

Sudan Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Final report

Programme Title: 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)

Project ID: 00130731

Geographical area: Sudan

Implementing partners: N/A

Project Start Date, End Date, and Duration: 3 March 2022 – 31 December 2023

Focal points: Astrid Leao, Programme Management Officer at UNITAMS

Gender Marker: GEM 2

Risk Marker: N/A

Date of submission: 31 January 2024

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1. Programme summary & contextual developments

The Programme aimed to support the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) good offices function in supporting the peace process and the implementation of current and future peace agreements in Sudan. The programme was developed in line with the SRSG good offices function as enshrined within United Nations Security Council resolution 2524 (2020) and the context where Sudan was transitioning towards democratic governance with a Transitional Government of Sudan in place. On 25 October 2021, 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 towards democratic governance and supporting political talks between the Transitional Government and non-signatory groups to the Juba Peace Agreement (JPA), dialogue between these parties broke up in July 2021, and the prospects for resumption of talks significantly receded after the military coup of October 2021. Moreover, following the military coup, mass demonstrations took place resulting in killings, detention 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 were also reported. 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 the human rights and protection of civilians; 3) support to the implementation of the JPA; and 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 JPA.

Due to the above developments, the Programme initiated the implementation of its activities in early 2022. As such, activities were initiated under outcome 1 and 3, including activities with regard to political consultations, women's meaningful participation, UNITAMS media strategy and outreach efforts, and peacebuilding assessments. During most of 2022, UNITAMS with its Trilateral partners, through its good offices, made efforts to restart political talks and bridge the differences between various political camps. The decision by the military in July 2022 to withdraw from politics was a significant turning point in this regard, which led to further talks between the civilians and the military. The Political Framework Agreement (PFA) signed on 5 December 2022 between the military leadership and a significant number of political parties, signatory armed groups of the JPA, trade unions, and professional associations, marked the beginning of a return to political transition. The PFA captured an understanding reached between the military and civilian components concerning transitional governance structures and stipulated further consultations on five issues; i) justice and transitional justice; ii) security and military reform; iii) the JPA and the completion of peace; iv) the dismantling of the 30 June regime; and v) resolving the crisis in the east of the country. The

outcomes of these consultations were expected to feed into a final agreement to be negotiated between the parties.

During the first quarter of 2023, the Programme supported consultations in the form of workshops on the five issues as stipulated in the PFA. As a result, outcomes of four out of the five consultations were incorporated into a draft of a potential final agreement, while the workshop on security and military reform did not produce an agreement on the outcomes due to differences between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on the timeline of RSFs integration and chain of command. In addition, the Programme implemented activities under all four outcomes, including with regard to women's meaningful participation, UNITAMS media strategy and outreach efforts, strengthening monitoring and reporting of human rights violations among CSO, youth and women, state-level consultations on peacebuilding assessment findings and an assessment on rural courts. Following the consultations on the five issues as stipulated in the PFA, differences persisted and an agreement between the parties was delayed. Despite the extensive consultations and engagements conducted with representatives of SAF and RSF to defuse tensions and overcome the differences, fighting between SAF and RSF broke out on 15 April 2023 engulfing Sudan into conflict which continues to this date. As a result, the majority of UNITAMS international staff were evacuated from Sudan (some remained in Port Sudan) and the Mission reconfigured itself with temporary offices established in Nairobi and Addis Ababa, alongside a limited UN footprint remaining in Port Sudan. The outbreak of conflict significantly impacted UNITAMS operations in Sudan, including implementation of the Programme for the remaining of 2023.

In response to the outbreak of the conflict on 15 April 2023, UNITAMS adapted its operations to focus on the following immediate priorities, namely i) to support efforts to secure a stable ceasefire with a monitoring mechanism; ii) preventing the escalation or ethnicization of the conflict and local conflict prevention; iii) protection of civilians and facilitating the provision of humanitarian relief; and iv) preparing, for when the time is ripe, a fresh political process with the participation of a broad array of civil and political actors, including women. On 1 December 2023, the Security Council adopted resolution 2715(2023) which terminated UNITAMS mandate and directed UNITAMS to immediately start the cessation of its operations and the process of transferring tasks to UNAFP where possible. On 3rd December 2023 UNITAMS therefore proceeded with halting the implementation of all activities under this Programme and commenced its closing process in line with the Programme's end date of 31st December 2023.

