About DCPSF
The Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund (DCPSF) is a multi-donor programme established in 2007 to support the people of Darfur in their peacebuilding efforts.

DCPSF Annual Results Report 2020
Compiled, edited, and published by the DCPSF Technical Secretariat.

Cover Photo: Female members of a VSLA check their record books before the start of their meetings. (Photo Credit: Sari Omer/DCPSF 2019).

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### PROJECT INFORMATION

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| **Expected outputs (Phase II)** | OUTPUT 1: Community-based conflict resolution and reconciliation mechanisms are in use and working effectively to resolve conflict.  
OUTPUT 2: Peace dividends for community interdependence and coexistence are delivered;  
OUTPUT 3: Women’s organizations, including those representing pastoralist women, empowered to meaningfully participate in local and state-level peacebuilding platforms;  
OUTPUT 4: Improved networking, coordination and learning between local and state-level peacebuilding institutions. |
| **Reporting period**          | January - December 2020                          |
| **2020 Participating Organizations** | Completion of DCPSF Phase I Projects  
- South Darfur - World Vision International (WVI), CARE International Switzerland (CIS).  
- Central Darfur - Catholic Relief Services (CRS).  
- West Darfur - Rural Community Development Organisation (RCDO).  
COVID-19 Emergency Projects  
- Central Darfur: Catholic Relief Services (CRS)  
- East Darfur: Care International Switzerland (CIS).  
- West Darfur: Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA).  
- South Darfur: Darfur organization for Peace and Development Initiative (DPI) and Care International Switzerland (CIS).  
- North Darfur: Welthungerhilfe (WHH)  
GaPI (Sawtaha-Her voice)  
- East and South Darfur - Care International Switzerland and DDRA. |
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Executive Summary

Background

The Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund (DCPSF) is a multi-donor programme established in 2007 to support the people of Darfur in their efforts to rebuild long-established community mechanisms towards peacebuilding. Key activities include mediation, reconciliation, and peaceful settlement of intra-communal and inter-communal conflicts. Its core mission is to support local-level peace and stability. Over the years, DCPSF’s support has contributed to improving peace and cooperation within and between communities in the region. Specifically, DCPSF partners with UN agencies, International NGOs, Sudanese NGOs and CSOs to:

- Strengthen Community-Based Conflict Resolution/Reconciliation Mechanisms (CBRMs) and ensure that they are working effectively to resolve conflict.
- Ensure peace dividends for community interdependence and co-existence are delivered through diverse livelihoods options and effective natural resource management.
- Promote women’s organizations, including those representing pastoralist women, empowered to meaningfully participate in local and state-level peacebuilding platforms.
- Support the building of peacebuilding networks that advocate for peace in the region and provide the link between upstream initiatives and the broader Sudan peacebuilding architecture.

These four DCPSF outputs are related to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Outcome 5, which states:

“By 2021, security and stabilization of communities affected by conflict are improved through the use of effective conflict management mechanisms, peace dividends and support to peace infrastructures and durable solutions that augment peaceful coexistence and social cohesion.”

The Fund’s work is also linked to Agenda 2030 and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly:

- **SDG 16**: Peace, justice and strong institutions are at the heart of DCPSF’s work with communities in the Darfur region. Its goal is to ensure sustainable development is achieved through various peacebuilding efforts at the community level.
- **SDG 5**: Gender equality; DCPSF’s work builds on the principle ‘no one is left behind’ ensuring women and young girls can work with men and young boys on the journey towards lasting peace and development.
- **SDG 17**: Partnership for the Goals, ensuring beneficiaries from the community, as well as the State, civil society and others are working together in all peacebuilding efforts.
- **Furthermore**, the Fund supports the strengthening of natural resource management (**SDG 13 and 15**), economic growth (**SDG 8**) and infrastructure development (**SDG 9**).

The Fund’s work is made possible by the generous contributions of the Government of Sweden, the Government of the United Kingdom, the Government of Norway, and the Government of Switzerland. It is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

2020 overview

**2020 remained a transitional year for Sudan** following a political transition that began in 2018 and set in place a new democratic leadership in the country. This transition remained a key factor in 2020 as political changes affected the economy and national peacebuilding efforts. In Sudan’s West, the Darfur region
remained unpredictable with threats to peace and stability persisting due to long-existing inter-communal and intra-communal conflicts over land, water, and other natural resources. These problems were further compounded by COVID-19, which affected the delivery of peacebuilding work in the region. The global pandemic not only threatened public health but also the livelihoods of the vulnerable rural communities in an already fragile region with limited health services and an ongoing conflict. Since it was no longer business as usual, DCPSF had to re-think its programming options and use its influence in communities to promote peacebuilding alongside awareness of COVID-19 in communities we reach.

Despite the challenges faced in 2020, DCPSF was able to complete its Phase I (2018-2020) project implementation. This Annual Report shares key achievements, challenges and lessons learnt, as well as recommendations to ensure the fund’s successes continue.

**Key achievements**

**Completion of DCPSF Phase I projects:** In the first quarter of 2020, DCPSF’s Implementing Partners completed their Phase I (2018-2020) projects. Four Implementing Partners – World Vision International (WVI), CARE International Switzerland (CIS), Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Rural Community Development organisation (RCDO) – completed their project activities in the South, Central and West Darfur States between January and April 2020. One of our key activities were training sessions for members of Community Based Resolution Mechanisms (CBRMs). The sessions focused on topics such as conflict resolution and reconciliation skills, conflict mapping and management of a community-based conflict monitoring system, do-no-harm principles, gender equality and the importance of women’s participation in peacebuilding.

CBRM members were able to meet weekly or bi-weekly to share their knowledge and address cases brought to them by fellow community members. In total, DCPSF funding supported the establishment of 30 CBRMs with 569 community members from seven localities including; Umdkhun locality, Central Darfur established by CRS, Serba and Jebal Moon localities established by RCDO in West Darfur, Katyla and Ed El Fursan localities in South Darfur established by WVI and Kass and Bilel Localities also in South Darfur established by CIS participating in their activities.

