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JOINT PROGRAMME FOR THE RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN DARFUR (JPROL)

FINAL REPORT 2016-2020¹



Training Course on “Human Rights Standards and Prisons” in El Fasher, North Darfur, May 2018. Photo credit: UNDP Project



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Acronyms

ACHR	African Centre for Human Rights
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
CBOs	Community based Organisations
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CD	Central Darfur
CDF	Child Development Foundation
CJF	Criminal Justice Forums
CPAP	Programme Action Plan
CSOs	Civil Society Organisation
CTFMR	Country-level Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting
DDPD	Doha Document for Peace in Darfur
DPKO	Department of Peacekeeping Operations
ED	East Darfur
FCPU	Family and Child Protection Unit
GAU	Gender Advisory Unit
GFP	Global Focal Point
GHN	Global Horizontal Note
GoS	Government of Sudan
HRs	Human Rights
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
JCC	Justice and Confidence Centre
JEM	Justice and Equality Movement
JPROL	Joint Programme for Rule of Law and Human Rights
KAP	Knowledge, Attitude and Practices
LOA	Letter of Agreement
MCGA	Micro Capital Grant Agreement
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoPIC	Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation
MOSA	Ministry of Social Affairs
MOSW	Ministry of Social Welfare (Khartoum)
MRM	Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism
NCCW	Nation Council for Child Welfare
NCHRs	National Commission for Human Rights
NISS	National intelligence and Security Services
ND	North Darfur
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
PCA	Programme Cooperation Agreement
RLCG	Rule of Law Coordination Group
RoL	Rule of Law

RSF	Rapid Support Forces
SAF	Sudanese Armed Force
SCCW	State Council for Child Welfare
SD	South Darfur
SOP	Standards Operating Procedures
SPF	Sudanese Police Force
SNHRC	Sudan National Human Rights Commission
SPLM	Sudan People's Liberation Movement
SRSG – CAAC	Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed
SWPC	Sudan Women Parliamentarian Caucus
TC	Transitional Council
UN	United Nations
UNAMID	United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
VSLA	Village Savings and Lending Associations
WD	West Darfur

I. BACKGROUND AND PROJECT OVERVIEW

On 22 November 2016 the United Nations, Ministry of Justice (Ministry of Justice) and Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) launched a major drive to enhance the rule of law in Darfur. The initiative came under the umbrella of the “Global Focal Point” (GFP) which is a United Nations working arrangement between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and other UN partners, to provide joint operational country support in the police, justice and corrections areas in post-conflict and other crisis situations, and - widely known as the Joint Programme for Rule of Law. The programme aimed to lay the foundations for sustainable peace and development by strengthening rule of law institutions, improving access to justice services, and enhancing mechanisms to address land issues in Darfur. It supported the region towards recovery and development and was developed following wide consultations with the Government, civil society organizations, and UN Agencies at all levels.

This Joint Programme for Rule of Law and Human Rights (JPROL) was initiated in Darfur to strengthen delivery, coherence and maximize the impact of United Nations support to the rule of law in Darfur. It brought together all relevant interventions under one framework, resources into a pool and established shared priorities in addressing the lawlessness and criminality which continue to be the primary causes of instability in Darfur today.

Through the programme, the UN system worked closely with the government, civil society, and local communities to strengthen the institutional capacity of justice sector organs, corrections, and police as well as other non-state actors and institutions upholding the rule of law. Activities planned mainstreamed gender, and these included: revision of selected laws and procedures; re-establishment of the criminal justice chain in pilot areas to which Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) were likely to return; and built the oversight capacity of justice and security institutions. The JPROL also provided robust support to improve access to justice through legal empowerment of vulnerable populations in Darfur, especially women, children and IDPs, and supported rights-based resolution of land issues to address the root causes of the conflict in Darfur.

The programme was launched at a time when there was perhaps an unprecedented opportunity to promote the rule of law and move the region towards recovery. The conflict dynamics had changed, and the main source of insecurity was no longer strategic and orchestrated violence between armed groups but criminality, making the rule of law crucial for security. Another reason for the renewed UN effort on this front was that the government had demonstrated willingness to promote the rule of law and work with the United Nations to that effect.

In addition, the programme provided a framework for the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 2228 (2015) and 2296 (2017). Resolution 2228 concluded that certain UNAMID mandated tasks that related to the promotion of rule of law in Darfur and building capacities of police and other local institutions which could combat impunity, would be transferred to entities with the necessary comparative advantage i.e., the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Sudan. While Resolution 2296 provided for the conclusion of the transfer of these UNAMID mandated tasks in June 2017. In line with the recommendations of the High-Level Independent Panel on UN Peace Operations, JPROL was to enable a seamless transfer of rule of law tasks through a well-coordinated handover to the UNCT, sharing of resources between UNAMID and the UNCT, and rapid build-up of UNCT capabilities under an organized funding plan.

The Joint Programme was spearheaded by the Rule of Law Coordination Group (RLCG) in Sudan, which is a UN Global Focal Point Arrangement established in August 2015 encompassing all UN actors involved in promoting the rule of law in Darfur. While UNDP and the United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) were the lead agencies for the programme, nine other UN agencies were partners in the Joint Programme and made some contributions to programme outputs. These agencies are FAO, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHABITAT, UNHCR, UNOPS, UNWOMEN and WFP.

Situational Analysis

Since its outbreak in 2003, the conflict in Darfur has created a deadly and intractable crisis. Throughout the region, widespread human rights violations were perpetrated – affecting women and children in particular – and two million people remain displaced. The conflict has destroyed infrastructure, eroded social cohesion and community stability, and damaged livelihoods and employment opportunities. Social and economic development in Darfur has been dramatically affected. It is therefore of crucial importance for the people and future of Darfur to ensure the protection of vulnerable communities through reinstatement of the rule of law and respect for human rights.

Political progress was made with the signing of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) in May 2011 between the Government of Sudan (GoS) and some of the armed opposition groups. This, alongside other developments, resulted in a reduction in armed conflict in the region, which in turn created an opportunity to move Darfur out of the ongoing crisis towards long-term peace and development. Indeed, in 2012, the Common Country Assessment (CCA), which was carried out by the UN Country Team (UNCT) together with Government, concluded that the country was moving from a conflict to a post-conflict recovery and development situation, albeit with wide regional disparities in human development and recovery needs. The situation, however, remains precarious. Darfur is extremely territorial and militarized, with different small factions holding control and influence over specific areas.

The absence of legitimate authority in the region, and the abundance of weapons and small arms, have resulted in a situation where banditry and looting have become widespread. Criminality – rather than armed conflict – now represents the primary threat to peace and security, particularly at community level.

