

# UNDP Sudan

## 2013



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# Vision Achievements Innovations stories



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# Contents

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| <i>Overview</i>     | <i>4</i>  |
| <i>Vision</i>       | <i>5</i>  |
| <i>Achievements</i> | <i>10</i> |
| <i>Innovations</i>  | <i>16</i> |
| <i>Stories</i>      | <i>25</i> |



## Overview

About UNDP Sudan

Since 1965, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has strived to make a concrete difference in the lives of the people it serves.

UNDP Sudan's policy advice, technical support, advocacy and contributions to strengthen human development are aimed at one end result: real improvement in the lives of Sudanese people and in the choices and opportunities available to them.

As a key development agency in Sudan, UNDP supports strategic capacity development to promote inclusive, transparent and efficient governance systems. Through partnerships with national and sub-national government and civil society, UNDP strives to eliminate poverty, enable recovery, and sustain the environment, and advance peace and social cohesion in Sudan.

UNDP in Sudan is people-centered, focusing on providing policy and technical support, working on and advocating for the multi-sectorial challenges of poverty reduction, democratic governance, crisis prevention & recovery. It currently builds up its portfolio in the area of environment & natural resources management.





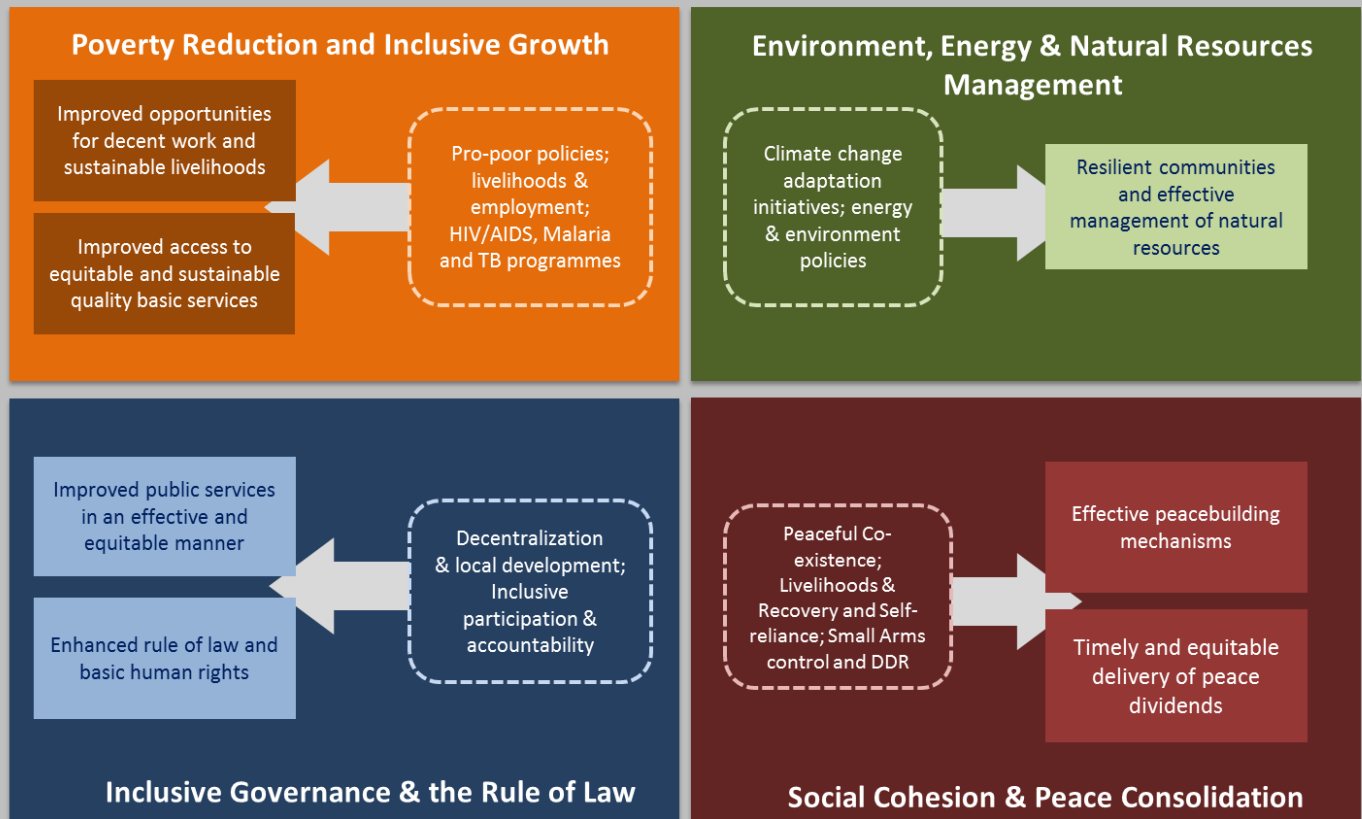
Sudan is a country moving from conflict to a post-conflict situation and with wide disparities in human development between regions. At the same time, it faces significant socioeconomic impact following the formal separation of South Sudan on July 9, 2011.

Based on our experience in Sudan and worldwide, we believe that economic recovery and the provision of livelihood opportunities is the strongest incentive for individuals and communities to break out of protracted conflict dynamics and to join peace efforts.

Such positive individual and community action can be further leveraged by restoring local capacities to mediate and resolve conflicts, mitigate community-level insecurity factors, promote the Rule of Law, and strengthen the capacity of transparent, accountable and responsive local governments.

The UNDP Country Program 2013 – 2016 for Sudan has been developed based on this vision.

