



SUDAN MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND (MPTF) CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2022

PREPARED BY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Consolidated Annual Report provides a narrative update on progress made in the implementation of projects funded by the Sudan Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) from the period of 1 January to 31 December 2022. Over this period, the MPTF funded **three active projects**, with a total active implementing budget of USD **6.2 million**.

Many notable results were achieved through these projects during the reporting period, including:



UNITAMS-facilitated consultations with over **800** Sudanese interlocutors, entailing approximately 100 meetings and translating over **80** written proposals, to hear from a wide spectrum of Sudanese stakeholders as to their vision on how best to address Sudan's political crisis following the October 25 2021 military takeover



Dedicated efforts to ensure women's meaningful participation in these consultations, such as engaging in separate consultations with women's groups from across Sudan to establish a stand-alone negotiation delegation, resulting in an estimated **33 percent** of participants in consultations being Sudanese women



The development of standard operating procedures (SOPs) and training modules and materials for the Permanent Ceasefire Committee (PCC) in Darfur, including **three** trainings on the developed SOPs, in El Fasher, Nyala and El Geneina for a total of **48** PCC members



Three trainings on the PCC mandate and responsibilities for a total of **75** PCC members in the cities of El Fasher, Nyala, and El Geneina, contributing to personnel's ability to successfully perform their duties

In October 2022, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HC), who is the chair of the MPTF Steering Committee, also endorsed a new Joint MPTF – UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) Strategic Results Framework (SRF) to bring together the investments of the MPTF and the PBF under a shared strategic chapeau and with common high-level outcomes. These outcomes seek to contribute to 1) stabilization of conflict hotspots in Sudan, 2) strengthening an “infrastructure for peace” in Sudan and 3) supporting political processes, peacemaking, and implementation of peace agreements to advance progress toward a democratic transition.

1. INTRODUCTION

This Consolidated Annual Narrative Report of the Sudan Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) was prepared by the MPTF-PBF Joint Secretariat, hosted by the Integrated Office of the DSRSG/RC/HC, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF-O), as per the Fund's Terms of Reference, Memorandum of Understanding, and Standard Administrative Agreement (SAA) signed with contributors. This report covers the period of 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022 and provides a narrative update on progress made in the implementation of projects funded by the Sudan MPTF.

2. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

2.1 Context in Sudan

With a continuing political crisis following the military takeover of 25 October 2021, deteriorating socio-economic situation, record incidence of flooding and other natural disasters, and growing insecurity in its conflict-affected regions, 2022 represented another challenging year in Sudan's peacebuilding trajectory.

Widespread insecurity and political instability constrained Sudan's economic growth, with inflation averaging 164 percent and staple food prices rising by 75 percent in 2022. Youth unemployment stood at 36 percent, affected by limited livelihood opportunities. Over 900 people were killed from violent conflict in 2022, and almost 300,000 were displaced, representing a notable increase on 2021 figures. These conflicts included escalations of violence in areas that had previously experienced relative calm in Sudan, such as Blue Nile, West Kordofan, and Central Darfur states.

At the national level, Sudan's political transition continued to encounter significant challenges. Following widespread opposition to a political agreement signed in November 2021 between General Abdel-Fattah Al-Burhan of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and then-Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, and amidst continued violence by security forces against demonstrators protesting the military takeover, Prime Minister Hamdok announced his resignation on 2 January 2022.

Following this announcement, UNITAMS, in consultation with an array of Sudanese and international actors, launched a United Nations-facilitated intra-Sudanese dialogue to hear from a wide spectrum of Sudanese stakeholders on how best to address the political crisis. The process, which was supported with funding provided by the Sudan MPTF, entailed holding more than 100 consultations with over 800 participants representing a range of stakeholders, including political parties, resistance committees, signatory and non-signatory groups to the Juba Peace Agreement (JPA), civil society, and women's groups from across the country.

Following the conclusion of consultations, UNITAMS, the African Union, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) announced the formation of a trilateral mechanism to support a Sudanese-led and owned process to bring Sudan back onto a path towards a democratic transition. To that end, the Trilateral Mechanism engaged in intensive consultations with Sudanese stakeholders and called on the authorities to create conducive conditions for political talks. On 4 July, General al-Burhan announced in a televised speech that the military intended to withdraw from politics and hand over governance to civilian forces. Following the announcement from General al-Burhan, civilian groups commenced a series of initiatives to unify their ranks. A draft constitutional document prepared under the auspices of the Sudanese Bar Association Steering Committee succeeded in generating a broad base of support among the civilian components.