To make the much-needed transition to peace and development in Darfur, criminality as the principal source of insecurity must be addressed and the civilian population must be empowered to claim their rights. This would require substantial support, as the conflict in Darfur has severely weakened the rule of law, while human rights violations have become normalized and widespread. The UN identified three focus areas in this respect:

- 1) As evidenced by key rule of law (RoL) assessments, the limited capacities and presence of justice actors and institutions, combined with the prevalence of armed groups and the ongoing conflict, had substantially hindered the delivery of justice to populations in need. Impunity for crimes – and for sexual violence in particular – is still a notable and widely reported phenomenon in Darfur. As a result, citizens in Darfur expressed a profound lack of trust and confidence in justice institutions.
- 2) Human rights reports published by UNAMID and key human rights monitoring institutions revealed that the enjoyment of human rights and the capacity of the population to claim respect for their rights is still extremely limited. Access to formal justice in Sudan remained unequal and ineffective, perpetuating the vulnerability of populations in need.
- 3) Ongoing competition and violent conflict over land resources remained central to the perpetuation of these rule of law challenges and human rights violations. These needed to be addressed to achieve sustainable peace in Darfur.

Project Rationale

The United Nations programmatic approach and activities in Sudan are guided by the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), signed in July 2012. The UNDAF draws on the United Nations Country Analysis 2012 as well as information from project and programme evaluations. The UNDAF is the basis for the Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) 2013-2017, signed in July 2013 between UNDP and the Government of Sudan. UNDP works with the UN Country Team (UNCT) and the African Union/United Nations Hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

United Nations entities tailored their justice and rule of law efforts to the evolving contexts, the new political developments in Sudan including the DDPD; institutional arrangements for Sudan after the secession of South Sudan; and changing needs in different regions in Sudan. Experiences and lessons learned in earlier phases of these interventions show that the rule of law and human rights can be advanced through the interplay of two essential

pillars: the efficiency of the justice and security systems on the one hand, and citizens' capacity to claim respect for their human rights on the other usually expressed in the language of "duty-bearers" and "rights-holders". The balance between the two is very important. Empowered rights bearers can exercise checks and balances on strong state institutions and thus leverage their power.

Based on this experience, the programme undertook strategic interventions to strengthen justice institutions. At the same time, the programme also focused on empowering individuals, activists, community networks and NGOs to access justice and claim their rights as reflected in three envisaged outcomes.

Outcome 1: Justice institutions are strengthened to provide equitable, effective, and accountable justice services. This outcome encompassed interventions at the institutional level. Working with different duty bearers including the police, prosecution, courts, corrections and native administration, the programme aimed to provide targeted support to key justice institutions, enhancing their capacity to provide security and justice while at the same time protecting human rights and accountability.

Outcome 2: Communities and vulnerable groups enjoy enhanced access to justice and are empowered to demand respect for their human rights. This outcome focused on building the capacities of rights holders. The programme aimed to empower them to claim their rights through awareness-raising, education, and increased access to justice, notably through the provision of legal aid services, and expansion of Justice and Confidence Centers (JCCs). The programme would also support community structures that empower marginalized and vulnerable groups, including IDP and returnee populations. By strengthening national human rights institutions such as the Sudan National Human Rights Commission (SNHRC) and the Advisory Council for Human Rights (ACHR), would enable them to engage meaningfully in the process of shaping and influencing policy in relation to justice and human rights. The implementation of outcome 2 adopted a holistic, people-centered and needs-based approach to identify and support the real drivers of community empowerment and protection.

Outcome 3: Land management was introduced and the capacity of the justice system and local conflict resolution mechanisms to address land issues was enhanced. This outcome focused on the relationship between land, conflict, and the justice system. Violent competition over land resources remains central to the conflict in Darfur. Moreover, as the security situation improved, and rule of law institutions and basic services were restored, a large-scale voluntary return of IDPs was expected to happen across Darfur. This would inevitably exert a lot of pressure on land ownership and land dispute mechanisms. The UN therefore developed a specific outcome aimed at building the necessary frameworks and institutional capacity, including informal systems, to manage and solve land disputes peacefully. By pursuing these outcomes, the programme aimed to support changes in values, behaviour, structures, relationships, and perceptions in respect of the rule of law and human rights.

JPROL Outcomes and Outputs

The program vision is: People in Darfur are legally empowered and served by effective, accountable, and inclusive rule of law institutions that create protective environment supporting sustainable peace and development in Darfur. The program therefore had three outcomes and several outputs as follows: -

Outcome 1: Justice institutions are strengthened to provide equitable, effective, and accountable justice services.

Output 1.1: evidence generation and data collection relating to justice delivery are introduced and enhanced notably with respect to women, children, and vulnerable groups

Output 1.2: selected laws and policies are brought in line with international standards and norms.

Output 1.3: criminal justice chain is re-established in key pilot areas.

Output 1.4: justice institutions including customary and traditional justice systems are strengthened to provide

effective, equitable and timely justice/ protection services in line with international standards
Output 1.5: oversight and accountability of the justice system are enhanced.

Outcome 2: Communities and vulnerable groups enjoy enhanced access to justice and are empowered to demand respect for their human rights.

Output 2.1: communities and vulnerable groups are aware of their rights and empowered to demand accessible and equitable justice services.

Output 2.2: the capacity of community-based mechanisms, including CBOs and NGOs, to promote the rule of law and human rights is enhanced.

Output 2.3: legal aid providers are capable of assisting needy populations throughout Darfur.

Output 2.4: capacities of national human rights institutions are strengthened.

Outcome 3: Land management is introduced and the capacity of the justice system and local conflict resolution mechanisms to address land issues is enhanced.

Output 3.1: the capacity of the justice system to address land issues is enhanced.

Output 3.2: local conflict resolution mechanisms are strengthened.

Output 3.3: introduce an inclusive and transparent land management system.

2. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN PREVIOUS INTERVENTIONS DURING 2016-2019

The JPROL started in 2016 with consultations among different segments of the rule of law institutions and CBOs, NGOs in all Darfur States targeting judges, prosecutors, police, corrections, lawyers, paralegals, native administration (Sheikhs, Omdas, Shertai and other community leaders), in addition to CBOs and NGOs.

The objectives of these consultations were: -

- Introduce the broad outlines of the joint rule of law programme to the main stakeholders in all Darfur states as envisaged by UNDP, UNAMID, participating UN agencies and Sudan Ministry of Justice; and
- Solicit ideas of the judicial institutions, lawyers, native administration, and civil society organizations on the nature of challenges and problems pertaining to rule of law in Darfur with the view to incorporating these ideas and concerns in designing a detailed workable programme/ project.