2. Project results

2.1 Summary of results & achievements

The Programme was approved by the MPTF Steering Committee in September 2021 and the first tranche of USD 3.99 million was received in February 2022. The military coup of October 2021, in Sudan, however, significantly changed the environment in the country causing delays in the implementation of the Programme. As a result, the Programme's results framework was revised in May 2022 to better meet the Programme's set objectives taking into account the new circumstances in the country. UNITAMS also requested a no-cost extension which was approved in November 2022 extending the Programme until 31 December 2023.

Despite the challenging operational environment during the course of 2022, UNITAMS initiated the implementation of several activities under outcome 1 and 3 of the Programme. This included activities to support consultations to restore Sudan to a transition path, promote women's meaningful participation, develop a UNITAMS media strategy and conduct outreach efforts to raise public awareness of the talks and counter misinformation, and conduct peacebuilding assessments to inform future peacebuilding interventions. The Programme activities carried out in 2022 contributed to inclusive consultations between relevant parties on the way forward to restore Sudan to the path transition path. Following these efforts, the Political Framework Agreement (PFA) was signed on 5 December 2022 by the military component and a significant number of civilian actors, paving the way for a roadmap to reach a final political agreement to restore Sudan to the transition path and thereby sustainable peace and development.

The second tranche of funds was requested and received in March 2023. During the first quarter of 2023, the Programme supported the consultations on the five issues as stipulated in the PFA. This included workshops/conferences on the five issues; i) justice and transitional justice (16-20 March); ii) security and military reform (26-29 March); iii) the JPA and the completion of peace (31 January-3 February); iv) the dismantling of the 30 June regime (9-12 January); and v) resolving the crisis in the east of the country (12-15 February). The workshops were facilitated by the Trilateral Mechanism and a joint secretariat, composed of the Trilateral Mechanism and Sudanese signatories to the PFA, upon request by the PFA signatories and constituted a significant step for advancing the process to restore Sudan to a transition path.

Moreover, the Programme provided support which resulted in a significant number of women participating in the workshops and gender considerations included in the outcomes, which contributed to an inclusive political process and the meaningful participation of women. In addition, there was also an increasing youth participation including from resistance committees. UNITAMS also continued the implementation of its media strategy and outreach efforts which contributed to increased public awareness of the political talks and misinformation countered during the implementation period.

The Programme further implemented several sub-projects which contributed to UNITAMS timely use of its good offices in respect of human rights and protection issues (outcome 3). This included the establishment of a voice messaging system to gather and generate real-time data and information on protection of civilians in hotspot areas to inform leadership and facilitate timely decisions and interventions. The Programme enhanced women and youth civil society organizations (CSOs) capacity for human rights advocacy, monitoring and reporting by supporting youth initiatives in the East region of Sudan and supporting women protection networks in Darfur. In addition, the Programme also supported the implementation and adherence to the JPA by strengthening CSOs capacity to collect evidence of human rights abuses for future accountability processes, and the finalization of six peacebuilding assessments to inform peacebuilding interventions and programming in conflict-affected areas.

Despite the progress made in the implementation of Programme activities and outputs reached during the first quarter of 2023, the outbreak of armed conflict between SAF and RSF on 15 April significantly hampered UNITAMS ability to implement the Programme during the rest of 2023 due to continued high security risk levels as well as relocation and evacuation of most of its staff. Following the outbreak of conflict, UNITAMS mandate delivery focused on four immediate priorities adapted to the current context, namely: i) achieving a stable ceasefire with a monitoring mechanism; ii) preventing the escalation or ethnicization of the conflict; iii) protection of civilians and facilitation of the provision of humanitarian relief; and iv) supporting, when the time is appropriate, a fresh political process to govern a new transitional period with the participation of a broad array of civil and political actors, including women.