The CBRMs heard a total of 587 cases. At least 491 were resolved and another 36 forwarded to formal courts. 70 cases remained unresolved during the project duration. Training not only provided skills for CBRM members but remained useful for continuing peacebuilding work in the local communities even after the project’s end.

**Completion of hardware/infrastructure components of Phase 1 Interventions:** With DCPSF funding, the projects also set up new markets, school blocks, migratory routes and established Volunteer Savings and Lending Associations (VSLAs) which have become a key vehicle for women’s inclusion and empowerment in Darfur. In South Darfur, for example, CIS established 175 Voluntary Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) groups, 92 in Biliel, 46 in Kass and 37 in Gerieda Localities. All together, these groups had 3418 members (716 Male 2702 Female). WVI established another 16 VSLAs in the Katyla (10 VSLAs) and Ed El Fursan (3 VSLAs) regions within the same state.

In West Darfur, the Rural Community Development organisation (RCDO) - a DCPSF Partner - established four new markets in Abu Rumail, Kafani, Jurf, and Mastariha villages. Stalls in these markets are shared by community members from different tribes and ethnicities. They are, therefore, a common ground for communities to meet, work together and promote social cohesion.

**Supporting vulnerable communities to confront a new global challenge – COVID-19:** In 2020, the world was faced with a new global challenge – the Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic. The pandemic threatened cities and rural communities across the globe, endangering not only public health but also the economy and the fabric of society. For vulnerable rural communities in Darfur, who face ongoing armed
conflict and key infrastructure challenges, the pandemic would have exacerbated an already challenging situation. To prevent any likelihood of increased tensions due to limited awareness and health services, the fund used its influence on the ground to promote peacebuilding by minimizing potential triggers of conflict due to the outbreak of COVID-19. This was achieved by implementing five (5) COVID-19 emergency projects in each of the five states of Darfur. The DCPSF intervention focused on:

→ Awareness-building among the local communities in Darfur
→ Strengthening of COVID-19 surveillance through supporting local health centres
→ Promotion of good hygiene and sanitation among communities through the provision of handwashing equipment, masks, and COVID-19 awareness posters with prevention messages
→ Partnership strengthening with state governments and other relevant organisations.

These efforts kept communities informed and reduced the risk of heightened tensions during the pandemic.

**Kickstarting the DCPSF Gender and Peacebuilding initiative (GaPI) - Sawtaha (Her Voice):** Following the marginal participation of women and girls in previous DCPSF activities, the Gender and Peacebuilding Initiative (Sawtaha – Her Voice) was developed to increase the meaningful participation of women and girls in peacebuilding efforts in Darfur. The project aims to increase the participation of women, improve protection of women and girls, and strengthen community capacity to effectively prevent and respond to gender-based violence in conflict settings. While the project focus is women, it ensures a whole of society approach by engaging with men among pastoralist and farming communities in East and South Darfur states of Sudan.

Implementation of GaPI Phase II started in June 2020. However, COVID-19 forced the DCPSF Technical Secretariat (TS) to rethink how to implement activities - mostly training - in the context of the pandemic and resultant restrictions. Despite delays, by December 2020, the project had made significant progress in training women, men and youth on various issues concerning gender in the community.

The project included five training sessions for groups of women, Community Based Resolution Mechanisms (CBRMs) members, government officials and religious leaders. They focussed on issues of leadership and public speaking; gender in conflict situations; Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA); Gender-Based Violence (GBV); and available referral systems.

At least 105 women and 24 men from CBRMs and VSLA groups from both East and South Darfur benefitted from these training sessions by December 2020. Many went on to encourage women in their groups to speak up in community gatherings or ensure they were actively participating in peacebuilding activities.

A mini baseline survey for the project was completed in November 2020 - the main objective to shed light on representation and participation in Community Based Resolution Mechanisms in East and South Darfur. The survey found female representation was only 28 percent with only 8 percent of leadership positions occupied by women. From a sample of 67 groups in both states - including 14 CBRMs, 13 women groups, 14 youth groups, 13 voluntary savings and lending associations (VSLAs) and 13 Village Development Committees (VDCs) - the study found that most CBRM members (both men and women) believed the role of women in the groups was to solve women’s issues only. Many also believed that, since domestic violence against women was commonplace in their communities, it was not seen as violence against women. The project aims to use radio and drama presentations to change mindsets among the communities on the role of women in peacebuilding and community development.

**Launch and completion of the DCPSF Phase II Call for Proposal (CfP) Process:** 2020 saw the Fund launch and complete its Phase II project Call for Proposals. The CfP had been delayed due to changes in DCPSF TS Staff and COVID-19. The process was informed by the recommendations of the DCPSF 2017 evaluation, the revised Terms of Reference, as well as the 2019 Conflict Analysis report. The process took approximately
four months (September – December 2020) and closed with the selection of 17 organisations that will implement 17 projects in all the five states of Darfur. Phase II project implementation started in February 2021.

**Challenges:** The key challenges faced by DCPSF projects in 2020 were the ripple effects of the 2018-2019 revolution which led to the delay in implementation of most projects. Just as situation was stabilising, Sudan was hit by the global pandemic (COVID-19). This slowed down some of DCPSF’s project implementation. Although all Phase I projects were completed by April 2020, staff turnover in the DCPSF TS and the government lockdown delayed the Phase II CfP process. New projects such as GaPI and the emergency COVID-19 projects were also delayed.

The fluid security context of the Darfur region, the drawdown of the United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and hyperinflation in the country also made project implementation difficult throughout 2020. Despite delays, most of the projects, as well as the CfP process, were completed by December 2020.

**Key lessons learnt:** The fluid context in Darfur requires periodic context analysis to avoid delays and allow for project revision within the implementation timeframe. DCPSF increased project durations from 18 to 24 months to allow for meaningful implementation given the context. The utility of a third funding window for small grants will allow for quick response to unforeseen occurrences in an ever-changing region.

**Recommendations:** The DCSPF Technical Secretariat will update the 2019 Conflict Analysis (CA) in 2021 using a roundtable discussion approach with key actors. It also aims to strengthen/relaunch the Peacebuilding Working Groups (PBWGs) by bringing more actors onboard, particularly from the State Governments, to provide linkage between lower-level peacebuilding efforts and key decision-making bodies.
In 2020, the ripple effects of the December 2018-2019 revolution continued to be felt across Sudan. The new Transitional Government continued to work to bring about democratic governance in the country. Despite these changes in governance, the situation in Darfur remained precarious.