FOR THE PERIOD 2016-2020 JPROL CONTRIBUTED TO THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMMATIC OUTCOMES BY AGENCY

A. Infrastructure development activities implemented by UNDP/ UNAMID under in Darfur 2016-2020 Constructions

- ✓ Construction of Community Policing Training Centre in Golo, Azum locality, Central Darfur (CD) State (UNDP and UNAMID Police).
- ✓ Construction of Masteri Rural Court in West Darfur (WD) (UNDP and UNAMID ROL).
- ✓ Construction of FCPU in Azum, Central Darfur (UNDP and UNAMID Police).
- ✓ Construction of boundary walls for Mershing (SD) and Beida rural courts (WD) . (UNDP and UNAMID ROL).
- ✓ Construction of FCPU, boundary walls and observation tower in Golo, Central Darfur (UNDP and UNAMID Police).
- ✓ Construction of a Police Training Center in El Fasher, North Darfur (ND) (UNDP and UNAMID Police).
- ✓ Construction of Community Policing Center in Rongatas (CD) (UNDP and UNAMID Police)
- ✓ Construction of a prison in Kutum (ND) (UNAMID/UNDP)

Summary of JPROL Infrastructure /Construction and furniture and beneficiaries			
S/N	Description of activity	location	beneficiaries
1	Construction and furniture of rural court in Masteri	Masteri village in Central Darfur	IDPs, sheikhs, paralegals, women groups, and youth, host community, Masteri and neighbouring community
2	Construction of Community Policing Center	Rongatas, Azum locality, Central Darfur	IDPs, sheikhs, paralegals, women groups, and youth, host community, Rongatas and neighbouring community
3	Construction of Family and Child Protection Unit (SPF)	Golo, Central Darfur	IDPs, sheikhs, paralegals, women groups, and youth, host community, Golo and neighbouring community
4	Construction of boundary walls for Mershing and Beida rural court s	Mershing in South Darfur and Beida in West Darfur	IDPs, sheikhs, paralegals, women groups, and youth, host community and Mershing and Beida neighbouring community
5	Construction of police training center	El Fasher, North Darfur	Police and prison officers in all Darfur States
6	Construction of PTC in Golo- Azum	Golo, central Darfur	Police and prison officers in all Darfur States
7	Construction of boundary walls and observation tower in Golo, Central Darfur	Golo, central Darfur	IDPs, sheikhs, paralegals, women groups, and youth, host community, Golo and neighbouring community
8	Construction of prison	Kutum, North Darfur	Provision of a viably humane, safe and secure prison environment for female offenders, and children accompanying their mothers to prison.



Construction of police Training Centre in El Fasher, ND



Construction of a Rural Court in Masteri, WD

B. Capacity Building Activities implemented by UNDP/UNAMID under the JPROL in Darfur 2016-2020

In respect of Output 1.3: criminal justice chain is re-established in key pilot areas:

- Criminal Justice Forums (CJF) were established in all Darfur States with the aim to galvanize support and functionality of the forums and ensure effective synergies and complementarity between justice sector and law enforcement institutions to create a platform for discussing justice sector issues, provide awareness raising and outreach activities on rule of law and human rights issues. The workshops undertaken availed the opportunity for relevant stakeholders in the justice sector to establish the coordination forum for deliberating issues affecting delivery of justice services in Darfur.

The structure of the CJF includes a chairperson, secretariat, and members. Members include all the rule of law of law institutions (formal and informal) such as judges, prosecutors, legal administration department (MOJ), police and prison officers, military advisors, National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS), Bar Association, rural court judges, native administration, paralegal groups, relevant CBOs/NGOs. The membership also includes the relevant Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), and UN representation (from UNDP, UNAMID human rights, UNAMID rule of law section and gender advisory unit, UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM) among others.

The key outputs of the CJF included: forums operationalized and made functional; support provided to strengthen complementarity and capacity of rule of law institutions, through awareness raising and capacity building trainings; access to justice services, particularly for vulnerable and marginalized groups improved by informing them how to access legal aid support and enhancing their knowledge of their rights; enhancing delivery of services that promote the culture of rule of law, and public confidence in rule of law institutions; promote rights and capacity to pursue justice; and enhance roles of key actors in the justice chain understood by all stakeholders.

- The Sudan Judiciary in collaboration with UNDP carried out a total of 12 training sessions on strengthening the criminal justice chains in 4 Darfur states namely, East Darfur (El Daein), West Darfur (El Geneina), Central Darfur (Zalingei) and South Darfur (Nyala) between May and August 2017. The forums focused on discussing the main challenges facing access to justice in the said states and analyzing how best to strengthen the criminal justice chain affected by the prolonged conflict in the state. The forum sessions lasted for 2 days and were attended by 30-35 participants in each state were a total of 346 participants benefitted out of which 132 were females and 214 males. The participants included: the police, the prosecution, the judiciary, lawyers, corrections and police as well as the native administration.
- As a follow up, workshops were organised by the CJFs in each state benefitting a total of 159 participants with 43 females and 116 males. The workshop conducted on 9 December 2017 in El Daein, East Darfur attracted 55 participants (14 females and 41 males); equally on the same date in Nyala, South Darfur the CJF workshop organised in collaboration with prosecution Office attracted 36 participants (11 females and 25 males); in El Fasher, North Darfur the CJF workshop organised in collaboration with Ministry of Justice on 13 December 2017 attracted 37 participants (12 females and 25 males) and; in El Geneina, West Darfur the CJF workshop organised in collaboration with the Judiciary on 19 December 2017 attracted 50 participants (10 females and 40 males).
- These forums resulted in justice institutions better understanding their roles in the justice chain and frequent consultations to deliver effective justice and enhanced interaction between the justice institutions through regular meetings to identify issues of concern. These forums assisted in bringing together all the rule of law actors and discussing issues of mutual concern and having a structured and organized body with a chairperson and members and regular meetings to discuss challenges to the administration of justice, provide support to and training being identified in the regular meetings etc.
- The JPROL also trained 480 justice partners drawn from the prosecution offices, police, courts of law, prison directorate on legal drafting, monitoring and report writing skills on human rights.