## UNDP Sudan Programme 2013 – 2016



**Achieving Smooth Transition to Recovery and Sustainable Human Development**

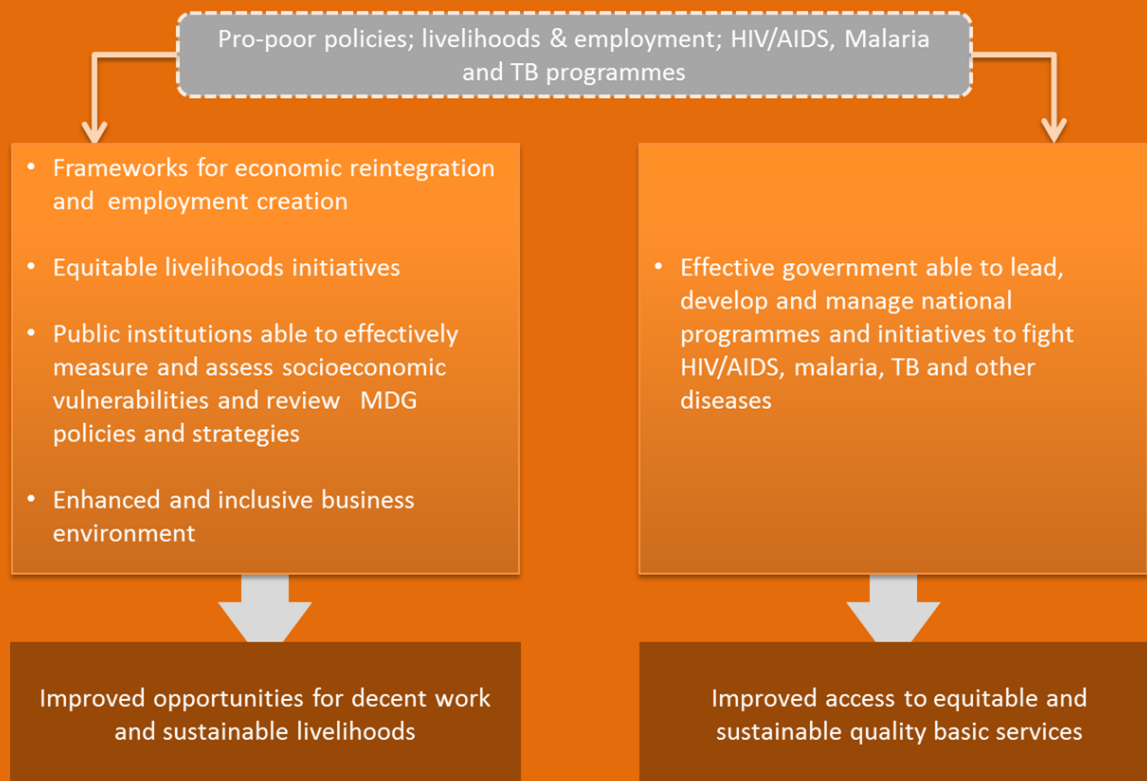
### Vision Programme 2013—2016

Aligned with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the National 5-year strategic plan and the Darfur Development Strategy, the goal of UNDP's programme is to facilitate a peaceful transition from recovery to development and advance human development, in line with national priorities and strategies.

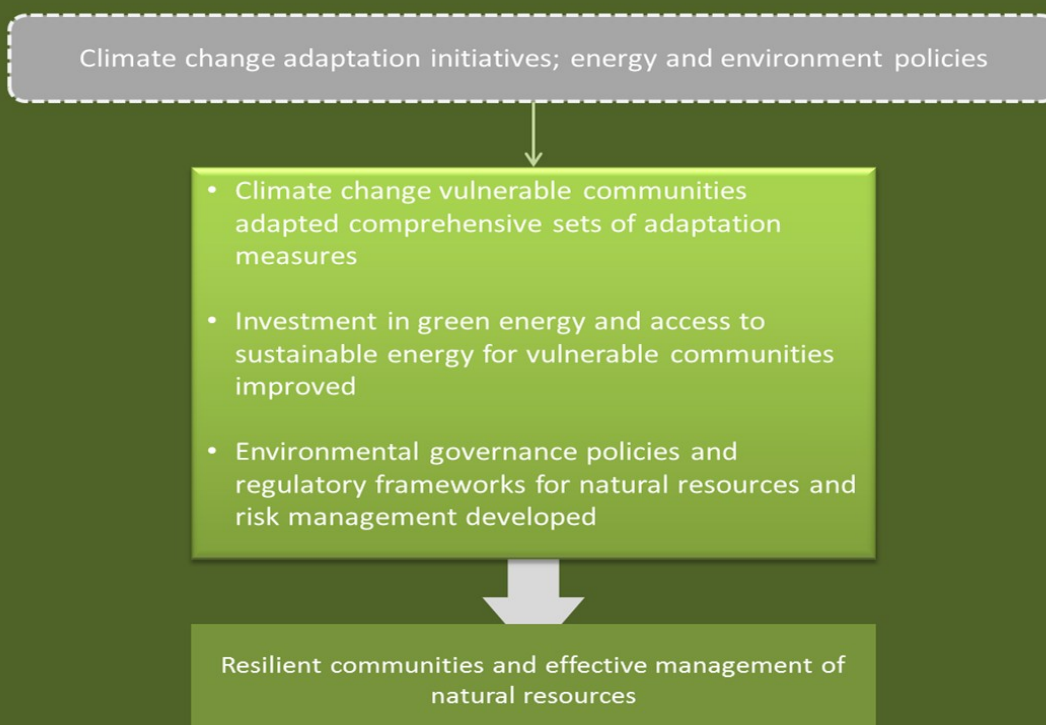
The programme is composed of 4 pillars: (1) Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth; (2) Inclusive Governance and the Rule of Law; and (3) Social Cohesion and Peace Consolidation; and (4) Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Management.

The chart above illustrates key elements of the theory of change underlying the programme, which is based on the understanding that conflict & peace building, recovery and development are inextricably linked.

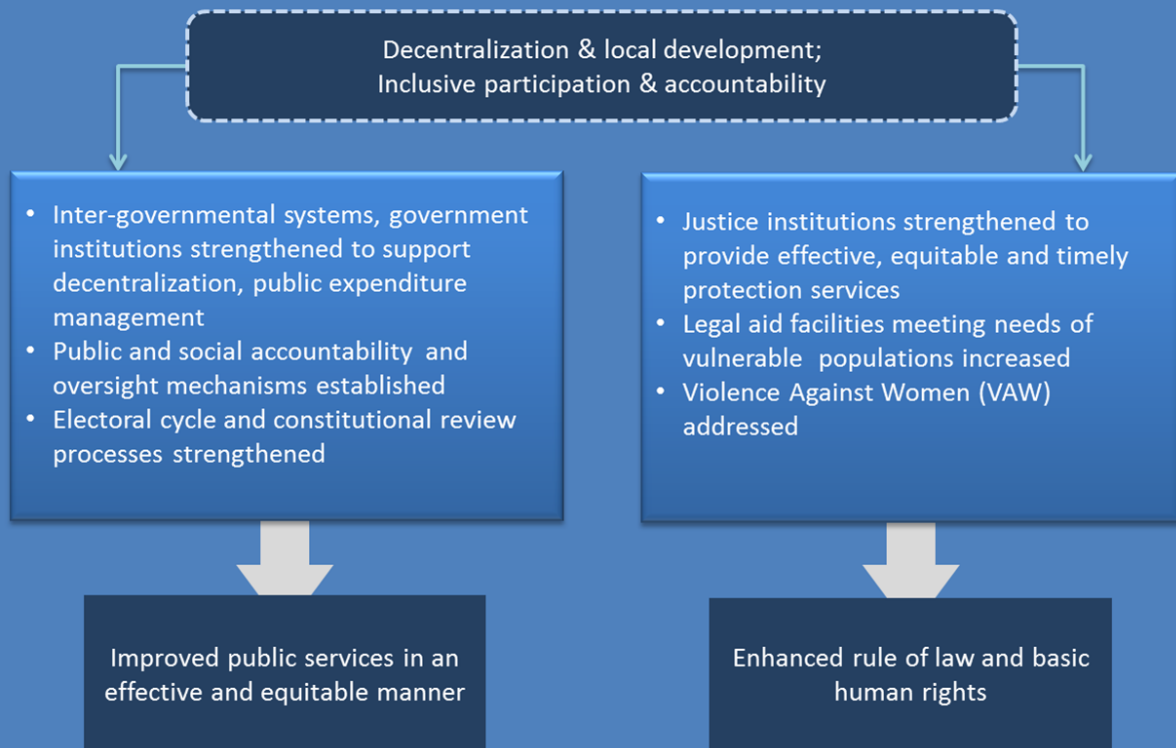
## Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth



## Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Management



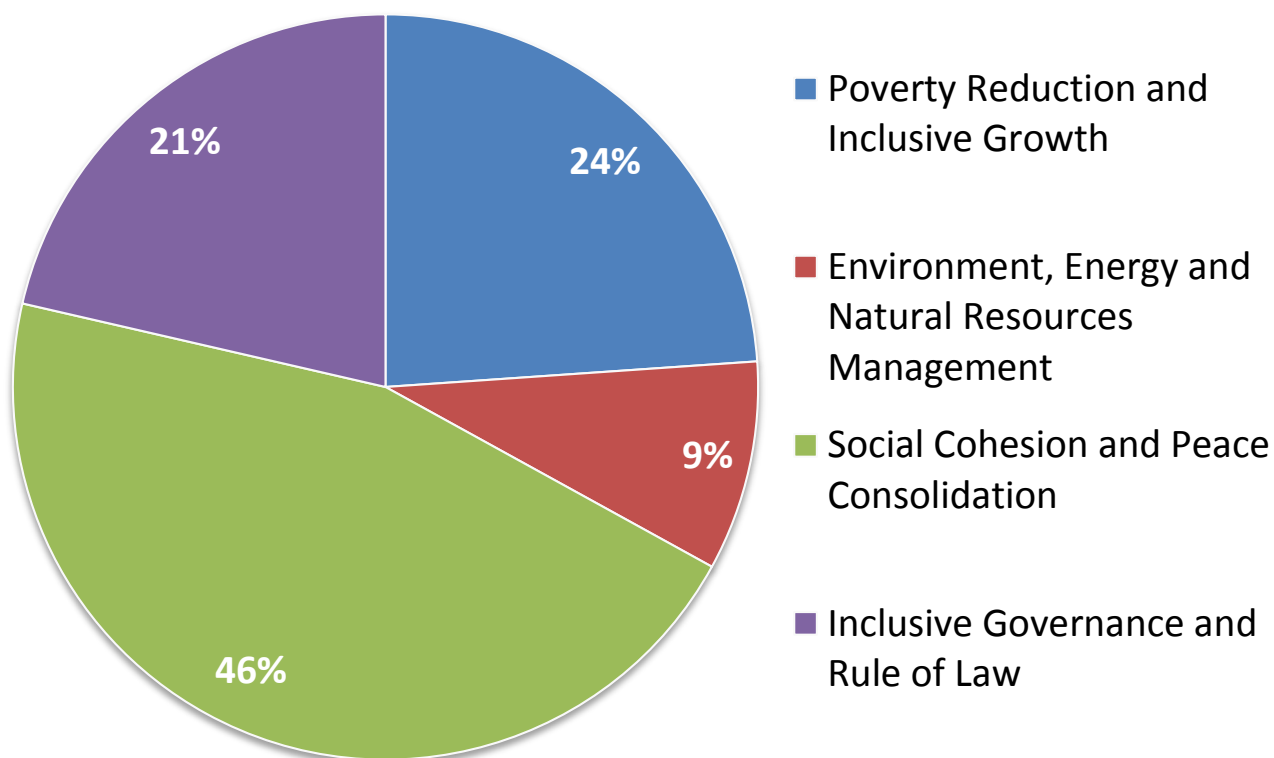
## Inclusive Governance and Rule of Law



## Social Cohesion and Peace Consolidation







The programme as planned for the period 2013—2016 amounts to a planned total cost of US\$ 175.7 million. This amount does not include resources managed in its capacity as *Managing Agent* for NGO grants on behalf of the Humanitarian Coordinator.

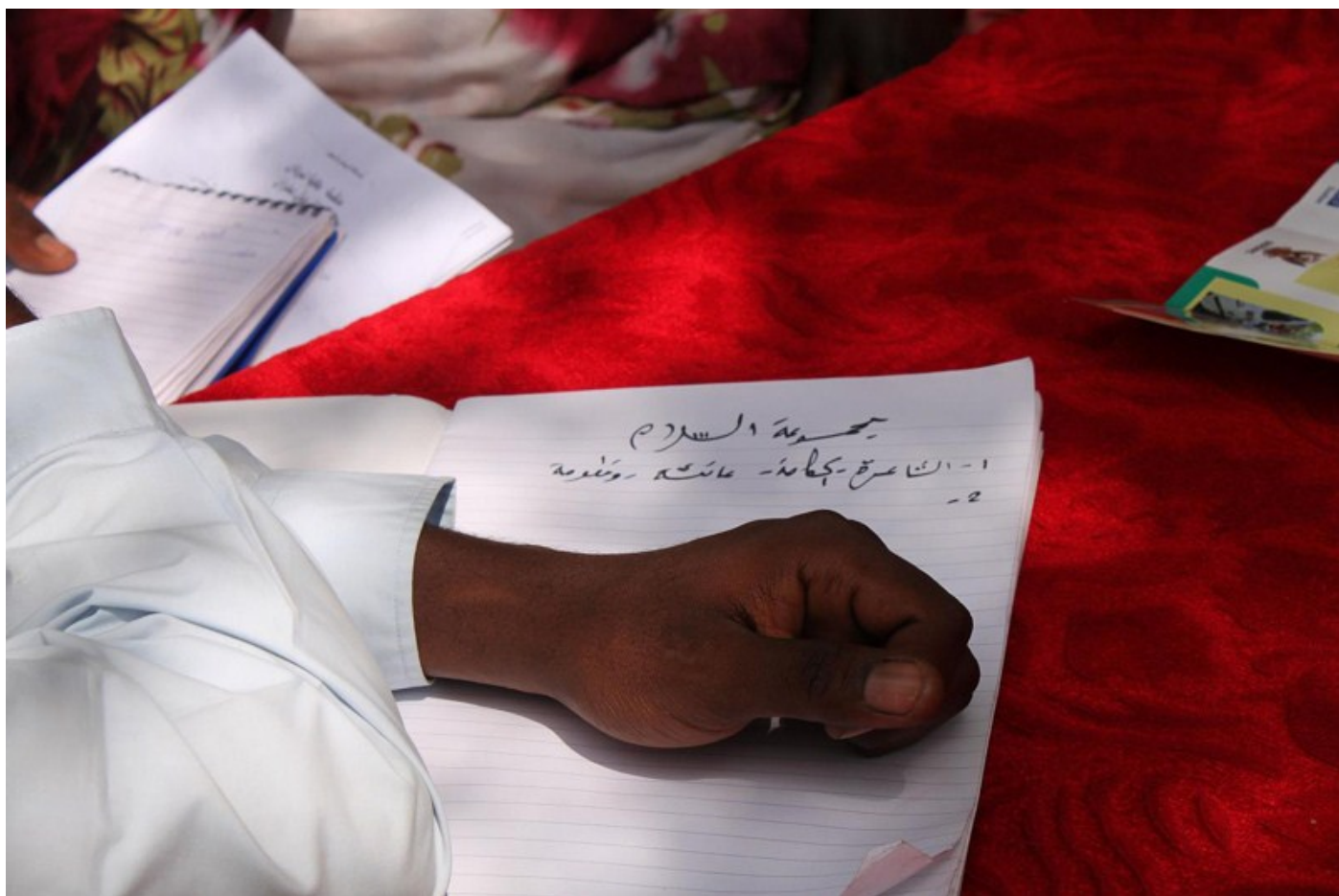
The programme currently foresees the following costs per pillar:

- Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth: **US\$ 42 million.**
- Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Management: **US\$ 16 million.**
- Social Cohesion and Peace Consolidation: **US\$ 80.1 million.**
- Inclusive Governance and Rule of Law: **37.6 million.**

# Achievements



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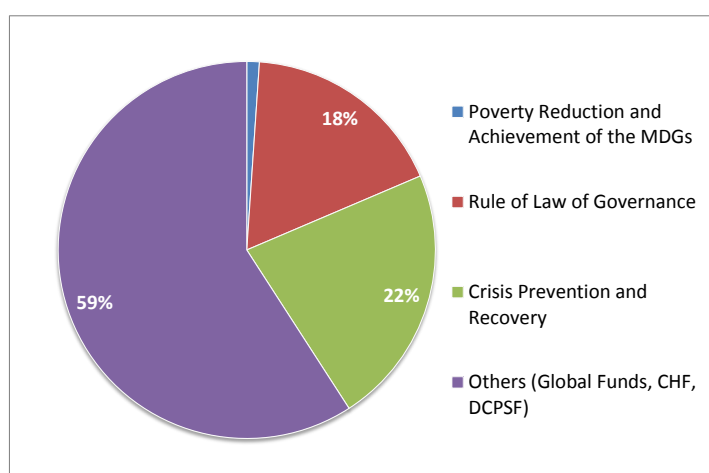


## Achievements Programme 2009—2012

The UNDP Country Programme for Sudan for 2009-2012 focused on:

- Supporting implementation of the post Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) arrangements including elections and referendum.
- Adaptation and continual support to the post CPA to alleviate poverty stimulate growth and macroeconomic stability while considering the environment and vulnerable groups.
- Assisting recovery and development efforts in the marginalized and conflict affected areas.

Amounting to a total of US\$ 595.5 million, programmatic interventions in the area of **Rule of Law and Governance** amounted to a total of **US\$ 104.5 million**, and in the area of **Crisis Prevention and Recovery** to **132.7 million**.



## Crisis Recovery and Sustainable Development



- A total of **22,000 ex-combatants** have been successfully reintegrated into civilian life. Follow-up surveys indicate that 81 per cent have acquired new skills and 33 per cent now earn stable monthly wages between SDG300 and SDG500 (US\$68 and US\$113). Reintegration packages for ex-combatants have stimulated rural economies through the support of traders and small business owners in addition to creating jobs in the transportation, training and veterinary health sectors.
- In South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, overall levels of human security were maintained. Incidents of community-level conflict were successfully averted, despite outbreaks of wider conflict. **Six intra-community peace agreements** were adhered to, enabling approximately **25,000 people to live in relative peace**. In areas with high numbers of ex-combatants, critical community infrastructure like clinics and water yards were provided and ex-combatants were involved in the construction of these facilities along with community members.
- In South Darfur, UNDP brokered partnerships between private companies, farmers and the Ministry of Agriculture, resulting in stronger links among producers, service providers, buyers and consumers. **Ten thousand groundnut farmers, honey producers and their families** who had been affected by the ongoing conflict \$640 extra income per household per year as a result of these partnerships.
- In Gedarif and South Darfur states, UNDP-introduced adaptation techniques — such as harvesting water, using terraces and building earth bunds to act as buffers against dry winds — have resulted in substantial increases in crop yields, from 50 per cent of yield potential to as much as 150 percent, benefiting 1,150 households.





## Good Governance

The UNDP-supported 2010 elections and 2011 South Sudan Referendum have contributed greatly to an increase in political rights awareness amongst the Sudanese public. UNDP continues to contribute to significant improvements in the area of access to justice, with a special focus in the states of Darfur, Gedarif, South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Kassala. Key results include:

- Since 2009, **3.4 million people** in Darfur, South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Kassala states **can now access justice and legal aid**, thanks to the establishment and ongoing maintenance of 15 Justice and Confidence Centres. These centres have taken up 5,000 legal cases thus far.
- Following extensive UNDP information campaigns on human rights, women's rights, family and child protection, more than 100,000 people sought justice. Follow-up surveys confirmed that **awareness** of these issues across the four states **increased from 30 per cent to 65 per cent** of the population.
- More than **630,000 citizens across Red Sea state** have benefited from 53 local development funded projects that improved livelihoods and provided basic public services, including new water reservoirs, health centres, restored schools, solar water pumping systems, new businesses for women, and fish-drying facilities. The entire UNDP-supported process ensured that women and other vulnerable groups had a voice in the public decision-making process on project funding.



## Poverty Reduction



- UNDP's work and advocacy in the area of microfinance helped influence the Central Bank of Sudan to require all commercial banks to allocate at least 12 per cent of their investments to providing loans to micro businesses.
- UNDP, in partnership with Japan, established a large vocational training centre in Kassala state and serving all of Eastern Sudan, home to an estimated three million to four million of Sudan's poorest people. The Kassala Vocational Training Centre trains over 300,000 young people in general welding and how to use electricity as well as food processing and tailoring courses aimed at women students.



