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ACRONYMS

ALP  Accelerated Learning Programme
CSO  Civil Society Organisations
DDPD Doha Document for Peace in Darfur
DDS Darfur Development Strategy
DLC  Darfur Land Commission
DRA  Darfur Regional Authority
FaST Foundational and Short-Term activities
GoS  Government of Sudan
IDP  Internally Displaced Person
MoH  Ministry of Health
MoWSS Ministry of Welfare and Social Services
MPPPU Ministry of Physical Planning – Planning Unit
MPTF Multi-Partner Trust Fund
NCE Non-Cost Extension
NERC National Energy Research Centre
NGO Non-Governmental Organisation
PHCC Primary Health Care Centre
PJRC Peace, Justice and Reconciliation Centres
QFFD Qatar Fund for Development
SAA Standard Administrative Arrangements
TJRC Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission
UNAMID United Nations African Mission in Darfur
UNDF United Nations Fund for Recovery
Reconstruction and Development in Darfur
UNDF TS United Nations Fund for Recovery
Reconstruction and Development in Darfur
Technical Secretariat
VRRC Voluntary Return and Resettlement Commission
WASH Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the final report for the United Nations Fund for Recovery, Reconstruction and Development in Darfur (UNDF), a multi donor trust fund established in 2015 to support the key components of the Darfur Development Strategy (DDS) in pursuit of the overall objective of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) “to support the transition from humanitarian assistance to recovery and development”.

The Darfur Development Strategy (DDS) represents a transitional programme in order to rebuild hope in Darfur along with the delivery of tangible immediate peace dividends for lasting development. The DDS identified critical needs and priorities within 3 thematic areas, the 3 pillars: Justice Governance and Reconciliation; Reconstruction; and Economic Recovery. The six-year strategy to meet both social and infrastructural needs, totaled US$7.2 Billion with the Foundational and Short-Term (FaST) activities amounting to US$177.4 Million.

The UNDF has supported the 12 Foundational and Short-Term activities (FaST), implemented in Darfur between 2016 and 2019 by 13 UN agencies and entities, in partnership with the Government of Sudan. A total commitment of US$88.5 million from Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) has supported them. The projects officially started in February 2016.

The FaST Activities that laid the foundation for the development of Pillar I of the DDS: Governance, Justice and Reconciliation, have focused around justice and reconciliation, with immediate interventions offering mechanisms to prevent, reduce and resolve conflicts related to land, natural resources, arms proliferation and human rights. Through more effective local institutions and transparency, they have improved the citizens trust in customary and formal systems, structures and processes at both local and state levels. There has been great achievements in quantity and quality. Some of the key results of these 3 years have been: 15 Peace, Justice and Reconciliation Centres constructed and operational; 1,264 (423F/841M) actors of the justice sector including police, prison officers, judges and native administration officials, with emphasis on rural court judges, have been trained in human rights, reconciliation, dispute and conflict-mediation approaches with a gender sensitive perspective; 3,150 ex-combatants (630F/2520M) haven provided with support to economic reintegration; 13 livestock corridors have been demarcated with monitoring systems established; 52 villages have undertaken village sketch mapping and profiling; more than 3,000 people between State Government officials, locality representatives from the farmers and nomads, women and youth groups, returnees and host communities have engaged in drafting land legislation policy reforms submitted for discussion and approval to the State Legislation Councils of the five Darfur states, after consultations with the 63 localities of Darfur; and Training of 370 individuals on Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Land Tenure (VGGT); a global tool for improving land reform and natural resources.

Activities linked to Pillar II: Reconstruction, have worked towards supporting the recovery and stabilisation of conflicted affected population whose economic and social life have been severely disrupted. The Reconstruction Pillar was linked to the previous pillar due to the paramount importance of governance in ensuring that infrastructure investments are well-managed and sustained. By providing water supply in villages, restoring social infrastructure, such as schools, and linking communities and markets by constructing vital road links, war affected populations can resume normal life an engage in productive economic activities, which ultimately links to the DDS pillar III: Economic Recovery. Key results during these 3 years include: 232,217 (114,995F/117,217M) vulnerable rural population and returnees have access to improved water; 125,000 beneficiaries have improved all-weather access to basic services through construction of road drainage structures; 13 administrative buildings benefiting 50,000 people; 50 communities declared open defecation free (ODF) community; 70 villages have benefited from solar PV systems; 30 health facilities rehabilitated and handed over to the State Ministry of Health and 4 police posts completed contributing to the safety and security of 113,500 people.

To enable the development of Pillar III: Economic Recovery, FaST activities have primarily supported agriculture and livestock-based value chains and improved access to financial services for young entrepreneurs and small-scale producers to diversify their livelihoods and establish small-scale businesses. Key results during these 3 years of implementation include 71,790 people and 350,000 heads of livestock have access to water through the rehabilitation of 9 hafirs, 20 shallow wells and 3 sub-surface dams; 2,529 school drop-outs have been trained on entrepreneurial skills; 5 Business Development Centres have been constructed in state capitals and have supported 6,235 youth with entrepreneurship and self-employment services; the Greater Dar Fur Microfinance Apex (GDMC) has been established; 8,865 people have attended public awareness activities on microfinance and products; 269 Village Savings and Loans Associations (with a total of 6,432 members), have been established and supported with seed grants and 988 (544F/444M) people from self-employment groups, have attended trainings on small entrepreneurs and client on how to start/ maintain/ grow their businesses.

The programme has received in total 6 tranches of funding with the last tranche received by UNDF in March 2018, therefore all projects received 100% of their total approved budgets. During 2018 all the projects were implemented under No-Cost-Extensions and by the end of 2018, seven projects completed all activities. However, some projects activities needed a further No-Cost-Extension that took their implementation until the end of June 2019. An average of 92% of programmatic activities have been completed by June 2019.

Activities have been implemented in 57 localities across Darfur; 7 localities have a total of 8 or more projects, with a further 10 localities having 7 projects in each. Projects were encouraged to work in identified localities, taking needs into consideration. By focusing on identified localities, it was anticipated that the impact on the communities would be greater.

During these 3 years of implementation of the projects, the UNDF Technical Secretariat and UNDF continued to support the state level coordination mechanisms chaired by the State Ministry of Finance (SMoF) in North, West and South Darfur. The objective of coordination mechanism has been to enhance effective and efficient coordination among all agencies and state government line ministries involved in recovery and development interventions in Darfur. As a way of enhancing coordination and ownership of FaST activities, joint monitoring missions have been continuously organized by the coordination mechanism, as well as joint case studies (See Section) undertaken by the UNDF and partners with the aim at checking on the ground the impact that the implementation of the different activities had in the community, and how it has benefited their life, the ultimate goal of this United Nations Fund for Recovery, Reconstruction and Development in Darfur.
The United Nations Fund for Recovery, Reconstruction and Development in Darfur (UNDF) was established to support the efficient implementation of key components of the Darfur Development Strategy in pursuit of the overall objective of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur “to support the transition from humanitarian assistance to recovery and development. Specifically, it seeks to:

• Restore peace, security, and social stability;
• Improve Government functionality at all levels;
• Strengthen the civil administration;
• Rehabilitate, reconstruct and construct physical institutional and social infrastructure in post conflict Darfur; and,
• Implement a comprehensive structural reform of health and educational institutions, especially universities, in order to transform Darfur into a developed society in terms of technology, industry, agriculture and trade.

As agreed in the donors conference in Doha, the six-year plan to meet both social and infrastructural needs, totaled US$7,245,000,000, although a little amount has been achieved. The Government of Sudan committed US$2,650,000,000 to the DDS, leaving a donor requirement of US$4,595,000,000, to be pledged within the same time frame. Of this total contribution, the FaST activities required an estimated cash sum of US$177,400,000 (5,000,000,000 for Pillar I; 845,000,000 for Pillar II; and 1,400,000,000 for Pillar III). There were four distinct channels to direct the various sources of funding and embed these in the coordination mandate of the Darfur Coordination Board, as follows:

• Coordinated bilateral funding;
• Government funding through the national budget and the Darfur Recovery and Development Fund (DRDF);
• Private investor funding;
• and the United Nations Fund for Recovery, Reconstruction and Development in Darfur (UNDF) established by the United Nations (UN).

The UNDF has been supported by a single donor, Qatar through the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), while other donors provided their support through bi-lateral funding, aligning however, their support to the DDS Pillars. The UNDF was established under the overall leadership of the former DRA and the UN Country Team, represented by the UN Resident Coordinator, and with participation of the Government of Sudan (GoS). All programmes/projects funded by the UNDF have been in support of, and strictly aligned with the priorities of the GoS and the former DRA, as described in the DDS, ensuring full national ownership. The UNDF has complemented other support that has been provided for recovery and development in Darfur by Sudan’s partners. The UNDF has enhanced coherence, transparency and accountability in the implementation of key components of the DDS.
THE FOUNDATIONAL AND SHORT-TERM (FaST) ACTIVITIES

The FaST activities have been funded through the UNDF and have demonstrated the benefits of peaceful cooperation and bringing people together to sustain the aspirations of a better future for all, achieved through the DDPD and the DDS. Together they ensured that people invest in their future, have a say in the running of their communities, and are equipped with the right tools and skills to make a living. Whether IDPs, refugees or returnees, ex-combatants or host communities, farmers or nomads, young men or women, they are all key actors and decision-makers in the creation of a future Darfur guided by peace, not war, and have been invaluable partners as the FaST activities have been implemented. The core objectives of the FaST activities were to build confidence among communities, reduce dependency on humanitarian aid, and create real alternatives and viable options for young men and women through education and sustainable livelihoods.

The 12 joint FaST Activities implemented by 13 UN agencies and entities were the initial and immediate actions that have kicked started the longer-term objectives of the DDS, providing durable development solutions and peace dividends in the five Darfur states. Whilst laying the foundations for longer-term development, the FaST activities have brought tangible results ranging from providing out-of-school children with a new chance at education and sustainable livelihoods.

These FaST activities were complementing and coordinating with ongoing projects being implemented by UN agencies, GoS and other development partners. They have ensured coherence and adherence to the priorities identified through the DDS and close coordination and complementarity amongst the already then participating humanitarian and development actors.

Half of the overall US$177 million needed to implement the FaST activities has been covered so far, to this day exclusively from one country, the State of Qatar, who committed US$88.5 million through the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), which makes QFFD the biggest sole contributor to peacbuilding, recovery and development in Darfur.

12 FaST ACTIVITIES ICONS, LEAD AGENCIES AND PARTNERS

The faST Activities are shown in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pillar</th>
<th>Governance, Justice and Reconciliation</th>
<th>Icon</th>
<th>Lead Agency</th>
<th>UN Partners</th>
<th>Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Promote Reconciliation and Coexistence for Sustainable Peace in Darfur</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>UN Women</td>
<td>$ 5,439,558</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Darfur Community Based Reintegration and Stabilization (DDR)</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>UN Women</td>
<td>$ 11,559,002</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Strengthening Land Management for Peaceful Co-existence in Darfur</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>UN- Habitat FAO</td>
<td>$ 9,585,315</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pillar</th>
<th>Reconstruction</th>
<th>Icon</th>
<th>Lead Agency</th>
<th>UN Partners</th>
<th>Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Rehabilitation/Construction of Access Roads and Crossing Points</td>
<td>UNOPS</td>
<td>UN-ILO</td>
<td>$ 11,387,008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Construction of Public Facilities and Housing in Return Sites and Urban Settings</td>
<td>UN-Habitat</td>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>$ 5,194,014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Increased Access to and Use of Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Services in Darfur</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>IOM UNEP</td>
<td>$ 10,807,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Darfur Solar Electrification Project</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 5,581,957</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Upgrading and Rehabilitating Health Facilities, and Basic Health Services in Return Sites</td>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>UN-Habitat UNFPA UNICEF</td>
<td>$ 12,816,258</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Promotion of Sustainable Return and Reintegration of IDPs and Refugees in Darfur</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>$ 5,000,050</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) and improved access to employment opportunities for out-of-school children and youth</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>$ 5,988,329</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pillar</th>
<th>Governance, Justice and Reconciliation</th>
<th>Icon</th>
<th>Lead Agency</th>
<th>UN Partners</th>
<th>Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Micronance for Young and Poor Producers in Rural Areas in Darfur</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 2,449,778</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Recovery of Livelihoods of Vulnerable Farming and Pastoral Communities in Darfur</td>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>UNOPS</td>
<td>$ 4,814,245</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNDF TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT (TS)

STEERING COMMITTEE AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

On the 9th December 2015, a Steering Committee meeting was convened in El Fasher, North Darfur, and approved the 12 FaST projects and the issuance of the first tranche of ten million US dollars (US105 million) from the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF). On the 16th February 2016, the projects were officially launched at an event hosted by the Chairperson of the former Darfur Regional Authority (DRA), Dr. Tijani Sessi. During February/March a joint mission was conducted involving all projects and agencies to the 5 states of Darfur to introduce the FaST activities

During 2016, regular technical meetings were held between the UN (represented by the Chair of the Programme Management Team-PMT), QFFD and the UNDF TS. These meetings were either by teleconference or in person.

A donor briefing on the DDS/UNDF was held in May 2016 led by the UN RC/HC.

THE DARFUR COMMISSIONS

In 2016, the Government of Sudan, following the results of the Darfur Referendum (11th – 13th April 2016), dissolved the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA), by a presidential decree on the 22nd September. The DRA commissions (Darfur Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC), Sudan Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) Commission, the Darfur Security Arrangements and Implementation Commission, the Darfur Land Commission, the Voluntary Returns and Resettlement Commission...) and other Government departments’ partners faced uncertainty in their structure and functioning following this decree and most projects halted their activities.

The delay in forming the management structure of the commissions resulted in the absence of the main partners for several of the FaST activity projects. The commissions, as the main government counterpart for many of the projects, had also acted as an interface with the five Darfur states. Without active commissions, projects have had to identify new government partners, in addition to dealing with the 5 states individually; this was time-consuming and had financial implications.

The State Ministry of Finance eventually took on the responsibility of the overall coordination of the FaST activities in the 5 states. In February 2017, the head of each commission was announced by the Government. Mr. Magdi Khalafalla was appointed as Chairperson of the Darfur Follow Up Office & Overall Supervisor of the Commissions. During 2017 the UNDF TS and FaST activities had already been established working relationships with the new structure and a number of projects were already implementing activities with their related commission.

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DARFUR STATE LEVEL RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION (DSRDC) FORUM

Since the beginning of the implementation in 2016, meetings had been regularly hosted by the UNDF TS between the 12 projects in Khartoum. However, from July 2016 onwards, coordination meetings were initiated at Darfur state level. ToR’s were developed and approved by the Programme Management Team (PMT). By the end of 2016 the Darfur State Level Recovery and Development Coordination (DSRDC) meetings were regularly held in South, North and West Darfur. The meetings were led by the State Ministry of Finance in North and West Darfur. It was anticipated that this would be the case in all states. The ToR’s had also been approved by North Darfur State Government and an official decree had been issued in which included the coordination mechanism as well as establishing an office for International Cooperation in the State Ministry of Finance and Planning.

One of the outcomes of those meetings was improved coordination, joint planning and avoid duplication of activities. As an example in December 2016, there was a joint mission, the first of many of this kind, involving 6 projects and included the Government counterparts. Feedback from the states also indicated that these meetings led to improved coordination between projects and the Government line ministries.

In Khartoum, the Programme Management Team (PMT) have been regularly updated throughout the programme by the UNDF TS during their monthly meetings.

The UNDF TS/UNDP have continued to support the state level coordination mechanisms chaired by the State Ministry of Finance (SMoF) in North, West and South Darfur throughout the programme. The objective of coordination mechanism was to enhance effective and efficient coordination among all agencies, and State Government line ministries involved in recovery and development interventions in Darfur. Initially the focus was to ensure a cohesive and complementary approach to the implementation of the FaST activities but it was also envisaged that this could widen to cover all recovery and development activities in Darfur. Six coordination meetings (on monthly basis) were held in North Darfur, four (on quarterly basis) in West Darfur and 11 (on monthly basis) in South Darfur.