Table 1: Shows Criminal Justice Forum (CJF) establishment events and participants disaggregated by gender

SN	Description of event	Date/location	Males	Females	Total
1	CJF in North Darfur	EL Fasher, ND	25	12	37
2	CJF in South Darfur	Nyala, SD	25	11	36
3	CJF in East Darfur	El Daein, ED	41	14	55
4	CJF in West Darfur	El Geneina, WD	83	6	95
5	CJF in Central Darfur	Zalingei, CD	60	30	90
	TOTAL		234	80	314



CJF in El Fasher North Darfur, December 2017.
Photo credit, UNDP Project



CJF in Nyala South Darfur, December 2017. Photo credit, UNDP Project

In respect of Output 1.4: justice institutions including customary and traditional justice systems were strengthened to provide effective, equitable and timely justice/ protection services in line with international standards Capacity building Trainings for rule of law partners were undertaken. These included:

- ✓ Drafting of related legal aid law and Standards Operating Procedures (SOP), through a Letter of Agreement was finalized with the Ministry of Justice to support the Ministry of Justice, at the national level, and Darfur States. As a result, 3 sensitization workshops were organized on the proposed Legal Aid Legislation, targeting representatives from the civil society, judges, lawyers, prosecutors, and other relevant institutions.
- ✓ Publication of a Guidance Manual - Hand Book for Rural Courts. UNAMID in collaboration with the Sudan Judiciary developed a handbook conceived as a guidance manual for the Rural Court Judges working in Darfur localities to be used as a legal reference text. The book contains different aspects of Sudan civil procedure laws, criminal procedures, and elements of mediation all of which are very crucial for the work of Rural Court Judges.
- ✓ UNAMID organized five workshops for Rural Courts Judges in collaboration with the Sudan Judiciary in five Darfur States on orientation and dissemination of the handbook and trained 150 Rural Court Judges for one month (1-30 June 2018).
- ✓ Supported the establishment and operation of 15 local legal aid networks in 3 Darfur states.
- ✓ Conducted trainings on a diverse array of issues for justice and law enforcement officials and traditional informal justice institutions, paralegals, and community leaders, benefitting a total 5,281 participants out of which 1,137 were females and 5,281 were males as per the below table.

Table 2: Shows various trainings conducted in different locations and beneficiaries disaggregated by gender

S/N	Description of activity	location	Number of beneficiaries or participants disaggregated by gender			Type of beneficiaries or participants
			F	M	total	
1	Training of female police officers on the concept of community policing	El Fasher, North Darfur	25	0	25	Female police officers
2	Training of female police officers on the concept of community policing	Geneina, West Darfur	25		25	Female police officers
3	Training of female police officers on the concept of community policing	Zalingei, Central Darfur	25		25	Female police officers
4	Training of female police officers on the concept of community policing	Nyala South Darfur	25		25	Female police officers
5	child rights and child protection according to the Child Rights Act 2010 and alternative measures of detention explored	Kabkabiya, North Darfur	19	31	50	FCPU staff, prosecutors, lawyers, rural court judges, native administration, local council members, women group, youth, CSOs, social workers, police, national security and students.
6	child rights, reporting of SGBV	Mershing, Central Darfur	8	27	35	social workers, community leaders (local court administrators), school teachers, health workers, women and youth groups
7	Child rights workshop	Ed Alfursan, South Darfur	7	29	36	FCPU, community, youth, lawyers etc
8	GBV state committee Workshops on Child Rights	Albrari, North East El Fasher, North Darfur	50	7	57	Community leaders, women, youth
9	Workshop on Criminal Investigation and trial on rape cases of minors in El Fasher	El Fasher, North Darfur	14	31	45	Prosecutors and lawyers, judges
10	State Child council -outreach program on Child's rights and child labour	El Fasher, North Darfur	120	80	200	Youth, paralegals, community members
11	State Child council -outreach program on Child's rights and child labour	Zamzam, North Darfur	50	150	200	Youth and women groups, paralegals, students, teachers, Sheikhs and Omdas, IDPs
12	State Child council -outreach program on Child's rights and child labour	Abushouk, North Darfur	100	100	200	Youth and women groups, paralegals, students, teachers, IDPs
13	State Child council -outreach program on Child's rights and child labour	Shaggily Toby /North Darfur	130	70	200	Youth and women groups, students, teachers, Sheikhs and Omdas, IDPs
14	State Child council -outreach program on Child's rights and child labour	Tawilla /North Darfur	185	15	200	Youth and women groups, paralegals, students, teachers,

S/N	Description of activity	location	Number of beneficiaries or participants disaggregated by gender			Type of beneficiaries or participants
			F	M	total	
						Sheikhs and Omdas, IDPs
15	Human rights (Child rights) workshop	El Fasher, North Darfur	22	8	30	Social workers
16	Human rights (Child rights) workshop	El Fasher, North Darfur	36	7	43	Paralegals, lawyers, native administration
17	Child rights workshop	El Seraif, North Darfur	19	31	50	Women and youth groups, IDPs,
18	Child rights workshop	Saraf Omra, North Darfur	20	31	51	Community leaders, sheikhs, IDPs
19	Human rights (Child right) workshop	Nyala, South Darfur	19	16	35	FCPU, community leaders, women, youth etc
20	Human rights (Child right) workshop	Zalingei, Central Darfur	27	22	49	Legal actors e.g. Judges, prosecutors
21	Human rights (Child right) workshop	El Daein, East Darfur	15	15	30	Prosecutors, lawyers, judges, civil society
22	Capacity building training for legislative council members	Nyala, South Darfur	13	47	60	Members of the council
23	Capacity building training for legislative council members	Zalingei, Central Darfur	31	73	104	Legislators, Ministers, Army Advisors, NISS, Locality Commissioners, and Civil Society
24	Criminal Justice Forum workshop	Geneina, West Darfur	7	58	65	Judges, Police, Army, RSF, Lawyers, Prosecutors, Legal Advisors, Paralegals, Social Workers, and Native Administration
25	Criminal Justice working group Meeting	El Fasher, North Darfur	6	24	30	Prosecution office, judiciary, lawyers, police, prison, civil society, paralegals
26	Criminal Justice workshop	El Fasher, North Darfur	26	34	60	heads of rural courts, Civil society organizations, Women unions, and paralegals, native administration
27	Criminal Justice workshop	El Fasher, North Darfur	15	45	60	Lawyers, judges, prosecutors, police and prison officers, NISS, military prosecutor

S/N	Description of activity	location	Number of beneficiaries or participants disaggregated by gender			Type of beneficiaries or participants
			F	M	total	
28	Human rights (Child right) workshop	Geneina, West Darfur	6	44	50	Civil society, paralegals, lawyers, social workers
29	Human rights (Child right) workshop	Forbranga/West Darfur	24	26	50	FCPU, social workers, lawyers
30	Human rights (Child right) workshop	Nerititi/Central Darfur	27	23	50	Community leaders, Sheikhs, women and youth groups
31	Child Rights & Protection training	Geneina, West Darfur	29	21	50	Community leaders, social workers, paralegals, and youth
32	human rights, child rights, women empowerment and VSLA ideas	Manawashi, South Darfur	3,000	0	3,000	Women union, women groups, women IDPs
33	Human rights (Child right) workshop	Zalingei, central Darfur	19	31	50	Police, Social Workers, Prosecutors.
34	Capacity building training for legislative council members	Geneina, West Darfur	10	41	51	Members of the council
			4,144	1,137	5,281	