In this new context, some sub-projects under the Programme continued to be implemented, including by adopting alternative implementation modalities from remote or in less conflict-affected areas in Sudan. However, other sub-projects could not be implemented due to the challenges following the military coup on 25 October 2021 and then the outbreak of the conflict between SAF and RSF in April 2023. This included the following; 2.4 Engagement with national parties and communities to build knowledge of Sudan's child protection obligations; 2.5 Advocacy, campaign and storytelling in support of trust building and promotion of UNITAMS Mandate; 3.1 Support to new Commissions constituted according to the JPA if requested by Government; 3.2 Support to state level technical committees to verify and follow up on protection and human rights issues as per JPA; 3.4 Four additional peacebuilding assessments to identify priorities for peacebuilding; 4.1 Outreach dialogue and peacebuilding engagement by UNITAMS Regional Office in West Darfur with IDPs, returnees and host communities; 4.2 Workshops to build subnational capacity for conflict prevention and peacebuilding as part of integrated approaches to civilian protection; and 4.4 Workshops with youth and local broadcasters in conflict -affected areas to recognize and combat hate speech and promote language of peace.

2.2. Project outcomes and activities

Project Outcome	Activities undertaken	Results summary
<p>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</p>	<p>Activity 1.1: In 2022, 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, business community, nomads, diaspora, people with disabilities, as well as state and nonstate actors. Moreover, 100 women's rights advocates participated, as well as many youth representatives, ensuring the inclusion of gender and youth perspectives in the consultation outcomes. Following the formation of the Trilateral Mechanism (AU, IGAD and UNITAMS) in April 2022, the Trilateral Mechanism continued consultation activities with Sudanese stakeholders across the political and social spectrum to reach an agreement and a road map on the way forward.</p> <p>Activity 1.2: After the Political Framework Agreement (PFA) was signed on 5 December 2022, the signatories of the PFA requested the support of the Trilateral Mechanism and a joint secretariat, composed of the Trilateral Mechanism and signatories to the PFA, in facilitating 5 substantive workshops through the provision of logistical and operational support as well as technical expertise. The workshops covered the following five technical areas: i) justice and transitional justice; ii) security and military reform; iii) Juba Peace Agreement and completion of peace; iv) dismantling of 30 June regime; and v) Eastern Sudan, with the aim that the recommendations derived from these workshops would be incorporated into the final political agreement. During the first quarter of 2023, UNITAMS, as part of the Trilateral mechanism, conducted the five technical workshops.</p>	<p>The activities conducted resulted in broad consultations to map views of a wide range of stakeholder (output 1.1), talks convened with African Union and IGAD as part of the political talks second phase (output 1.2), Sudanese women meaningfully input in the peace process and gender expertise provided as requested by the parties (output 1.3) and a UNITAMS proactive media strategy and outreach to support public awareness of talks and counter misinformation (output 1.4). The achieved outputs further contributed to advancing an inclusive peace process in Sudan, with the objective of reaching an agreement to restore Sudan to the transition path.</p> <p>UNITAMS-led consultations in 2022 aimed to hear from a wide spectrum of Sudanese stakeholders as to their vision on how best to address Sudan's current political crisis. These consultations were considered a first phase of a larger process, aimed to rapidly organize broad-based, inclusive consultations with Sudanese stakeholders and to hear from a wide spectrum of Sudanese stakeholders on their vision for how to best address Sudan's political crisis. Moreover, UNITAMS engagement with Sudanese women resulted in 33 percent of participants in the 2022 consultations being Sudanese women from over 60 entities across the political spectrum. The consultations further resulted in a report: "Summary Paper: Consultations on a Political Process for Sudan – an inclusive intra-Sudanese process on the way forward for democracy and peace" which included a summary of the opinions and areas of convergence and divergence heard during the consultations and aimed to help formulating and designing the next step on the process in order to break the political impasse.</p> <p>After the conclusion of the UNITAMS-led consultations, UNITAMS facilitated further consultations with women's groups and gender experts from across Sudan to discuss the outcomes of the consultations and the way forward. This resulted in the formation of the Women's Rights Group, composed of non-partisan Sudanese women from all regions of the Sudan, with the aim to discuss the outcomes of the consultations and participate in future political talks as a stand-alone women's rights negotiating delegation to ensure that a gender perspective and the Women, Peace and Security</p>