As a way of improving coordination and ownership of FaST activities in West Darfur, already at an advance stage, a second joint monitoring mission occurred in September 2017. The mission took place a few days before the quarterly forum and formed the basis of productive discussions during the meetings. Participation was high, with senior government line ministry officials attending, including 9 Director Generals from various line ministries plus technical staff and 9 UN agencies. The findings of the mission were then discussed at the quarterly state level Recovery and Development Forum being overall a very positive exercise. Based on the positive feedback these missions were to continue into 2018.
**DARBUR COORDINATION BOARD (DCB)**

During the lifespan of the DDS, the Darfur Coordination Board has met several times in Qatar and Sudan, both in Khartoum and at different locations in Darfur. The first meeting took place in Doha, State of Qatar on the 23rd September, 2013. The second occasion was in El Fasher, capital of North Darfur, on the 27th April 2014. Almost a year later on the 11th January met for the third time in Nyal, capital of South Darfur. On 6th March 2017, a Darfur Coordination Board meeting was held in Khartoum, chaired by the former Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Qatar. All DCB meetings have been chaired by representatives from the Government of Sudan, the State of Qatar and the UNCT in Sudan. UNDP and The UNDF TS have always supported the organising of the meetings and provided inputs for presentations/discussion.

**DCB MEETINGS**

The proposed integration of the coordination and financing structures for the Darfur recovery effort recognised the importance of the overarching governance of the effort, the need for country ownership and mutual accountability, as well as a coherent approach to financing modalities. It was then proposed the “Darfur Coordination Board for Recovery, Reconstruction and Development” (DCB). This was the apex political oversight body, Co-Chaired by a top-level representative of the Government of Sudan, the State of Qatar and a representative from the United Nations County Team in Sudan. In addition, the board members comprised a balanced representation of donors and stakeholders.

The Board has had a mandate to coordinate the different components of the recovery process. Its purpose was to maintain alignment between DDS-funded activities and the overall Region’s priorities; oversee the DDS implementation, integrating different funding channels, thus ensuring coherence and enabling the resolution of strategic issues or bottlenecks impacting its progress; and ensure coherent planning, monitoring and reporting among the different funding channels.

**DARFUR TECHNICAL WORKSHOP**

A Darfur Technical Workshop was held on 7 December 2017 at the UK Ambassador’s Residence in Khartoum. The meeting was chaired by OFFD, UN RCHC and UK-DFID and was attended by: UN RCHC, Heads of UN agencies, UN Humanitarian Development NEXUS Advisor, Heads of INGOs, UNAMID, UK-DFID, Qatar Charity, Qatar Fund for Development, Qatar Red Crescent, EU and representatives of the donor and diplomatic communities. The objective of the event was to hold a technical discussion among interested donors present in Darfur:

- To discuss and move towards a collective understanding and approach to Darfur;
- To discuss the best way of working together in Darfur (including coordination and finance);
- To develop prioritised next steps for international assistance in Darfur for discussion with Government of Sudan (GoS);
- To provide detailed inputs for presentations to the ongoing DCB process.

A detailed report was produced jointly between MoF and UNDF TS and shared with all DDS partners.

**FAST ACTIVITIES REVIEW WORKSHOP**

A review workshop on the FaST activities was conducted in North State with full support (financially) from Ministry of Finance, all UNDF partners including government counterparts represented by seven Director Generals (DG’s) and the UNDF Technical Secretariat, represented by the Head of the TS, attended the workshop and presented the status of the 12 FaST projects, recommendations and the way forward. A detailed report was produced jointly between MoF and UNDF TS and shared with all DDS partners.
**FUND MANAGEMENT**

In June 2016, an addendum to the Standard Administrative Arrangements (SAA) between QFFD and MPTF was signed. The addendum stated that funding was to be provided in 6 tranches rather than in the 3 larger tranches as stated in the original SAA. During 2016 two tranches were received by projects, the first in January and the second in July. Based on the addendum to the SAA, it had been anticipated that four (4) tranches would have been received during this period.

The overall percentage of the funds received in 2016, the first year of implementation, as of 31/12/2016, was 33% of total budget received with an overall expenditure of 27% and an implementation rate of activities at the 32%. The second tranche was expected in May 2016 and was received in July, while the third tranche was expected in August and only arrived at the beginning of 2017.

By the end of 2017, the total budget received was 64% and there was an average of 63% rate of activities implemented. The overall expenditure was at 83% with 10 projects having spent more than 71% of their received funds. This year ended with the fifth tranche of funding received by MPTF in December; whilst partners received it in January 2018.

The overall percentage expenditure of the funds received since the commencement of the FaST activities until January 2019, as of 31/12/2018, was 93.5%, with 11 projects having spent more than 93% of their received funds. The projects had received 100% of their total approved budgets and implemented an average 92% of programmatic activities. The sixth and final tranche of funding was received by MPTF in March 2018.

The original project timeframe was from 1st January 2016 – 30th June 2017. However, as projects were still ongoing, a No Cost Extension (NCE) was approved by the Steering Committee for all projects from 1st July 2017 – 31st December 2017. A second NCE was approved for the period 1st January 2018 – 30th June 2018. A third NCE was approved for the period 1st July 2018 – 31st December 2018; and a further last one only for some specific components for five of the projects - Reconciliation, Land, Solar, Roads and Livelihood - for the period 1st January 2019 – 30th June 2019.

During the reporting period there have been 3 pooled funds in Sudan: Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund (DCPSF), Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF) and the United Nations Darfur Fund (UNDF) which stretch across the humanitarian development – peacebuilding nexus. The Fund secretariats/technical units have continued to meet regularly throughout the programme to coordinate, share information and develop best practices.

**MONITORING AND REPORTING**

The 12 projects have submitted to the UNDF TS on a quarterly basis, joint narrative activities reports. A compiled report has been submitted by the UNDF TS quarterly to the UNDF Steering Committee members. Biannually projects submitted a financial report (uncertified) to the TS, after which a combined overview was submitted to the SC by the UNDF TS. The UNDF annual report has been submitted to MPTF in May every year from 2017 to 2020, being this one the 4th and final report. Ongoing liaison has continuously taken place between the donors and the TS, particularly with regards to providing clarification and ensuring the relevant information was submitted to support the release of the following tranche of funding. Regular teleconferences have been held with QFFD throughout the programme as well as ad-hoc face-to-face meetings in Doha.

In 2017, ten monitoring visits were conducted by the UNDF TS (2 in North, 3 in West, 1 in Central, 2 in East and 2 in South Darfur). And in 2018, the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Officer participated in 11 field missions covering 4 states including activities of all 12 FaST Activities (4 in North, 3 in West, 1 in East and 3 in South Darfur). Missions monitored projects implementation and evaluated results. All visits have been joint monitoring missions with UNDF partners and Government counterparts. Monitoring reports and maps, including recommendations, way forward and action points have been produced after every mission and shared with UNDF partners. Close follow up on recommendations and action points was undertaken by the M&E Officer throughout the year.

With projects implementation really advanced by the second half of 2018, this time was extremely intense for monitoring and communication activities. During this time, big efforts went towards the planning of two big missions for cases studies: to Dimsu Locality in South Darfur and to El Geneina rural in West Darfur (See Sections). The preparations of these case studies were a big exercise of coordination with field offices, government and implementing partners. Cases studies aimed to reflect the impact that projects have had in an area where there have been a high number of FaST activities.

Big efforts have also focused on the collection of lessons learnt to feed this report (See Section). Lessons learnt try to cover all the different angles related to the projects from the design of activities, the coordination to start mechanisms for implementation, the implementation itself, the monitoring, the evaluation, the documentation and the reporting. Feedback was collected from different sources: Government, UN Agencies, implementing partners and beneficiaries.

In 2017, the TS initiated the use of the online Indicator Reporting System (IREPS) by the project, offering a platform to provide an online overview of all the projects and their progress towards their indicators. Due to the extension of the project, in 2018 the UNDF TS encountered some constraints to keep up the service which fortunately was operative again by the end of the year. At the end of the reporting period implementing partners were able again to upload data in the Indicator Reporting System (IREPS).

The results framework can be found at:
www.dimonitoring.org/v4/ireps

(Please request login details from the UNDF TS.)
COMMUNICATIONS

Since the beginning and throughout the programme’s life span, communication has been a priority. Soon after the Technical Secretariat started to work, public information documents such as fact sheets with maps, posters, and other visibility materials were produced by the TS in coordination with projects. Several press releases were published and disseminated widely in the local press, as well as on social media sites.

During 2017, the UNDF Technical Secretariat included two communication personnel, who led and strengthened this component. UNDF Communication team developed and implemented a communication strategy; regularly supported monitoring and evaluation activities through audiovisual documentation; covered events to document activities; collected evidences to publish new achievements; produced new communication products; disseminated standardized visibility materials; maintained and updated the communication library; and supported the overall visibility of donor, UN, and partners.

In the second quarter of 2017, it started communicating through Facebook and Twitter, what served as the official social media visibility channels showcasing FaST activities. Hashtags such as #UNDF and #FaST were developed to increase outreach. 12 other hashtags were created to represent each FaST activity: #Reconciliation, #DDR, #Land, #Roads, #Public_Facilities, #WASH, #Solar, #Health, #Returns, #ALP, #Microfinance and #Livelihoods.

Following its mandate to support the FaST Activities, the UNDF Communication Team held four “Storytelling for Development” workshops in North, West, East and South Darfur for partners with approximately 100 participants to build basic skills in developing human interest stories and supporting photography. The workshops produced a very positive feedback and increased communication materials in number and quality submitted by partners.

2018 was specially intense from the communications point of view. As the year went by, projects’ implementation advanced considerably and by the end of the year many projects were in the final or in a very advance stage of implementation what made results more visible, offering more evidences to the Communication Team that got progressively busier with following up successful stories, going to the field and collecting material. In total during 2018, eleven missions to the field were organized, almost achieving its goal of one mission per month; and covering all five states of Darfur at least once and some regions even twice or thrice throughout the year. Documenting missions to the field supported all 12 FaST Activities at least once and in most cases twice. Collected material was crafted into countless human centered stories (See FaST Activity Section) that fed regular reports and social media channels. A new series of weekly photo-story featuring FaST activities titled: “Photo of the Week” was started in which photos from the field were submitted by FaST partners along with a short narrative. Photo of the Week series was published on Social Media and shared internally through UN communication channels. This series, in addition to increasing FaST Activities visibility also played a pivotal role in enhancing partners’ engagement and their sense of ownership. It became a popular product with continuous feedback on social media and from partners.

Audiovisual documentation has fed a total of 12 short videos produced showcasing different components implemented by the FaST Activities. Some were published to commemorate events like International Women’s Day, the World Water Day, World Health Day and International Day of Peace. All videos are in Arabic with their respective English subtitles.

Efforts were specially dedicated to the social media channels. Both Twitter and Facebook accounts have seen a continuous increase in the number of followers and in feedback received since they were established in the second half of 2017. Twitter ended with 599 followers whilst Facebook reached a total of 8,450 followers to the page. The Technical Secretariat put extra efforts in increasing production but also to improve the quality of the stories shared. It was proven that regularity contributed in a very positive way to our social media statistics. On average 3 stories were published per week, and during weeks with special events that increased to 4.

By the end of the project, a website (www.undarfurfund.org) has been developed and published to host all public documents, communication products and information related to the FaST Activities programme funded through the UNDF.

MAPPING

The mapping process has been an important activity by the communication team. It started in the second half of 2016 with the recruitment of a Mapping Officer. In 2016, eleven project locations had been mapped, specifying planned and ongoing activities at that time. This provided a clear picture of locations where projects were working together and it also assisted in planning more coordinated approaches to activities. Maps were update throughout 2017 and 2018. Last time maps were updated was in the second half of 2018 on the occasion of the donor mapping envisaged for the DDS refreshment process (See website www.undarfurfund.org).

MAPPING REVIEW AND REFRESH PROCESS

As the original Darfur Development Strategy (DDS) came to an end in 2019, the International Follow-Up Commission (IFC) committed to support the refresh of the DDS. The approved Darfur Development Refresh with the support from Germany, Italy, European Union, DFID, GFDR and UNDP intended to be relatively light-touch – building on the existing DDS 2013-2019 and other frameworks for the political, economic, and social development in Darfur. The main deliverable of the Review Process has been a revised Darfur Development Strategy covering the period 2020-2025 (see website www.darfurfund.org). The Strategy would set out how the international community, the Government of Sudan, and other partners, can engage over the next six years to improve development outcomes for poor people in Darfur ensuring that development assistance tackles root causes of conflict.

The UNDF TS helped with preparations which started with a series of meetings with the Government and Development Partners and the contracting of the consultancy firm TIRIAS who delivered a review of the DDS and a scenario document on the way forward, and was widely shared with all donors and the national stakeholders (See website www.undarfurfund.org). The DDS Refresh process was delayed due to the political change in Sudan and shortage of funding, but still it is a priority for all national and international partners to be completed to provide with a recovery and peacebuilding plan for Darfur.
KEY
ACHIEVEMENTS
WORKING
TOWARDS
PILLARS
Objective 6: Improved Access to Justice (36,515 beneficiaries: 21,524 females and 14,991 males)

15 Peace, Justice and Reconciliation Centres constructed and operational in Mellit, Kabkabiya, Kornoi and Kutum (ND); in Meshing and Gerieida (SD); in El Dairen and Yassin (ED); in Mukjar, Azum and Wadi Salih (CD); and Habida, Beida, Geneina and Sirba (WD);

One (1) national workshop conducted in Khartoum to clarify roles and responsibilities of the different actors for the Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Centres at federal, state and community level providing indicative activities for implementation; and several training workshops and community forums plans organized at state level in North, West, East and South Darfur with 427 participants (85F/342M);

40 Community Forums and Peaceful Coexistence Conferences were held in 15 PJRCs with a total of 4,228 participants (2,480F/1,748M);

Four (4) rural courts constructed and operational in Assalaya (ED), Mershing (SD), Mellit (ND) and Beida (WD) enhancing the delivery of justice at local community level;

Two (2) manuals for training justice sector officials developed, validated and then tested in national level workshops conducted in Khartoum;

1,264 (423F/841M) actors of the justice sector including police, prison officers, judges and native administration officials, with emphasis on rural court judges, trained in human rights, reconciliation, dispute and conflict mediation approaches with a gender sensitive perspective;

Two (2) study tours to Morocco and Rwanda for 22 TJRC stakeholders (10F/12M) organized to expose staff members to similar processes in jurisdictions of other countries of Africa, and then to adapt the experience and develop a framework for transitional justice mechanisms in Darfur and Sudan;

Three (3) meetings of the Darfur Transitional Justice Working Groups (DTJWG) in El Fasher (ND), Nyala (SD) and El Dairen (ED) organized with 130 participants (26F/104M) supporting its establishment as the platform to discuss challenges, opportunities and to coordinate roles and responsibilities amongst the different actors to effectively and efficiently implement and exercise the mandate of the working group.