Under output 2.1: Support the development and execution of a human rights campaign through drama and plays

Drama and radio talk shows activities were conducted to create awareness on basic rights among communities and vulnerable groups which would assist and empower them to demand accessible and equitable justice services. This was done through radio talk shows, human rights campaigns and outreach activities in different localities and communities including CBOs/NGOs, IDP camps population, secondary school students. Implementing partners were Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) and the Sudan National Commission for Human Rights

The campaigns aimed to: -

- Generate greater awareness around the human rights situation in Darfur.
- Increase the technical capabilities of CSOs actors and communities to address human rights violations.
- Advocate for the adoption of measures for the prevention of human rights violations, and the promotion and protection of human rights.
- Coordinate and interact with stakeholders involved in the human rights promotion campaigns at the end.
- Communicate on human rights through the most cost effective and appropriate channels aiming to reach the maximum number of people across the Darfur, particularly people residing in rural areas.
- Contribute to a change in policies and practices that render people vulnerable to violence.
- Empower local stakeholders to actively engage in preventing and bringing an end to the existing violations of domestic law and international human rights standards.

The activities implemented covered a range of beneficiaries totaling 5,849 including school-going children, female offenders, communities in Dar El Salam and Tawilla localities in addition to the radio broadcasts through

Darfur FM, and CBOs/NGOs. As a result, it is estimated that a total of 5,849 persons (2,340 female and 3,509 male) were reached through this campaign as per the below table.

Table 3: Shows different campaigns conducted in different location and beneficiaries disaggregated by gender

SN	Description of even	Date/location	males	females	total
1	HR campaign in El Fasher town (NCHRs)	7/12/17 El Fasher at El Fasher radio hall	61	39	100
2	HR campaign in El Fasher University (NCHRs)	13/12/17 University Hall	55	49	104
3	9/12/2017 conducted awareness raising campaign in Dar El Salam locality (MOSA)	9/12/17 Dar El Salam	42	63	105
4	awareness raising campaign in Tawilla locality (MOSA)	17/12/2017 Tawilla	55	45	100
5	human rights awareness campaign held at Um Shegaira primary school for girls (MOSA)	18/12/2017 Um Shegaira primary school for girls	00	650	650
6	human rights awareness campaign held at El Nagah primary school for boys (MOSA)	19/12/2017 El Nagah primary school for boys	1400	00	1400
7	human rights awareness campaign held at El Ganobia secondary school for boys (MOSA)	20/12/2017 El Ganobia secondary school for boys	848	00	848
8	human rights awareness campaign held at El Salam secondary school for girls. (MOSA)	21/12/2017 El Salam secondary school for girls	00	440	440
9	human rights awareness campaign held at Shalla Federal prison for women (MOSA)	22/12/2018 Shalla Federal prison for women	48	54	102
10	a program on human rights principles with a focus on child rights, rights of people with disabilities, civil, political, economic, cultural and social rights (NCHRs)	on 16/12/2017 broadcasted by radio El Fasher	500	500	1000
11	a program on human rights and how to lodge human rights violations complaint, the role and mandate of the NCHR (NCHRs)	on 17/12/2017, broadcasted by radio Darfur FM	500	500	1000
12	total		3,509	2,340	5,849



Awareness campaign on HRs all at El Fasher, Al Nagah Boys Primary School for boys, December 2017. Photo credit, UNDP Project



Students watching a drama on HRs

For Output 1.4: justice institutions including customary and traditional justice systems are strengthened to provide effective, equitable and timely justice/ protection services in line with international standards.

Output 3.2: local conflict resolution mechanisms are strengthened; and Output 2 Communities and vulnerable groups are aware of their rights and empowered to demand accessible and equitable justice services, including community policing.

Capacity building activities targeting paralegal groups were undertaken particularly in South, West and North Darfur who received refresher trainings and trainings for newly recruited paralegals. A total of 90 participants benefitted out of which 53 were male and 37 were female: -

- UNDP in collaboration with the Legal Department of the South Darfur carried out refresher training workshop for paralegal groups in Nyala in South Darfur State on 13-14 December 2017 and similarly conducted a ToT for 25 new paralegals (5 females and 20 males) drawn from Kalma, Otash and Kass IDP camps, refresher training for the existing paralegals and revised the existing modules.
 - In North Darfur conducted a refresher training at the Bar Association Hall for a total of 46 paralegals (28 females and 18 males) on 11-12 December 20217 from Abu Shouk (24 from women union and civil society and 7 from the native administration) and 15 paralegals from Zamzam IDP camps in addition to members of rural courts.
 - UNDP conducted a training workshop on 10-13 December 2017 in El Geneina for a total of 19 paralegals (4 females and 15 males) from Hassa Heisa (central Darfur) and Krinding (west Darfur).
- Completed 5 Micro Capital Grant Agreements (MCGAs) with four Justice and Confidence Centres (JCCs) namely, Civil Society for Legal Aid (South Darfur and Justice and Peace Building Organization (both in south Darfur), Legal Aid Society (North Darfur), Civil Aid Society (central Darfur), and TAWEELA Organization (North Darfur), and the Bar Association to support the mediation of a total of 375 cases which benefitted 225 women and 150 men.
 - 36 Awareness raising sessions conducted by the abovementioned JCCs, CBOs/NGOs, targeting 1,205 beneficiaries out of which 549 were women and 656 men trained on legal aid, human rights, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) among others.



Paralegals training in Nyala, SD December 2017.
Photo credit, UNDP Project



Paralegals training in El Fasher, ND December 2017
Photo credit, UNDP Project

- *Output 2.4: capacities of national human rights institutions are strengthened included.*
 - 2 trainings by Human Rights Commission for parliamentarians on treaties not ratified by Sudan and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) were completed, each benefiting a total of 225 participants (145 female and 80 male parliamentarians) and 105 participants (57 females and 48 males).
Training workshops for a total of 2,204 members of the SNHRC, human rights advocates and civil society (1,088 females and 1,116 males) on human rights principles with a focus on child rights, rights

of people with disabilities, civil, political, economic, cultural and social rights, on human rights and how to lodge human rights violations complaint, the role and mandate of the SNCHR.

Output 1: Justice institutions are strengthened to provide effective, equitable and timely justice and protection services in line with international standards and Output 1.5: oversight and accountability of the justice system are enhanced included the following.

- Piloted a capacity building programme to train female and male legislators of the Central Darfur Legislature and West Darfur Legislature and provided office equipment and furniture to Central Darfur Legislature. The training conducted in Zalingei, Central Darfur benefited a total of 120 Legislators (32 females and 88 males) whose capacity was built on, topics such as roles and responsibilities of legislators; rule of law and good governance; the impact of legislators work in attaining good governance and promoting rule of law and transparency; accountability and overseeing the administrative organ of the government, among others. While the training conducted in West Darfur on 3-4 December 2017 benefited a total of 35 Legislators (13 females and 22 males).