## HIV and AIDS

UNDP supports Sudan in its ongoing efforts to access and manage funding from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. UNDP is currently managing six Global Fund grants in Sudan, with a total budget of more than \$110 million. UNDP has successfully developed a strong partnership with Sudan's Ministry of Health and 32 other partners to fight the spread of these diseases. Results include:

- HIV testing, counseling and treatment facilities are now available in all of Sudan's states, increasing from 132 sites in 2009 to **229 sites in 2012**, with 97 of these facilities also providing treatments to prevent mother-to-child transmission and 31 of them now offering life-saving antiretroviral treatments; and
- More than **440,000 people received HIV and AIDS services in 2012** compared to 153,000 in 2011.

# Innovations



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## Joint Conflict Reduction Programme (JCRP)

*“Ambassadors for Peace: drama group brings messages of peace, security and gender to communities throughout South Kordofan State as part of UNDP’s efforts to strengthen resilience in a war-torn region.”*



**Context** In Sudan, the root causes of conflict and instability such as unbalanced resource allocation, inter-communal competition over land and water and tribalism are often inter-related. Following the 2011 separation of South Sudan, additional issues over border tensions and oil conflict contributed to conflict and instability. Within this context, traditional conflict resolution mechanisms have lost much of their authority to adjudicate intra and inter-tribal conflicts. The UNDP-IOM Joint Conflict Reduction Programme (JCRP) is currently on the ground in South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Abyei Area addressing the deep-rooted causes of ongoing conflicts. JCRP works to prevent and resolve local conflicts by supporting the government-led peace mechanisms to design and lead peace processes and engage in peacebuilding activities.

**Success** The success of JCRP lies in its approach. JCRP provides technical and financial support to state and local level reconciliation and conflict management mechanisms for preparation and implementation of peace processes with a full cycle of engagement and accompaniment. Follow-up activities include monitoring the outcomes of peace processes and agreements as well as supporting priorities identified by the communities to address root causes of conflict. The full cycle engagement methodology reflects lessons learned from past peace processes, which were carried out as one-off events and led to peace agreements without follow-up recommendations being implemented and thus a failure to consolidate peace.

**Strategy** JCRP's key strategies are to 1) Build the capacity of its government peace building partners as well as local civil society organizations by both delivering tailored training and providing direct support to peacebuilding activities through process accompaniment. 2) Provide timely responses to opportunities for stabilization initiatives following a peace process to preserve the gains of the peace process and the follow-up community-level workshops. 3) Mindful of the fact that even interventions aimed at promoting peace can unintentionally reinforce conflict, JCRP incorporates a conflict sensitivity lens in the way interventions are designed, planned and implemented. 4) Gender mainstreaming as well as gender-targeted activities to bridge existing gaps through activities such as: pre-workshops at which women's views are presented for inclusion in the peace conference agendas and negotiation strategies of community leaders; targeting of women for conference follow-up, and tailored, grassroots reconciliation activities that aim to enhance their influence in building and sustaining the peace.

**Results** Out of an estimated 20 conflicts in South Kordofan, JCRP provided support to 14 key reconciliation conferences in different communities. Out of the 14 supported and brokered by the project in South Kordofan, nine agreements are still holding representing a 65% success ratio, a remarkable achievement considering that South Kordofan was engulfed in a broader conflict which easily could have jeopardized local peace agreements. In Abyei, the JCRP launched the first intra-community dialogues between Misseriya and Dinka tribes in an effort to bring the two groups together to envision a common future. Recognizing the importance of engaging youth in peacebuilding activities, JCRP supported the first Misseriya Youth-Elders dialogue. To support peacebuilding capacities for community-level conflict resolution and prevention, JCRP organized 23 trainings across the three areas as well as Khartoum, reaching a total of 619 participants, including government officials, UN agencies, CSOs and community leaders. As a result of the trainings, a Peace Ambassadors network has been established in Blue Nile and South Kordofan which is engaged in developing peacebuilding activities at the grassroots level. Government peacebuilding mechanisms have steadily demonstrated capacity to lead and implement successful peace processes.



## Local Development Fund (LDF)



“A local resident, Suzan showing off cloth she made at a women’s centre in Port Sudan funded under the LDF project”

**Context** Eastern Sudan, comprising the three states of Kassala, Red Sea, and Gedaref is among the poorest and most marginalized regions in Sudan. Yet, it is home to the country’s largest gold mine, a major oil pipeline and hosts the national strategic grain and cereals’ bank. Often referred to as the ‘Forgotten Conflict’, the situation in Eastern Sudan for several decades represented serious challenges until the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement (ESPA) signalled a new era of peace. Under the 2006 agreement, a framework for this region focusing on capacity building, strengthening of infrastructure, poverty eradication and a return of refugees and IDPs was laid down. It led to the establishment of a US\$100 million Eastern Sudan Reconstruction and Development Fund, with annual allocations of at least \$125 million until 2011. However, the operation of the fund has faced transfer compliance issues and the manner of use remains unclear, calling for a comprehensive economic development plan for the region.

**Success** The LDF system works because it complements state government transfers to localities which tend to focus on fixed and recurring costs. The LDF addresses a gap that is sorely needed within the current government funding structure. It transforms the strategic planning and budgeting system at state level and importantly supports development interventions, which have been identified and prioritized by the communities themselves. Without the LDF, these development interventions would otherwise have been forgotten. The LDF system also ensured a voice for women and other disadvantaged groups in local public decision-making and local government accountability towards their citizens.

**Strategy** The LDF is distributed to local government for investment in local public infrastructure and service delivery in accordance with needs determined using the participatory planning procedure. Priority is given to pro-poor services. The LDF process also ensures that 30% of the total LDF budget is reserved for women. To enhance ownership, community contribution is required. The contribution of the government was set at a minimum of 27% and to be matched by UNDP. The LDF is not a revolving fund to be invested in personal assets, or small micro-credit schemes. It is a fund given to local government based on performance assessment within the task, responsibility and accountability specified by Local Governance Act (LGA) 2003 to improve public infrastructure and service delivery in a participatory, transparent and accountable manner.

**Results** LDF has improved the capacity of the Red Sea State to deliver public social and economic infrastructure and services to its people guided by the goal of reducing poverty and increasing participation, transparency, accountability and gender focus in service delivery. The LDF has successfully been implemented in ten localities of the Red Sea State and covered 51 local infrastructure and service projects thus benefitting over 630,000 citizens across the state. Projects to date have included the construction of water reservoirs, health centers, school restoration, and income-generating projects for women, well digging and the establishment of fish drying facilities. The importance of the fund has been recognized at the state and federal level as well. Ministers of Finance of Darfur and other regions in the annual gathering noted that their governments are committed to introduce the LDF mechanism in their regions and will provide full support to ensure the sustainability of activity and strengthen local basic service delivery across the States.