On December 5 the military leadership and a broad range of civilian actors signed a political “framework agreement” based on this draft document. The agreement set out a two-phase process, with phase one entailing the signing of the framework and laying the groundwork for further talks, and phase two entailing broad consultations to address five remaining contentious issues: 1) security sector reform and the unification of the armed forces, 2) transitional justice, 3) the implementation of the Juba Peace Agreement, 4) the status of the committee to dismantle the regime of Omar al Bashir, and 5) East Sudan.



UNITAMS held a community-oriented policing workshop in close coordination with UNDP and the Sudanese Police Force under the 'SRSG's Good Offices' project

2.2 Rationale for and establishment of MPTF

In May 2017, a financing strategy mission to Sudan was undertaken by OECD and the MPTF Office (MPTF-O) in collaboration with other United Nations partners. Following the recommendations of the mission, the Sudan MPTF was established in 2019 to support a range of initiatives that advance integrated planning and a more coherent financing architecture across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in Sudan.

The shape of the MPTF evolved following the 3 June 2020 decision by the Security Council to establish the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS), after which it became the primary funding vehicle to support implementation and operationalization of the UNITAMS mandate. The resolution mandated the following strategic objectives for UNITAMS, working in close collaboration with the transitional Government of Sudan:

1. Assist the political transition, progress towards democratic governance, the protection and promotion of human rights, and sustainable peace;
2. Support peace processes and implementation of future peace agreements;
3. Assist peacebuilding, civilian protection, and rule of law, in particular in Darfur and the Two Areas.
4. Support the mobilization of economic and development assistance and coordination of humanitarian assistance.

As outlined in its terms of reference, the MPTF was perceived to offer the following key benefits in supporting the implementation of UN objectives in Sudan:

1. **Coherence:** Strengthen UN system-wide coherence between the mission component and its integrated UNCT partners – in the areas defined in S/RES/2524 (2020) and reaffirmed in SCR 2579 (2021) and 2636 (2022) – noting that coordination at the trust-fund level has fewer transaction costs to coordinate between individual peacebuilding programmes.
2. **Strategy:** Operationalizing the MPTF as a singular evolving peacebuilding strategy strengthens alignment between UNITAMS and its integrated UNCT partners around common outcomes and strategies in consultation with the Government of Sudan and donor partners.
3. **Accountability:** Through an MPTF, donors have additional lines of accountability for results at the highest level of mission leadership. The DSRSG leads UNITAMS and the UNCT to capitalize and operationalize the fund, which is run out of the Office of the DSRSG/RC/HC, while UN entities implement programmes following their own rules and procedures and retain accountability for resources and programmatic results.
4. **Financial leverage:** An MPTF allows for consolidation of contributions from multiple financing partners, and helps guide UN investments against identified peacebuilding priorities and mission benchmarks. This leverage helps ensure that peacebuilding and peace-making are considered strategic priorities across the UN system and by Government counterparts.
5. **Flexibility:** An MPTF can rapidly respond to changed or new needs coming up and can prioritize within the strategic framework.
6. **Reduced transaction costs:** Transaction costs of an MPTF are reduced for the UN and its partners by using pre-agreed legal templates and harmonized terms for cost-recovery and reporting. An MPTF avoids cascading overheads by imposing a flat and harmonized costing structure.
7. **Resource mobilization:** An MPTF helps ensure coherence in resource allocations and fund-raising in peacebuilding. It allows for donor engagement on peacebuilding to be better coordinated and planned without restricting donor contributions to agencies, funds and programmes directly. With the fund Chaired by the DSRSG, it benefits from high-level engagement and good offices.

2.3 Fund governance

The governance of the Sudan MPTF is represented in the below diagram:

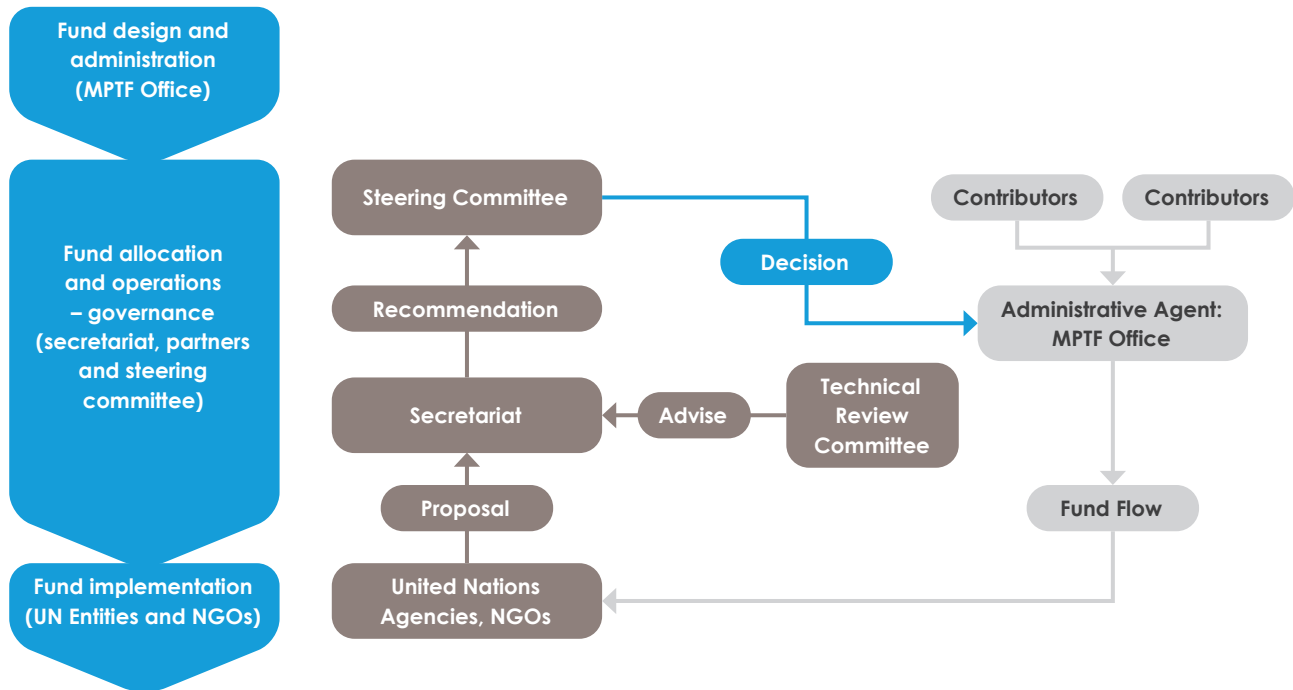


Figure 1: Sudan MPTF governance structure

The **MPTF Steering Committee** provides strategic guidance and overall supervision of the MPTF. It is Chaired by the DSRSG/RC/HC, and includes at least three contributing donors, three UN agencies, and a UNITAMS representative. The MPTF-PBF Joint Secretariat and the New York-based Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF-O) are ex officio members of the Steering Committee. Among other responsibilities, the MPTF Steering Committee provides general oversight and exercises overall accountability for the MPTF, approves the strategic direction of the MPTF, and reviews and approves proposals submitted for requested funding.

The Sudan MPTF and UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) **Joint Secretariat** is responsible for the coordination, monitoring, evaluation, and communications of both funds. The MPTF-PBF Joint Secretariat reports to the DSRSG/RC/HC and, among other responsibilities, provides technical and administrative support to the Steering Committee and Technical Review Committee, advises the Steering Committee on strategic issues, programme approvals, and ongoing project progress, undertakes monitoring and evaluation of the active portfolio, supports the development of new project proposals, and facilitates coordination and communications between MPTF recipient organizations and other relevant stakeholders.

Through the Secretariat, the DSRSG/RC/HC appoints a **Technical Review Committee** to review project proposals and submit findings and recommendations to the Secretariat. The Secretariat subsequently presents recommendations to the Steering Committee for their approval.

MPTF resources are allocated to participating United Nations organizations, including UNITAMS, that have signed an MOU with the Administrative Agent. Each participating United Nations organization assumes full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent. These funds are administered by each participating United Nations organization in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives, and procedures. Resources can also be allocated to registered international and national NGOs who can access funds as a sub-grantee of any Participating UN organization provided they meet MPTF-O eligibility criteria.



Women leaders presented a gender-responsive constitutional vision to representatives of the international community in a series of workshops organised by UNITAMS in close collaboration with UNDP

3. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

In October 2022, the Joint **MPTF-PBF Strategic Results Framework (SRF)** was endorsed by the DSRSG/RC/HC in Sudan. It was developed to serve as a joint strategic framework of the MPTF and the UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) to bring together the investments of the two funding sources under a shared strategic chapeau and with common high-level outcomes.

In July 2022, the Integrated Office of the DSRSG/RC/HC led a comprehensive consultation process to inform the drafting of the joint MPTF-PBF Strategic Results Framework and to solicit feedback on the proposed restructuring and rationalization of peace and development pooled funding mechanisms in Sudan. These consultations included representatives of UN agencies, UNITAMS, civil society (including academia, women-led organizations, and youth-led organizations), and Sudanese national counterparts (including the National Peace Commissioner.)

The SRF draws significantly on the Sudan Peacemaking, Peacebuilding and Stabilization Programme (SPPSP), which functioned as the programmatic framework for the MPTF. The SRF was also designed in alignment with the UN "Common Approach," which outlined collectively agreed upon programmatic priorities to guide UN action in Sudan amidst the political crisis following the military takeover in October 2021. This is also within the overall framework of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and Security Council Resolutions 2524, 2579 and 2636.