Objective 7: Successful social and economic reintegration of male and female demobilized armed forces (including special needs group) while addressing local insecurities and building trust of communities in security sector institutions

A study conducted on the root causes for the proliferation of small arms and its contribution to local inter communal conflicts in Darfur;

Awareness and sensitization campaigns as well as training workshops for over 500 Government officials, traditional leaders, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and other stakeholders on the role of small arms proliferation in fueling local conflicts in Darfur;

Technical support to UNAMID and Sudan Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (SDDRC) in demobilizing 10,250 former fighters aligned to different armed factions that signed the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD);

Public information materials produced and provided to the Government to sensitize community leaders, local communities and armed groups supporting the Government led small arms collection campaign (2017-2018);

3,150 ex-combatants (630 F/2520 M) counseled, trained and provided with start-up grants/kits to engage in various livelihoods and income generation activities for economic re-integration;

Five (5) Community Management Committees established in five target communities as joint participatory planning and decision making mechanisms promoting ex-combatants interaction with civilians, increasing participation in local decision making processes, social cohesion, trust and confidence as well as social acceptance;

5,012 civilians including unemployed youth, vulnerable women, IDPs and other war affected population directly benefitted from skills training, employment creation and income generation opportunities created by community infrastructure rehabilitation projects;

13 community stabilization projects completed benefitting directly or indirectly 100,000 local households with access to basic services such as safe drinking water and education targeting mainly women and girls;

Specialized trainings in agriculture, livestock and natural resource management to 217 staff from relevant state line ministries from the five Darfur states to enhance their abilities to provide extension and advisory services to over 20,000 farmers including ex-combatants for improving farming practices;

Provision of office furniture, computers and other office equipment to state governments to enhance operational effectiveness;

28 joint business cooperatives/associations comprising 2,120 members (ex-combatants and civilians) were established and registered with linkages to value chains for market access after members were trained in microfinance, savings, proposal writing and other entrepreneurship topics, to access micro credits from finance institutions;

Collaboration enhanced between local communities and local government in joint planning, implementation and monitoring of community based project initiatives led to increased community capacity and participation in local decision making and in local service delivery, reintegration, small arms control and peace building, thus building the foundations for improved democratic and local governance;

Establishment of gender desks in selected security institutions to address gender based violence (GBV) and other gender issues contributing to a reduction in GBV and enhancing protection of women as well as achieving improvements in reproductive health and HIV/AIDS knowledge;

Two (2) vocational training centres/schools constructed, in Zalingie (CD) and El Dairen (ED). Over 30,000 ex-combatants, unemployed youth and other groups benefitted from skills trainings provided by the centres;

412 Women Associated with Armed Groups (WAAG) benefitted from reproductive health support, HIV/AIDS and other trainings enhancing their social acceptance into the communities;

60 ex-combatants with disabilities benefitted from psychosocial counseling and training on the Rights of People with Disabilities (PwDs) as enshrined in the Sudanese constitution and UN conventions. They were provided with mobility aid kits including wheelchairs to enhance their physical rehabilitation and social reintegration into normal civilian life;
Outreach activities (football matches, cultural events, and recreation activities) were held in ex-combatant's host communities to promote peace and reconciliation between ex-combatants and host civilian population;

Enhancing capacities of nine (9) Government Health Care Providers (HCP) in North, South and West Darfur contributing to improve access to healthcare services to over 10,000 (ex-combatants and civilians);

One (1) Training Centre constructed for the Union of Women in El Deain (ED) providing skill trainings to vulnerable women including IDPs and widows. Over 5,000 women are directly or indirectly benefitting from the training center;

Rehabilitation of West Darfur Central Prison in Zalingei benefitting 400 inmates (18F/382M);

1 Vocational Training Center at the West Darfur Central Prison in Zalingei constructed and equipped;

Two police stations constructed/rehabilitated and equipped, in Zalingei (CD) and Shaangle Toobi (ND) benefitting 50,000 and 20,000 local residents respectively. Gender desks/offices were established in both of them to promote gender equality and women's protection. Police and prison staff were trained in areas such as GBV and human rights related issues considering also a gender perspective.

Objective 10: Improved land registration/property system and related conflict resolution mechanisms

Two (2) Conferences on land in Darfur organized at national level with participation of representatives from federal and state line ministries, localities, major tribes, native land administrators, nomads and famers associations, UN agencies, donors, and national and international NGOs; dealing successfully for the first time on this magnitude with peace and stability through good land governance; and resulting in a road map for the different aspects of land issues in Sudan, with recommendations on the way forward for holistic capacity development on land issues, in particular: enhancing land governance, land administration, land policy and legislation reform, recognition of customary land tenure, and building peace and stability among different land users in Darfur and the country at large;

Five (5) land legislation policy reforms drafted and submitted for discussion and approval to the State Legislation Councils of the five Darfur states, which were generated after consultations with the 63 localities of Darfur during workshops organized with participation of State government officials, locality representatives from the farmers and nomads, women and youth groups, returnees and host communities. Locality workshops were attended by an average of 50 members, with a total of more than 3,000 representatives engaged in the process;

903 community members from rural population of the 63 Darfur localities (361F/542 M) trained and officially registered as arbitrators on conflict resolution mechanisms to resolve disputes over land. For the first time women have become arbitrators with the right to be part of the local courts system deciding on land issues disputes;

52 return villages have undertaken village sketch mapping and profiling in order to improve their land title system, through adoption of a continuum land tenure security concept starting with identification and demarcation of village boundaries, land uses, spatial locations of basic services and saving the information in the Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM) application;

Partnership with Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) to utilize the Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM) as a participatory tool database that will generate assessments on land uses to eventually create useful reports to feed process improvements;

225 line ministries institutions staff (100F/125M) trained on data collection methods, GIS, sketch mapping, urban observatory and STDM procedures;

Two (2) Urban Observatories Centres established in North and South Darfur to process and manage the data of the sketching and profiling exercises into the STDM;

13 livestock migratory routes demarcated with GPS tracking system, validated by all stakeholders, marked out using concrete poles and with a monitoring system established and active to avoid / resolve conflicts;

Veterinary services provided along some of the demarcated livestock migratory routes;

Four (4) water yards with 50m³ of capacity were constructed along two migratory routes contributing to reducing conflict over lack of natural resources;

Awareness raising, disseminating information and sensitizing activities conducted on land management issues through different means such as public information publications, media broadcasts and interactive theatre performances targeting all the community in Darfur;

Open interactive theater shows (“Our tribe is Darfur”) conducted in 14 Darfur localities. Under-takes from coordination and consultation with relevant locality and state authorities to enable stakeholders access to information on land and to understand their role in land administration;

818 individuals trained on land use, sound and sustainable natural resources management and the impact of climate change on agriculture and livestock-based livelihoods;

370 individuals trained on Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Land Tenure (VGGT), a global tool for improving land reform and natural resources;

324 women households livelihoods supported in 14 return villages sustaining the return to their land after being displaced by the conflict: 152 in seven (7) villages of West Darfur and 172 in seven (7) villages of Central Darfur.
Objective 1: Improved physical access to goods, markets and administrative and social services

- 23 road drainage structures constructed (bridges, culvert roads and crossing points) improving all-weather access to basic services benefiting directring around 125,000 people in the 5 states of Darfur;
- Improvement of 64 km of feeder roads;
- Establishment of Community Maintenance Committees for the upkeep of the built/rehabilitated structures with representatives from the local administration, the nomadic and returned communities;
- 250 community members (150F/100M) from Community Maintenance Committees benefited from capacity building in Community Organization and Management, and Community Environmental Action Planning (CEAP) to ensure sustainability and ownership of the project’s newly constructed/rehabilitated structures;
- Introducing labour intensive methods contributing to create employment opportunities;
- 960 unemployed youth (528F/432M) trained in Stabilized Soil Block (SSB) production and construction methods and 12 enterprise cooperatives established to assure the sustainability of the self-help housing concept;
- 165 families are benefiting from durable, environmentally friendly and affordable self-help housing construction with the security of tenures’ certificates;
- 90 local government staff and community leaders trained on basic service delivery monitoring;
- 30 staff and community leaders were trained on settlement development planning and management.

Objective 2: Increased access to improved water sources and sanitation

- 232,217 vulnerable rural population and returnees (114,995F/117,217M), representing 64 vulnerable rural and return communities in the five states of Darfur have access to improved water based on an integrated water resources management;
- 21 water yards were constructed/rehabilitated;
- 44 mini water yards (mainly solar) were constructed/rehabilitated;
- 89 hand pumps were constructed/rehabilitated;
- 64 community-based WASH committees were established/strengthened;
- 59 schools water supplies were constructed;
- 64 school latrines and handwashing facilities were constructed;
- 64 schools were reached with hygiene promotion interventions;
- 218,017 people (107,666F/110,351M) representing 64 vulnerable rural and return communities in the five states of Darfur people reached with hygiene promotion interventions;
- 50 communities declared as Open Defecation Free (ODF) communities;
- 25,936 children (13,253 girls/12,684 boys) representing 59 basic schools gained access to improved and sustainable drinking water supply;
- 24,715 children (12,222 girls/12,493 boys) representing 63 basic schools, gained access to gender-sensitive improved and sustainable sanitation, handwashing facilities and hygiene promotion;
- 250 community members and 180 local government staff and community leaders trained on settlement development planning and management.

Objective 3: Increased access to electricity services

- 1.375 students from 5 technical schools were trained in Solar PV Systems for technical schools developed with a students manual;
- Technical assistance provided to ensure that installed solar systems are operated and maintained by the users in the 70 villages;
- Curriculum for Solar PV Systems for technical schools developed with a students manual; piloted in 5 technical schools for a total of 1,375 students.

The capacity of 1,828 state and locality levels WASH sector partners (793F/1,035M) was built in core WASH-programme strategic planning, M&E, gender equality mainstreaming and WASH technical aspects;

The surface and ground water database of the Groundwater and Wadies Department (GWWD, the responsible institution for Sudan surface and groundwater other than River Nile) was extensively updated with the project’s collected and analyzed information as well as maps related to the four catchments areas. This data will support evidence-based water resources management for sustainable water supply;

A total of 734 sector partners and community members (210F/524M) were reached with Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) related information. Also, the surface and ground water database of the Groundwater and Wadies Department was extensively updated. This data will support evidence-based water resources management for sustainable water supply;

Water quality laboratory infrastructure built, equipped and operative in the five states of Darfur. The capacity of the personnel has been strengthened in order to undertake the advanced testing techniques required for regular monitoring of the water sources.
Objective 4: Enhanced access to and utilisation of comprehensive health and nutrition services

- 30 health facilities rehabilitated around the five states of Darfur and handed over to the respective State Ministry of Health;
- Provision of medical equipment for the 30 health facilities ensured in coordination with the Ministries of Health;
- A total of 2,069 health practitioners have been trained/received refresher training in various health topics;
- 172 students successfully graduated in December 2019 from the Medical School Academy after 6 semesters of continued academic training as nurses and medical technicians;
- 24 health staff completed 3 months intensive advanced training on nursing at the Medical School Academy;
- 30 locality-level Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) established and trained to promote an effective local mechanism for timely identification, investigation and immediate response to health threats.

Nyala; and 4 existing centres in: El Deain, Assalaya, Adila and Zalingei renovate to operate as 3 new integrated Business Development Centres (BDCs). All centers provided with equipment and a strategic plan to operate autonomously and become a mechanism for timely identification, investigation and immediate response to health threats. They also function as venues for social events and recreational activities.

Centres started delivering entrepreneurship skills and business development trainings.

- 2,377 trainees (1426F/951M) received training sessions on entrepreneurship, business development and small business management;
- 84,120 students (41,219 girls/42,901 boys) benefitted from distribution of school supplies (student kits) including ALP textbooks for grade one and two (335% of original target);
- 843 ALP facilitators (147F/210M) have been trained (200% of original target);
- 57 ALP units including 2 classrooms and one teacher office with gender-sensitive latrines constructed to provide safe, accessible and enabling learning environment for out-of-school children;
- 2,529 out of school (632F/1897M), including school dropouts and youth, trained in different vocational training disciplines;
- 3 new integrated Business Development Centres (BDCs) constructed in: El Fasher, El Geneina and Nyala; and 4 existing centres in: El Deain, Assalaya, Adila and Zalingei renovate to operate as BDCs. All centers provided with equipment and a strategic plan to operate autonomously and serve as information hubs for the youth on entrepreneurship like financial (e.g. microfinance) and non-financial services. They also function as venues for social events and recreational activities. Centres started delivering entrepreneurship skills and business development trainings.

Objective 5: Improved access to quality education

- 40,705 (9,171 girls/21,534 boys/63% of original target) previously out of school children registered under the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP);
- 84,120 students (41,219 girls/42,901 boys) benefitted from distribution of school supplies (student kits) including ALP textbooks for grade one and two (335% of original target);
- Recreational kits and life skills materials for 88,337 students procured and delivered to the states;
- 172 students successfully graduated in December 2019 from the Medical School Academy after 6 semesters of continued academic training as nurses and medical technicians;
- 843 ALP facilitators (147F/210M) have been trained (200% of original target);
- 57 ALP units including 2 classrooms and one teacher office with gender-sensitive latrines constructed to provide safe, accessible and enabling learning environment for out-of-school children;
- 114 classrooms and 57 teachers' offices provided with furniture (200% of original target);
- 2,529 out of school (632F/1897M), including school dropouts and youth, trained in different vocational training disciplines;
- 3 new integrated Business Development Centres (BDCs) constructed in: El Fasher, El Geneina and Nyala; and 4 existing centres in: El Deain, Assalaya, Adila and Zalingei renovate to operate as BDCs. All centers provided with equipment and a strategic plan to operate autonomously and serve as information hubs for the youth on entrepreneurship like financial (e.g. microfinance) and non-financial services. They also function as venues for social events and recreational activities. Centres started delivering entrepreneurship skills and business development trainings.

Objective 6: Successful social and economic reintegration of returnees (including special groups)

- 146 return villages profiling studies completed;
- 4 police posts built, equipped and handed over to the authorities contributing to the safety and security of 113,500 people;
- 3 Community Policing Safety Centres established and active;
- 3 Local Safety Working Groups (LSWGs) established with 169 members (64F/105M) representing the community leaders from the nomad, returnee and host communities including the youth;
- 350 police officers (38F/312M) trained in areas of human rights, investigation techniques, family and child protection, protection against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV); explosive remnants of war (ERW) recognition, small arms and light weapons control and community policing issues including detention and treatment of detainees;
- 1 UXO assessment by the Ordinance Disposal Office (ODO) supported, resulting in ODO sharing 31 safe villages in North, West and Central Darfur;
- 240 environmentally friendly transitional shelters constructed with Stabilized Soil Brick (SSB) benefiting a total of 700 people;
- 280 community members trained on the production of SSB contributing to the construction of transitional shelters;
- 4 school constructed and handed over to the Ministry of Education and communities;
- 200 persons trained on Disaster Risk Reduction;
- 4 Community/Youth centers constructed and equipped with TV, satellite dish, generator and a mobile solar charger for recreational activities of the community members especially the youth to encourage them to stay in the return villages and avoid being recruited by militia groups;
- Open interactive theater shows (“Our tribe is Darfur”) conducted in 14 Darfur localities. Undertaken in coordination and consultation with relevant locality and state authorities to enable stakeholders access to information on land and to understand their role in land administration;
- 12 Village Saving and Loans Associations (VSLAs) formed and trained in 9 villages with approximately 25 members each;
- 300 households received agricultural support to revive rural productive capacities in their return villages;
- 240 beneficiaries (128F/112M) supported to increase their crop production capacity through distribution of certified seeds and tools procured from Agriculture Research Center (ARC);
- 300 households supported to produce food crops through irrigation by the provision of 6 irrigation water pumps.

Washing hands with soap might not be the norm everywhere. In Darfur, access to water and sanitation is not always easy. WASH FaST Activity is reminding how important this is to ALP school students.

El Da'en, East Darfur
April, 2018
Objective 2: Increased crop and livestock production and productivity

- 71,790 people and 350,000 heads of livestock have access to water through the rehabilitation of 9 hafirs, 20 shallow wells and 3 sub-surface dams;
- 36,000 people have opportunities for improved vegetable and legume production through the rehabilitation of 20 shallow wells;
- 40,000 tree seedlings were planted out benefiting 3,046 HHs/18,276 people;
- 1250ha. of degraded pasturelands rehabilitated benefiting 2,840 HHs;
- 200 community members trained in sustainable natural resource management;
- 290,000 animals vaccinated and treated against endemic and epidemic diseases;
- 1,150 farmers were contracted and participated in the production of certified seeds.

Objective 3: Improved value chains in livestock, agriculture, livelihoods development

- 1970 beneficiaries have been trained in entrepreneurial potential and technical skills;
- 100 private veterinary service providers have been supported with drug and equipment kits.

Objective 5: Increased access to employment opportunities

- 2,529 out of school (25% females), including school dropouts and youth, trained in different vocational training disciplines;
- 2,377 trainees (60% females) received training sessions on entrepreneurship, business development and small business management;
- 6,255 youth have benefitted from 3 new integrated Business Development Centres (BDCs) constructed in: El Fasher (NO), El Geneina (WD) and Nyala (SD); and 4 existing centres in: El Daein (ED), Assalaya (?) ; Adila (?) and Zalingei (WD) renovate to operate as BDCs. All centre provided with equipment and a strategic plan to operate autonomously and serve as information hubs for the youth on entrepreneurship including financial (e.g. microfinance) and non-financial services. They also function as venues for social events and recreational activities. Centres started delivering entrepreneurship skills and business development trainings.