## Adaptation to Climate Change

*"A Fresh New Crop: Farmers in Northern Kordofan enjoying a new batch of sorghum, produced with new irrigation methods."*



**Context** Climate change presents an additional stress for Sudanese people already struggling with poverty, post-conflict recovery and environmental degradation. Vulnerability to climate change is accentuated by the dependence of 70% of the population on rain-fed agricultural livelihoods. The underlying rationale behind targeting the affected populations in Northern Kordofan, Gedarif, South Darfur and River Nile States is based on the fact that the majority of Sudanese population depends upon rain-fed agriculture. The impact of climate change has induced more droughts, variability of rainfall, heat stress, greater rates of evapo-transpiration, and reduction in water availability which in turn imposed additional risks on already vulnerable livelihoods. To reduce vulnerability and build resilience against climate change, a project was initiated with the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) to implement adaptation measures such as water harvesting, sand dune fixation and growing drought resistant crop varieties

**Success** The approach adopted by the project is consistent with the priorities established as part of the Sudan National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), which was led and owned by the Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources. NAPA was successful in engaging various stakeholders in extensive consultations process to identify specific environmental problems and impacts affecting rural communities, whose voices are often not well-represented. The project strategy works because it reaches out directly to rural communities and whose livelihoods are dependent upon new ideas and technologies to combat climate change. This strategy was further complemented by the long-standing partnership UNDP has with the Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources.

**Strategy** Implemented through the National Implementation Modality (NIM) by the Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources at the Federal level and the State Ministries of Agriculture, the project currently operates in four regions. Following the priorities identified in the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) in Sudan, the project focus on building the resilience and adaptive capacity of rural communities relative to their agricultural and water resource management practices and current and future climate risks in the regions. The project operates in four main regions of the country for two reasons: (1) Given Sudan's diverse ecological settings, the nature of vulnerability to climate change varies significantly depending on the particular agro-ecological zone considered. Extensive stakeholder consultations have revealed that priority adaptation strategies to reduce rural food insecurity in the face of climate change are highly correlated with geographic locale. (2) Livelihood systems are very diverse across the states. Focusing on a single region, with its implied attention to a single locally-driven adaptation strategy, diminishes the potential to capture the range of valuable lessons that can be learned by the implementation of locally-driven adaptation strategies.

**Results** In water harvesting through terraces, earth bunds and deep plough in Gedarif and South Darfur, the project has seen substantial increase in crop productivity. Yields have increased by 50% to 150% which in turn has benefited 730 households in Gedarif and 420 households in South Darfur states. In River Nile and Northern Kordofan states, water efficient irrigation of crops and shelter belts saw an increase in productivity by 20% to 60% of different crops planted over a 317 hectare.

Improved agricultural practices are also evident. Early maturing and drought resistant varieties are used leading to an increased in the household incomes in the four states where net profits range between US\$ 1,207 per household for cucumber planters in Southern Darfur to US\$ 500 per household for tomato growers in the River Nile. Micro fencing is piloted in four villages in Northern Kordofan for sand dunes fixation where seedlings have been planted have benefitted 56 farmers. Women are playing basic roles in adaptation measures including: farming, nurseries and tree planting; active participation in committees and sand dunes fixation, with more than 800 women benefitting from activities such as crop cultivation, butane gas provision and animal husbandry.



# Business Competition for Youth Employment

*“The youngest participant, Sameera from Blue Nile state is very optimistic that her “Breakfast Project: Jam and Juice Making” will be widely successful in her village in Roseris locality.”*



**Context** Youth unemployment in the South Kordofan, North Kordofan and Blue Nile states currently stands at an estimated 60% of the total population. The reasons for youth unemployment in Sudan primarily relates to the lack of concrete income generating opportunities, low self-worth, external vulnerabilities such as a flagging economy, limited learning abilities and skills. Alongside these, there are also increasing problems with unemployed youth being targeted and mobilized to join armed groups. Within this context, self-employment can be seen an appealing option to those youth faced with reduced opportunities to gain quick employment in the labor market. This project is part of the UN MDG-Fund Joint Programme which worked alongside 10 other UN agencies. A part of this project was the introduction of a start-up capital through the “Business Idea Competition”. This competition successfully created self-employment opportunities for about 1000 youth representing more than 12 different localities from different sectors.

**Success** The initiative was hugely successful because of its novel concept amongst the local population. Many young people were not aware of the possibility or let alone know the opportunities for self-employment. This was the first time a business idea competition was held in the three identified areas and thus generated high levels of interest. UNDP continued its long standing working partnership with SUDIA – an established local NGO. UNDP also capitalized on its strong partnership with DAL Group – a recognized private company deeply committed to its corporate social responsibility. The successful partnership resulted in availing additional 20 grants for the winning proposals. Partnership with the Microfinance Unit of the Central Bank of Sudan as UNDP technical counterpart also led to a breakthrough in which the Microfinance Unit in the Central Bank of Sudan availed financing for other 910 young winners who were not awarded the grants.



**Strategy** This project aimed to create concrete sustainable self-employment opportunities for youth via the distribution of start-up micro-grants for young entrepreneurs identified in the “Business Idea Competition”. The competition targeted young entrepreneurs to submit innovative business proposals and ideas for an opportunity to win start up grants. Selected participant presented their business proposals to a panel. The winners of the competition were selected by an independent selection panel that comprised of respected members from various sections of society. Promising business ideas which did not receive project micro-grants were showcased to the private sector and the Central Bank of Sudan for consideration of micro-finance loans. A key component of the process included the emphasis on raising awareness on a new concept of self-employment amongst youth currently in educational and vocational institutions.

**Results** The competition held for the first time in the three targeted states garnered high level of interest from 3,000 young entrepreneurs aged between 15 to 30 years old. Of the 990 business ideas that received access to microfinance, 430 were female. 60 business ideas from various sectors won UNDP micro-grants (28% male, 32% female) from 12 different localities in North Kordofan, South Kordofan and Blue Nile states. 70% of the youth granted UNDP micro-grants, have successfully managed to startup their own business and are have achieved good results within 6 months. The Business Idea Competition approach has proved to be very successful as it has mobilized the states, private, and local communities to work together towards improving opportunities for youth. This initiative has already been replicated by one of the local NGO working in those rural areas.

# Stories



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# Sweeter than Honey

## Economic Recovery Returns to Darfur

South Darfur is known as a troubled region beset by years of endemic conflict, poverty, destruction of natural resources, and deterioration of livelihoods. However, the land is also a dynamic region that defies its popular conception as intractably and inevitably conflict-ridden. Recently, new projects being implemented by the UNDP Darfur Livelihoods Recovery Programme are slowly but surely changing that view.

Although there are no natural honeybee populations in South Darfur, today beekeeping has become a viable means of economic enhancement for many farming families. The **honey produced in South Darfur is particularly favored by an increasingly wide base of national and regional markets**. Beekeeping has become a profitable activity undertaken by farmers and especially vulnerable groups including youth, internally displaced populations, ex-combatants and women.