The three overarching outcomes of the SRF, which guide MPTF financing in Sudan, are as follows:

Outcome 1: 'Hotspot' communities in Sudan are stabilized and experience decreased levels of violence, increased protection, improved access to justice, and enhanced community resilience

The SRF's first priority is to stop further violence through stabilisation of known hotspots. Stabilisation programming is usually conceived according to three pillars of intervention, all of them relevant to a greater or lesser extent across Sudan: 1) rule of law and access to justice, including work for the protection of civilians, to establish minimum levels of public safety and security; 2) provision of basic services, including health care and education, services infrastructure, and to resolve issues in regard to access to water, land and other natural resources; 3) livelihoods initiatives to ensure minimum income levels for inhabitants of target areas, to ensure food security and cover basic household needs.

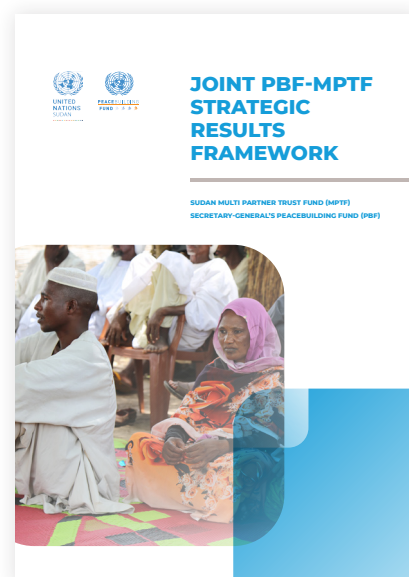
Outcome 2: Sudan has a legitimate, inclusive 'infrastructure for peace' engaged in conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding at national and sub-national levels

Infrastructure for peace can be understood as "a dynamic network of interdependent structures, mechanisms, resources, values and skills which, through dialogue and consultation, contribute to conflict prevention and peacebuilding in a society." The role of civil society, particularly actors such as peace activists, human rights organisations, academia, women and youth groups, religious and civil leaders at both national and local levels, is understood as fundamental to this approach, as well as linking infrastructures at national and sub-national levels.

Outcome 3: Political processes, peacemaking and implementation of peace agreements advance progress toward a peaceful and democratic transition

Wherever possible, the SRF seeks to support national stakeholders to advance critical political, governance, human rights, and rule of law reforms and to reach and implement peace agreements at all levels. This requires UNITAMS advocacy, technical assistance and good offices, support to JPA implementation and institutional reforms when and if possible, as well as local agreements in the 'hotspot' areas pertaining, inter alia, to IDP/refugee return, delineation of migratory routes, and management of natural resources. This includes continued UNITAMS good offices and outreach to those groups that have not yet been included in the peace process, and promoting an inclusive and participatory approach that will be key to ensuring broad buy-in to agreements reached.

Under each outcome, the SRF identifies a set of programmatic approaches which are informed by PBF and MPTF priorities and aligned with the three critical priorities of the Common Approach. Funds contributed to the Sudan MPTF can be earmarked at the outcome level, as outlined in the below diagram.



Joint MPTF-PBF Strategic Results Framework (SRF)