Long-running inter-ethnic and intra-ethnic conflicts continued to affect the Darfuri people. A range of problems persist in relation to land occupation and ownership, the existence of armed militia and the proliferation of small arms. Through its trend analysis for Darfur, DCPSF noted various conflicts were reported in the first half of 2020. For example, violence in West and Central Darfur led to the loss of 303 lives. Conflict began in January 2020 when a group of armed Arab tribesmen on horse and cameldown attacked the Masalit voluntary returnees’ village in Dingkage (3km south of WFP El Geneina office). The attackers also shot and killed two policemen, burnt several houses and rustled livestock. In the North Darfur localities of Kutum, Kabkabiya and Tawila conflicts over land rights between nomads and farmers continued, decreasing the number of returnees willing to remain on their land.

The trend analysis also indicated a gap in the presence of security forces, specifically the police, to provide community security in the area had increased the likelihood of conflict. Women, girls, and children remained particularly vulnerable when they went out to their gardens or to collect firewood and animal fodder. While the presence of security forces remains limited, the extension of UNAMID’s mandate in 2020 contributed to a reduction in some conflict due to community patrols which protected vulnerable communities, particularly Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and returnees.

With demobilisation of armed movements not yet started and the ongoing the Juba Peace talks ongoing between the Sudan’s Transitional Government and several armed movements in the first half of the year, DCPSF’s peacebuilding efforts remained relevant for building community peace in 2020. The signing of the Juba Peace Agreement (JPA) between the Sudan’s Transitional Government and two armed movements (the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF), and Sudan Liberation Movement - Minawi) brought new hope to the region. Going forward, DCPSF hopes to use its leverage within the communities and its Peacebuilding Working Groups (PBWGs) to educate the local communities about it and their role in its successful implementation.

While it is anticipated that the withdrawal of UNAMID will leave a gap in the peacebuilding and peacekeeping efforts in Darfur, the primary responsibility for protection of civilians will now remain with Sudan’s Transitional Government. Its efforts will be supported by the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) – a new mission which was established in June 2020 after the adoption of the United Nations Security Council resolution 2524(2020) to support Sudan’s transition to democratic rule.

In its Phase II projects that start in 2021, DCPSF aims to contribute to the UNITAMs mandate through its Sudan Peacemaking, Peacebuilding and Stabilization Programme (SPPSP) particularly pillar three on; Peacebuilding, Protection of Civilians (PoC) and Rule of Law (RoL), in particular in Darfur and Two Areas. In this area, DCPSF through its Community Based Resolution Mechanisms (CBRMs) will be crucial for achieving a Sudanese led peacebuilding while the PBWGs will provide the linkage between the community groups and the high-level State actors among other things. DCPSF will also continue to support UNDP’s Peacebuilding and Stabilisation efforts through its work at the community level in Darfur.

The map below indicates some of the conflict density trends in Darfur as of September 2020.
Chapter 1:

**Completion of DCPSF Phase I projects**

**Background**

Since 2018, Sudan has undergone a political transition that is reshaping the path for peacebuilding in the country. Unfortunately, the Darfur region remains fragile and unpredictable due to a legacy of long-fought intra-communal and inter-communal tensions over land, water, and other natural resources. As part of its efforts to address these tensions, DCPSF continued to work with communities to promote peacebuilding and social cohesion. Working with several international and local Non-Government Organisations in the first quarter of 2020, DCPSF was able to achieve key peacebuilding results, including:

**Output 1: Effective community-level conflict resolution and prevention platforms in Darfur are in place**

![Image](image_url)

CBRM members after hosting a meeting in their Peace Centre in Umdukhun, Central Darfur. CBRMs have become a central point for conflict resolution in most communities in Darfur. (Credit: DCPSF 2020).

The formation of Community Based Resolution Mechanisms (CBRMs) remained the main vehicle for promoting social cohesion among communities in Darfur. These mechanisms bring different tribes and ethnicities together to address conflicts in their localities and villages as well as livelihood activities that enable them to support their families.

Working with 4 implementing partners – World Vision International, CARE International, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Rural Community Development organisation (RCDO) in the South, Central and West Darfur States respectively – DCPSF achieved several outcomes in the first quarter of 2020. With DCPSF support, these organisations established 30 CBRMs, with a total 569 community members participating in activities. The CBRMs heard an accumulated 587 cases with at least 491 resolved and another 36 forwarded...
to formal courts. 70 cases remained unresolved during the project duration. One of the key vehicles was the training that enabled CBRM leaders and their members to resolve several conflicts. These include:

→ Training carried out in Central Darfur by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for the leaders of the 8 CBRMs formed in the Umdukhun locality enabled them to conduct weekly meetings and resolve disputes. Of the 55 cases that were reported to the CBRMs during the project, 49 were resolved peacefully at the CBRM level and the remaining six were referred to courts of law. There’s also a rising preference among the communities to have cases resolved in CBRMs because they are part of the community and understand the cases more deeply. The training sessions were also attended by members of different livelihood groups, tribal and religious leaders, women leaders, and State Government leaders. Specifically, these groups were trained on conflict resolution, gender equality, do-no-harm principles, and social cohesion. The training sessions were an avenue for building social cohesion and bringing different community interest groups to address issues that affected all of them.

→ In South Darfur, CARE International supported the establishment of eight CBRMs in the Kass and Biliel Communities. Training sessions were given to specific groups participating in CBRMs. 55 women selected from CBRMs and livelihood groups in each of the localities received leadership and community management training which has given them more confidence to speak up and take on leadership roles in their communities. In addition, eight youth groups were trained on leadership, conflict resolution and community management. As a result, they were able to actively participate in selecting development priorities for each village, as well as conduct a youth conference in Biliel facilitated by Nyala University and chaired by their locality’s executive manager. The youth groups have also become the main conduit for mutual respect and peaceful co-existence in their communities through sports for football competitions in the five villages of Biliel.