	<p>Activity 1.3: In 2022, UNITAMS engaged in separated 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 facilitated the formation of a committee of Sudanese women academics to select and help establish this group known as the Women's Rights Group. 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.</p> <p>In 2023, UNITAMS continued to support women's meaningful participation in the final phase of the political talks through the provision of senior gender technical expertise and advocacy for women's participation and gender responsive outcomes of the workshops. For instance, although the target was not met, advocacy efforts were made for a minimum of 40 percent representation of women participants in the workshops, as well as among the experts and moderators with a focus on regional diversity and the inclusion of young women.</p> <p>Activity 1.4: In 2022, UNITAMS provided 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. UNITAMS organized interviews between the SRSG and prominent local, regional and international media outlets to support the public awareness of the talks and the political process. In addition, UNITAMS developed a daily report on trends observed on social and traditional media in relation to the political process to allow better informed decision-making on one hand, and counter mis and</p>	<p>agenda were included in all priority agenda items under discussion. The Women's Rights Group, in addition to women from political parties, also successfully advocated for the inclusion of gender and women's rights provisions in the PFA.</p> <p>Following the extensive consultations conducted in 2022, The Political Framework Agreement (PFA) was signed on 5 December 2022 outlining the final phase of consultations to reach a final political agreement and restore Sudan to the transition path with a new civilian-led transitional government. The final phase of consultations was conducted in the form of five workshops during the first quarter of 2023 which aimed to build consensus and for the outcomes to feed into the final political agreement to be negotiated between the parties, with the aim to restore Sudan to a transition path. As a result, outcomes of four out of the five workshops were incorporated into a draft final agreement, while the workshop on security and military reform did not produce an agreement on the outcomes due to differences between SAF and RSF on the timeline of RSF's integration and chain of command.</p> <p>UNITAMS activities with women actors contributed to securing between 26-30 percent women's participation in the four workshops except the one on the military and security sector reform. The provision of senior gender technical expertise also allowed for operationalizing gender commitments by providing guidance on gender-balanced participation and creating an enabling environment for the safe and inclusive engagement of all participants including Sudanese men and women with disabilities. In addition, the provision of technical expertise to the workshops also ensured that gender-sensitive recommendations were included in the outcomes.</p> <p>As a result of UNITAMS activities to implement its media strategy and outreach efforts during the course of 2022 and 2023, public awareness of the role of UNITAMS and the Trilateral Mechanism in the political talks was increased and in, some cases, misinformation countered.</p>
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	<p>disinformation on the second hand. UNITAMS contributed to the development of the communications and media strategy of the final phase of the political process.</p> <p>During the course of 2023, UNITAMS continued to implement its media strategy and outreach activities through the provision of consultants to strengthen UNITAMS capacity in this regard. The consultants supported activities such as regular monitoring and analysis of media outlets and public opinion which served as the basis for developing a strong narrative on UNITAMS and the Trilateral Mechanism role, in the political talks. Other activities included providing real-time information on initiatives carried out by UNITAMS 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. UNITAMS further contributed to the development of the communications and media strategy of the final phase of the political process.</p> <p>Following the outbreak of the conflict on 15 April, UNITAMS media engagement and outreach activities focused on media monitoring and analysis including the development of a regular report on UNITAMS and the UN reputation whose key facts were shared with UNITAMS leadership and the UN Communications Group crisis cell on Sudan established at the UN HQ level.</p> <p>Activity 1.5. In 2023 after the outbreak of the conflict on 15 April, the Programme also supported enhanced capacity for political monitoring and engagement in Sudan by employing</p>	<p>The consultants recruited after the outbreak of the conflict on 15 April 2023 further contributed to increase UNITAMS monitoring capacity of political developments in the field, with a particular focus on conflict-affected areas, and provided political analysis of emerging issues due to the ongoing conflict.</p>
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	three national consultants to fill the gaps created by the evacuation and relocation of staff from various parts of the country.	
Outcome 2: Timely use of UNITAMS good offices in respect of human rights and protection issues, building on verified data and community engagement.	<p>Activity 2.1: In 2023, UNITAMS supported, through the recruitment of consultants, the development and implementation of a voice messaging system in partnership with local protection networks in hotspot areas in Sudan, with the aim to improve real-time monitoring and reporting of protection threats against civilians. The voice messaging system was then implemented through a collaboration between UNITAMS and a network of civil society organizations which collect and gather information against conflict indicators in hotspot areas.</p> <p>Activity 2.2: In 2023 UNITAMS supported the creation of a Youth in Human Rights Initiative (YIHRI) in East Sudan with the Red Sea State as a pilot project. Through the services of a consultant, YIHRI focused on building the capacity of youth to utilise human rights as a constructive tool for community dialogue, peaceful coexistence, and stabilisation. Following consultation with local communities, a diverse group of youths was selected and trained as the first batch of youth ambassadors for human rights with the focus on enhancing protection and promoting a human rights culture through engagement, advocacy, sensitization.</p> <p>Activity 2.3: UNITAMS established Women Protection and Survivors of Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) networks in approximately 21 internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in the Darfur states and identified focal points from the IDP community and localities to act as the go to persons for victims of CRSV. Workshops were planned in all five states to further strengthen the capacity of the networks, particularly to</p>	<p>The activities conducted contributed to the timely use of UNITAMS good offices with regards to human rights and protection issues in Sudan (outcome 2).</p> <p>The voice messaging system improved UNITAMS real-time monitoring and reporting of protection threats by strengthening the protection of civilians' response both locally and at international level, with a focus on threats and imminent attacks against civilians, as well as human rights violations and abuses, including sexual and gender-based violence. The system also allowed UNITAMS to gather and generate real-time data and information on protection of civilians' issues in hotspot areas to inform senior leadership and facilitate timely decisions and interventions, including through the SRSg's good offices advocacy and engagement efforts. This was particularly important following the outbreak of the conflict between RSF and SAF, where threats and abuses against civilian increased dramatically in conflict-affected areas.</p> <p>As a result of UNITAMS engagement and trainings with youth groups in the East, UNITAMS managed to identify and train 30 youth ambassadors to promote a human rights culture in the region and strengthen the capacity of human rights monitoring and reporting among youths as well as promoting a protective environment for local communities.</p> <p>The activities conducted in Darfur to strengthen Women Protection Networks contributed to informing the UN partners, particularly those part of the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (MARA) Working Group, of the CRSV/GBV context in each of the five Darfur states, including successes and challenges with regards to women's protection, and gaps in access to services and recommendations to UNITAMS and UN partners in the MARA Working Group (e.g. UNFPA, UNDP, UN Women) for further action. The field missions that took place also resulted in</p>