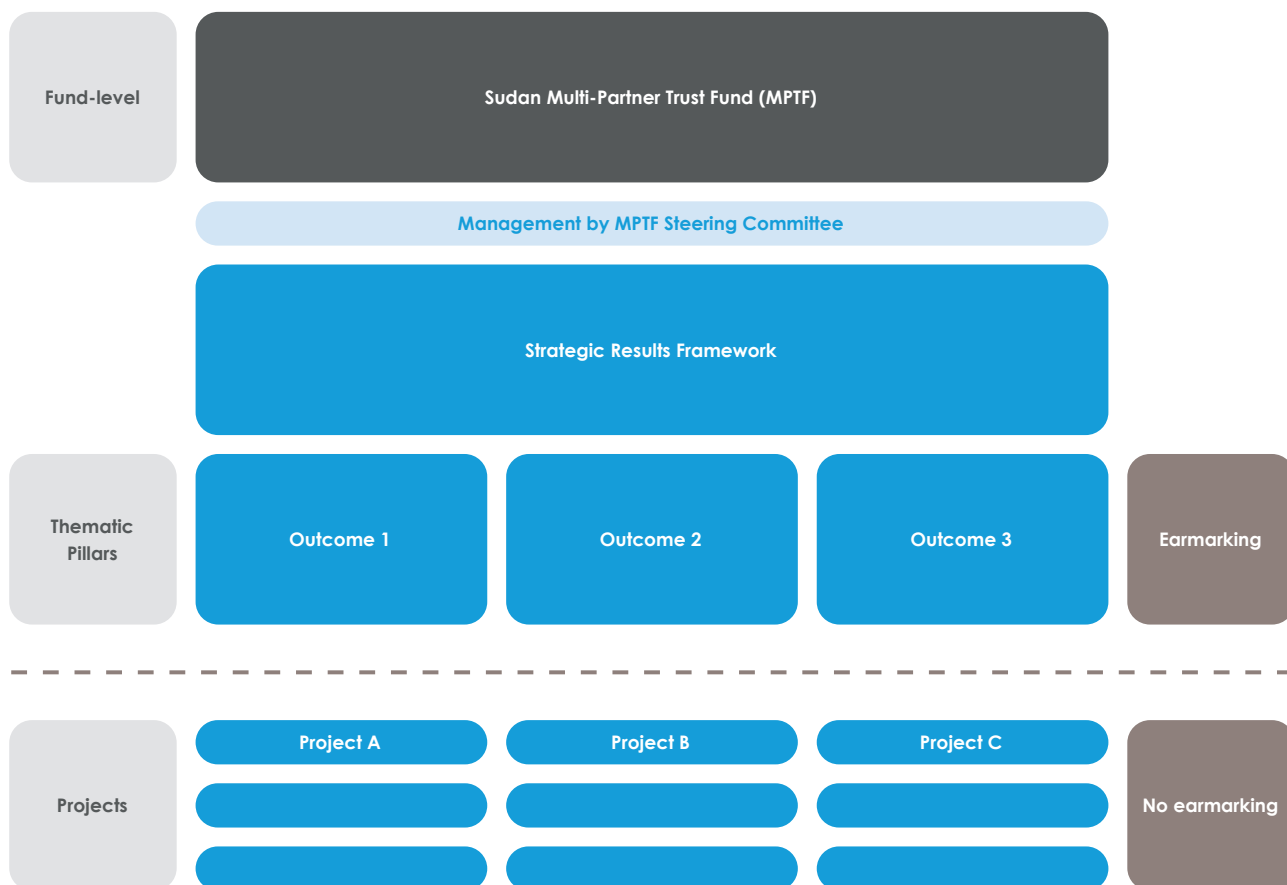
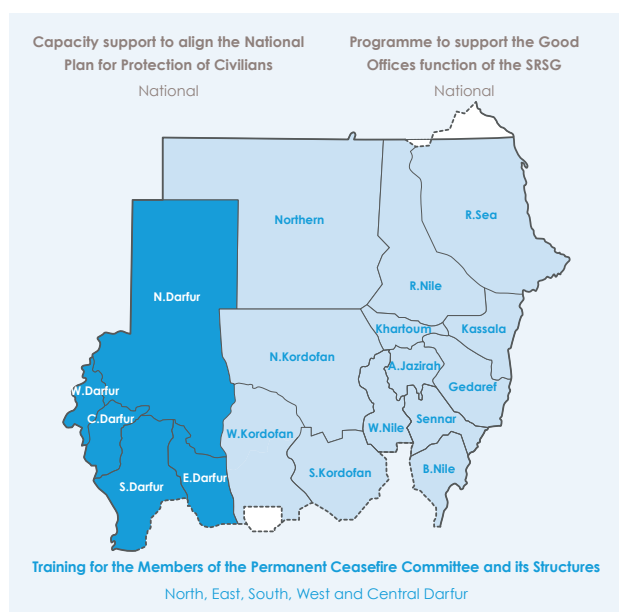
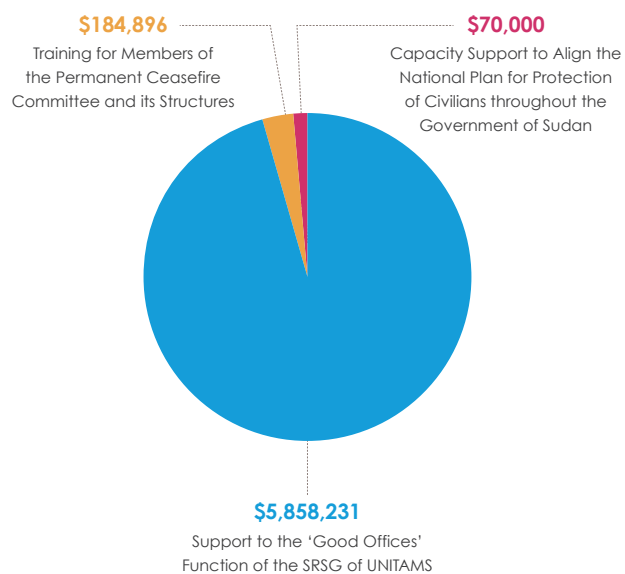


Figure 2: Sudan MPTF thematic pillars and earmarking as per Strategic Results Framework (SRF)

Current investments



Total funds allocated (USD)



4. PROJECT REPORTING

In 2022, the Sudan MPTF funded three ongoing projects, totaling an active budget of USD 6.2 million. The key results and impacts of the projects across the January 2022 to December 2022 reporting period are outlined below.