**The honey value chain project, which started in May 2011** and is currently being undertaken in Kubum, South Darfur, is part of a bold set of initiatives laid out by UNDP's Darfur Livelihoods Recovery Programme. The project, implemented in partnership with local NGO, Rehed el Fursan Development Network (RDN) works with different stakeholders, especially farmers, to identify a suitable structure to introduce essential training and methodology. Trainings delivered have focused on how to inspect and manage bee hives sustainably and how to improve handling and quality of the honey produced.



A start-up grant of one thousand traditional beehives was provided to the beekeepers' associations. The **hives were distributed to clusters of beekeepers**, who in turn share collective responsibility of the hives throughout the stages of manufacturing, production, and harvest. This cluster management not only fosters collective production and marketing but also encourages community ownership and builds trust amongst the people.

Progress has been remarkable. The number of members in beekeeping associations has risen from nearly 60 in May 2011 to 1050 in March 2012, which shows just how strong the interest and commitment is amongst the community. It is estimated that five thousand families currently benefit from the project.

In an isolated community like Kubum, the use and availability of local materials to make traditional hives has helped and encouraged villagers to get involved in the beekeeping business thus providing them with an additional income.

Today the project holds a regular fair in Kubum to welcome new farmers to techniques and management of beekeeping. The fairs provide a vital opportunity to promote an enabling business environment to market and exchange ideas and experiences amongst local producers. A planned mission in September 2012 will see a group of producers led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources participate in the ApiExpo Africa International Beekeeping Event in Addis Ababa to share their unique experiences.

The case of the Kubum beekeeping producers in South Darfur is a prime example of how **appropriate technology and adapted interventions** carried out together with national and local partners can generate help, **decrease poverty**, encourage micro-entrepreneurship and foster the rebuilding of relations between communities even in the most unlikely places. For the beekeepers of Kubum and their families and friends, their new livelihoods never tasted so sweet.

## Sweeter than Honey

Economic Recovery Returns to Darfur

# Delivering Security. Securing Deliveries.

UNDP works for women  
in Darfur



On a balmy Wednesday afternoon in the “North Darfur Midwifery Training Centre” in El Fasher, thirty young women listen attentively to Reproductive Health Tutor Hawa Osman Ushak, as she discusses the necessity of sanitation when delivering a baby. The women, dressed in clean white garb, learn in detail every step in the process alongside broader concepts of pre- and post-natal health services. Hygiene plays a key role: sterilization practices are crucial to guarantee that newly born babies are protected from any infection despite the challenging environments where these mothers sometimes have to give birth.

The training is supported by UNDP Sudan as part of its community security interventions in the Darfur region. With funds from Canada (DFAIT) and support from UNDP’s Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR), the initiative **aims to respond to the security concerns that the communities themselves have identified**, thereby strengthening the social cohesion between groups as well as bolstering the relationship between communities and state authorities. The community security project is one way through which UNDP and national partners, help create an enabling environment for the future reintegration of ex-combatants in Darfur, while controlling the proliferation and use of small arms.

Community consultations conducted in December 2011 in the Srief locality, situated 45 kilometers from El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur, revealed that in addition to the significant number of small arms remaining in the community, **serious deficiencies in all areas of the community infrastructure, especially health and education, negatively affected the community’s own sense of security** and raised anxiety about the prospect of future conflict.

Today, the situation is much improved: weapons are no longer publicly displayed or carried but are kept secured and their access requires the consent of community leaders. Through UNDP support, the community has been provided with trainings on leadership, HIV/Aids, voluntariness, peace building and reconciliation. Other activities have included the construction of a community centre using voluntary community labour and natural materials. All of these **activities have strengthened the social fabric of the community**, according to the local Umdah or traditional leader.



UNDP is now supporting the training of ten midwives coming from the El Sreif area, where the current lack of doctors and clinics dramatically affects maternal and child health. After extensive consultations on the ground with the community members of El Srief it was decided that the **training of midwives was crucial in addressing the security risks that young women faced** walking the long distances in their remote villages to receive adequate medical and reproductive health care.

In October 2012, after ten months of intensive theoretical and practical training, these young women will become employed by the Ministry of Health thereby ensuring the sustainability of the project. By then, they will have acquired the necessary midwifery skills to be able to provide both pre- and post-natal care services to expectant and lactating mothers in their communities of origin.

“The long distances that pregnant mothers need to cover to be assisted pose a great number of threats, not only for their health, but also for their personal security”, explains Michael Juma, coordinator for the UNDP Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) project in Darfur. **The deployment of these trained midwives into their villages will significantly help in reducing maternal death**, including those dying because of pregnancy and childbirth-related complications, in an effort to improve overall maternal health care services in North Darfur state.” This project has been made possible through the generous support of the Government of Canada/Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) and UNDP’s Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR).

## Delivering Security. Securing Deliveries.

UNDP works for women in Darfur

## Ending Impunity UNDP's Legal Aid in Darfur

Women and girls continue to suffer from widespread insecurity in the conflict-ridden region of Darfur. For 13-year old Aisha, her childhood ended when she was brutally raped by an adult man while on the way to the market of the small town of Garssila, in former West Darfur, now Central Darfur.

Unfortunately Aisha's case is not an isolated one. As law enforcement structures in Darfur have insufficient capacities and incentives to uphold and protect human rights, crisis-affected populations in Darfur continue to remain vulnerable to arbitrary violence and deprivation of physical, material and legal safety. Women and girls face the daily threat of sexual violence. **Given the lack of adequate and responsive law enforcement in the region, women in particular are reluctant to seek justice** and file complaints against attackers. Aisha's story shows why. Defying prevailing stereotypes and social taboos Aisha's family took the case to the local court in town. The court however, dismissed the rape case and convicted the young girl of adultery with a punishment of hundred lashes after delivery of her baby.

Shocked by the court's ruling, the family turned to UNDP for support. In September 2004, UNDP Sudan embarked on an ambitious Rule of Law Programme in Darfur. With funding of over USD 15.3 million available from DFID, Sweden, Norway and the Netherlands, the project aims at raising awareness of human rights and rule of law among the vulnerable populations; empowering local stakeholders to actively engage in preventing and bringing an end to existing violations of international standards; strengthen the capacities of and restore confidence in informal and formal rule of law institutions; and gradually building a culture of rule of law and justice in the region.



As part of the programme, UNDP supports local right groups to strengthen protection and access to justice at the community level in the region. Since the start of the programme UNDP has successfully supported the establishment of eight Legal Aid Centers as well as a Legal Aid Network of over 60 Darfurian lawyers. Through the Legal Aid centers, paralegal volunteers provide free legal advisory and mediation services at the community level. In case further legal assistance is required, cases can be referred to **lawyers from the Legal Aid Network, who with the support of UNDP Sudan, provide free legal advice** and representation to crisis-affected populations. UNDP Rule of Law Officers on the ground continuously monitor the referral of cases and the quality of the court representation and provide technical advice and guidance as required.