	enhance the capacity of focal points to monitor and report on cases of CRSV and gender-based violence (GBV) cases to UNITAMS. Assessments based on field missions were also carried out in all five Darfur states on the context, success, and challenges of women's protection with regards to CRSV.	identifying over 40 focal points for women protection networks and survivor networks in 21 IDP camps enhancing their capacity to monitor and report on GBV/CRSV, and inform UNITAMS senior leadership to facilitate the timely use of its good offices on these matters when needed. Following the outbreak of the conflict on 15 April 2023, although many focal points of the networks fled their homes, a number of them continued to monitor and report on CRSV to UNITAMS, and they remained in some cases the go to persons for survivors of CRSV and GBV.
Outcome 3: Provisions of JPA are adhered to, including with respect to human rights and accountability	<p>Activity 3.3: In 2023, UNITAMS supported the strengthening of civil society actors' capacities to document human rights violations and abuses for the purpose of criminal accountability in line with the provisions of the Juba Peace Agreement. This included activities such as conducting a mapping of capacity gaps, of civil society groups in 12 out of 18 states in Sudan. Due to the conflict, it was not feasible to conduct the mapping in the remaining six states. The mapping helped identify capacity gaps and addressing these through the provision of targeted trainings for CSOs. During the reporting period, six online trainings were carried out, as well as two in-person trainings for civil society groups in Port Sudan and Madani as well as two specialised training workshops in Entebbe, Uganda, on monitoring and documentation for 80 human rights defenders and civil society actors operating from outside Sudan.</p> <p>Activity 3.5: In 2022, UNITAMS conducted field missions to South Darfur, North Darfur, Blue Nile, South Kordofan, Red Sea State and Kassala to undertake research and consultations with communities and government authorities to inform and validate the initial findings of the peacebuilding assessments in conflict-affected and marginalised states. The first assessment drafts were finalized at the end of 2022. In 2023, UNITAMS facilitated four validation workshops on the</p>	<p>The activities implemented contributed to strengthening respect and accountability for human rights in line with provisions in the JPA (outcome 3).</p> <p>The activities implemented to support CSOs in documenting human rights and IHL violations informed UNITAMS on how to strengthen CSOs capacities in this regard. As the trainings were implemented following the outbreak of the conflict between SAF and RSF in April 2023, it further included methods and innovative means to document violations of human rights and international humanitarian law which helped various civil society groups and human rights defenders to continue their work to document violations despite the challenging environment. The trainings also provided a valuable platform for engagement and support networks for civil society groups who left Sudan following the outbreak of the conflict.</p> <p>As a result of the activities conducted in support of peacebuilding assessments, six peacebuilding assessments were finalized on conflict dynamics and peacebuilding needs, including in South Darfur, North Darfur, Blue Nile, South Kordofan, Kassala and Red Sea State. The peacebuilding assessments informed the UN regarding support needed for the implementation of the JPA, including by informing UNITAMS good offices interventions at sub-national level in this regard. The assessments also contributed to a shared understanding of the causes, drivers, and consequences of conflict, as well as of opportunities for peacebuilding and peace implementation. They further served as a basis for deliberations</p>