4.1 Programme to support the “Good Offices” functions of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS)

Status: Ongoing | **Budget:** 5,858,231 USD | **Implemented by:** UNITAMS

Timeline: 1 Sep 2021 – 31 Dec 2023

Project Objectives

The project aims to support the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) good offices function in supporting the peace process and implementation of current and future peace agreements in Sudan. The project was developed in line with the SRSG good offices function as outlined within United Nations Security Council resolution 2524 (2020), in a context whereby Sudan was transitioning towards democratic governance with a Transitional Government of Sudan in place. On 25 October 2021, however, approximately one month after the approval of the Programme, Sudan underwent a military takeover which significantly changed the political reality in the country.

While the programme initially focused on assisting the political transition in Sudan and supporting political talks between Government and non-signatory groups to the Juba Peace Agreement (JPA), dialogue between these parties broke up in July 2021, and the prospects for the resumption of talks significantly receded after the military takeover of October 2021. Moreover, following the military takeover, mass demonstrations took place resulting in killings, detentions, and injuries of protestors, as well as delays in the implementation of the JPA, increased rates of violence in Darfur and the Two Areas, and deterioration of human rights and protection of civilians. As a result, the Programme results framework was revised in May 2022 to better meet the Programme's set objectives with the SRSG good offices function focusing on the following priority areas;

1. Support to inclusive political dialogue with a view to restoring a Sudanese-owned way forward for the transition
2. Effective good offices and advocacy in respect of human rights and protection of civilians
3. Support to the implementation of the JPA
4. Support to peace implementation activities where opportunities exist, including with a view to preventing new escalation of conflict that could undermine the fabric of the Juba Peace Agreement

Summary of Project Results

The first tranche of USD 3.99 million was disbursed in February 2022, following approval of the project by the MPTF Steering Committee in September 2021. Despite the challenging operational environment, UNITAMS implemented several activities under Outcome 1 and 3 of the Programme in the reporting period, including launching the first phase of political consultations with the aim to restore Sudan to the path of transition, and supporting the undertaking of several peacebuilding assessments to inform and support the peace process in Sudan. The military takeover in Sudan in October 2021, however, significantly changed the environment in the country causing delays in project implementation. Considering these events, UNITAMS requested a no-cost extension which was approved in November 2022, extending the Programme until 31 December 2023.

Results by Project Outcome

Outcome 1: Inclusive peace process with the meaningful participation of women leads to a constitutionally legitimate agreement on the way forward to restore the transition

Under this outcome, UNITAMS conducted consultations with more than 800 Sudanese interlocutors over a period of six weeks, entailing approximately 100 meetings and translating over 80 written proposals during the first quarter of 2022. The consultations included a wide range of stakeholders, including government, military, political parties, armed movements, civil society, women's groups, Resistance Committees, youth, Sufi leaders, the business community, nomads, diaspora, people with disabilities, as well as state and nonstate actors, both in Khartoum and in other regions across Sudan. The consultations were facilitated by the trilateral mechanism (comprising the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, and UNITAMS) as a first phase of a larger process, and aimed to rapidly organize broad-based, inclusive consultations with Sudanese stakeholders to hear from a wide spectrum of Sudanese stakeholders on their vision for best to address Sudan's political crisis.

Notably, UNITAMS undertook dedicated efforts to ensure women's meaningful participation in consultations, which included engaging in separate consultations with women's groups from all regions of Sudan to establish a stand-alone negotiation delegation of non-partisan women's rights advocates. UNITAMS also regularly convened women from political parties, armed movements, and civil society to provide technical advice and support the development of joint advocacy messages on women's participation and gender equality provisions within the political agreement and draft constitution. This included a series of workshops with women from diverse entities on gender mainstreaming in any future constitution for Sudan. Overall, 33 percent of participants in consultations were Sudanese women from over 60 entities across the political spectrum.

UNITAMS also implemented multiple communications and outreach efforts to raise public awareness of the talks and counter misinformation, as well as to ensure that media stakeholders of the political process and international community had access to updated, neutral and trusted information on the role played by UNITAMS and the Trilateral Mechanism in the political process. This included providing real-time information on the facilitation role played by the Mission and the Trilateral Mechanism through the publishing of content on its website and social media, and organizing interviews between the SRSG and prominent local, regional and international media. UNITAMS also developed a daily report on trends observed on social and traditional media in relation to the political process to allow better informed decision-making and counter mis and disinformation, and contributed to the development of the communications and media strategy of the final phase of the political process.