→ The project also trained 70 Hakimas from the two localities on peacebuilding and recovery. Hakimas (wise women) are important in the traditional setting for promoting peace, many of them have converted from being hakamas (war-criers). Now, instead of calling for war, they advocate for peace and oppose harmful practices such as gender-based violence and female genital mutilation.

→ Similarly, CBRM members in the Katyla and Ed Elfursan localities in South Darfur, who were part of the DCPSF project on Community Cohesion implemented by World Vision International (WVI), received training in basic conflict resolution skills and management of a community-based conflict monitoring system. With this training, the Katyla locality CBRM members were able to resolve a tribal conflict in the neighbouring locality called Tolos, between Falata and Rizeigat tribes in May 2020. Following a livestock theft, attacks began resulting in 13 fatalities. However, CBRM members were able to use their skills to talk to all the affected parties and calm the situation. They were also able to help the Falata protect their cows from more theft using local mechanisms. The eight CBRMs formed in Katyla and Ed Elfursan localities had addressed 245 cases and resolved 218 of them, 23 were still being heard while four were referred to formal courts of law.

How do CBRMs resolve cases brought before them?

When a conflict occurs, community members will report it to the police or the CBRM leaders. When reported to the CBRM leaders, they will organise a meeting and attempt to broker a resolution using Jodia (negotiation) and Rakoba (an agreement to delay retribution) to resolve the case. Once the matter is resolved, the assailant or their family will make any required payments, if the assailant was in police custody, they will be released.
Output 2: Delivering peace dividends for community interdependence and co-existence

The establishment of peace dividends was also a key peacebuilding tool for promoting community interdependence and cohesion. Some of the key peace dividends promoted by DCPSF in the project areas were shared livelihood assets like markets and migratory routes as well as income-generating activities promoted through community-saving groups. In 2020, four new markets were established in the Serba and Jebal Moon localities in West Darfur. Three migratory routes totalling 137 kilometres were opened in Central and South Darfur respectively by DCPSF partners Catholic Relief Services and World Vision International. 191 Voluntary Savings and Lending Associations (VSLAs) were formed in South Darfur by CARE International Switzerland (CIS) and World Vision International (WVI). Details of these peace dividends are highlighted below:

→ In West Darfur, the Rural Community Development organisation (RCDO) established four new markets in the areas of Abu Rumail, Kafani, Jurf, and Mastariha. Markets are a key meeting point for communities and have become a place where they can interact and trade, promoting social cohesion and peaceful co-existence between communities. In addition to the markets, RCDO also constructed training centres in the Abu Rumail and Kafani areas which community members use for meetings and other gatherings to resolve conflicts as well as promote peace within communities.

→ In Central Darfur, CRS, with funding from the DCPSF, created two migratory routes of 80 kilometres in Kamjar and Mutoor. In South Darfur, WVI opened one new migratory route of 57 kilometres between Katyla and Ed El Fursan localities. The routes were marked with cement blocks and led to a reduction in conflicts usually arising between farmers and pastoralists during the migratory season when the animals destroy farmer’s crops. The demarcation of the routes was a cooperative process that involved CBRM members, community leaders and the Ministry of Agriculture, among others.

→ Voluntary Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) groups have become a key part of improving livelihoods for community members, particularly women, in Darfur. In South Darfur, CIS established 175 VSLAs groups, 92 in Bilieel, 46 in Kass and 37 in Gereida Localities. All together, these groups had 3418 members (716 Male 2702 Female). WVI also established another 16 VSLAs
in the Katyla (10 VSLAs) and Ed El Fursan (3 VSLAs) localities in the same state. These promoted joint labour and trading for women and youth in the community, who are some of their largest members. For women, the VSLAs and other saving mechanisms have been a source of funding for small businesses, enabling them to take care of domestic needs such as school fees, food, and medical care.

Output 3: Gender mainstreaming ensuring women’s organisations are empowered to meaningfully participate in local and state-level peacebuilding platforms

Ensuring that women are participants in CBRMs also increased their participation in local or community-level peacebuilding platforms. In many of the CBRMs, women can address family-level conflicts as well as conflicts involving other women and children. Through the hakimas (wise women), women were also able to take part in spreading the message of peace within their communities. The establishment of VSLAs across various communities was also a key vehicle for female participation in peacebuilding activities.

→ In West Darfur, the Rural Community Development Organisation (RCDO) has encouraged women’s participation in training workshops for CBRMs and in all the income-generating activities, so much so that in one of the CBRMs in Joruf village elected a female member (Om Aisha) of the CBRM as the supervisor for their market. One of the main entry points has been the selection and training of Hakimas (wise women) to promote peace in the community. They are the opposite of Hakamas (female war criers) who call for battle. In South Darfur, CARE International Switzerland (CIS) trained 70 Hakimas in peacebuilding and human rights. These women are now key in taking the message of peace to all the community members.

→ The savings groups have become a powerful tool for women’s empowerment. Most of the members are women who use this opportunity to start a small business to support their
families. In Central Darfur, where DCPSF partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) supported the establishment of 50 Savings and Internal Lending Associations (SILCs), the groups were found to allow women a degree of financial independence. One example is a female member (Halima) of the SILC in Um Dukhun town. A single mother of three, she started a vegetable and fruit stall using 2000 Sudanese Pounds received from her SILC group. The proceeds from the stall have enabled her to increase her capital base to 5000 Sudanese Pounds and pay school fees for her children.

**Output 4: Focuses on improved networking, coordination and learning between local and state-level peacebuilding institutions**

Some of the key partnerships formed during the conclusion of the DCPSF Phase I projects were with state governments and local universities. The State Ministries supported organisation efforts to set up CBRMs and savings groups. In South Darfur, the Ministry of Social Affairs was critical in supporting CARE’s efforts to register 24 VSLAs, 4 youth CBOs and two CBRM networks at Biliel and Kass locality levels and one CBRM at South Darfur state level.

Universities were useful in providing peacebuilding training for CBRM members. The University in Nyala provided the latest training materials for the communities on peacebuilding, conflict resolution and reconciliation. These were localised to facilitate easy learning at the community level.