The training positively impacted on the legislators' awareness on their professional mandate and recommended to have a joint workshop conducted between legislators, executive officials, General Auditor, and Internal Auditor, for improved coordination and practice, highlighting the importance of transparent and fair distribution of resources between, federal, state, and locality levels, and activation of financial laws and procedures, amongst others.

- Consequently, a workshop on capacity building for Legislative Council members and participants from the executive organs including native administration, tribal leaders and political parties was conducted in Zalingei, Central Darfur on 4-5 December 2017 and benefited a total of 83 participants (20 females and 63 males) with the opening ceremony graced by ambassadors of Qatar, Britain, Japan, Holland, Norway, Switzerland, Canada, Deputy Ambassador of France, Deputy Ambassador of Germany, the Director of US Aid, Director of the Charity Organization and UNAMID JSR.
- UNDP in collaboration with the Sudan Women Parliamentarian Caucus (SWPC) conducted 5 consultation forums which benefited a total of 150 participants drawn from judges, lawyers, parliamentarians and women from Darfur out of which, 100 were females and 50 males to inform the process for the development of policy and legal frameworks inclusive in nature and protective of women and their rights, improve access to justice, and legal aid and service delivery for marginalized women and girls, particularly survivors of SGBV
- UNDP in collaboration with the Sudan National Human Rights Commission trained a total of 105 parliamentarians (57 females and 48 males) on treaties not signed by the Sudan Government to support ratification and were equally trained on the implementation of Universal Period Review) UPR process.



Legislators' training in Zalingei Central Darfur capacity building training December 2017.

Photo credit, UNDP Project

Provision of grants to support community networks to empower and promote the social cohesion of women and vulnerable groups to enable them to assert their rights. Particularly,

- Child Development Foundation (CDF) a community-based organization was contracted by UNDP to implement activities that supported female beneficiaries to assert and build capacities to enable them to claim their rights and hold duty bearers accountable. The underlying principle is that once individuals are economically empowered and have sustainable livelihoods, they are better placed to claim these rights, and in the process, promote community cohesion and social peaceful co-existence. In light of this, CDF assisted communities to undertake livelihood activities including agricultural interventions and constituting village savings and lending associations (VSLAs).
- CDF teams conducted awareness campaigns on human rights, child rights, women empowerment and VSLA ideas in Manawashi benefiting a total of 3,000 participants to raise awareness on issues deemed to be complementary to other project activities and led to achieve the ultimate goals and objectives.
- Provision of Cash Grants amounting to 52,000 SDG that benefited 52 VSLA members with each receiving 1,000 SDG and 13,000 SDG to each VSLA group with a membership of 13 persons.
- 50 women were selected and trained in village savings and loan activities.
- Conducted learning forums benefiting a total of 100 persons (30 youth, 35 women and 35 community leaders) to acquaint them with and discuss gender equality, child protection, child rights, human rights and women empowerment issues.
- A total of 6,000 participants benefited from direct sessions and awareness campaigns undertaken on gender equality, gender-based violence, child protection, child rights, human rights, and peaceful co-existence.
- 52 women were selected and divided into 4 groups composed of 13 members each to establish a society for women empowerment. These were also trained as part of the above-mentioned learning forums in VSLA including community development planning process to draft and implement future projects. that benefited youth, women and community leaders
- Selected and trained 2 community trainers/animations to manage and follow-up daily, weekly, and monthly activities of VSLA groups with 48 weekly and 4 monthly meetings conducted.
- Supported the 52 VSLA members with cash grants and 3 self-reliant VSLA groups were established, and 67 members joined, and 3 literacy and numeracy education classes were opened for 38 participants.



Women empowerment activities in Manawashi South Darfur March 2018. Photo credit, CDF team

C. Activities implemented by UNICEF under the JPROL in Darfur 2016 -2020

The activities undertaken by UNICEF supported the implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection of Children in Armed Conflict to strengthen prevention and accountability of the security institutions, and consequently enhance the rule of law. These activities were achieved through a two-pronged approach of; one, strengthening the policies of the security institutions and their implementation through training; and two, empowering communities through policies, awareness-raising, and programming. UNICEF worked closely together with the Romeo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative in reaching the outcomes listed under this project.

The UNICEF interventions under the JPROL contributed to the strengthening of the security institutions in Sudan to enable them to address grave violations of children's rights (in line with International Humanitarian Law - IHL). Strengthening the security system helped to achieve the overall goals of the JPROL in Darfur and built a solid foundation for sustainable peace and development. In addition, the project supported the rule of law institutions and build their capacity to ensure that recruited children were supported through the justice for children system and that they received child-friendly services. The project also supported the empowerment of children as rights holders.

Successful implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection of Children in Armed Conflict would directly and indirectly support the national objectives prioritized under the Rule of Law programme, in particular: Sustainable Development Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions; Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security; the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Outcome 6: 'People in Sudan are protected under an enabling environment that guarantees the rule of law, basic rights and fundamental freedoms', and the UNICEF Sudan Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP), relating to the rule of law, basic rights and fundamental freedoms, justice institutions, legal aid and access to justice, as well as the Child Protection Rolling Work Plan.

As part of the implementation of the UN/Sudan Action Plan on Protection of Children in Armed Conflict, a total of 1,216 Rapid Support Forces (RSF) troops were screened and 37 cases were identified for further verification through the age-assessment mechanism. Thirty technical committee members and UN staff gained skills and knowledge on age verification and were able to effectively participate in two age verification exercises among RSF troops (South Darfur and West Darfur). The results of the verification missions revealed that thirty of the identified cases were proven to be above eighteen years-old, whilst seven cases needed further verification based on a three-step assessment. In the end, none of them was found to be below eighteen years of age. Additional verification missions were planned to be conducted in other Darfur states as well as Blue Nile and Khartoum (where RSF has a heavy presence) but due to COVID-19 – especially restrictions on inter-state travel and face-to-face meetings – these missions were postponed.

UNICEF and partners (the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW), Sudan Armed Forces (SAF), police and other government stakeholders) have statutory and coordination mechanisms in place, which support the implementation, verification, prevention and response to (grave) child rights violations. UNICEF documents all grave violations against children.

Taking stock of the situation up to 31 December 2020, the Country-level Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) on grave child rights violations, worked on the finalisation of the first quarter (2021) Global Horizontal Note (GHN) report. A total of 53 violations were observed, all related to armed conflict affecting children. The killing and maiming of children continued to be the most prevalent violation. Verified violations were attributed to the unidentified armed elements (35), Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) – Transitional Council (8), unknown (9), and Sudan Police Force (SPF) (1). Overall, violations were verified in West Darfur (29), Central Darfur (9), North Darfur (7), South Darfur (5), Blue Nile (2), and South Kordofan (1).