Outcome 2: Timely use of UNITAMS good offices in respect of human rights and protection issues, building on verified data and community engagement.

No activities implemented in 2022.

Outcome 3: Provisions of Juba Peace Agreement are adhered to, including with respect to human rights and accountability

Under this outcome, UNITAMS conducted field missions to South Darfur, North Darfur, Blue Nile, South Kordofan, Red Sea State and Kassala to undertake research and conduct consultations with communities and government authorities to inform and validate the initial findings of the UN peacebuilding assessments. The UN peacebuilding assessments aim to provide an evidence base for peacebuilding interventions and conflict sensitive programming in line with UNITAMS integrated mandate implementation, particularly as it relates to the implementation of the JPA. Efforts under this outcome included engaging specifically with women and youth with the objective of including their perspective and voices in the assessments. The first UN peacebuilding assessment drafts were finalized at the end of 2022.

Outcome 4: Local tensions with potential to derail JPA implementation are de-escalated

No activities implemented in 2022.



The SRSG participated in an intergenerational dialogue with Sudanese youth, whose inclusion is a priority of the 'Good Offices' project



The Trilateral Mechanism met with initial signatories of the constitutional framework and political declaration in November 2022

4.2 Training for the members of the Permanent Ceasefire Committee and its structures

Status: Ongoing | **Budget:** 186,608 USD | **Implemented by:** UNITAMS

Timeline: 1 Sep 2021 – 31 Dec 2023

Project Objectives

The Juba Agreement for Peace in Sudan between the Transitional Government of Sudan and the Parties to Peace Process (JPA) of October 2020 foresees the establishment of a permanent ceasefire in the Darfur region to be overseen by a Permanent Ceasefire Committee (PCC) chaired by UNITAMS, the Government of Sudan and five Darfuri Armed Struggle Movements. UN Security Council resolution 2579 (2021) further mandates ceasefire monitoring in Darfur as a UNITAMS priority for the period 2021-2022. In the wake of the military takeover in October 2021 and given the deterioration of the security situation in Darfur, the SRSG also reiterated that the implementation of security arrangements is a much-needed priority to prevent the further escalation of conflict. This project aims to support the operationalization of the PCC in line with its intended mandate and functions, by supporting the development of institutional and subsidiary structures of the PCC and providing capacity building support to harmonize and strengthen knowledge, procedures, skillsets, and trust among PCC members. The immediate beneficiaries of this project will be the estimated 130 members of the PCC and its Secretariat.

Summary of Project Results

During the reporting period, the project finalized activities under outcome 1 and initiated project activities under outcome 2 and 3. This included developing standard operating procedures (SOPs) and training modules and materials for capacity building activities, as well as initiating trainings with PCC members to build trust among PCC members in the Secretariat and Sectoral Committees. The project activities implemented in 2022 contributed to establishing the full structure of the PCC, including the Secretariat, Sector Committees, and their respective field offices in Darfur. The development of SOPs and the trainings conducted also contributed to increasing the knowledge, skillsets, and trust among PCC members to implement its mandate and functions as reflected in the JPA.

Despite the progress made, many activities were delayed due to the new political reality following the military takeover in October 2021. For example, the PCC faced significant operational challenges such as visa delays for international personnel hindering their deployment to Sector Committees, which resulted in having two of the five Sectoral Committees (East and Central Darfur) not fully staffed until end of 2022. In addition, logistical challenges for PCC members continued, including lack of access to transportation, accommodation, and office infrastructure. Due to these delays, UNITAMS requested a no-cost extension which was approved, extending the project until 31 December 2023.

Project Results by Outcome

Outcome 1: PCC personnel at all levels have an increased understanding of the Permanent Ceasefire Committee, its mandate, and its functioning.

Under this outcome, UNITAMS supported the PCC in developing and finalising key standard operating procedures (SOPs) to guide the PCC's work, including ground rules, reporting, information management, preventive monitoring, registration and investigation of alleged ceasefire violations, and complaint resolution. SOPs also

included specific guidance on referrals for the protection of civilians from threats including for gender and sexual and gender-based violence. The SOPs were officially approved by PCC representatives from the Sudan Government, the Armed Struggle Movements (ASMs) and UNITAMS in June 2022, and shared with the Joint High Military Committee for Security Arrangements (JHMC).

UNITAMS also developed and finalized the PCC training curricula, including modules and materials to be used for capacity building of current and future PCC members. The training programme includes workshops, meetings, and conferences in support of PCC operational activities in headquarters, Sectoral Committees, and field teams, as well as seminars to reach out to different stakeholders and communities to raise awareness on the JPA and PCC mandate and develop public information material on the PCC in all five Darfur States. The training curriculum also includes training on gender-inclusive and gender-responsive ceasefire monitoring, and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

UNITAMS also conducted technical consultative meetings with PCC members in El Fasher in July 2022 (125 participants), Nyala (75 participants) and El Geneina (87 participants) in November and December 2022. The objective of these meetings was to operationalize public outreach and communication programs to reach out to different stakeholders and communities to raise awareness on the JPA and PCC mandate and develop public information material on the PCC in support of the capacity building programme project.

