

## Qatar Confirms \$88 mn for Sudan Darfur Development



AFP/AFP - Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister Ahmed bin Abdullah al-Mahmud (C) chairs a meeting of an international commission monitoring a peace deal in Sudan's Darfur, in el-Fasher on April 28, 2014

Qatar confirmed on Monday it will provide \$88 million to kick-start a strategy for lasting development of Sudan's Darfur, which this year has seen its worst violence in a decade.

The commitment, signed in the North Darfur capital El Fasher, comes one year after an international donors' conference in Doha secured \$3.6 billion in pledges -- mostly from cash-strapped Khartoum -- to finance the six-year Darfur Development Strategy.

Gas-rich Qatar said at the conference that it would make an immediate contribution of \$88 million, half the \$177 million needed for critical short-term activities.

"It took some time... We're glad that it's on the right track," the UN chief in Sudan, Ali Al-Za'tari, said when asked why the money had not come sooner.

"They have already transferred, even before we signed anything, \$10 million to the United Nations Darfur fund," providing it with its first contribution, Za'tari told AFP from El Fasher.

The grant will be handed over "once the documentation is ready," likely within a month, he added.

Qatar will fund 19 UN-sponsored projects across Darfur's five states.

Known as "Foundational and Short-term (FaST) activities, the Development Strategy had called for them to be essentially completed within 12 months.

Among the targeted projects were the construction of water hand pumps, the building of schools and upgrading of health facilities.

The strategy's longer-term goal is to move the war-devastated region away from food handouts and other emergency aid, helping people to become more self-reliant.

But emergency needs remain high in the territory where, according to UN figures released on Monday, about 224,000 people have been displaced by fighting since late February.

That has added to the aid burden in a region where about two million were already displaced by 11 years of violence.

While Darfur's aid needs have soared, the number of aid workers has fallen in recent years, as has the amount of funding, according to the United Nations.

The Development Strategy comes under a July 2011 peace deal which Khartoum signed in Doha with an alliance of rebel splinter factions.

Numerous aspects of the deal have not been implemented on schedule and major rebel groups have refused to sign it.

At the same time, other forms of unrest -- including battles between heavily armed tribes, militia violence and criminality -- have worsened.

Separately from its contribution to the UN fund, Za'tari said Qatar has been supporting clinics and other projects under its total \$500 million pledge from the conference.

"On the one hand, it's good that there will be money to do more longer-term things, which eventually could reduce the tension between groups," a humanitarian source said.

"On the other hand, the time doesn't entirely seem to be ripe for it."

The UN-backed Development Strategy argues that there will likely never be an ideal time for Darfur's "recovery" to begin.

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/qatar-confirms-88-mn-sudan-darfur-development-173022436.html>

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<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/140428/qatar-confirms-88-mn-sudan-darfur-development>

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## Development: UN

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<http://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/qatar-confirms-88-mn-sudan-darfur-development-un>

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Internally displaced children look at an African Union - UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) peacekeeper standing guard near the vicinity of a UNAMID base near Labado, South Darfur December 9, 2013 (Photo: Reuters)

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<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/100051/World/Region/Qatar-confirms--mn-for-Sudan-Darfur-development-UN.aspx>

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## Qatar Says Darfur-Darfur Dialogue to Kick off Early May



Development Should Continue along with the Peace Process: A'al Mahmoud

Khartoum – Qatari Deputy Prime Minister, Ahmed Ben Abdallah A'al Mahmoud, has called on the Darfuri warring parties to immediately cease fighting and implement the agreed security arrangements stating that disarming residents would pave the way for constructive dialogue.

All the people have been convinced that war in Darfur would only bring devastation to the people of the region, said A'al Mahmoud, in his address yesterday at the opening session of the 8th meeting of the follow up committee for the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) in El Fashir. Hostilities will only complicate matters on the ground, he said. He added that some factions have recognized realities on the ground such as some of the members of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) in Jebel Marra who had signed the DDPD.

It is high time to denounce violence because the people are fed up with war, he said, adding that Darfur-Darfur conference will be held early May and continue until the end of August. Over 10,000 participants will attend the conference to resolve the crisis once and for all, he said.

From the start we have decided that development and reconstruction should not be made dependent on conclusion of comprehensive settlement, he said and underscored the importance of continued development together with the peace process.