In Central Darfur, CRS, in partnership with the University of Zalingei, provided training for select members of the eight (8) CBRMs established by the project. The training was important for promoting social cohesion since the trained members took this knowledge back to their communities and trained others. In addition, CRS worked with the University of Zalingei to facilitate a Peace Forum in January 2020. The forum became an avenue to address the likelihood of conflict spreading from West Darfur to Um Dukhun in Central Darfur. A social cohesion plan was created to ensure that Um Dukhun remains peaceful.
Chapter 2:

The DCPSF COVID-19 emergency projects quick impact results

Background

In 2020, the world was faced with a new global challenge – the Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic. The pandemic threatened cities and rural communities across the globe, endangering not only public health but also the economy and the fabric of society. For vulnerable rural communities in Darfur, with ongoing armed conflict and key infrastructure challenges, the pandemic could have exacerbated an already difficult situation. To prevent increased tensions due to limited awareness and health services, the fund used its leverage on the ground to promote peacebuilding by minimizing potential triggers of conflict if the disease broke out. This was done through implementing five COVID-19 emergency projects in each of the five states of Darfur. Details of their achievements include:

SPOTLIGHT ON CENTRAL DARFUR

In Central Darfur, DCPSF through the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) implemented the COVID-19 Crisis Precaution and Preparedness Measures Project which aimed at improving preparedness measures to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 in urban centres of the State. With DCPSF funding, the project was able to create awareness using radio to reach the most vulnerable community members in Zalingei, Um Dukhun, Golo, Nertiti, and Rokero. These radio sessions were used to dispel misinformation about COVID-19, encouraging people to maintain social distance and good hygiene. Other achievements include:

- Establishment of five task force groups with a total of 20 members, one group in each of the project localities of Zalingei; Um Dukhun; Golo; Nertiti; and Rokero. The task force members were successful in recording, reporting, and tracking confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the target localities, facilitating a coordinated response.
- Training to 100 health facility staff (30 men and 70 women) on COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures. The training was conducted in both Um Dukhun and Zalingei, leading to increased knowledge on how to manage the medical waste and mitigate COVID-19 spread in health facilities centres.

A COVID-19 infection prevention training for community members and health workers in Zalingei organised by DCPSF partner CRS. (Credit: CRS 2020).
Ten radio sessions were conducted on Zalingei Radio FM, disseminating information on COVID-19 as well as health messaging on rainy season diseases. These enabled CRS and partners to reach a large part of the community (over 23,081 people – 10,383 male and 12,698 female) who have limited access to the internet and newspapers. Various community members called in during these sessions to get clarification on what COVID 19 is and how they can prevent it.

In addition, 2000 different information, education and communication materials including signs were set up near health centres, while others were translated into Arabic and distributed to communities. These reached at least 17,000 people in the targeted communities.

To strengthen information sharing between the locality, the state, and Khartoum, CRS set up a Wi-Fi system with full accessories at the isolation centre in Zalingei. This helped facilitate reporting and information sharing between the State Ministry of Health in Central Darfur and Khartoum, improving both communication speed and operational efficiency.

DCPSF through CRS provided two plastic water tanks for the isolation centres in Zalingei and Um Dukhun, supporting their WASH activities. In addition, 16 handwashing stations (eight in each locality) were provided to schools in the Zalingei and Um Dukhun which were conducting Sudanese Certification exams. In Golo, Rokoro, Um Dukhun and Zalingei, CRS provided 120 bottles of hand sanitiser, 120 bottles of liquid soap, and 10 cartons of tissue paper for students sitting their exams. The project team also provided SMoH with 12 cartons of facemasks to protect their health workers.

Success Story: Youth Volunteers spreading awareness on COVID-19 in Central Darfur

Nour Eldeen Mohamed (pictured) is a youth community awareness volunteer leading awareness campaigns on COVID-19 in his hometown of Zalingei. Trained by DCPSF Partner – Catholic Relief Service (CRS) as part of the COVID-19 project - Nour Eldeen took his campaign to markets, youth groups and other community public spaces sharing COVID-19 prevention messages to his community in Zalingei.

“Before my training, I had some misunderstanding about COVID-19 and lacked information about this disease. I was not practising any preventative measures in my daily life. However, when I got involved in the community extension for COVID-19, I recognised my behaviour was not right and changed. I am now more adaptive and careful as I carry on my daily activities in the community,” Nour Eldeen shared.

He added that he was very happy with his new role in the community because it has enabled him to build relationships with various community leaders who helped him take his information further to safeguard their communities. As a result of this intervention and the passion of young people like Nour Eldeen, most of the target communities in Central Darfur Zalingei, Um Dukhun, Rokoro, Nertiti and Golo have adapted to the new behaviours required to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Nour Eldeen’s efforts were made possible with DCPSF’s funding to CRS which partnered with the State Ministry of Health and Social Development (SMoHSD) to disseminate information on the spread and prevention of COVID-19. Youth volunteers were essential in ensuring that this information reached the farthest corners of Central Darfur.
In North Darfur, DCPSF supported Welthungerhilfe (WHH) to implement the *Emergency response and preparedness to COVID-19 for Vulnerable Communities* (Kutum, El Fasher rural and Alwaha Localities). With DCPSF funding, the project was able to:

→ Create awareness through 16 community mobilization sessions which were held in 10 marketplaces and six Health Clinic centres during the project period, reaching at least 23,200 people and leading to increased awareness on infection, prevention, and control of COVID-19.
→ Print 20,120 posters and leaflets of different sizes and disseminated the materials to community members at marketplaces and mosques as part of awareness efforts, leading to increased knowledge on COVID-19 prevention measures.
→ Eight hakamas were broadcast daily in Arabic for two months (14 times per week) on the El Fasher radio stations informing the communities of COVID-19 infection, prevention, and control. This increased uptake of preventive measures.
→ 16 handwashing stations were installed in the ten target marketplaces in 14 villages along with 10 plastic 1,000-litre water storage tanks, one for each market. In addition, 88 cartons of disinfection and sanitization materials and 170 cartons of handwashing soaps were distributed. These promoted hygiene in marketplaces as part of the increased access to and utilisation of prevention mechanisms.
→ 10 plastic water storage tanks of 750 Litres, water and handwashing facilities and soap were also provided to the six health facilities across the 14 villages. At least 48,233 community members
were able to get access to water as well as information on COVID-19 when they visited the health facilities.