Outcome 2: The PCC is able to undertake functions given to it in the JPA by having well trained personnel

Under this outcome, the project implemented six trainings that aimed to increase the knowledge and understanding of PCC members on its mandate, roles, and responsibilities, including on the SOPs, and the role of the PCC in relation to PoC efforts, humanitarian issues and gender inclusion. The trainings also briefed participants on international standards and best practices in areas of monitoring, reporting and investigations of CFV and how it relates to the Darfur context. UNITAMS conducted three trainings on the PCC mandate, responsibilities and roles in accordance with the JPA, in El Fasher, Nyala and El Geneina for a total of 75 participants from PCC Sector Committees and Secretariat. The trainings took place in June, August, and October. UNITAMS also conducted three trainings on the developed SOPs in El Fasher, Nyala and El Geneina for a total of 48 PCC members, which took place in May, November, and December 2022.

Outcome 3: Through the joint training, an environment is created that facilitates trust building between parties.

See updates under outcome 2.



Over 110 civil society actors attended a meeting organised by the Permanent Ceasefire Committee (PCC) in El Fasher to exchange views on the PCC mandate, activities and way forward in implementing the peace process in Darfur

4.3 Capacity support to align the National Plan for Protection of Civilians throughout the Government of Sudan

Status: Ongoing | **Budget:** 186,608 USD | **Implemented by:** UNITAMS, UNDP

Timeline: 1 Sep 2021 – 31 Dec 2023

Project Objectives

United Nations Security Council resolution 2524(2020) mandates UNITAMS to provide support to Sudan's transition, including assisting the country to achieve the goals of the Constitutional Document. In particular, the resolution tasks UNITAMS to work in close collaboration with the Government of the Sudan to, among other objectives, assist in the protection and promotion of human rights, enhance civilian protection, and strengthen rule of law, especially in Darfur and the Two Areas. The resolution also requests UNITAMS to support the Government of the Sudan in the implementation of the National Plan for Civilian Protection (S/2020/429), which was presented to the Security Council in May 2020.

The purpose of this project is to engage the services of a consultant to provide technical support to the National Mechanism for Civilian Protection in the implementation of the National Plan for Civilian Protection, including to develop and maintain a sustained working relationship and liaison between the United Nations and the National Mechanism and identify areas of support the United Nations may provide at both national and state levels for the National Plan for Civilian Protection.

Summary of Project Results

In August 2021, UNITAMS, with the support of UNDP, finalized the terms of reference of the consultant and in October 2021, a candidate was selected from a pool of qualified applicants. Administrative arrangements regarding the hiring of the consultant were completed with a notification shared with the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs on the status of the hiring process and anticipated entry of duty of the consultant.

However, the military takeover on 25 October 2021 significantly changed the operating context for this project, as it resulted in an extensive campaign against the civilian transitional government and the detention of those who had been instrumental in the coordination and planning processes related to the National Mechanism and implementation of the National Plan for Civilian Protection. The extended absence of the key government partners and the prevailing security and political situation were not conducive for the implementation of the consultancy assignment.

Due to these factors, this project was put on hold until circumstances would be conducive for the assignment to take place. UNITAMS requested a no-cost extension of the project which was granted in December 2022 extending the project until 31 December 2023. Following the granting of the no-cost extension, discussions were initiated with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Interior to agree on next steps regarding the recruitment of the national consultant, though to date the recruitment remains suspended.

5. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

5.1 October 2021 Military Takeover

The military takeover which took place on October 25 2021 created numerous challenges for the overarching objectives and day-to-day implementation of ongoing projects. Most notably, the takeover created considerable uncertainty regarding engagement with Sudanese counterparts, as military representatives became de facto authorities and members of the civilian administration, who were often primary focal points for projects, were removed. These developments also created significant administrative challenges, such as delays in securing visas and deploying staff. In response, project teams were proactive in adjusting project workplans and results frameworks to reflect the new operating reality, as well as to lay the groundwork for future implementation once the environment was more conducive. However, despite these efforts at adaptive management, significant delays were unavoidable, resulting in the granting of no-cost extensions for all funded projects.



The Trilateral Mechanism visited Kassala to engage with stakeholders in East Sudan

 @UN_Sudan
 @UnitedNationsSudan
 sudan.un.org
 un.org/peacebuilding
 mptf.undp.org/fund/4sd00