The Framework: Recovery & Reconstruction Strategy for Darfur

After a decade of conflict and displacement, the 2011 Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) strengthens the peace process and lays the groundwork for recovery and reconstruction. Although the fighting has not ceased across the region and areas are experiencing new waves of displacement and increased humanitarian needs, there has been increasing recognition among development partners that protracted relief aid has done little to address root causes to the crisis and that assistance to Darfur must evolve.

Informed by the needs and priorities of communities, identified through comprehensive, consultative workshops in all five Darfur states and the refugee communities in Chad, the Recovery & Reconstruction Strategy for Darfur, or short Darfur Development Strategy (DDS), presents a common vision for the future and a roadmap not shackled by a long history of insecurity and relief dependency, but inspired by people’s aspiration to break out of the cycle of violence they are currently caught in. The DDS thus offers a sequenced, coordinated and holistic plan for equitable, sustainable and participatory development, vital to move Darfur out of a cycle of conflict and poverty, towards a stable and prosperous future.

The Darfur Development Strategy is structured into 3 interlinked pillars. The Governance, Justice and Reconciliation pillar aims to contribute policy support, technical assistance and capacity enhancement to State governments to enable them to more effectively execute their mandate, especially at the local (decentralised) level, and thus oversee recovery of the region and initiate the revival, staffing, equipping and maintenance of basic services, and support to conflict-affected populations through the provision of security, community policing and access to justice, compensation and land settlement.

The main objective of the Reconstruction pillar is to support the recovery and stabilisation of war-affected populations, whose economic and social life have been severely disrupted. Fundamental to any recovery programme is the return and/or resettlement of displaced people, the construction and restoration of physical infrastructure and basic service recovery, such as water supply in villages and for agricultural usage and livestock, schools, health posts and police stations, as well as linking communities and markets by constructing and improving vital road, rail and air links, promoting resource-efficient housing and restoring productive systems.

The main objective of the Economic Recovery pillar is to contribute positively towards poverty alleviation and transitioning Darfur to development in an equitable and environmentally sustainable manner. This will be achieved by technical and material support to key livelihoods, the promotion of the private sector, especially the creation of employment opportunities and access to financial services, and ensuring the sustainability of productive sectors through appropriate natural resource management.

Gender and youth concerns are essential considerations in all three pillars and all projects funded under the DDS will have gender equality and women’s and youth’s empowerment as a central tenet of their design.

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<th>Pillar</th>
<th>Priority Objectives</th>
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<td>Governance, Justice and Reconciliation</td>
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| i. Strengthened local governance systems, structures and processes   
| ii. Public delivery system which is appropriately staffed and managed at state and locality level
| iii. Enhanced citizen participation in governance and service delivery     
| iv. Improved budgeting and increased own source of revenue  
| v. Intergovernmental transfers more transparent, efficient and equitable
| vi. Improved access to justice    
| vii. Successful social and economic reintegration of demobilised armed forces 
| viii. Security Sector reform implemented
| ix. Improved land registration/property system and related conflict resolution mechanisms
| x. Reconciliation and conflict management process and mechanisms established
| xi. People having access to a compensation system and compensation paid |
| Reconstruction |  
| i. Improved physical access to goods markets and administrative social services, including the provision / enhancement of local community infrastructure  
| ii. Increased access to improved water sources and sanitation  
| iii. Increased access to electricity services  
| iv. Increased access to health and nutrition services  
| v. Increased access to quality education
| vi. Successful social and economic reintegration of returnees     
| vii. Improved quality of urban environment an access to planned land in major towns of Darfur
| viii. Improved access to quality urban housing and services |
| Economic Recovery |  
| i. Improved business enabling environment and institutional capacity   
| ii. Increased access to employment opportunities   
| iii. Increased access to financial services   
| iv. Improved agricultural and livestock policies, regulatory instruments and institutions
| v. Improved crop and livestock production and productivity
| vi. Improved value chains in livestock production and productivity
| vii. Sustainable management of water, land and forest resources |
UN Darfur Fund (UNDF)

The UNDF is established to support the efficient implementation of key components of the Darfur Development Strategy. As of today, the majority of non-humanitarian aid to Darfur is designed and carried out in absence of an overarching coordination framework. With the development of the DDS and the establishment of the UNDF, international partners have an unprecedented opportunity to engage strategically following global best practices of aid effectiveness.

The fund will have two operational windows, one dedicated to UN agencies and a second dedicated to international NGOs.

Partners Participation

The UNDF will enhance coherence, transparency and accountability in the implementation of key components of the DDS. Each contributing donor will be a member of the UNDF Steering Committee with representation at the Darfur Coordination Board, providing the overall strategic guidance to the implementation of the Darfur Development Strategy.

Partners contribute to the fund through the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office). The MPTF Office administers over 60 UN Trust Funds and 40 UN Joint Programmes (a portfolio of US$ 7.5 billion). Contributing donors have the opportunity to earmark funding according to pillars, outcomes and outputs detailed in the DDS. According to the regulations of the UNDG pass-through modality, one-time fee of 1% is charged by the Administrative Agent, and 7% by the Participating UN Organizations or the Managing Agent (in case of the NGO Window).

Institutional Arrangements

The UNDF is established under the overall leadership of the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA) and the United Nations Country Team, represented by the UN Resident Coordinator, and with participation of the Government of Sudan (GoS).