Objective 6: Increased access to Financial Services

- Support to the establishment of the Greater Darfur Microfinance Apex (GDMA) to oversee the microfinance sector in Darfur States and increase the financing and productive opportunities for young and poor producers;
- Provision and customization of the Microfinance Core System, an integrated IT platform that allows mobile money transfer services and enables microfinance institutions in Darfur to consolidate, share and manage information on microfinance activities across the region;
- One (1) international mission to Ethiopia and Kenya for 15 members from the Apex, Central Bank of Sudan (CBS), and Ministry of Finance to learn technical and management operations of Mobile Money System in other countries of Africa;
- A study to assess the prospects of establishing a mobile phone-based microfinance system in Darfur with recommendations completed;
- 269 Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) with between 12 to 30 members each, grouping a total of 6,432 (56% Females), established and supported with seed grants;
- 988 (55%F) beneficiaries had been trained on how to develop business proposals for income generation activity as part of capacity building of the established VSLA groups;
- 32 VSLA groups provided with a mobile phone and training on mobile banking procedures;
- 8,865 people trained on microfinance products and client services such as client protection, micro-insurance, micro-credit, saving, cash transfers, lending, guarantees and collaterals;
- 1,762 beneficiaries have been linked to commercial banks and microfinance institutions to access credit to expand their businesses;
- Rehabilitation of West Darfur Central Prison in Zalingei benefitting 400 inmates (18F/382M);
- Ministries of Finance’s personnel from the 5 states trained on the Core Microfinance System;
- 257 Microfinance providers staff members attended training and capacity building.

Farming schools and improved seeds provided by the Livelihoods FaST Activities improved crops around Darfur

Azum, Central Darfur
December, 2016

A saving box is helping this women’s farming cooperative to invest smartly in different crops thanks to the knowledge learnt through the FaST Activities.

Makkada, West Darfur
September, 2017
FOUNDATIONAL AND SHORT-TERM (FaST) ACTIVITIES
supported peace building in and between communities and individuals through mediation, joint planning and processes, reconciliation, and psycho-social support, amongst others. The reconciliation processes at the PJRCs have specially in areas of return and conflict areas to enable traditional leaders to effectively conduct dispute settlement project has supported the establishment and functioning of Peace, Justice and Reconciliation Centres (PJRCs), children and minorities amongst others). To ensure that all groups participated effectively in these processes, the (TJRC) and the UNDP Reconciliation project A very important meeting through which the group was reached by the Commission once the project was completed at the end of the 2018. The General Commissioner, Ibrahim Adam Ibrahim, who opened the workshop, highlighted the large attendance as the room was full with representatives of the state government, the Special General Prosecutor for Darfur crimes, the Chief of Justice and Military Justice, Legal advisor of the Legislative Council, the National Human Rights Commission, UNAMID Human Rights Section, UN agencies, academia and civil society organizations.

OBJECTIVES

The project has addressed reconciliation at multiple levels, with an emphasis on vulnerable groups (women, children and minorities amongst others). To ensure that all groups participated effectively in these processes, the project has supported the establishment and functioning of Peace, Justice and Reconciliation Centres (PJRCs), specially in areas of return and conflict areas to enable traditional leaders to effectively conduct dispute settlement processes, reconciliation, and psycho-social support, amongst others. The reconciliation processes at the PJRCs have supported peace building in and between communities and individuals through mediation, joint planning and creation of productive community assets.

Transitional Justice Working Group Meeting

The third meeting of the Transitional Justice Working Group of North Darfur met in El Fasher organized by the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission, the UNAMID and UNDP Reconciliation project A very important meeting through which the group was identifying the sustainability of the achievements reached by the Commission once the project was completed at the end of the 2018. The General Secretary of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission, Ibrahim Adam Ibrahim, who opened the workshop, highlighted the large attendance as the room was full with representatives of the state government, the Special General Prosecutor for Darfur crimes, the Chief of Justice and Military Justice, Legal advisor of the Legislative Council, the National Human Rights Commission, UNAMID Human Rights Section, UN agencies, academia and civil society organizations.

Women to promote coexistence and participate in conflict resolution

Before civil strife broke out in Darfur, the native administration and informal justice system was effective in settling disputes and undertaking mediation and reconciliation work at regional and local levels. Now, with the support of the Promoting Reconciliation and Coexistence for Sustainable Peace (PRCSP) project in Darfur, community forums are being organized around the five states to bring traditional justice mechanisms back—and for the first time, women are participating. Forums have begun meeting at the new Peace, Justice and Reconciliation Centers built by the project in the localities around the five Darfur states. They aim to establish peace and reconciliation committees and identify the existing community conflict mitigation groups such as Ajaweed, which may be dormant or inactive since the conflict started.

The forums encouraged internal dialogue between men and women to foster the acceptance of female participation in committee discussions related to reconciliation and coexistence, something that was never accepted before. But old habits are difficult to change, and women admitted that there was still a long way to go. “At the moment, we are not fully accepted by men in the conflict resolution process, but at least we, the women of the different groups, that were before in conflict, now sit together and we resolve our own women’s problems,” said Isma Hayat Mohammed Abubaker, the Secretary of the Women’s Union in Sirba Locality, West Darfur.

The forums were conducted to also initiate mechanisms for documentation of already mediated and reconciled cases and to enable community members to identify training needs for selected topics associated with community reconciliation and peaceful coexistence. In addition, some forums were organized with concrete purposes. For example, in Central Darfur, the project organized a forum to support a signed agreement between Fur and Miskeinya tribes; and in El Sireaf locality, a forum lubricated the peace agreement between the Beni Hussein and Rizegat tribes over the gold mining areas of Jabal Amir.

Access to Justice for women in Darfur

UN Women has been busy conducting workshops on ‘Increased Access to Justice for Females’ all-around Darfur. The participants of the workshops comprised of members of the formal and informal justice sector including judges, police, General Prosecutor, Peace Centres, Legislative Council, local courts judges, local administration, lawyers, paralegals and civil society organizations. In El Fasher, North Darfur, we counted up to 140 participants (53F/87M), whereas in Geneina, West Darfur, there were 150, in Zalengei, Central Darfur, 120 participants (63F/57M); in Nyala, South Darfur, 149 participants (72F/77M).
From guns to cotton candy

“I chose disarmament after I spent eight years of my life as a fighter,” says Hamada Hassan, a 23-year-old ex-combatant and currently a beneficiary of the Darfur Community Based Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Programme (DPR). “My wife, Aziza, saw a cotton candy stall in Khartoum and she convinced me to start our own cotton candy business in Geneina. I began to learn about the equipment and process by myself. I had the perfect idea, yet I was still short of money to kick off my project. If it wasn’t for DDR I would not have been able to get the equipment. Now I work from my house. My wife helps me whilst looking after our three children. I use my bicycle to distribute cotton candy to shops and canteens. I wish I could get a bigger transport so I could reach more customers and outlets.”

Economic reintegration opportunities for ex-combatants, including diversification of livelihood sources, are constrained by weak socio-economic absorptive capacity in the communities, as well as limited economic and environmentally viable livelihoods. Reintegration of ex-combatants is further constrained by the lack of start-up capital combined with the dearth of financial services such as micro credit, value chains, savings, markets and advisory services to allow ex-combatants to engage in sustainable livelihoods.

“One Sunday, we earned 1,200 dinars. My wife, Aziza Jumaa, and I were able to buy the necessities of life for our children,” says Hamada. “Life was hard and difficult during war time,” says Hamada. “I was abandoned in the wilderness and hardly had anything to eat or drink. If my mother got ill or any of my family members, I could not help, but now I can help and support anyone in need. I once told my wife that I wanted to leave Sudan and migrate. She said ‘No! That was all right before, but now you are involved in this project and it’s doing well so there is no need for you to leave.’”

Hamada’s wife Aziza Jumaa affirms: “Life is much better now than before. It’s way better than fighting in war. We get to raise our children together.”

Babanousa embankment: waters back on course

Ahmed Ali Adam Nurien, a community leader of the Babanousa neighborhood in El Geneina, was involved in the identification of neighbours to participate in the intensive seasonal work in both the first and second phases and assured that selected workers were chosen from the most disadvantaged families. He welcomed this type of initiative because they help the community in many different ways. “It teaches skills to workers, it helps family economies, improves infrastructures in the neighbourhood and especially resolves the very serious problem of the waters of the wadi flooding neighbourhoods.”

Once the second phase of the Babanousa embankment project started in Geneina, West Darfur, nearly 300 unemployed youth and vulnerable women were benefitted directly from this short-term employment and skills training. Equally, over 2000 vulnerable families/household were protected from loss of lives and property as a result of annual flooding. This second phase of the project strengthened the embankment so the seasonal wadi did not flood the Babanousa neighborhood in the outskirts of Geneina when intense rains fall. This has been part of the community stabilisation activities promoted by the #DDR #FaS_Activity funded by the #Qatar_Fund through the #UNDF to provide support for income generation to unemployed youth with high conflict potential and vulnerable women.

Access to information is difficult and sometimes sensitive in Darfur, especially regarding certain topics like Sexual Reproductive Health, Gender Based Violence and STDI’s/HIV/AIDS. One important mission of UNFPA under the DDR projects has been making this information more accessible to the Darfur community. Within the project Y-PEER education trainings on Sexual Reproductive Health, Gender Based Violence and HIV/AIDS have been organized. Y-PEER stands for Youth Peer Education Network of Organizations and Institutions; they work in the field of sexual and reproductive health strengthening and spreading high quality peer-to-peer education in the field of adolescent sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and HIV prevention worldwide. Its uniqueness is through using alternative methods (such as theatre-based techniques, role games, simulations, cultural and sports events) which makes the transmission of messages fun and more effective. The photo shows a football match organized together with advocacy interventions in Tawila, North Darfur. More than 1,500 people attended including local government representatives and the youth.

Darfur to access a different type of education

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The project aimed to create conducive environment and tangible results for peace on the ground. Firstly by reaching consensus among communities and competent authorities on necessary changes and reforms to people-centred land title system including the restoration of land rights to their owners and initiating land rights disputes systems and mechanisms. Secondly, by demarcating nomadic corridors and revitalizing and/or establishing a fully functioning, real time, monitoring mechanism for nomadic corridors, engaging the native administration at various levels of the government and also by addressing land concerns at return sites through mapping return village sites in a conflict sensitive manner to ensure returns and reintegration processes were sustainable and conflict free.

The project has been implemented jointly by UNDP, UN-Habitat and FAO in full partnership with Darfur Land Commission, Voluntary Return and Resettlement Commission, the relevant ministries in the five Darfur States, Farmers’ Associations and Nomadic Councils. The main Government partner was the Darfur Land Commission (DRC), Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Physical Planning and Public Utilities (MPPPU).

He project targeted a total of 527,000 beneficiaries (164,000 Nomads, 213,000 Sedentary Farmers and 150,000 Returnees).

In ElDaien, the capital town of East Darfur State, one such workshop was held and facilitated by two acclaimed national land experts. The workshop explained the rights of women in the Sudanese national, state, local and customary laws. The experts demonstrated the development of national laws favouring women’s land ownership and management rights. With the use of local folk art and culture, the workshop discussed the customary laws in Sudan, focusing on Darfur.

When North Darfur gets hot and dry, the camel herders set out to cross Darfur southwards looking for fresh pastures. They usually reach closer to the border with Chad in West Darfur. At this time of the year, rains are falling all over Darfur, that means in the North pastures have grown again. This is the time when nomads head back home to the north to spend some time with their families. Once the rains are over, they will eventually go to Libya and Egypt to trade their camels. On their way back home this time, they were finding a new element! The corridors have been demarcated by the Land FaST activity. This activity implemented by FAO in South Darfur is helping the nomads to follow the corridor and avoid their animals trespassing onto farming land which can become a cause of conflict. After talking to a couple of herders, they expressed their satisfaction saying that the corridor was well marked and there was no possibility to lose their way.

Issues pertaining to land ownership, occupancy and titles in Darfur constitute a considerable challenge to Darfur’s short-term and long-term stability and are one of the biggest challenges to Darfur’s peace initiatives. In this context, workshops that aim to raise awareness about women’s land rights, use and management in Darfur have been held throughout the region. There was wide participation of women from the political and professional spectrum as part of The Strengthening Land Management for Peaceful Coexistence in Darfur FaST activity implemented by UNDP, UNHabitat and FAO.

Towards people-centered reforms for Darfur

Participants related their land rights as stated by national laws to their local norms and traditions. Customary laws have a profound influence in Darfur, and they play an active role in defusing and resolving disputes, especially concerning land ownership and between nomadic pastoralists and settled farmers.

Darfur Land Commissioner, Salih Mango, attended the workshop, and he commented on the importance of reaching consensus among communities and authorities on necessary changes and reforms to people-centred land title system: “Such workshops that facilitate knowledge sharing are necessary to create an environment where communities are aware of their rights and obligations towards land issues and how to work collectively to resolve them in a peaceful manner.”

Shazakiah Abdallah, Director General of the Ministry of Social Affairs, East Darfur State, explained how this joint effort between the Ministry, East Darfur Women’s Union and UNDP contributes to sustaining peace in Darfur: “I am glad to see how participants were actively engaged in the discussion. Women play a key role in the safekeeping of Darfur culture, which influences customary law. By reconciling social knowledge, customary and national laws related to land ownership, we are paving the road to a sustainable future. A future where the coming generations will have a chance to make use of their treasured lands to build their own lives.”

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Awareness raising through media

An information campaign by the Land FaST Activity has disseminated messages through various media addressing land concerns in a sensitive manner to ensure returns and reintegration processes were sustainable and conflict free in Darfur. To do so, the Beshaish Centre for Performing Arts in collaboration with the Darfur Land Commission (DLC) produced simple messages that were already broadcasted by the radio and other media throughout the five states of Darfur. They also worked on raising the awareness of the community on land administration issues through community outreach sensitization and open theatre.
The construction of simple road structures has provided an immediately improved road that benefitted over half a million citizens in the widespread communities by year round access to essential services, such as hospitals/health centres, markets, and schools. This was not a road building programme but aimed to construct/rehabilitate traffic choke points allowing better access to social services and economic recovery activities for the target communities. The construction of simple road structures has provided an immediately improved road that benefitted over half a million citizens in the widespread communities by year round access to essential services, such as hospitals/health centres, markets, and schools.

Breaking the isolation of Darfur

The road network and infrastructure in Darfur is not well-developed and much of what exists is badly damaged. Both humanitarian assistance and early recovery activities depend not only on security and administrative access, but also on ensuring that the physical infrastructure, such as rural roads, bridges and drainage systems are passable. Omer Arbab, the Chief of Angeme village, West Darfur explained the problem: “In the rainy season water flows with flash floods and valleys are filled. When this happens, we are completely isolated from the rest of the world. We cannot reach markets, sick children and women in labour cannot reach hospital. This happens for days and days every time it rains.”

Aiming to allow better access to social services and economic activities, the Rehabilitation/Construction of Access Roads and Crossing Points FaST Project worked on constructing and/or rehabilitating road crossing structures. To date, construction of simple road structures has provided an immediately improved road network benefiting over 110,000 citizens in widespread communities in Darfur. Two structures were built in South Darfur and another four were completed in West Darfur, providing communities with year-round access to essential services such as hospitals, health centres, markets and schools.

A further 41 structures were planned to be constructed throughout Darfur using funding from the UN Darfur Fund. Omer Arbab explained the efficient process with a laugh: “The UN asked us to help them to help us. I was wondering, ‘What kind of help could we offer the United Nations?’ They said they want us to be the owners of the crossings, so we sat with them. They asked us our opinion about the best locations to build a crossing. Soon after the decision was made, the work began and shortly a crossing was completed! You may see it as a small concrete structure, but what we see is far larger. It’s a bridge that breaks our isolation during the rainy season. Children from nearby villages can come to our school, relatives from nearby can still visit, supplies can still be brought from Geneina city. It’s a guarantee that we can always reach wherever we wish”.