In the case of Aisha, UNDP legal aid lawyers immediately filed an appeal to the General Court in the town of Zalingei, arguing that the age of the girl and the fact that she was raped should reverse the decision of Court of Garssila or annul it at least. However, the General Court upheld the ruling of the local court. Determined to support the girl's fight for justice, the lawyers took the case to the West Darfur State's Appeal Court in the state capital of El Geneina, where the conviction was upheld but the sentence was mitigated to ten lashes. As the ruling was still incompatible with both national and international standards pertaining to the Rights of the Child, the legal aid lawyers addressed the Sudan High Court, the highest appeal court in the country. After lengthy deliberation **the Judges of the Court issued a remarkable landmark verdict, quashing all previous verdicts and acquitted the girl of all charges.**

In its reasoning the High Court of the Republic of the Sudan stated that it did not agree with the Appeal Court's decision that signs of maturity, including the pregnancy of the accused, constitute a ground for criminal responsibility rather than her age which goes against the provision of the Child Act of 2004. Having established that the crucial factor is age and not maturity, the allegation of the accused that she had been raped is sufficient, according to the Islamic jurisprudence to lift any sentences against her. Although the decision did not go as far as incriminating the perpetrator, it changed the concept of juvenile criminal responsibility in Sudan and opened the door for a retrial should the family of victim wish to do so and gave hope to the many women and girls who face rape and sexual violence on a daily basis.

Access to justice remains challenging for large parts of Darfur's population due to a deep mistrust among the local population of the very institutions that are tasked with ensuring their safety and security, continuing harassment and violence, severe capacity deficits, complex bureaucratic procedures, high costs and pervasive corruption. Against this background, **legal aid initiatives such as the one supported by UNDP Sudan remain an important element of development support in the region.** The demand for the legal aid services is growing. "Over the years, we have witnessed a steady increase in requests for legal support by community members," says Christopher Laker, the regional programme manager for the project. Since 2007, the Legal Aid Centers have provided legal advisory and mediation services in over 3,500 cases and the legal aid lawyers have provided free legal assistance and representation in over 1,070 instances. In addition, over 15,000 community members are reached through targeted human rights awareness raising campaigns per year.

UNDP's support to providing legal aid enhances the capacities of affected individuals, such as Aisha, to deal with these constraints and ultimately enhance the potential for swift, fair and impartial administration of justice.

# If you can't beat it, adapt to it!

## Supporting Community Resilience to Climate Change

In Bara, a locality in North Kordofan that encompasses 90 tiny villages, the greenery can be deceptive. The flat desert sprawls for miles around, dotted with tiny villages where the only colors to be seen are the bright clothes of women coming back from their weekly trip to the central market of Bara town.

A group of women is all smiles as they go through their record books and count the revenue gained from their community's horticultural gardens and livestock production. These activities have offered them major opportunities to promote food security and improve their livelihoods, a big contrast from the past, when women had less economic value.

"We succeeded. Women are keener than men on community-related matters. Managing horticultural gardens is mostly done by women as men and youth are engaged in the gold mining rush currently flaring up in a number of places in North Kordofan and elsewhere in the country." Says Igbal Bakri, a 49-year old mother of three children and head of the women's village committee.

In the past few years, **communities have been suffering from the effects of climate change, resulting in increased heat, dune encroachment, water scarcity, and diminishing crop yields and livestock production year after year.**

Hafiz Eldouri is the director of the Agriculture Department of Bara locality and assistant director of the "Building Communities' Resilience to Climate Change" project jointly implemented by the Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources (HCENR) and the UNDP. Based on his experience as one of the inhabitants of this area who lived through successive years of drought, he explains "**Provision of energy substitutes and water sources for livestock and horticultural gardens have spared women time and enabled them to stand against the major cause of their vulnerability**, drought. It has brought about a general increase in their adaptive capacity amid harsh climatic conditions through production of vegetables, fruits, and livestock for house hold consumption and income generation."





North Kordofan State is located in Central Sudan in the woodland savannah on sand. Livelihoods depend on rain-fed agriculture including herding, farming, forestry and Gum Arabic production. But the state suffers from extreme fluctuations in rainfall, which generally vary from 150-450 mm/year, resulting in livelihoods that are severely affected by frequent drought cycles.

UNDP Environment Officer Hanan Mutwakil highlights the impact of climate change on livelihoods *“Severe climatic conditions and land mismanagement have caused poor vegetation coverage and the loss of endemic woody and range plants species that were once dominant.”*

To increase the resilience of communities vulnerable to the impact of climate change and to support these communities in fighting the vicious cycle of drought and loss, UNDP has established a new initiative entitled *“Building Communities’ Resilience for Climate Change”*.

UNDP, with support from the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), has also supported HCENR in developing the National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA), which led to the initiation of community-level activity piloting in 40 rural villages across four states in Sudan: North Kordofan, South Darfur, River Nile, and Gedarif. The NAPA processes revealed that the most vulnerable groups in North Kordofan State are those living in Bara locality. 90 villages are located in the Bara Basin with estimated populations of 18000 persons; out of these villages, seven were targeted by the UNDP/LDCF project aiming to increase the capacity of the Sudanese government and local communities to take informed, equitable and gender-sensitive action on climate change.

*“My entire community, women and men has benefited from all the good services provided by the project team. The team provided us with energy substitutes through the distribution of gas cylinders and cooking stoves, which is a good practice that reduces our demands for tree cutting for cooking and charcoal making, reduces cooking time and spares us time to perform other duties. In fact, the cost of filling a butane gas cylinder for SDG30 is less than the cost of buying a sack of charcoal for SDG100.”* says Igbal.

To date, the project has distributed 72 full units of gas cylinders and stoves in the 3 villages of Foja, Abu Dalam, Elhumra, at a cost of SDG500 each. The project contributes SDG200 while community members repay in ten-month installments at SDG30 per month.

Indeed, as Igbal said, women are not the only ones benefiting from these developments. Men have the lion’s share of generated returns from the project measures that improved livestock production and marketing. Both men and women have benefited from increased awareness and capacity building on animal vaccination and treatment that are necessary for improving livestock productivity, since disease prevalence and spread has escalated as a result of climate change. These activities have improved sheep and goat productivity and increased generated income by value addition through fattening.

Mohamed Ahmed Koko, a 65 year-old farmer is a good example of those who have benefited from the project’s livestock activities, *“Now a sheep that was worth SDG500 can be sold for up to SDG1300 after just 45 days of fattening and vaccinations. My sheep are healthier now; out of the 50 sheep I own, nine of them have delivered twins.”*

**If you can’t beat it, adapt to it!**

**Supporting Community Resilience to Climate Change**



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*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*