The project reached over 11,600 persons directly, 50 percent of those were women, 40 percent were men and 10 percent youth and children.

**Success Story: Amna of Corona**

Amna Elzain Ahmed A Teem (right), a community leader has become a COVID-19 awareness champion in Kutum locality, North Darfur. The chairwoman of the women’s society in her locality and a member of the Peace and Development Village Council, Amna took an early lead on COVID-19 prevention and awareness activities and became an advocate for proper handwashing and maintaining social distancing: two crucial behaviours for the prevention of COVID-19 in her community.

Trained as a mediator in her community through a previous DCPSF project, these skills came in handy when she needed to educate others to ensure her community was safe from this new threat. She became active in disseminating recorded COVID-19 awareness messages using a megaphone, distributing posters and leaflets to female farmers, and the Hakama in Mario village council earning her the name: “Amna of Corona.”

“I am not satisfied with earning new titles, what I want is peace and protection from all kinds of threats to my community,” Amna said. She hopes that DCPSF will extend their peacebuilding activities to other villages in future.

Through her efforts, handwashing facilities installed in Kutum were regularly supplied with soap and water so the community members could wash their hands before and after shopping at the market. She also helped to address the stereotypes and myths held by the community around the origin and spread of COVID-19 – critical to improve communities understanding of COVID-19 and driving behaviour change.
In East Darfur, DCPSF supported Care International Switzerland (CIS) to implement the *Enhancing East Darfur state capacity to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic* project, delivered in three localities: Abu Karinka, Assalya and Eldeain. Working with some of the established systems of CBRMs, CIS was able to achieve the following results:

→ Trained 100 community members (60 women and 40 men) from Community Based Resilience Mechanisms (CBRMs) in COVID-19 surveillance. This led to increased identification, isolation, and reporting of suspected cases as well as appropriate outbreak management.

→ In addition, three Early Warning and Reporting (EWAR) mechanisms, one in each of the targeted localities (Abu Karinka, Assalya and Eldeain) were established to conduct active case surveillance. This enabled easy follow-up of suspected cases of the virus for State Health Officials.

→ Ten handwashing stands were set up at various community gathering points including one in the stabilization centre in Ed Daein, four in the health facilities located in IDP camps in Ed Daein, and two in Jadl-seed mosque and nutrition centre, three in the Alsunta market, school and nutrition facilities. The child-friendly hand washing stands enabled communities to improve their hygiene and follow mandated COVID-19 prevention mechanisms.

→ CARE also provided assorted Personnel Protection Equipment (PPE) for healthcare service providers and community outreach workers in the targeted localities, enabling them to work safely.

→ Distribution of 30,000 different IEC materials in Arabic, including pamphlets, based on State Ministry of Health/World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines. These were distributed at health facilities, public areas, such as schools and health facilities, as well as during house-to-house visits reaching at least 56,000 people including pastoralists, farmers, and refugees in the targeted localities.

→ In addition, 60 community radio broadcasts were conducted to raise awareness in the community and increase understanding of COVID-19 transmission and prevention. Particular attention was
given to mothers in nutrition/stabilisation centres who were taught how to prevent communicable diseases including COVID-19, these mothers were able to take these messages back home to protect their children and families.

**SPOTLIGHT ON**

**SOUTH DARFUR**

![A Steering Committee member disinfecting a school in Bilel locality, South Darfur. This was one of the DCPSF funded initiatives to prevent the breakout and spread of COVID-19 in the State. (Credit: DPI 2020).]

In South Darfur, the Darfur Organization for Peace and Development Initiative (DPI) implemented the *Response to COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness* project. This DPI intervention focused on community awareness, capacity building, prevention sharing information on COVID-19. With DCPSF funding, the organisation set up:

- 20 steering committees (10 in Alradom and 10 in Bilel) to support project efforts to create awareness about COVID-19 and its prevention. At least 70 percent of community members reported having changed their behaviour due to the efforts of the Steering Committee members leading to improved hygiene in the community.
- Drama group presentations, as well as the distribution of posters, increased community awareness on COVID-19 transmission and prevention leading to increased social distancing and other community prevention practices. These awareness campaigns reached at least 20,000 community members, leading to a reduced number of cases in the Alradom and Bilel communities.
- There was increased hygiene and sanitation after the distribution of COVID-19 prevention kits including masks, soap, and chlorine. These were distributed to 18,000 individuals in the two localities of Alradom and Bilel. These kits made it easy for community members to practise prevention/hygiene methods that had been taught by the steering committee members.
Hygiene campaigns conducted in the two localities not only reduced the incidence of COVID-19 infection but also the number of disease cases caused by poor sanitation such as diarrhoea (reports from the State Ministry of Health indicate a reduction in diarrhoea cases of 40 percent and other water-borne diseases of 34 percent).

Success Story: Preventing Corona through Steering Committees

The Bilel Steering Committees in Bilel Community in South Darfur have become very active in ensuring that the community remains safe from the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Led by Nasreildein Adam Ahmed, the committees have set out to ensure that their communities are well-equipped with information on COVID-19. This was after receiving training from DPI – DCPSF’s implementing partner in South Darfur. For three months, members of the Bilel Steering Committees went to every village in their community to share information on COVID-19 and prevention. They visited schools, medical centres, State offices and market locations sharing fliers with COVID-19 prevention messages, spraying public areas, and encouraging hand washing as well as social distancing.

The Committees also worked (and continue to work) with the State Ministry of Health (SMoH) to gather information from the community on who might not be well and where more awareness efforts are needed. This has contributed to SMoH’s surveillance efforts in the locality ensuring that there are only a few COVID-19 cases reported in the communities. These efforts led to an improvement in hygiene and sanitation in reducing the incidence of COVID-19 infection as well as several other sanitation-related diseases such as diarrhoea.