Co-Chaired by the representative of the DRA and the UN Resident Coordinator, the UNDF Steering Committee will include representatives from the GoS, contributing donors, participating UN organizations, and civil society. The Steering Committee provides oversight of the Fund, establishes the fund allocation criteria under the guidance of the DCB, makes the resource allocation decisions for the programmes/projects based on the technical review by the UNDF Secretariat and the progress of the DDS, as determined by the DCB, with which the Steering Committee coordinates and shares information.

The Technical Secretariat will ensure, in close collaboration with the DRA and pillar leads and the chair of the PRG, the development of technical notes guiding the development of proposals; the monitoring of project implementation and partner performance; financial management. It is headed by a Fund Manager.

The primary task of the Peer Review Group is to review and endorse all project proposal prior to submission to the Steering Committee. The group will ensure the balanced, fair and measured review of proposals and an adequate allocation of funds based on the DDS, needs identified and the approved pillar strategy.

The DDS Pillar Technical Groups are created to coordinate DDS interventions falling within each of the pillar, identify and update priorities among Pillar Objectives, and provide technical guidance for selection of proposals under the pillar to the different funding channels. The DDS Pillar Technical Groups are not specific to the UNDF, but would perform their technical guidance and coordination function vis-à-vis all relevant projects and funding channels for the DDS.

Project Vetting

All programmes/projects funded by the UNDF will be in support of, and strictly aligned with the priorities of the Government of Sudan and the Darfur Regional Authority, as described in the DDS, ensuring full national ownership. The UNDF will complement other support that will be provided to recovery and development in Darfur by Sudan’s partners and bring strategic value in developing capacity and promoting sustainability. To this end, the UNDF has a 5-stage vetting process.
UNDF Project Coordination

Under the guidance of the UNDF Steering Committee projects will be coordinated by the DDS Pillar Technical Group, which defines the pillar strategy and serves as steering committee for projects falling under the pillar.

In the case of joint UN agency programmes, a joint management team will be established under the guidance of the project lead agency.

Q&As

On the Darfur Development Strategy

- What is the DDS trying to achieve?

The DDS represents a transitional programme, in order to rebuild hope and a positive outlook, along with the delivery of tangible immediate peace dividends that lay the substantial groundwork necessary for lasting development. In fact, the cumulative objective of support to the Darfur Development Strategy is the establishment of a comprehensive system for economic recovery, development, planning and financial management that ensures the sustainability of the DDS beyond its six-year implementation period.

- Why is the DDS innovative?

The Darfur Development Strategy recognizes the shortfalls inherent within a project-based, sector-specific wish list and instead presents an integrated, comprehensive, stakeholder-driven roadmap to holistically initiate the ambitious, yet achievable, objective outlined by the DDPD – a stable, peaceful and prosperous Darfur.

It presents sophisticated and innovative solutions to a complex region. There is no single Darfur. Parts of this immense region are again in conflict, other areas suffer banditry and insecurity, while elsewhere there is a level of relative stability. The DJAM report reflects these differences: it is carefully calibrated to work either state by state or sector by sector. It provides a balanced and flexible solution that is based on extensive consultation.

As such, it proposes to move from humanitarian aid to early recovery, recognizing that a decade of emergency relief has left wide segments of the population dependent on aid and suggests ways in which they could move away from dependency to early recovery.

- How was the DDS elaborated?

The DDS was developed by leading Darfur development experts, drawing upon extensive previous research, and already has popular buy-in as it takes into account the views and priorities of many community leaders in each state. It is based on extensive consultations in all 5 Darfur states, bringing together all strata and groups of the population of Darfur.
How does the DDS address risks related to its implementation?

The DDS has carefully considered all risks and explicitly outlines assumptions. Mitigating measures were integrated into its areas of intervention. In addition, its governance structure includes continuous monitoring of risks and assumptions, and allows for immediate actions and adjustments if required.

What is the cost structure of the Fund?

The cost structure of the UNDF is based on the UNDG pass-through modality: a one-time fee of 1% will be charged by the Administrative Agent and 7% by the Participating UN Organizations or the Managing Agent (in case of the NGO Window).

On the UN Darfur Fund

Why is it important to have a common funding platform?

A common funding platform will improve and facilitate coordination of activities as well as performance-based management of interventions. It will increase the reach, impact and sustainability of interventions.

How will the UNDF be linked to the DDS?

The UNDF steering committee will oversee and ensure full alignment of UNDF interventions to the DDS. This will be facilitated by the Technical Secretariat supporting both the UNDF and the DDS Coordination Board, thus ensuring necessary linkages between overall strategy and technical implementation. Pillar (or sector) strategies guiding UNDF calls for proposals will be developed on this basis and vetted by the UNDF steering committee against their alignment to the DDS.

How will UNDF performance be measured and monitored?

In addition to regular project monitoring at UN agency level, the UNDF technical secretariat will monitor implementation progress on a quarterly basis and inform 6-monthly allocation / replenishment decisions of the steering board. Moreover, a dedicated "real-time" monitoring capacity will be established and located within the DRA. The capacity will perform independent monitoring and assessments of all UNDF interventions.

How can I follow the achievements of the fund?

All progress and financial reports will be made available at the Funds website (http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/DRF00). In addition, an online portal for real-time monitoring using the Ushahidi platform (http://www.ushahidi.com/) will be established allowing partners to review project progress by location at any moment.

Can partners earmark their contributions?

Partners can indeed target their contributions if required by their rules and procedures. Contributions can be earmarked by window (UN agency window, NGO window) and by pillar.

For more information

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