The CTFMR engaged extensively with the armed groups - in particular Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and SLM-TC - in Central Darfur to advocate for the protection of children. The CTFMR verified the recruitment and use of 8 children (3 girls, 5 boys) aged about 16 and 17 years. The verified cases were attributed to SLM-TC. These occurred in Nertiti, Central Darfur. CTFMR engaged and advocated with SLM-TC leadership in Central Darfur where they agreed to

register the children for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme in preparation for their release. Consultation meetings were conducted with stakeholders and experts to review draft DDR standard operating procedures (SOPs). Comments and recommendations were taken into consideration on the way forward to conduct DDR SOPs validation workshop.

The results under the different outcomes and outputs included the following; in respect of Outcome 1: Justice institutions are strengthened to provide equitable, effective, and accountable justice services,

- UNICEF invested in intervening at the institutional level - building on the momentum of the Action Plan on Protection of Children in Armed Conflict - to influence institutional change that will ensure sustainability of the intervention. UNICEF formed part of the Technical Committee of the Action Plan, which also included: the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF); Ministry of Defense; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Interior; Ministry of Social Welfare; National Security; Population Defense Forces; National Council for Child Welfare and the State Councils for Child Welfare. Working with this wide range of stakeholders helped the decision-making process as well as working with different duty bearers. The Technical Committee was mandated among other things to follow-up and monitor the implementation of the benchmarks in the signed Action Plan on the Protection of Children in Armed Conflict, including monitoring and verification missions, development of the SOPs and the Complaint Mechanisms, supporting the release and reintegration of children.
- The work with national and local partners in strengthening the justice and social welfare system, helped in achieving national ownership of key programme activities. This was evidenced by the Family and Child Protection Unit (FCPU) taking the lead in service provision for children associated with armed groups and conflict (just like service provision for other children in contact with the law), thereby moving away from national security leadership for these cases. A rehabilitation center was established inside the FCPU in Omdurman locality, Khartoum state, to ensure that children received the needed care and support.
- The work with partners in strengthening the justice and social welfare system, helped in achieving national ownership of key programme activities. This was evidenced by the Family and Child Protection Unit (FCPU) taking the lead in service provision for children associated with armed groups and conflict (just like service provision for other children in contact with the law), thereby moving away from national security leadership for these cases.
- The implementation of the Action Plan to Protect Children from Grave Violations, signed by the Government of Sudan and the United Nations in 2016, led to the delisting in 2018 of the Government of Sudan's security forces from the UN Secretary-General's annual report on children and armed conflict. This development has gradually led to better protection of children in conflict areas and political commitments from the Government of Sudan to end recruitment and to protect children from the six grave violations, including in Darfur.

Output 1.2: Selected laws and policies are brought in line with international standards and norms.

- During the reporting period, UNICEF tried to use age assessment machines to ensure no children under eighteen were part of the armed forces. In the past, the military forces repeatedly claimed that there was a lack of such machines and that it was therefore difficult to estimate the age of new recruits without identification papers/birth registration (a related issue is that the age of young people in detention can often not be verified). However, UNICEF's efforts to procure age assessment machines was unsuccessful, since the only machines were found in Israel and due to political reasons, it was not possible for SAF to request them. Instead, UNICEF and partners were able to build age verification capacities among the technical committee on the implementation of the action plan. Age verification was done based on an adopted age verification SOPs disseminated across the states.

- Following-up on the benchmarks of the Action Plan through the technical committee and as part of the legal reform in relation to armed conflict, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on the release and reintegration of children associated with armed conflict were adopted by the Government of Sudan.
- UNICEF supported the roll-out of the SOPs on the release of children from armed conflict as well as a complaint mechanism.
- UNICEF in collaboration with the Child Rights Unit within the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), agreed to develop a training manual for SAF that will be part of the mandatory training for all officers as well as non-commissioned soldiers. The training manual for SAF was developed and would form part of the mandatory training for all officers as well as non-commissioned soldiers. Additionally, UNICEF in conjunction with Romeo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative staff that visited Sudan on 24-28 November 2019, trained 60 SAF officers including legal advisors from different states.
- UNICEF and partners engaged heavily with RSF since this military force is the weakest in terms of knowledge and capacities related to International Humanitarian Law (IHL), child rights and protection because they are only quite recently integrated in the military and have had no opportunities for capacity-building activities.

Outcome 2: Communities and vulnerable groups enjoy enhanced access to justice and are empowered to demand respect for their human rights.

- The Rule of Law programme supported UNICEF in building the capacities of rights holders and to empower children to claim their rights. This was done through education and increased access to justice; notably through community awareness that empowered marginalized and vulnerable groups by adopting a holistic, people-centered and needs-based approach to identify and support the real drivers of community empowerment and protection.

Output 2.1: Communities and vulnerable groups are aware of their rights and empowered to demand accessible and equitable justice services;

- UNICEF supported the finalization of the Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) in relation to child recruitment. Through the combined advocacy of the Nation Council for Child Welfare (NCCW) and UNICEF, the KAP study was endorsed by the Minister of Social Welfare on 13 May 2018.
- A complaint mechanism was established to ensure that community members can make a complaint when they witness or hear about any case of child recruitment. The complaint mechanism was printed, circulated, and tested in one of the recruit cases in Kass, South Darfur. After receiving the complaint and with involvement of the State Council for Child Welfare (SCCW) and the Ministry of Social Welfare (MOSW), the 17-year-old boy was reunited with his family.
- UNICEF supported the training of 27 members from 14 active child society organizations on psychosocial support for the implementation of the KAP study recommendations as well as the work with communities that needed close monitoring to ensure changes in attitudes. These women and men would work directly with rights holders by providing support to community networks and by empowering women and vulnerable groups to assert their rights. They would also work to generate awareness on legal institutions, in particular pathways to the Family and Child Protection Units (FCPUs). Further, focus would be on promoting community dialogue and the empowerment of the most vulnerable groups.
- A communication campaign on 'ending recruitment and use of children in armed conflict' was initially planned to focus on the involvement of children in inter-communal armed conflict. However, the wide allegations against the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Government of Sudan entailed that a broader focus was needed. The campaign therefore focused on the motivation for joining the RSF (the high salaries and status)

while it at the same time addressed the involvement of children in intercommunal (tribal) conflict, which is mainly a social norm issue based on local traditions and cultures.