Community Maintenance Councils for sustainability of built structures and to trigger coexistence

Angemi area in West Darfur has been one of the focus areas by the Roads FaST Activity. It’s an area populated mainly by Masalit tribe (65%), Dajo (25%) and nomadic tribes (10%). During the conflict the area suffered a considerable displacement of people and in the last couple of years, it had seen a high number of returnees. The Roads FaST Activity rehabilitated roads, built crossing points and constructed a new causeway to better connect the 32 kilometers that separates the area from the El Geneina town, capital of West Darfur. The ultimate objective of the Roads FaST Activity was the provision of year round mobility in Darfur. None of these infrastructures would be sustained without maintenance so after the construction, the project looked for a way to ensure their sustainability. To do so, the project considered the involvement and participation of the local communities, so since the beginning, they engaged them through Community Development Councils (CDC). ILO was the UN agency responsible for the implementation of this component and has been advocating to local governments for the establishment of CDC’s.

CDC’s were based on the location’s customary practice or community’s customary law. They have received the responsibility for the continuous monitoring and reporting and maintenance of the roads and structures. Advocacy for CDC’s have included workshops and trainings on how the CDC could be effective. CDC’s were composed of community leaders and prominent members from all communities: farmers and nomads, returnees, women’s groups, the youth and vulnerable groups such as elderly and the disabled. They guaranteed maintenance of structures and monitor security to alleviate potential problems in movement, especially of women, children and vulnerable groups.

Arbab Omer Ishag Mohamed, Sheikh of Angemi village, is the Head of the Community Maintenance Council and talked very positively about the group: “Since the first sensitization meeting, it made residents of all communities to overcome their differences during the conflict and interact. That happened on September 23rd 2017. It was a turning point for Angemi’s community. People sat together for the first time after the conflict and discussed community issues and formed an all-inclusive community group made up of men, women, and youth, from all tribes: hosting community, returnees and nomads”.

The Sheikh added: “Currently the council is still not only overseeing the maintenance of the built structures but has also improved the state of coexistence between the host farming community and the nomadic community, rebuilt confidence, and revived the spirit of collective work we wish!”
Stabilized Soil Blocks: Self-housing and Income Generation Activity

Afaf Ibrahim Hamid, 35 years old, is a mother of 6 children living in Hamada village, Mershing Locality, South Darfur State. She used to work logging at a forest very far away from the village and struggled to carry the wood back the village to sell at the market in order to get income to help feed their kids and maintain her household.

She was then selected by the Construction of Public Facilities and Housing in Return Sites and Urban Settings FaST Activity to be part of the self-help housing programme which has helped eligible families based on their personal situation and economic income to receive support to build their own house. The project did an intense preparatory work with her community to raise awareness and equip them with the needed skills to ensure a full engagement in all the process of the project. Afaf was trained on production of Stabilized Soil Blocks, an alternative environmentally sustainable and cost-effective technology.

UN-Habitat, the UN Agency implementing the Public Facilities FaST Activity, delivered skills training and the machines and materials for the production; and beneficiaries contributed with their labour building their own house and got very aware of the problem that logging brings to the environment. After building her house, she kept on producing blocks and started to earn an income. After paying for raw materials, she could get up to 100 SDGs a day after producing 50 blocks and working 5 days a week, she could easily get a reasonable income. On top of this, Afaf was especially happy not to be harming the environment by cutting trees.

The Public Facilities FaST Activity has supported the construction of 350 self-help housing in West and South Darfur and trained so far 726 youth and women on the production of SSB. The programme also envisioned liaising trained beneficiaries with microfinance institutions and other entrepreneurship programme for making this activity a professional business activity and a source of income.

Construction of Public Facilities and Housing in Return Sites and Urban Settings

The project has been implemented by UN Habitat in partnership with the Voluntary Returns and Reintegration Commission (VRRC) and the 5 State Ministries of Physical Planning and Public Utilities (MPPPU).

OBJECTIVES

The project has addressed the urgent construction needs and requirements for a standardised, environmental friendly, low-cost housing and administrative building/public facilities design package for provision of basic services in village cluster centres at return sites, such as medical facilities, schools, police stations, community building and staff housing. The project was designed to bring about positive impact on the environment through the promotion and application of woodless construction technologies. It has also encouraged job creation through engagement of unemployed youth in the construction activities who gained construction skills to secure job opportunities in the local market during the reconstruction of Darfur.

BENEFICIARIES

It aimed to benefit at least 14,300 from SSB technology (directly); 13,700 in return villages and 600 in relocation sites in urban areas.

15,000 benefiting from administrative building facilities and SSB technology (IDPs 69,000 and hosting communities 81,000).

PARTNERS

The project has been implemented by UN Habitat in partnership with the Voluntary Returns and Reintegration Commission (VRRC) and the 5 State Ministries of Physical Planning and Public Utilities (MPPPU).

New Prosecutor Office in Mellit

After a long process of consultation with authorities, site selection, land allocation, obtaining construction permits and other required documents, the construction of the Prosecutor Office started in Mellit, North Darfur as we could see from the foundations in the photo. The new office was part of the work from the Public Facilities FaST Activity. The prosecutor office and all public facilities play a vital role in contributing to the stability of Darfur. They provide the people of Darfur with necessary services that improve security, accountability, justice, education and other basic services which were the ultimate aim of the project: improvement of physical access to administrative buildings and social services in return sites and urban settings in the five states of Darfur.

The project used environmentally-friendly and cost-effective construction technologies. The architectural designs for the sites were developed in a participatory and inclusive manner consulting with local authorities, native administration and representatives from the community. The new Prosecutor Office was planned to be completed before the end of 2018.
OBJECTIVES

The project has improved rural communities’ access to safe drinking water through the construction of 150 boreholes fitted with hand pumps, 16 mini yards, 9 water yards, and 25 hand pumps and supported running costs for 37 water supply units across 22 localities in the five Darfur states. Similarly, the project supported the construction and/or rehabilitation of water supply systems in 50 basic schools and 30 health facilities. Construction of new public latrines in selected return area and construction or rehabilitation of gender-segregated school latrines including handwashing stations in 50 basic schools and 30 health facilities. Infrastructure development was integrated into the interventions as part of their household chores. This is significant time commuting back and forth fetching water from haffirs (reservoirs) and seasonal water streams as part of their household chores. This is difficult work, and in some places girls and women feel insecure, especially if the water source is located at a distance from their village. Moreover, they often fetch water from the same source that stray and domestic animals drink water from. It can be difficult for a small girl of Amina’s age to find a place amongst the animals to fill a mediocre plastic jerrycan with water and carry it on her head or on a donkey back home.

But Amina no longer has to spend hours walking to a haffir for water. She simply joins people queuing at the water yard nearby, which takes 30 minutes on a busy day. The water yard has been designed to serve the community ever since. The water yard also provides water to the nearby health centre and school.

In the absence of improved water sources like the one in Amina’s village, young girls and women spend significant time commuting back and forth fetching water from haffirs (reservoirs) and seasonal water streams as part of their household chores. This is difficult work, and in some places girls and women feel insecure, especially if the water source is located at a distance from their village. Moreover, they often fetch water from the same source that stray and domestic animals drink water from. It can be difficult for a small girl of Amina’s age to find a place amongst the animals to fill a mediocre plastic jerrycan with water and carry it on her head or on a donkey back home.

Amina now has time to spend on other things like doing her schoolwork and enjoying time with her playmates thanks to the efforts of the WASH Services in Darfur FaST Activity, which is jointly implemented by UNICEF, IOM, UNEP and WHO.

Analysing water quality

In September 2018, the UNDP TS accompanied the Analyst Technicians from the Water Quality Lab from the WASH project. We went to collect samples of water from water sources to analyse it in the lab and check that it was of suitable standard for consumption. There is one new lab in each of the 5 states of Darfur. The one in South Darfur is at Nyala Hospital. It collects and analyse samples from different sources from all around the state. Water samples go through biological and chemical analyses. If they find any problem, they directly liaise with the relevant authorities to take necessary measures.

Water Quality Labs have been equipped with modern technological devices and staff have been trained accordingly by WHO, the agency leading this component of the WASH FaST Activity. After today’s analysis, the technicians informed that the water was good and totally healthy to drink!!

Measuring water to avoid conflict

The population of Darfur have now new information about their rainfall thanks to the data provided by community members who were trained on operation and reporting of the rain gauges, installed by UNEP and the WASH FaST Activity. During rainy season, trained community members will provide regular reports for 15 stations. Rain gauge operators provide records using their own mobile telephones for three months (June, July and August). We found out that the maximum rainfall precipitation in Darfur in 2018 was recorded in Khazan Gadeed with 942.8 mm while the minimum was recorded in Gorof 92.5 mm. UN Environment is establishing catchment management systems as ecosystem monitored with evidence information to better manage water and sanitation issues and reduce conflict over water resources as well as enhance grassroot peacebuilding.

PARTNERS

UNICEF, IOM, UNEP and WHO have implemented the project in close coordination and partnership with relevant Darfur State Water Institutions, Ministry of Water Resources and Electricity, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environment.

BENEFICIARIES

The project targeted 150,000 people (including 25,000 students, IDPs, nomadic populations) in 22 localities in the five Darfur states (29,403 men, 30,597 women, 44,104 boys and 45,896 girls).

Access to improved water supply in Darfur ranges from 20 percent of the population in East Darfur to 53 percent of the population in North Darfur. Access to improved sanitation covers only 4 percent of South Darfur and rises to 13 percent in West Darfur. In most households, where the source of drinking water is not on the premises, women and young girls bear the burden of collecting water.

For Amina, an 8-year-old girl who lives in Garajeem, her daily routine includes fetching water from the water yard in her village in Kornoi locality, North Darfur. The water yard was established in April 2016 with the support of Increased Access to and Use of Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Services in Darfur FaST activity and has been serving the community ever since. The water yard also provides water to the nearby health centre and school.

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**Darfur Solar Electrification Project**

**OBJECTIVES**

According to the Energy Situation Analysis Report, about 70% of the population in Sudan had no access to electricity and about 92% of the population used biomass for cooking purposes. Electricity supply was poor or non-existent in most rural locations and building usage was thus restricted to daylight hours. This Project aimed to remedy this situation and extend the daily life of community service facilities by the installation of solar lighting sets.

**PARTNERS**

The Project has implemented by UNDP and UNIDO, in close coordination and partnership with two government institutions; the National Energy Research Centre and the Voluntary Returns and Reintegration Commission (VRRC).

**BENEFICIARIES**

The project has targeted 66,640 beneficiaries (45,000 females). The project has been implemented in 70 settlements in Darfur. Each settlement is a focal area, serving 3 to 5 satellite settlements. Thus, about 35,000 inhabitants have directly benefitted from the project, while an additional 20,000 to 30,000 inhabitants from the satellite settlements benefitted indirectly through extension and improvement of community services, the functional usage of institutions and improved security within the settlements.

**Training on Solar energy**

A series of ToT training on Solar Energy have been conducted around Darfur. In Nyala in September 2018, 36 (32 males, 4 females) participants from South, East, West and North Darfur attended the training that was both theoretical and practical. Participants after one of the classes expressed their satisfaction because they had learnt how to handle PV solar systems including installation and maintenance. They felt happy that they would be able to pass on their knowledge once they were back in their respective areas and vocational training schools. This training was the culmination of an important component of the Solar FaST Activity implemented by UNIDO. After the development of a curriculum by the project and the approval by the government, the project aimed to mainstream the subject of Solar Energy into formal education through technical colleges in Darfur and Sudan. The component also envisaged the sustainability of the Solar Electrification Project, training professionals to be able to maintain PV Solar panels installed in communities all around Darfur, bringing energy to remote areas of that part of the country that up to now were off grid.

**A much brighter future with solar energy**

Sun was setting over Darfur. It was the time when students had to close their books and go home to do something else. Now schools turn on their lights. They started to organize evening classes, mainly for adults. It’s time for Magreb prayer and villagers could see the way to approach the mosque. The mosque itself also turns on its lights for the last two prayers of the day. Nights in the rural areas of Darfur are becoming brighter... Coffee ladies open until later while their customer can now see each other... Families at home can see their shadows moving around while preparing to go to bed thanks to portable solar electric lamps. These are all new illuminated scenes of Darfur thanks to the Solar Electrification FaST Activity implemented by UNDP and UNIDO.

During the day, Health facilities run a continuous electricity supply. The pharmacy of hospitals can store more medicines and for longer since they have refrigerators to keep them at the right temperature. Water pumps extract more water and from a greater depth powered by solar engines. They are all activities that have been impacted by these innovative solutions.

Abdallah Aldoma Abdallah is a resident of Kadadol village, he is still mesmerized when he expresses that the new solar street light just outside his house makes him feel safer and more secure to move around during the night. “If there’s any danger coming towards us now, we can see it now and avoid it. We can move now easily in the night around the village. I feel so lucky to have a solar street light right outside my house!” Solar street lights in Kadadol are powered by photovoltaic solar panels which absorb sunlight and convert it into electricity. The lights turn on and turn off automatically by sensing sunlight. They can work for more than one day without needing to recharge which is important during days when the sun is not shining, thus they also work effectively during the rainy season.

Kadadol has been one of the 64 villages in Darfur that have been equipped with Solar PV systems. Hospitals, mosques, households with lamps, and schools as well as other public buildings were being provided with general solar electrification energy supply. The Solar Energy Electrification FaST Activity has worked to promote Solar powered energy all over the 5 states of Darfur.
OBJECTIVES
This project focused on both the infrastructure rehabilitation and/or extension using environmentally-friendly technologies, and on the functional upgrading of health facilities, through filling in the identified gaps in terms of service delivery package, medical equipment and supplies, and human resources availability and skills. The project has improved twenty facilities, four in each of the five states of Darfur, selected on the basis of being close to large population settlements, required the heaviest workload and were accessible for the implementing agencies. An additional ten health facilities were selected in close coordination and synergy with other FaST activities, prioritising areas in rural settings.

PARTNERS
The project has been implemented by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and UN-Habitat in full partnership with the Federal Ministry of Health, the 5 State Ministries of Health (SMOHs) and the 5 States Ministries of Planning and Urban Development (SMIPUDs), and NGOs. The collaboration with three Darfur Academies for Allied Medical Sciences was instrumental for filling in the urgent human resources needs.

BENEFICIARIES
Almost 2.9 million conflict affected people. Of the target population: 1.46 million are females; 1.44 million males; 539,400 are children less than 5 years of age; 8.1 million people are below 25 years of age; and 725,000 are women of reproductive age (15-49 years old).

Medical School Academy
An important component of the Health FaST Activity has been capacity building of hospital cadres and new medical staff. As part of this component, through a scholarship the project has supported 172 students of rural areas from the 5 states of Darfur to attend the Medical School Academy. During 6 semesters participants studied and trained as nurses and medical technicians to improve the health service once they graduated and went back to their communities.

Solar energy for hospitals
Rehabilitation of hospitals and public health facilities in Darfur by the Health FaST Activity have been completed. In the final phase, some of them were provided with a solar energy supply. This was another example of the synergies between different FaST Activities to work together building on their activities to achieve greater results. This pictures shows the installed PV panels in Kutum hospital, North Darfur, by the Solar FaST Activity and whose rehabilitation by the Health FaST Activity was also finished.

Health services return to Um Labasa Hospital
Um Labasa Rural Hospital is busy again. Patients are queuing to see the doctor. They are waiting under the iconic arches of one of the buildings. Nurses are running around the court. The office of the director is full, hosting a meeting. A State Ministry of Health representative has arrived for an observation. From outside the fence we can see a group of people unloading what appears to be furniture, and a van is delivering goods, most likely medicines. The pharmacy is open, and a mother is trying to calm down her little son while the pharmacist looks for the prescribed medicines. These scenes are again routine at Um Labasa.

The hospital is located in a beautiful compound with four buildings surrounding a large courtyard. Since its renovation it looks even nicer, but more importantly, it is extremely useful. The capital city of the state, Nyala, is between three and four hours away, and during the rainy season it often cannot be reached due to the state of the roads. That’s why this hospital is essential, reminds Adam Abdel-Rahman, a farmer from Um Labasa who speaks proudly of the hospital: “Um Labasa Rural Hospital is functional after having been rehabilitated. They have done a very good job. Currently there is a good number of medical staff assigned by the SMOH, including one medical doctor and this can save our lives. We suffered a lot during the time when the hospital was closed. Even for simple illnesses, we had to travel either to Nyala or to Kubum. Travelling to Nyala is not easy for us, especially during the rainy season when the road is blocked. Now the hospital also has an ambulance service to transport the complicated cases to Nyala Regional Hospital. Um Labasa is a big town and in need of these services. As a citizen, I’m very thankful to all the partners who helped in reactivating the hospital, including WHO, UN-Habitat, SMOH, and Medical Insurance Fund.”
OBJECTIVES

The long-term sustainability of returns depends upon improved security, the provision of basic services and livelihood opportunities in returns areas and well planned initiatives. This project aimed to realize many of the crucial elements necessary to meet the conditions for return, working in complete coordination with all parties with responsibilities in this task. To do so, this Project targetted 50 selected return sites in the West, Central and North Darfur States to pilot a model of sustainable return and reintegration that could eventually be scaled up. Based on the first needs assessment, 10 locations in West, Central, and North Darfur were identified. The project benefitted from the best practices and coordinated its activities with the service hubs model implemented by the Qatari supported NGOs and with the DRDF programme already established in the DRA, prioritising of areas in rural settings.

IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS

Promotion of crop production: working to improve returnee households’ assets and agricultural production, six producer groups comprising of 300 farmers each (male and female), were established in Komoi (Wadi Sani, Onagra, Um mraheeg, Bajosi) and Jorbokie Village (Jorbokie 1, Jorboki 2). These groups were supported with six submersible pumps complete with accessories in addition to the rehabilitation of six shallow wells for irrigation. Three Pump Managers from each group were selected and trained on water pump maintenance and proper use. The groups were also trained on improved vegetable seedlings production, transplanting and post-harvest handling.

IMPROVING SECURITY

The return of displaced population by the conflict in Darfur lays considerably in their safety. To contribute to a safer environment and the rule of law, the Return FaST Activity built 4 new police posts around Darfur contributing to the safety and security of 113,500 people. The project also built the capacity of police officers in topics like gender mainstreaming, human rights and Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and have improved understanding on how to proceed when they face citizens reporting these type of cases.

IMPROVING EDUCATION

The handover of an asset to the community is always a festive event in Darfur, specially if it is a school! The community at Tandikro village in West Darfur celebrates the school constructed and fully equipped with benches and tables by the Returns FaST Activity. UNHCR has also built 3 more schools in West Darfur, in Jekjeki, Nyoro and Habila, under the project. School enrolment has begun and 591 students benefitted from the new schools, with over 40% enrolment of girls. This way the project improved security, the provision of basic services and livelihood opportunities in returns areas.

A safe and secure home for Tessa

Long-term sustainability of returnees in Darfur depends upon improved security, the provision of basic services and livelihood opportunities, and well-planned initiatives. Arbab Omer, tribal chief of Angeme village in West Darfur State recalls his first days after returning: “We returned to find our village turned into a bushland. You saw nothing but bushes, not a sign of the village that once existed. We were told that we are safe now and a police station was built to provide security for the returnees and community.”

The Promotion of Sustainable Return and Reintegration of IDPs and Refugees in Darfur Project supports rebuilding and establishing police stations at return sites to defend against crime and violence. “We are thankful, there haven’t been any violent incidents in a long time. Some small disputes every now and then but nothing we couldn’t resolve.”

Tessa was chosen by her community to be the first owner of a transitional shelter, an improved and environmentally friendly replacement of the temporary structure that she had previously lived in. The transitional shelter was built by trained volunteers from the community using stabilised soil blocks (SSB) technology. “I thought I wouldn’t make it alone,” says Tessa. “I once lost everything but am getting my life back now with the help of our community. They are my large family. This house is more secure, and it protects me from the rain, unlike my former hut. I am grateful!”

Improving Education

The handover of an asset to the community is always a festive event in Darfur, specially if it is a school! The community at Tandikro village in West Darfur celebrates the school constructed and fully equipped with benches and tables by the Returns FaST Activity. UNHCR has also built 3 more schools in West Darfur, in Jekjeki, Nyoro and Habila, under the project. School enrolment has begun and 591 students benefitted from the new schools, with over 40% enrolment of girls. This way the project improved security, the provision of basic services and livelihood opportunities in returns areas.

Improving Livelihoods

Promotion of crop production: working to improve returnee households’ assets and agricultural production, six producer groups comprising of 300 farmers each (male and female), were established in Komoi (Wadi Sani, Onagra, Um mraheeg, Bajosi) and Jorbokie Village (Jorbokie 1, Jorboki 2). These groups were supported with six submersible pumps complete with accessories in addition to the rehabilitation of six shallow wells for irrigation. Three Pump Managers from each group were selected and trained on water pump maintenance and proper use. The groups were also trained on improved vegetable seedlings production, transplanting and post-harvest handling.

Promotion of Sustainable Return and Reintegration of IDPs and Refugees in Darfur
Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) and improved access to employment opportunities for out-of-school children and youth

**OBJECTIVES**

The project aimed to assist large numbers of out-of-school children, adolescents and youth to attain literacy and numeracy as well as economic livelihood skills, to ensure their education, employability and a more productive and stable future. The Project focuses on out-of-school children and youth, young school-dropouts, nomads and IDPs by providing them with a chance to catch up on lost education, equipping them with necessary literacy and life skills and increasing their employability for improved livelihoods, prioritising of areas in rural settings.

**PARTNERS**

The project has been implemented by UNDP and UNICEF in close coordination and partnership the Darfur Reconstruction and Development Fund and the Voluntary Returns and Resettlement Commission, as well as the relevant state Ministries of Education and Planning, Ministries of Youth & Sports, and the private sector.

**BENEFICIARIES**

This project targetted 25,000 out of school children, 6,000 young school drop-outs and 420 teachers.

**Language for everyone**

Education is the key to success and development. You see me sitting in my wheelchair and you may think I need help, but no, I am educated! I speak Arabic and English and now I speak sign language! I can help others," said a determined Said Omer.

In his early 30s, Omer, a resident of Geneina, West Darfur, decided to learn sign language as part of the training provided by the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP). Omer explained his motivation to learn sign language: “I decided that I wanted to learn sign language because there are many children who are hearing impaired, because of which they are deprived from attending school." A report jointly prepared by UNICEF and the Sudanese Ministry of Education estimates that 49 percent of out-of-school children in Sudan are children with disabilities.

Fatehia also attended the training because she wanted to become a sign language teacher. She emphasized the importance of inclusive education: “It’s very important to include everyone in the community to ensure the whole development of Darfur.” She also believes that the ALP activities improve livelihood opportunities for youth, which contributes to reducing the risk of conflict.

The ALP and Improved Access to Employment Opportunities for Out of School Children and Youth FaST Activity led by UNDP in collaboration with UNICEF and a local partner, Believe in Humanitarian Action, have conducted vocational trainings at Geneina Vocational School. Two hundred young boys and girls obtained literacy and numeracy while learning a set of vocational skills of their choice, such as tailoring, masonry, general electricity, blacksmithing, automotive maintenance and repairing, or sign language.

Having offered training in basic sign language skills, the programme is considering a second more advanced training that brings participants to Khartoum to learn more complex skills.

**Back to school**

“I love coming to school because I love to learn and see my friends,” says Hanan on her way to Abubaker Elsadig school in El Daein, East Darfur.

Many children have been unable to regularly attend school since the Darfur conflict began—often a result of the volatile security situation or because their families can’t afford the cost. This was the case for Hanan, a clever, committed and high achieving student who had to drop out of school because her family could not afford it.

However, the security situation in Darfur eventually generally improved, and after two years away, Hanan gratefully attended school every day thanks to the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP). The ALP has been implemented in all five states of Darfur aiming to assist large numbers of out-of-school children, especially girls like Hanan. Youth, young school-dropouts, nomads and IDPs were provided an opportunity to catch up on lost education—attaining literacy and numeracy as well as economic livelihood skills—to ensure their overall education, employability and a more productive and stable future.

Abubaker Elsadig school is one of 52 schools targeted under the ALP. Hanan’s school was built in 1993, initially with eight classrooms. Thanks to the ALP, the school has now expanded and many IDP families have been able to register their out-of-school children. In 2018, the school served 950 students. It was supported with educational and recreational materials, including textbooks, school bags, teachers’ guides and sporting equipment.

Hanan received books and a fancy schoolbag that she showed off when leaving to attend school. She is so motivated and inspired by her education that she has set a goal for her life: “I want to become a teacher, so I can teach my younger brothers and sisters.”

**Teachers better prepared**

Between the objectives of the ALP FaST Activity we find the provision of quality education services to 25,000 disadvantaged children. In order to do so, the project trained facilitators and teachers. In total, 843 professional teachers have been trained (200% of its original target). On this picture we can see the last batch of training in El Geneina town, capital of West Darfur, with 125 ALP facilitators from Central and West Darfur (45F/80M).
PARTNERS
The project has been implemented by UNDP in close coordination and partnership with the state ministries and microfinance providers from the 5 Darfur States, the private sector and NGOs.

BENEFICIARIES
A total of 36,000 IDPs, returnees, vulnerable groups and poor producers, including Youth and Women (50%). It also targeted microfinance providers and mediators in the 5 states of Darfur.

OBJECTIVES
Access to microfinance and financial services providers in Darfur is very limited. The project aimed to increase effective and affordable access to microfinance and financial services mainly for poor producers including farmers, pastoralists, IDPs, returnees, youth, people with disabilities and women IDPs, returnees, and vulnerable groups to have sustainable productive source of income. prioritising of areas in rural settings.

Abdelmoneim and his group have been beneficiaries supported with start-up capital to run their project of bookkeeping and management. They were also trained in the fundamentals of microfinance, saving and lending techniques. Moreover, saving kits, metal money boxes and ledgers were provided to each group.

The groups were depositing cash savings for about four months. Savings installments ranged between SDG 5 to SDG 25 per week, and some groups reached a savings of SDG 10,000. ZOA also helped boost capital with additional in-kind items to enhance the VSLAs members’ ability to invest in small businesses. For example, each group member received SDG 1,500 worth of groundnuts. Groups started lending money to members so they could establish small businesses or manage household issues. Many group members took individual loans to set up small businesses, such as purchasing, de-shelling and extracting oil from groundnuts at a grinding mill and then selling the oil and byproducts (groundnut cake for livestock). The member then returns the loaned capital back to the group and keeps the profit.

The members are becoming well established, with some groups even beginning to lend to non-members. Furthermore, some VSLAs are planning to use the funds to expand their farming areas in the coming growing season and grow cash crops, hoping to increase their household incomes. “The days when we depended on aid and relief are ending,” says Awaft Adam, a leader of one of Idan’s VSLAs. “We make our own money now. We may have started small, but we will one day grow big, I am sure. I can see it!”

Abdelmoneim is a 27-year-old man who decided to take a chance and led his microfinance group into unchartered territories. “We wanted to do something new,” says Abdelmonaim, “something that is needed in our hometown of Habilla, West Darfur, yet it’s never been addressed before: a video games centre for kids.”

Abdelmoneim and his group have been beneficiaries of the UNDP-led Microfinance FaST activity. They were trained in the fundamentals of microfinance, bookkeeping and management. They were also supported with start-up capital to run their project of choice. Abdelmoneim explains: “We had very informative training. I am a law school graduate, yet I didn’t know much about investment and management. What I really appreciate is that we were given the freedom to choose the investment that we wanted. Technology literacy is crucial nowadays, and it’s becoming hard for people who don’t know how to use computers and smartphones to compete in the work market. This is why I suggested to establish this video games centre, to familiarize children with technology and to keep them off the streets drifting aimlessly. Our second phase would be introducing training on how to use computers for children and adults.”

The video games centre is comprised of a small shop with four to five screens and a video game console, in addition to a diesel-fueled power generator. It was financed after the group presented a feasibility study, which they prepared after concluding their training.

Abdelmoneim’s microfinance group believes they are offering an innovative and important solution to the prevalent computer illiteracy issue in their locality. Abdelmoneim says, “We intend to train government employees, youth and children in using computers. It will surely impact the development process in Habilla locality and Darfur at large.”

A total of 36,000 Displaced Persons (IDPs), returnees, vulnerable groups and poor producers, including Youth and Women (50%). It also targeted microfinance providers and mediators in the 5 states of Darfur.

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Recovery of Livelihoods of Vulnerable Farming and Pastoral Communities in Darfur

OBJECTIVES

The project has been undertaken in 55 sites in four Darfur states involving rehabilitation of 15 small reservoirs and 20 shallow wells and construction of 20 subsurface dams. In addition, the project improved agricultural and livestock productivity through promotion of farmer and pastoral field schools, community based seed multiplication and pasture rehabilitation and enhancing animal health delivery system. The ultimate result was to improve household income and nutrition among the targeted vulnerable segments of the rural population in Darfur, with a special focus on women, prioritising of areas in rural settings.

PARTNERS

The project has been implementing jointly by FAO, UNOPS and ILO in close coordination and partnership with the State ministries of Agriculture, State ministries of Animal Resources, Darfur States Water Corporation and Companies, NGOs and private sector.

BENEFICIARIES

A total of 288,000 pastoralists, agro pastoralists, IDPs, returnees and farmers (124,795 women, 119,775 men, 21,715 boys and 21,715 girls) were regarded as direct beneficiaries. More than 50% of the beneficiaries were women and girls.

A'asha Haroon Abdalla lives in Manwashi village/Hai Eljamil, in Merching locality of South Darfur State, an area targeted by the Livelihoods FaST Activity. The project has improved agricultural and livestock productivity in the area by promoting farmer and pastoral field schools, community-based seed multiplication, pasture rehabilitation, and animal health delivery systems. They also focused on improving entrepreneurial and technical skills to contribute to value chain development and income generation activities. The ultimate result was to improve household income and nutrition among the targeted vulnerable segments of the rural population in Darfur, with a special focus on women like A’asha.

A’asha’s husband is a farmer and has a small holding. But it is not enough to maintain the family. They have two children and are fostering two additional children, nieces whose fathers died during the conflict. Before receiving the support of the project, A’asha was considering selling her goat because it was only producing one litre of milk per day. She would have then used the profits from the sale to invest elsewhere. However, when she approached the Livestock Development Committee, the Committee nominated A’asha and her goat to participate in the Farm School and attend the milk production section.

Her goat was dewormed and vaccinated, and A’asha learned how to feed the animal with proper roughage and clean water. In short time, the goat gained weight and began producing up to 3 litres of milk every day. A’asha stopped buying powdered milk from the market and now feeds her children with the extra milk from the goat and sells the remainder to generate income. She happily explained that her children have gained weight and their health has improved. After two months, A’sha bought a second goat that got pregnant, and she saw soon an even greater increase in milk production that created overall benefits for herself, her family, and her village. She has now become a role model in her community and is also an excellent example of the positive impact that the Recovery of Livelihood of Vulnerable Farming and Pastoral Communities in Darfur project has had in communities.

Water is life

Wad Elmir’s hafr is bustling with activity against Water is a basic need and a human right but access to it in Darfur can be difficult and sometimes a cause of conflict. However, the Livelihoods FaST Activity contributed to change the trend. An example is Wad Elmir’s hafr. It provides now water for domestic and livestock use for 410 households and nomads in 8 villages of Elsalam Locality, in South Darfur.

It was constructed in 2006 but due to heavy use and lack of maintenance it’s condition deteriorated and the water holding capacity reduced. In addition, it had been designed in a way that both humans and animals were sharing the same water point.

The rehabilitation focused on the channel structures, review of foundations, the design and flow capacity and has included civil works: inlet, outlets, engine, guard rooms, sand filter system for water purification, installation of elevated tank, separation of human and animal water sources (taps and animal troughs), embankments and fencing. The capacity of the hafr has also increased from 20,000m³ to 35,000m³.
The WASH Fast Activity has contributed to providing safe drinking water in 26 localities of Darfur.

**Water pump powered by solar**

Otash village, South Darfur
March, 2018

### PROJECTS PER STATE

#### West Darfur

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#### East Darfur

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KEY CHALLENGES, GOOD PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNT

THE GOVERNMENT

- As soon as the programme started, following the result of the Darfur referendum, the dissolution of the DRA happened and the delay in forming the specialized commissions (the FaST activities) was the main challenges facing the beginning of the implementation of many of the DDS projects and thus the FaST Activities during their first year. In 2017, although the Commissions were already established, partners in the Darfur states did not have consistent contact with them as they had little presence in any state. Any contact with Commissions was generally done at Khartoum level. For example, the restructure of the Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission, there was no single government entity that could coordinate PRCS activities in Darfur. The project team had to deal with the five states of Darfur separately to implement the project’s activities, which induced high transactions cost. This was also experienced in other projects who work in partnership with the different commissions.

