic focus can help guide the UN’s development work in the remainder of the UNDAF period.

- The Government is engaged in a number of sector reforms, for example health and water, that are likely to lead to improved coordination and scaling up of services, facilitating the implementation of UNDAF programming.

- Implementation of the Darfur Development Strategy Foundational and Short Term activities under the UN Darfur Fund presents an opportunity for UN agencies to work together and produce tangible results in Darfur.

- Increased data and information through the results of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2014, Out-of-School Report 2014, Spatial Surveying Method (S3M) 2013, and others, provide a solid evidence base for the UN’s planning and programming activities.

- The development of a multi-year response plan (Humanitarian Response Plan) will help place greater emphasis on transitional assistance and support for durable solutions and social cohesion, which will in turn help improve the coherence between humanitarian assistance and recovery/development programmes in the UNDAF.

- With the growing public awareness on environmental issues and following COP-21, the UN is in a position to assist the Government to leverage climate financing from international sources like the Green Climate Fund, REDD+ funding and GEF-7.

- The growing importance of the global migration agenda is focusing world attention on Sudan as a country of origin and transit for migrants. It is also underscoring the fact that social cohesion in Sudan’s rural areas is of regional importance, and is drawing attention to issues surrounding the rights of migrants. This can increase opportunities for national and international partners to expand the important achievements made in this area thus far.

- Mandate reviews of UNISFA (in Abyei) and of UNAMID (in Darfur), as well as the ongoing transfer of tasks from UNAMID to UN agencies, for example in the area of rule of law under the Global Focal Point Joint Programme for Rule of Law in Darfur, present opportunities for increased collaboration with the peacekeeping missions.
Reporting agencies