SPOTLIGHT ON WEST DARFUR

Community members attend an awareness-raising session in Kerenik locality, West Darfur. (Credit: ADRA 2020).

In West Darfur, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) focused on enhancing community awareness of COVID-19. In partnership with the State Ministry of Health, ADRA worked on the following activities:

→ It collaborated with the West Darfur State Ministry of Health, Health Enhancement Department, at the local level to identify the most vulnerable areas in Kerenik locality to provide awareness information and
disseminate messages on COVID-19 via broadcast in local media, mobile media, printed material and posters.

→ To ensure quality water was available to communities, chlorine tablets were distributed to water distribution points. In addition, hand sanitisers and face masks were given to health workers at the Kerenik locality.

→ COVID-19 awareness campaigns were held at water points in 18 villages targeting women, men and youth who collect water. This not only increased awareness but encouraged community members to practise social distancing and other hygiene measures.

Key partnerships

→ The COVID-19 emergency project saw partnerships built with the State Ministry of Health in each of the five states. While all partners worked with Health Ministries, others like Catholic Relief Services (CRS) signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with the State Ministries of Health. This strengthened their working relationship and ensured the sustainability of the project initiatives long after their completion.

→ At the state level, partnerships were formed and strengthened with CBRMs, Youth and Women’s Associations. Other local and international Non-Government Organisations also carried out activities in the same areas. For example, WHH collaborated with Al Rayan for Social Development (RSD), who were involved mainly in organising communities in target locations. WHH also encouraged community ownership by working with CBRMs in their locality to ensure WASH infrastructure was well taken care of, and that tanks and handwashing facilities always had water and soap during market days.

Main challenges faced

→ Most of the Implementing Partners were impacted by Government mandated restrictions on movement to prevent the spread of COVID-19. However, many of them partnered with the State level Ministry of Health which categorised their work as lifesaving, enabling them to reach communities with key prevention messages.

→ Another key challenge was currency inflation which affected the procurement of materials for communities. DPI for example was only able to install only 10 water stations for hand washing instead of the targeted 40.

→ In some instances, the rainy season which occurred during the implementation of the projects meant that some areas were inaccessible for community groups sharing prevention messages. However, the use of radio messages helped in ensuring these messages were able to reach various communities.

Recommendations

→ To ensure communities remain aware of their role in fighting the pandemic, Implementing Partners recommended COVID-19 awareness measures be incorporated into the other DCPSF projects for sustainability.

→ Current inflationary tendencies need to be included in project planning and key procurements made early to ensure that projects can achieve all their planned activities.
Chapter 3: Gender and Peacebuilding initiative (GaPI) - Sawtaha (Her Voice)

DCPSF Gender and Peacebuilding initiative (GaPI) - Sawtaha (Her Voice) was developed after extensive research and analysis on the participation of women in peacebuilding initiatives in the Darfur region showed it to be marginal. Carried out by CARE International Switzerland (CIS) and its national partners - Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency (DDRA) and Global Aid Hand (GAH) - the research included 20 CBRMs from the five Darfur States, revealing there was only 27 percent participation of women in the CBRMs. Female leadership in CBRMs was found to be just 6 percent. This was attributed to the traditional gender roles and perceived responsibilities of women in the home not allowing them enough time to spend in CBRM meetings. In addition, the traditional concepts on the roles of women also saw them excluded in many activities in CBRMs and other key decision-making bodies. The research recommendations called for the strengthening of women’s participation through training around gender equality, Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and increasing awareness on the importance of gender equality and women’s participation among other recommendations.

Following this research, a GaPI (Sawtaha) second phase was developed to action the recommendations. The second phase of the initiative was developed to increase the meaningful participation of women and girls in peacebuilding efforts in Darfur. The project aims to increase the participation of women and girls in CBRMs, strengthen their capacity to amplify their voices and engage meaningfully in public spaces. Outcomes include the improvement of the protection of women and girls and strengthening the capacity of the community to effectively prevent and respond to gender-based violence. While the project focus is women, it ensures a whole of society approach by engaging with men among pastoralist and farming communities in East and South Darfur states of Sudan. GaPI also supports the UN Security Council’s Resolution 1325 on the role of women in peace and the Sudan National Action Plan (NAP) on its implementation. While it supports all the NAP’s pillars, with a specific focus on participation and economic
empowerment of women and girls so that they can become active participants and leaders in CBRMs and other community peacebuilding groups.

**Project implementation**

![A small group discussion for some members of CBRMs during a GaPI training session. (Photo credit: CIS 2020).](image)

The implementation of the GaPI phase II initiative began in June 2020 despite being delayed by COVID-19 restrictions. These restrictions required DCPSF and its implementing partner CARE International Switzerland (CIS) to re-strategize on how to implement in the new context. Despite delays, the project had made significant progress in training women, men and youth on various issues concerning gender in the community by December 2020.

**Key results of the initiative in 2020 include:**

- Five training sessions for groups of women, Community Based Resolution Mechanisms (CBRMs) members, government officials and religious leaders on issues of leadership and public speaking; gender in conflict situations; Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA); Gender-Based Violence (GBV); and available referral systems. At least 105 women and 24 men from CBRMs and VSLAs groups from both East and South Darfur benefited from these training sessions by December 2020. They went on to encourage women in their groups to speak up in community gatherings or ensure they were actively participating in peacebuilding activities.

- Some training around the management of community conflicts included CBRM leaders - who are almost always male - and emphasized the importance of equal representation of women and men in CBRMs. Although early days, there is a slight shift in the perception of women’s participation, with leaders giving female members in CBRMs opportunities to speak in the meetings. It is hoped that by the end of the project, more women will be actively speaking up and taking on leadership roles in the community groups.