- After the DRA dissolution, sometimes the multiplicity and duplication of state governments structures especially the existence of Federal and State entities in the same project areas in the various states has been a threat to effective coordination of activities. A example has been the Federal VRRC and the State VRRC;

- The participatory approach engaging the Government and the community in all phases of the programme’s implementation has been a great achievement by the projects. It has enabled a better coordination and has assured the ownership of the whole process by the community and therefore a better sustainability. During the planning stages, projects usually tend to include the government and community leaders in the assessment of needs. However, some beneficiaries’ groups have expressed also their will to participate in providing with their own insight of needs and enabling an earlier ownership of the process. Great examples of engaging the community have been experienced by the WASH project in the establishment of measurement loggers and rain and stream gauges. UNEP trained beneficiaries on how to collect data and input it into a centralized system using a mobile phone. In addition to save operational costs, it also increased awareness about water resources on the community. Only problem was that in some very remote areas, there is no mobile phone signal, something that needs to have been also considered by the project. In the DDR FaST Activity participation of all stakeholders in the assessment of needs of the community and the projects’ activities has enhanced Case acceptance of ex-combatants. At the same time it has offered them a sense of responsibility within the community which it is very beneficial for the their self development and the communities. The same objective have the Community Maintenance Committees of the Roads FaST Activity formed by ILO, which boards include members of the different communities making them interacting between each other and promoting social cohesion and peace.

- A very successful way to engage the Government and the community through the implementation phases has been through joint monitoring missions organized by the Technical Secretariat with support from projects in the field including Government partners. Recommendations from these visits were quickly shared with feedback from all parts involving everyone. Thus, issues could be addressed early this way.

- Engaging the community has involved making extra efforts to include women. Many projects have proven that including women makes the activities more prone to succeed and prone to be more sustainable. In addition, to reach out to the community, involving the local media when possible, it is advised. They contribute to a more successful engagement.

- High turn-over of Ministers, Government and local staff in the Darfur states involved repetition of many meetings and briefings by projects to familiarize officials. This resulted in interruptions in the implementation of project activities. Furthermore, slow response and limited capacity of Government Ministries and the NGOs operating in Darfur affected the delivery of high quality, well timed, services;

- Continued slow response and bureaucratic processes within the Government and UN partners has contributed to delays in the delivery of any of the project’s Statement of goods throughout the programme. For example: delays in customs clearance of supplies created difficulties to the supply chain for some partners; Centralization of key Government partners and waiting for green light approval from Khartoum has delayed implementation of some activities; Another example is the process to convert UNDSS signing of Project Technical Agreement with HAC prior to commencing the implementation of project activities often taking a considerable length of time causing further delays at the beginning the implementation;

- Technical agreements for NGO Implementing Partners (IPs) with Government signatories has taken longer than originally envisaged due to the back and forth engagement between HAC (at state and federal levels). For example, HAC (Federal) requested all national partners to convert budgets of agreements from SDG to USD, resulting in a two-week delay.

- Projects might need to consider Government capacity and Government support to the communities when it comes to sustainability of some interventions especially those which require regular government follow-up and support such as in agricultural activities. Project might need to consider adding capacity building to make sure the desired impact will be sustainable.

- Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) disease outbreak affected Central and South Darfur States critically in 2017 which challenged the capacity of the SMoH to timely implement the project, as staff were diverted towards efforts for the outbreak control measures response;

- The Government undertook another restructuring process, this time at national level, during the last quarter of 2018, establishment of the abolished ministries were some time without a clear picture of where they sat, causing further delays in dealing with some of the project Government counterparts;

BETWEEN PROJECTS

- All projects have planned and worked closely together with their UN and Government counterparts to ensure clear understanding and ownership throughout the programme’s implementation. As joint projects it has also been important to ensure that there was strong coordination between the UN project partners. Lead agencies, with the support of their partners, worked hard, particularly early in 2017, to establish efficient coordination mechanisms within the projects. A good example of this has been the regular meetings that were conducted with partners by the Health project, bi-weekly in 4 states and every week in West Darfur, organized by WHO as the lead agency and the State Ministry of Health. The main objective of the meetings was to discuss the planning and to regularly share progress/challenges in project implementation. The coordination forum included all four UN agencies involved directly in the project: WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Habitat. Representatives from other projects including UNOPS (Roads), UNICEF (WASH) and UNDP (Solar) were sought, as necessary. The meetings were chaired/co-chaired by State Health Ministers, Directors General of Health and WHO focal persons.

- When starting implementation of the FaST activities four priority areas where conflict had been more pronounced and identified with higher numbers of returned displaced populations were agreed upon: Kornoi in North Darfur, Dimsu in South Darfur, Azum in Central Darfur and Rural El Geneina in West Darfur. This has resulted to be a good approach since it has shown as evidence of the holistic plan pursued (see Case Studies Section). (Tables on pages 52 to 55 show which projects have been implemented how many activities, and in which localities).
• Coordination between projects has also continued to bring common geographical focus at locality and community level and information exchange. For example, WASH worked in coordination with the ALP project in relation to school WASH interventions in 90% of their targeted communities and schools, and with the Health project in relation to water supply services at health centres. Solar FaST Activity worked with Health to provide a solar energy supply to 18 out of 30 hospitals rehabilitated by the project. It would have been ideal to include in all of them since it has proven to save time, efforts and costs. Same occurred with Solar and ALP providing solar energy to some schools. Same partnership with Public Facilities would have increased the impact of the services the constructed public buildings offer to the community. Another remarkable partnership happened between ALP and Microfinance on the establishment of Business Development Centers for the small and micro enterprises. The impact of the services the constructed public buildings offer to the community. Another remarkable partnership happened between ALP and Microfinance on the establishment of Business Development Centers for the small and micro enterprises.

PROJECTS’ CAPACITY

• Project villages were identified by DRA long time before the activities were ready to start to be implemented what caused a little offset. Certain flexibility needed to be allowed by the project to respond to what in fact the current needs on the ground at the time of implementation were.

• Dissolution of DRA and the long time taken by the Government to appoint partner commissions have caused not only big delays but also alterations in the quality of the implementation of some activities. For instance the late appointment of the Voluntary Return and Resettlement Commission (VRRC) might have affected the capacity building programme designed by the Returns FaST Activity and might have reduced its effectiveness, what it will be felt after the end of the project without possibility to monitor it and amend.

• Lack of qualified service providers in Darfur and Sudan has led to some tenders having to be re-advertised, what has affected the implementation pace of most projects, specially regarding construction and rehabilitation activities. As an example, the high UN quality standards for contracts conditions made some contractors withdraw after awarded solicitations being cancelled due to failure of contractors to meet initial contractual obligations, bank guarantees, insurances for staff and equipment... what made the tendering process start again.

• A big challenge for the projects has been the procurement of goods from overseas in Sudan (solar PV panels, rain and stream gauges). To smooth this process the experience learnt has proven to be very important to provide technical specifications in time, engage the Government for tax exemption as soon as the bid is made public, and start the procurement process having the funds available when tendering to avoid dramatic changes of value with the fluctuations of the Sudanese currency. In addition, a pre-shipment inspection should be in place for the contractors to avoid mistakes or fraud in shipping since once arrived in the country is really difficult to be replaced.

• Projects providing start-up kits for vocational trainees (Reconciliation, DDR, Return, ALP or Livelihoods for instance) advice to offer the kits at the beginning of trainings, this way participants can soon start livelihoods activities.

• Prevailing illiteracy has been a real challenge for the success of some projects with entrepreneurial and income generation activities like Reconciliation, DDR, ALP and Livelihoods FaST Activities, since numeracy and literacy skills are crucial for business management. In addition, the education of girls is not a priority within Darfuri families and the FaST Activities had gender mainstreamed throughout their activities. Therefore it is advisable to incorporate a component to build adult and women literacy into the project, or to consider providing a package of reading and writing trainings for the illiterates at early stages to ensure proper engagement and successful results. Besides, women have limited accessibility to market and financial services and information, due to social and cultural barriers, hence improving their skills and accessibility to resources enhances their economic empowerment and food security, covering basic needs where to start building on further development.

Curriculum and manual developed by the Solar FaST Activity will be part of formal education at national level

Solar Energy Training Nyala Technical Colleague, South Darfur September, 2018

Committee under the Ministry of Education has supported the accreditation of the developed course and its inclusion in the educational programme not only in Darfur, but nationwide. This will enhance the level of education in solar energy in Sudan and will provide a solid basis for the development of professionals leading to an expansion of the market possibilities. The results of the projects are already inspiring and encouraging other development agents to consider Solar PV as an imperative developmental need, particularly after the fuel crisis affecting the country since the second quarter of 2018.

• Considering the pressure triggered by rapid urbanization on an already fragile environment like Darfur, especially in terms of deforestation, the need for identifying alternative construction solutions arose. UN-Habitat therefore has introduced in this programme for the first time in Sudan, an ecologically friendly and low-cost building material, which has been applied in other countries of the African region before: the Stabilized Soil Block (SSB).

• In Darfur, there is low motivation of qualified medical staff to work in remote rural areas. However, the Health FaST Activity has contributed with enrolling an initial batch of 172 students from remote rural areas to the Darfur Academy for Medical Sciences. Students have committed to work in their areas of origin what will make the health system in Darfur less challenged. However, the need for a more adequate and sustainable retention policy for medical doctors and assistants in Darfur remains a critical gap. Also this activity would need to be escalated with expanding the initiative to other deprived, underserved communities and for other staff categories such as medical doctors and assistants.

The Solar FaST Activity might be the largest solar PV project ever implemented in Sudan and it is already serving as a model due to the development of a curriculum for a course in solar photovoltaic systems and a students manual. This component of the project has been such a success that the Higher Council to start planning these type of projects, specially educational and vocational, it should be considered that these projects are suitable for long lifespan programmes to ensure getting tangible results. In addition, local partners have limited capacity and some they initially need extensive training what takes time making it sometimes not feasible under these projects tight time framework. Thus, projects might want to allow efforts and resources to include an inception phase to build the capacity of the implementing partners.

• The lifespan of the project has proven to be short for certain activities aimed at community development, such as vocational trainings and microfinance projects. By the end of the project, it was still early to see proper results. Beneficiaries from microfinance schemes need longer time to properly invest their loans and grants to achieve good results before refunding them. When planning these type of projects, specially educational and vocational, it should be considered that these projects are suitable for long lifespan programmes to ensure getting tangible results. In addition, local partners have limited capacity and some they initially need extensive training what takes time making it sometimes not feasible under these projects tight time framework. Thus, projects might want to allow efforts and resources to include an inception phase to build the capacity of the implementing partners.

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SECURITY / ACCESS

- At the beginning of the implementation in 2016, the security situation in certain areas of Darfur was still unpredictable. There were constant security risks which included military movements of GoS troops and militias, targeted ambush of UNAMID troops on patrol, inter-tribal clashes, banditry, carjacking and theft of fuel and consumer supplies from guarded convoys. For instance, 3 UNHCR staff were kidnapped in West Darfur which led to deterioration in the security situation in the area and restricted movement of UNHCR and other UN agency staff to the field. Thus, several activities related to implementation of FaST activities, including field missions, were interrupted;

- Even though during the reporting period, Darfur has experienced a significant reduction in violence, especially since mid-2016, however there were still unacceptable levels of day-to-day violence related to inter-communal conflict, competition over farming and grazing land and water, crime and displacement;

- The launch, in 2017, by the Government of the campaign for collection of illegal weapons increased tensions in some areas of Darfur;

- However, in part due to the reduction in violence, UNAMID is to withdraw from Sudan by the middle of 2020. An initial draw-down of troops numbers and the closing of bases began in 2017; by the end of 2018 it was expected that UNAMID had completely withdrawn from East and West Darfur and further reduced its bases in the remaining states. It was considered that the conditions under which the mission was deployed had changed and might no longer necessitate a peacekeeping force; nevertheless, the removal of UNAMID reduced physical protection of civilians primarily around IDP camps, the deterrent effect of UNAMID’s monitoring role, and the positive impact of UNAMID’s response mechanisms around inter-communal violence. It was anticipated that there would be localised spikes in violence as UNAMID draws down, particularly around unresolved issues relating to displacement;

- Due to the UNAMID drawdown the infrastructure used by the UNCT and NGOs to operate within Darfur was considerably reduced. Some projects reported that the security of some project locations had been affected by the downsizing and the withdrawal of UNAMID presence in some locations. The withdrawal of such a significant number of personnel and facilities also has impacted local economies and DDS activities;

- The withdrawal of the UNAMID forces from some localities in Darfur limited the possibilities of using UNAMID escort when traveling to the field in these localities. According to UNDSS SOPs escorts were still required for field trips within all areas of Darfur outside state capitals during the reporting period when UNAMID had already started to withdraw. This made projects relay more and more on police escorts rather than UNAMID, which often was unreliable and more costly;

- The difficult and protracted procedures to obtain approvals (travel, assessments) from the authorities including Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), were posing a real challenge in some of the states especially East, North and West Darfur states. However, overall projects reported that access difficulties related to approvals eventually improved by the last quarter of 2016;

- Accessibility to remote areas in Darfur is mostly always difficult. During rainy season is even more complicated and in some cases villages get completely isolated with floods and poor road conditions, especially in East, West, Central and South Darfur states, where the rains are more intense (i.e. June – October). Consequently, this has affected to all the FaST Activities in the ability to access some of their project sites and therefore delivery of goods and services were delayed in areas where routes are known to be flood-prone. In addition, there was an unusually prolonged rainy season in 2016, a crucial year of the implementation, what brought extra logistical difficulties in relation to movement due to heavy rains and high water levels in river beds led to the inability to undertake construction activities. Regarding planning stages and implementation time frames, rains should always need to be considered, specially when mitigation measures cannot really be implemented.

WOMEN

- The inclusion of women’s target in all the projects has made their voice to start to be heard within their communities in issues like conflict resolution, peace and reconciliation, decision making... something that was unusual. The capacity building of women improves their involvement in the community matters and it’s a path to follow. At the same time the training of men in gender, civic education, and human rights by several FaST Activities (Reconciliation, DDR, Land, Returns) have proven to trigger a mindset change on entrenched gender biases and strengthens social cohesion in the communities;

- Personal and physical security remains a primary concern for women in most post-conflict affected areas in Darfur. Hence community-based interventions should ensure women physical safety and security is mainstreamed in all activities;

- Women more than men are interested in the elimination of conflict because of their vulnerability and exposure to related crimes and abuses so their inclusion in peace and conflict resolution activities is pivotal, as UN Women has been trying to promote with the adoption by Sudan of UNSCR 1325;

- Women more than men have great interest in clean energy as alternative, because of the security risk associated with their assigned activity of fetching firewood.

FINANCE

- The high inflation rate (35% in 2017 and 63% in 2018) and devaluation of the local currency has been the main economic challenge to the implementation of the projects affecting contracting, budgeting and procurement of goods and services... The continuous increase costs made targets for some projects to be decreased to reflect those increasing costs. For instance in the construction of transitional shelters by the Returns FaST Activity, the unit cost for each shelter was significantly higher than expected, the implication of which was that the number of shelters that could be built decreased considerably from 503 to 240 units; The DDR FaST Activity reported that inflation had reduced the value and quantity of the reintegration packages provided to ex-combatants, ultimately affecting impact on the sustainability of the livelihoods assistance;

- That high inflation affected specially contractors implementing construction and rehabilitation activities who were reluctant to sign contracts as the SOG continued to devalue. Towards the end of 2017, to try to resolve contracting difficulties the UN began to pay some contracts in US Dollars. However, this was not always possible as not all local contractors have foreign currency accounts;

- The instability of local currency has considerably affected the preparations of invitations to bid, which often needed to be revised based on the changing market prices;
The delay of fund release from the second tranche onwards resulted in some implementation delays as funds were not timely available, this was especially the case in tendering processes for construction activities, as well as seasonally sensitive activities. The second tranche was expected in May 2016 and was received in July, while the third tranche was expected in August and it was eventually received by agencies at the beginning of February 2017. This delay significantly impacted the delivery, in terms of the ability to plan, tendering process for construction activities and signing agreements with implementing partners. In a programme like this one, where release of funds happens by several tranches, a big lesson learnt for all the FaST Activities, but specially those with a construction component, is to plan activities with the longer tender processes in the early stages, this way they assure a timely implementation according to plans.