During 2020, UNICEF and its partners encountered major challenge when the COVID-19 pandemic erupted worldwide. The pandemic negatively impacted the UN's ability to relate with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). On March 2020, further to a workshop with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM-N) a roadmap was adopted to be implemented to ensure full compliance with their action plan, which had stalled because of the inability to access areas controlled by the SPLM-N in the Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile. The planned verification exercise among their troops did not take place as planned. In addition, further to the signature of the Juba Peace Agreement as of October 2020, many signatory groups arrived in Khartoum to join the transitional authorities and the security arrangements. The release, interim care, family tracing and reunification of the children in their families and communities is still expected to take place. This situation has created an eruption of many other armed groups expecting to be part of the upcoming DDR process.

Further to the Juba Peace Agreement and the arrival of signatory groups in Khartoum and the deteriorating situation of the grave violations of child rights, remains an urgent need to strengthen work in these areas together with the other UN agencies including UNITAMS.

3. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED BY ALL AGENCIES

- a) Lack of infrastructure and facilities for rural courts: Long years of conflict in Darfur severely curtailed the capacity of the Rural Courts to carry out their role as the traditional justice system in resolving disputes including the intercommunal disputes and related-land issues and dispensing justice. Many Rural Courts have no buildings or office equipment or staff. While in some places there are small structures, many of them are quite dilapidated due to long years of conflict, wear and tear, lack of maintenance, no electric supply and no equipment. UNAMID facilitated the construction of Rural Courts in some sectors but administrative bottle necks from the Government of Sudan sometimes hampered the progress in many infrastructure projects.
- b) Lack of legal knowledge: Traditional community leaders are often appointed as Rural Court Judges and yet they are not lawyers. Lack of legal knowledge was a serious issue because many of the decisions made were against the established laws and procedures. There was little effort to impart legal knowledge or provide legal literature by the national administration as part of the formal justice system. As such, there was often no legal basis for the decisions made and no detailed judgements are recorded, or copies provided to parties, which affects the right of parties to go for the appeal process. However, UNAMID established good working relations with the Sudan Judiciary and in active collaboration to publish legal texts and organize dissemination workshops imparting them with basic knowledge of law and procedures.
- c) Lack of security: The security situation in many parts of Darfur remains bad in the absence of a comprehensive peace agreement between the Government and rebel movements. Incidents of fighting and skirmishes remains rampant in many areas including Jebel Mara due to land-related concerns, amongst others. There was no clear strategy by the Government to establish land registries or enact proper land laws or contain the intermittent inter-communal conflict as well as the rampant impunity perpetrated by the armed elements. Hence the security situation remains precarious which affects the work of Rural Courts.
- d) Inadequate remuneration for Judges and funding for the courts: Rural courts suffer from severe financial constraints and do not receive adequate remuneration for the Judges, to enable them to undertake their work effectively. The general economic situation in the country suffered a setback after the separation of oil rich southern part as the new country of South Sudan affecting all branches of governance including the Judiciary with the Rural courts as one of the most neglected.

- e) Lack of proper record keeping: There was no system or procedure followed by the Rural Courts for record keeping of the cases being considered or the decisions being made. There are no equipment or storage facilities to keep records in most of the courts. It was observed that a lot of work was being delegated to Rural courts by the higher courts and lack of proper record keeping severely hampered the quality of justice being delivered and the right of parties to appeal.
- f) The fund management team faced serious bureaucratic challenges with the processing of funds which took unreasonably long time to be cleared by New York. Consequently, payment to the implementing partners was seriously delayed and this adversely impacted the commencement and implementation of the project, from December 2017. Therefore, construction work commenced in May 2018, after the payment of the first tranche (60%) to the implementing partner in the last week of April 2018. The initially planned completion date of the project was correspondingly affected.
- g) Limited government financial resources to the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW) and the Ministry of Social Welfare to support the protection of children. Advocacy for local component allocations partially helped in addressing this challenge.
- h) The Programme Cooperation Agreement (PCA) process for the development of the Sudan Armed Forces training manual took longer than expected to be finalized (this is partly due to it being a multi-country agreement).
- i) Age assessment machines specifications were impossible / difficult to procure to accurately identify ages of young armed combatants.
- j) Proper and regular coordination with different UN agencies and UNAMID proved challenging due to the nature of the project, limited resources raised and the rapid implementation.
- k) The importance of having strong partnerships and relations in place with key ministries. Being part of the government technical committees is essential for achieving institutional change and for ensuring that the (child) rights approach is followed. Government involvement also increases the level of accountability and ensures harmonization of actions guided by both international and regional standards.
- l) The political instability and the emerging of new strong players within the military apparatus (the Rapid Support Forces) during the reporting period created challenges for UNICEF. While UNICEF and partners made much progress with the Sudan Armed Forces in terms of trust and capacity building, this newcomer was very much lagging in terms of knowledge and capacities related to human rights law, international humanitarian law (IHL), child rights and protection, specially within the context of armed conflict. However, the work done so far proved encouraging.
- m) Outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which delayed implementation of the some of the residual planned activities due to restrictions on (inter-state) travel in the first half of 2020 and restrictions on social gatherings. Particularly, UNICEF for 2019 – 2020 continued implementation of activities namely, development and finalization of the SAF training curriculum as per the signed PCA with Dalhousie University, purchase and distribution of the age assessment machines through UNICEF's supply section and supported the 'ending child recruitment campaign' and social mobilization in West Kordofan.
- n) Despite the social and political turmoil over the last six months, Sudan has continued to display efforts towards the full compliance with the Action Plan to protect Children in armed conflicts.
- o) Further to UNAMID's downsizing process, UNAMID and UNICEF proactively decided to develop a proper phasing out plan to be implemented over a two-year time (2020-2021) for a smooth handover some of the aspect of this MRM - CAAC agenda in collaboration with the OSRSG-CAAC. This has enabled to maintain the momentum despite the withdrawal of one of the key players from the scene knowing that the process the process of UNITAMS to step will be another lengthy process.

CONCLUSIONS

Although it was implemented during very challenging times and a complex security environment, it can be concluded that the JPROL was able to demonstrate positively the dividends of rule of law actors coming together in a joined-up manner to address the challenges that pertain in Darfur, and by extension the whole country. Although it did not raise the envisaged resources, it is hoped that this will be catalytic and that the forthcoming political mission, UNITAMS will further support and consolidate the gains of the JPROL through advocacy, networking and partnering with both national, regional and international actors now that a Transitional Government is in place and the political relationships between the western world and Sudan are set on a trajectory of positive mutual collaboration unlike was the case in the past.

UNICEF Sudan would like to express its deepest gratitude to the Government and people of Canada for their generosity, especially on behalf of all the children and vulnerable population who greatly benefitted from this programme. While progress has been made, Sudan continues to face major challenges and continued donor support will be critical to protect more children from violence, exploitation, and abuse. UNICEF Sudan looks forward to a continued partnership with the Government of Canada in 2021 and beyond.