- Furthermore, a mini baseline project survey was completed in November 2020, exploring the representation and participation in Community Based Resolution Mechanisms in East and South Darfur. In this regard, the survey found that female representation was only 28 percent with only 8 percent of leadership positions held by women. From a sample of 67 groups in both states including 14 CBRMs, 13 Women groups, 14 Youth groups, 13 VSLAs and 13 VDCs, it was found most CBRM members (both men and women) believed the role of women in the groups was to solve women’s issues only. Many also believed that since domestic violence against women was commonplace in their communities, it was not seen as violence against women. The project aims to use radio and drama presentations to change mindsets among the communities on the role of women in peacebuilding and community development.
Key issues/challenges faced during GaPI implementation

Some of the key challenges faced during 2020 include:

→ The restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic not only delayed the start of the project’s implementation but reduced the number of community members who could be trained. It also limited community outreach activities due to the required COVID-19 social distance requirements. However, this was addressed through providing training to selected CBRM and other community group leaders who in turn trained members of their groups and communities.

→ Currency inflation in the country affected several project activities. This is because price estimations for items like hall hire and transportation increased drastically in a short time, leading to a cut-back on how certain activities are carried out.

→ The start of the rainy season in September also delayed the start of the mini baseline survey but it was completed in November 2020.
Chapter 4:
The DCPSF Phase II Call for Proposal Process - 2020

Background

In 2020, DCPSF launched and completed its Call for Proposal (CfP) process bringing on board 17 new Implementing Partners to implement an equal number of projects in Darfur’s five states. The process started with the approval of the Steering Committee, allowing the DCPSF Technical Secretariat to develop the Terms of Reference (ToR) for new projects. The ToR focused on five key thematic areas: governance and peacebuilding, rule of law, women’s economic empowerment, livelihoods, and social cohesion. The CfP had two windows for application - Window 1 (W1) for UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes and International Non-Government Organisations (UN AFPs and INGOs), and Window 2 (W2) for National Non-Government Organisations (NNGOs and CSOs).

The ToR was followed by the DCPSF Request for Information (RFI), inviting various organisations to respond to the CfP. A total of 82 organisations (17 INGOs and 65 NNGOs) responded to the RFI and were screened by an internal committee. Out of the combined 82 applications, 52 (15 and 37 NNGOs) were found eligible for the next stage of full proposal submission. A Request for Proposals to the 52 organisations was sent out, this was followed by DCPSF TS pre-CFP submission information sessions with the participating organisations. The sessions were intended to:

→ Assist responding organisations to understand the goal of DCPSF’s Call for Proposal (CfP) to promote peacebuilding in Darfur.
→ Ensure that their proposals are designed to meet the CfP’s criteria, specifically the thematic/content experience including intersectional aspects of gender and do-no-harm principles, geographical coverage, and presence on the ground.
→ Make certain that they submit well thought out proposals to address the issues faced by communities in Darfur.
→ Provide clarity on any other information/questions that would strengthen their proposals.

In addition, the DCPSF TS brought on board a Proposal Review Committee composed of independent thematic lead experts/consultants who worked with the TS team to evaluate the submitted proposals and select the best organisations to implement Phase II. A total of 44 out 52 organisations responded to the Request for Proposals. These were forwarded to the Proposal Review Committee whose key tasks were to:

→ Select and recommend proposals for DCPSF funding based on the guidance note and criteria approved by DCPS Steering Committee.
→ Ensure quality proposals were recommended transparently and objectively.
→ Highlight the pros / cons of recommended proposals and ways to improve them.
→ Make recommendations for improving future calls for proposals.

The Committee selected eight out of 13 INGOs to become DCPSF implementing partners and ten of the 31 NNGOs to implement DCPSF projects in Darfur. The organisations are listed below:
## Window 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Project title</th>
<th>Project location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Welthungerhilfe (WHH)</td>
<td>Improved Peaceful Coexistence and Social Cohesion for conflict-affected communities in Kutum Rural, North Darfur.</td>
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<td>World Relief Sudan (WRS)</td>
<td>Enhancing Peace &amp; Stability in Krenik &amp; Habila Localities of West Darfur</td>
<td>West Darfur  Krenik &amp; Habila Localities</td>
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<td>Darfur Community Recovery for Coexistence in Mukjar &amp; Azum (Phase iv)</td>
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<td>Building Social Cohesion and Sustainable Peace</td>
<td>Central Darfur  Mukjar, Wadi Salih Localities</td>
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<td>Together to build peaceful coexistence in Al Ferdous Locality, East Darfur</td>
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<td>Community-Based Conflict Reduction and Gender Sensitive Peace Building Support in Kebkabiya</td>
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<td>World Vision</td>
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<td>Concern Worldwide</td>
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## Window 2

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<td>Building peace through strengthened social fabrics in Darelsalam locality</td>
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<td>Enhancement of Durable Solutions &amp; Resilience of Conflict-Affected Communities in East Darfur State</td>
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<td>Building Sustainable Peace in Azum, Central Darfur</td>
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<td>Community Peaceful Co-existence and Women Empowerment</td>
<td>South Darfur  Almalam Locality</td>
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By December 2020, ten (10) micro-risk assessed/HACT-compliant organisations had signed the Responsible Party Agreements (RPA) with UNDP and were able to receive their funding, while seven (7) received it in January 2021 after getting HACT approval. One organisation (UNDP) was not able to receive funding due to a perceived conflict of interest considering it is the Administrative Agent (AA) of DCPSF. Its case is awaiting further consultation with the Steering Committee. Following the completion of the CfP, DCPSF Phase II kicked off in early 2021.
Chapter 5:

DCPSF PARTNERS

In 2020, DCPSF worked with five key implementing partners to achieve its results. They are listed below:

- Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
- Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
- Darfur organization for Peace and Development Initiative (DPI)
- Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)
- Care International Switzerland (CIS) – which implemented a COVID-19 emergency project alongside the GaPI (Sawtaha) project.

Another four DCPSF implementing partners completed their DCPSF Phase I projects in the first quarter of 2020, these include World Vision International, CARE International, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Rural Community Development organisation (RCDO) in the South, Central and West Darfur States respectively.

Funding Partners

DCPSF’s work would not have been possible without the generous contributions of our funding partners including:

- The Government of Sweden,
- The Government of United Kingdom,
- The Government of Norway and
- The Government of Switzerland.

Their contributions are highlighted below:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Donors contributions to DCPSF</th>
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<th>Norway</th>
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About DCPSF
The Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund (DCPSF) is a multi-donor programme established in 2007 to support the people of Darfur in their peacebuilding efforts.

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