From 2018 onwards the cash flow for projects has been especially challenging. The inability to withdraw funds from the bank posed a major problem for some partners whom needed cash for day to day activities. This delayed many activities such as workshops/trainings, whilst looking for alternative service providers.

Implementing partners reported that the economic situation at that time, the inflation and the lack of cash in banks, all in all, negatively impacted their ability to implement the project activities in a timely manner what led to the need of a Non-Cost Extension.

In addition to the high inflation and rising prices, Sudan faced a serious lack of fuel during 2018, with many transportation services grinding to a halt. With a real scarcity of fuel, grinding mills, provision of water for humans and livestock, movement of goods and agriculture were facing huge difficulties. The impact of this was felt in all projects. For example, the fuel scarcity in the states hindered transportation of construction materials which led the contractors’ withdrawal and cancelling of the contracts in Dambar and Tanko, Central Darfur.

The lack of banks and finance in most of the rural areas, where the projects have been implemented, have jeopardized implementation making implementing partners struggle to access funds in a timely manner. This needs an extra effort to plan properly to provide with funds from the cities; in addition, cash transfers for implementation of projects’ activities in more remote/distant areas has also been high risky under the prevailing security situation. This led some projects to make use of merchants and traders who resided in those areas and wanted to send money to major towns where the project IPs had offices;

Projects with an entrepreneurial component have struggled with their beneficiaries to start business activities if borrowing capital was needed since the finance system assumes certain responsibility from beneficiaries. However, all beneficiaries are vulnerable: IDPs, returnees and have no assets to respond with to finance institutions. Another possible approach to consider in these cases would be to focus projects on stabilized community members with capacity to borrow from finance institutions and make them create opportunities for vulnerable population.

In general, after the implementation of the FaST Activities and the evolution seen in the communities where the projects have worked, it is proven that the provision of tangible infrastructures as ‘peace divided’ combine with capacity building of the community members including women mitigates local conflicts, and promotes social cohesion and peace.
The 12 FaST Activities working under the Darfur Development Strategy has been an effort towards a sequenced, coordinated and holistic plan for equitable, sustainable and participatory development, vital to remove Darfur out of a cycle of conflict and poverty, towards a stable and prosperous future. Funded through the United Nations Fund for Recovery, Reconstruction and Development in Darfur (UNDF) and implemented by 13 UN agencies, the projects have covered practically all spectrums of the development field: rule of law, disarmament and reintegration, land management and distribution, construction of road structures, public housing, public facilities, solar energy electrification, education, health, water and sanitation, services related to displaced population and returnees, microfinance and livelihoods.

Before starting, following an initial assessment of needs, areas of Darfur where conflict had been more pronounced, were identified with higher numbers of displaced population. Included in these areas were Kornoi, North Darfur, Azum, Central Darfur, El Geneina Rural, West Darfur, and Dimsu, South Darfur. Even though projects were implemented in many areas throughout the 5 states of the Darfur region, these areas were especially targeted. The large number of projects in these areas have complemented each other with many components and activities. In some cases, different partners worked on activities together; in other cases, activities were being implemented at the same time but had synergies with others.

LEST’S GO TO THE FIELD

After 3 years of programme implementation, the projects were coming to an end. The UNDF Technical Secretariat together with government counterparts and implementing partners went to the field to assess the impact that the different components and activities of the projects were having in the community. Asking if its mandate to support the efficient implementation of key components of the Darfur Development Strategy in pursuit of the overall objective of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur “to support the transition from humanitarian assistance to recovery and development” was being achieved.

Dimsu and El Geneina Rural were selected to be visited because they clustered activities from almost all FaST activities. El Geneina Rural with its three villages: Angemi, Makkada and Kadadol benefited from activities implemented by the Land, Roads, Public Facilities, WASH, Returnees, ALP and Microfinance FaST activities. Dimsu Locality benefited from the work of the Public Facilities, WASH, Solar and Health FaST Activities.

A CASE STUDY

In order to assess the impact that the projects have had in the communities, the UNDF Technical Secretariat has been collecting baseline background information through timely reports and regular monitoring and evaluation missions to the field. This visit was a bit different though due to the number of projects involved but especially because the methodology was focused on collecting information from beneficiaries at all levels.

In order to do so and thanks to a great exercise of coordination between UN agencies, implementing partners, regional and local authorities, a series of meetings were organized:

A general meeting with all of the community including representatives from the local administration, traditional leaders, civic organizations, members from the nomads and farmers, women and the youth and the displaced and returned populations;

Focus group discussions separately with men, women and the youth, with representatives from all social groups.

WELCOME TO DIMSU!

Ahmed Hamid Adam, teacher at one of Dimsu’s elementary school and also a correspondent for a radio station in the area serves as a host: “I welcome you to Darfur and to Dimsu, which is a village that falls on the western bank of the Ibra wadi. This wadi is a meeting point for two wadis, Ibra and Bulbul. Dimsu is an old village; it was developed with the help of the Savannah Development Services until it became a separate locality in 2010. Dimsu is a settlement at a crossroads, thus is home to many people from many different tribes. This has given to the area unique characteristics, making it house different cultures and traditions. Dimsu has an estimated population of 8,000 people. Fortunately, now it offers many services, whether provided by the government or by NGOs. The bridge you see as you enter the village is one of them. Dimsu has four primary schools; it also has two secondary schools, one for boys and one for girls. Dimsu was lucky to be selected by the DDS to host many institutions, like the ones created with the help of UN Habitat, UNICEF, WHO and UNDP. The new police station, the education office, the water facilities at the school and the hospital, the boys’ school, the girls’ school, the prosecutor’s office and housing, as well as the rehabilitation of the health facilities with the provision of solar energy in some of the buildings and the streets. Since we have good rainfall, the agriculture here is very good, however raising livestock is better; we have the biggest livestock market in Darfur, even bigger than Nyala. It might be even the biggest livestock market in Sudan”.

OVERALL IMPACT

- Community members agree that safety, security and social cohesion is one of the characteristics of Dimsu with different tribes living peacefully. Authorities highlight that the 2018 arms’ collection together with the opening of the new police station contributed to reduced criminal incidents and increased the sense of safety between the population and this is triggering returns;

- New police station contributes to the respect of human rights of prisoners allowing them a comfortable space to stay in the detention room. Before, due to the lack of proper space, detainees were chained;

- Together with the police, the rule of law system is now complete with a local prosecutor office, although it was still not operational (at the time of the visit), though the community were expecting this important need of their judiciary system to be in place soon. Before they
had to rely on the Prosecutor Office in Tulus, a relatively far away town and practically unreachable during the rainy season;

- The new local education office is creating momentum for children’s education within the community since the space is allowing regular meeting to raise awareness of the importance to educate children and discuss other different issues related to education, what is encouraging locals to register their children to school;

- The community is proud of the new facilities and they are taking care of them. Local authorities are encouraging this ownership through overseeing their management, preventing misuse and providing support through minor rehabilitations through communal works;

- Installation of latrines has dramatically reduced open defecation and the community are gradually getting more aware of the need to use them;

- Campaigns about healthy water and hygiene practices have made a positive change in people’s behavior towards sanitation and health, for example hand washing before and after using the latrines and how it can help towards reducing health problems like infections;

- All findings indicate that the services are benefitting equally all people in the town. The news of these services is leading to a gradually faster return of displaced people. This return is also triggered by better services which are taking care of them.

THE WOMEN’S GROUP

- Women had an extremely positive reaction when asked for a meeting to express themselves since their voice unfortunately is not generally heard in the community. They confess they hadn’t always been informed about the decisions taken. Dimsu has some educated women who serve as representatives. They only comment with certain criticism that they were not consulted during the planning process of the projects, although eventually once implementation was to start, implementing partners approached them.

- Between the 21 females who attended the meeting, Safa El Said Hamid from the Women’s Union expresses their gratitude on behalf of the group: “It’s the first time we are considered separately from the men. Dimsu is a very conservative community where women’s status is still not recognized by men. They have their views and they don’t consult us”.

- Regarding the new services, Fatma Abakar, teacher in the girls’ school welcomes the Prosecutor Officer: “because it will help to claim our rights and make our voice heard loudly”.

- Continuing with the status of women, Safa again, wants to believe that the Office for Local Education will help to change families’ views. “Until now, in Dimsu they have always given priority to the education of boys not girls, who also suffer the highest dropout rate. Early marriage is also threatening the community of women and hinder their development. We need more education to counteract and we need educated women to play a major role in helping to educate the rest”.

FROM A VILLAGE TO A TOWN

The commissioner of Dimsu Locality has been serving here for more than two years therefore he has seen up close the implementation of the FaST Activities. Since the very beginning he was very supportive and has developed a close relationship with implementing partners. Mr. Salih Rugal is original from North Darfur but he says he feels at home in Dimsu. During this time the Commissioner assures to have seen great changes. “Thanks to these changes as a result of the provided public facilities, Dimsu is now upgraded by the Ministry of Physical Planning and Public Facilities to the level three category of towns. In this category, the area will be entitled to mapping and to be registered in the GoS land system. The constructed public facilities shape Dimsu nicely. Before it looked like a village, lacking lots of basic services but now we can consider Dimsu as a town. And we are very proud of it compared to the surrounding towns”.

He then further affirmed that “our government is committed to take care of all the constructed public facilities by managing and rehabilitating them if required. We acknowledge the efforts made by the UN agencies working in our locality and we know the maintenance of the facilities is responsibility of my government and the people of Dimsu and we are working to preserve them in the best way possible”.

LESSONS LEARNT

- Improve coordination between UN agencies and FaST projects to make them more integrated and consider further synergies like the ones experienced between Solar with WASH and Health; and extend those synergies to make other projects more integrated like including solar in education and also in other public facilities;

- Better coordination between implementing agencies to also increase knowledge sharing to avoid repeating mistakes;

- Better planning. Functionality of water facilities has seen in most cases delays due to the lack of coordination between the projects installing the facilities and the Water Corporation offering the service of provision of water. In most cases, projects only planned the construction and didn’t think to connect facilities to pipelines network causing delays in the provision of service;

- Include women and the youth in the discussions at the planning stage by organizing separate meeting with women and the youth without the presence of men to let them be more outspoken.
CASE STUDY

El Geneina
Rural
(West Darfur)
ANGEMI, MAKKADA AND KADADOL VILLAGES

El Geneina Rural has definitely been the most visited area by the UNDF Technical Secretariat with monitoring missions due to the number of FaST Activities that have worked in the area and the number of components implemented. It was considered one of the priority areas due to the high number of returnees. It’s an accessible region, only 30 kilometres from El Geneina town, the capital of West Darfur. It lies on the border with Chad and due to an early improvement in the security situation after the conflict, the displaced population started to return in 2010.

THE FaST ACTIVITIES

El Geneina rural with its three main villages: Angemi, Makkada and Kadadol have seen the activities from the Land, Roads, Public Facilities, WASH, Solar, Health, Returns and ALP FaST activities. Projects here started to work early and implementation has almost been completed so currently the impact is more noticeable. Project activities have been scattered throughout the three villages, so the mission was aiming to meet all three communities.

FaST ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN EL GENEINA RURAL

<table>
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<tr>
<th>FaST Activity</th>
<th>Makkada</th>
<th>Angemi</th>
<th>Kadadol</th>
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<td>Land</td>
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<td>Roads</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Water Crossing Road that connects Makkada with Angemi and to El Geneina town (UNOPS)</td>
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<td>• Community Council for the maintenance of the road structure (LCD)</td>
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<td>Public Facilities</td>
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<td>WASH</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 2 Water yards with solar energy pump (UNICEF / UNDP)</td>
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<td>Solar</td>
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<td>• Solar energy to Community Center (UNDP)</td>
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<td>• Solar energy to WASH water yards, health facility, ALP school, community center</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Street lights (UNDP )</td>
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<td>Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Construction of latrines at the health facility (WHO)</td>
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<td>Returns</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Construction of Community Centre</td>
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<td>• Construction of Community Centre Saving Groups (UNDP)</td>
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<td>• Construction of Police Post (UNHCR)</td>
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<td>• Saving Groups (UNDP)</td>
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<td>ALP</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Construction of 1 school with 2 classrooms and latrines for boys and girls (UNICEF)</td>
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<td>Livelihood</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Construction of 1 sub-surface dam (UNOPS)</td>
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FACTS & FIGURES

This is mainly Dar Masalit, home of the Masalit tribe, although it also hosts some nomadic tribes including, Zaghaba and Rezeqat. Currently the population is mainly returnees with a few nomadic settlements.

- **Total population: 900 households**
- **1 school in Angemi**
- **1 health facility in Angemi**
- **1 police station in Kadadol**
- **2 community centres** (1 in Angemi, 1 in Makkada)

The main livelihood activity is farming during rainy season (July to September) and small cultivation around the wadi (water stream) during the rest of the year. There is also minor trade at the village markets. The nomadic population mainly breed cattle.

Relationship between the different communities is good and problems mainly focus on animals trespassing on farming land damaging the crops, and this tends to be resolved through traditional justice mechanisms without major escalation. It was reported that the situation has greatly improved after the Arms Collection Campaign undertaken by the Government in 2017.

New services appealed to returnees and made the population grow considerably since the projects started. In this sense, the activities were planned for a smaller population, around 260 households and currently there are 900, thus currently they are being overutilized with all the consequences that this overuse brings. For instance, water yards have been damaged, and it took long time to be repaired since the community has no budget to pay the fix.

The crossing points on the road that connects Makkada with Angemi and continues towards El Geneina town seems one of the major improvements. It has reduced the journey to the city to 4 hours when before during the rainy season it could have taken up to 24 hours. Patience can now be referred to El Geneina Hospital for treatment. It has also improved transport of goods and provided markets improving the local economy for both nomads and farmers.

FaST activities were designed for the 3 villages as a cluster to benefit services from each other’s village but villagers say they hardly move from one village to another and therefore kids from Makkada and Kadadol don’t go to Angemi’s school as was the initial design even though connectivity between the villages have improved with a better road.

Inclusion of solar energy to the ALP school has extended working time, and is now being utilized in the evenings by adults who want to improve their education.

Water yards have benefitted considerably the interaction between the different communities since they are used by everyone.

Number of latrines is not enough for the current population and it hasn’t stopped open defecation. Only neighbors living close to the latrines utilize them. Kids specially continue to open defecate and being the most vulnerable population, they are still suffering infections;

- Ownership after handover at the beginning was not clear to the community so they didn’t know how to address the situation when some facilities are damaged. It happened to the water yards and the solar equipment at the community centres which were stolen because the community didn’t think to take care of it. Better handover procedures should be in place to make sure the community understand the ownership of the new assets;

- Sketch mapping and demarcation of the village was done by the Ministry of Physical Planning. However, land tenure continues to be a challenge with land registration documents not really being recognized locally. This needs urgent solution, especially with the continuous arrival of returnees;

- Solar has improved security with street lights and has extended life beyond sunset. Women, especially, feel safer to go out in the evenings. However, equipment need a security system to avoid being stolen as happened to Makkada community centre;

- Transitional shelters from the Returns FaST activity and public housing from the Public Facilities FaST activity were really welcomed by the community since they offer a safe and secure home. All member felt safer living in these houses. However, the income generation activity associated with these activities hasn’t really been sustainable due to the high cost of materials;

- Community suggests the projects to plan for the facilities to be connected to the water before being handed over. The ALP school have problems with the provision of water and it has taken long time to resolve. In addition, they also suggest the school to be fenced to secure the equipment and materials it is provided with (desks and benches and the solar system)

- Sustainability of some saving groups has been challenging with some groups failing to refund the loans and this has made some groups discouraged and stop. The community ask for a way to enforce the sustainability of the groups.

THE WOMEN’S GROUP

Women in El Geneina Rural had a similar reaction to Dimbu when the mission asked to meet them. They felt glad to be included and raised their complaint about not having a voice in communal matters in their communities.

Women in these villages would like to be consulted more in the planning phases of projects. asked to be considered for the implementation of women activities done by women.