The people of Darfur have the right to reap peace dividends, the Minister said, and highlighted the meeting of donors in El-Fashir yesterday to follow up on the implementation of the

recommendations of the international donor conference for reconstruction in Darfur which was held in Doha last year. He said the meeting of the donors in El Fashir also discussed how to implemented necessary projects to assist IDPs and refugees to return to their original villages for development and reconstruction.

He stressed the need to do away with obstructions to development, investment and commercial exchange across the border. The return of IDPs and refugees to their original villages is the focus of the follow up mechanism, he said, adding that Qatar had implemented five model villages.

The Minister encouraged partnerships between the Darfur Regional Authority and the National Housing Fund for building several towns in order to contribute towards the return of IDPs to their villages. He said the mediation launched by his country provided an organizational framework to achieve peace in Darfur through the DDPD. We will not let the people of Darfur down, he said. All are responsible for what is happening in Darfur whether it is the government, leaders, movements, local or international communities, he said.

We should speak in one language that is the language of dialogue and pursue negotiations to find urgent solutions to the problems in Darfur to alleviate the sufferings of the people of Darfur and compensate them for years of war and devastation, A'al Mahmoud said. A meeting will be held soon in Jeddah to discuss the need to open Qatar Bank and the time of its launch, he said.

<http://news.sudanvisiondaily.com/details.html?rsnpid=235075>

## LJM Says Overcome Differences, Developed Rules to Regulate Work



Khartoum – The meetings convened by the presidential council of the Liberation and Justice Movement in the North Darfur Capital of El Fasher over the past two days resulted in a comprehensive agreement between LJM leaders to overcome differences and develop rules and regulations to regulate work.

The Council issued a statement confirming that it would go ahead to implement the security arrangements for the Liberation and Justice Movement, he said, adding that the Council discussed all problems and issues raised over the past period and took a host of measures and decisions to address these problems.

The LJM convened a press conference in El Fashir where the chairman of the movement, Dr. Al-Tijani Al-Sisi underscored the importance of denouncing differences and beginning a new phase of implementing the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD).

The LJM over the past period was hit by stormy differences between its Secretary General and President on one side and between the military commanders and the president on other but recent meetings managed to resolve the differences.

<http://news.sudanvisiondaily.com/details.html?rsnpid=235074>

# Al- Mahmoud: Implementation of Doha Document for Peace in Darfur Progresses as Planned

Sudan Radio (29 April) - The Qatari Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Follow up Mechanism for the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, Ahmed bin Abdalla Al-Mahmoud, arrived Al-Fasher city, the capital of north Darfur State, accompanied by a high-level delegation

Al- Mahmoud was received upon arrival at Al-Fasher air-port by the Chairman of the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA), Dr. Al-Tegani Sessi, the head of the Darfur Peace Follow up Office, Dr. Amin Hassan Omer, the governor of North Darfur State, Osman Mohamed Yousif Kibir, the governor of West Darfur State, Haider Galakoma, and a number of ministers and executive officials of the DRA and North Darfur State

Al- Mahmoud indicated in a press statement at Al-Fasher airport that the visit program includes three meetings with the Council of Donations Management for Darfur reconstruction, the UNAMID and the committee for the follow up of the implementation of the peace agreement. He noted that an inclusive report on what was accomplished by Sudan government, Darfur Regional Authority and the Liberation and Justice Movement would be reviewed at the meeting, beside a UNAMID report.

He said that the implementation of the document progresses as it was planned and through joint cooperation

Al- Mahmoud accused some parties, who he did not name, of not being willing to work and do not want to speed up the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, stressing that the Darfurian people are the only guarantee for the implementation of the peace agreement. The head of the follow up office of Darfur Peace, Dr. Amin Hassan Omer, asserted that the political aspects of the Doha Document were fully implemented, renewing the government commitment to implementation of the economic side of the agreement .

He announced the inauguration of the model villages funded via the Darfur Development Strategy within a month, acknowledging the existence of security violations by the movements that did not sign the peace agreement.

He also revealed the government welcome to the armed movements that want to join the peace process.

The Qatari Deputy Prime Minister has started closed-door meetings with DRA officials in its headquarters in Al-Fasher. The different media organs are expected to be acquainted with outcome of the meetings of the Mechanism for the Follow up Committee for the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur which would continue till Monday.

<http://www.sudanradio.info/english/modules/news/article.php?storyid=7513>