	findings of the peacebuilding assessments conducted in South Darfur, North Darfur, Blue Nile, and South Kordofan. The four validation workshops were held 12-13 March in South Darfur, 15-16 March in North Darfur, 3-4 April in Blue Nile and 10-11 April in South Kordofan with representatives of state and local authorities, native administrations, civil society, women's groups, youth, internally displaced persons and pastoralists. During these workshops, key findings of the peacebuilding assessments were disseminated, and participants had the opportunity to discuss and exchange views on the findings as well as peacebuilding priorities to inform future programming.	around prioritization and sequencing and discussions with other peacebuilding partners and the wider international community. The assessments underpinned the implementation of the UN Common Approach through an integrated analysis and offered a substantive basis for more streamlined peacebuilding and peace implementation funding to increase agility and avoid overlap.
Outcome 4: Local tensions with potential to details JPA implementation are deescalated	Activity 4.3: UNITAMS initiated a comprehensive in-depth assessment of the role of rural courts in mediating conflicts and deescalate tension in conflict affected areas. The aim of the assessment was to inform the SRSG's good offices and its efforts to advocate and advise for stronger accountability and rule of law while also recognizing the important role of rural courts as a local conflict prevention mechanism. The assessment focuses on case-studies in conflict affected areas such as Darfur, South Kordofan and the Eastern States. Although the desk review part of the assessment was finalized, the outbreak of the conflict between SAF and RSF resulted in the research being put on hold as the data collection in the field could not be conducted.	The desk review of the assessment provided an initial overview of the role of rural courts in conflict affected areas in Sudan as an important mechanism for conflict prevention and mediation. However, due to the outbreak of the conflict, the assessment could not be completed during the reporting period. A narrative report detailing work completed as well as pending tasks up to the point when the project was terminated was provided.

2.2 Gender Equality Marker and other cross-cutting effects

Gender equality and women empowerment is a significant objective of this Programme (GEM2). During the implementation period, UNITAMS facilitated the meaningful participation of diverse women from political parties, armed movements and civil society at each stage of the political process through sustained engagement, provision of technical support, and playing a facilitation role for the coalescing around a common agenda. This directly influenced the Political Framework Agreement signed on 5 December 2022. UNITAMS also provided senior gender technical expertise and advocacy for a minimum of 40 percent representation of women participants in the political talks following the signing of the PFA, particularly in the five workshops, as well as among the experts and moderators with a focus on regional diversity and the inclusion of young women. These efforts contributed to securing between 26-30 percent of women's participation in the four workshops aside from the workshop on military and security sector reform. The provision of senior gender technical expertise also allowed for operationalizing gender commitments by providing guidance on gender-balanced participation, facilitating gender-responsive outcomes to the workshops, and creating an enabling environment for the safe and inclusive engagement of all participants including Sudanese men and women with disabilities. The provision of a national gender officer under the project ensured full contextualisation of UNITAMS' efforts under the project as well as continued analysis of the actual situation of Sudanese women following the outbreak of war in April 2023.

2.3 Conflict sensitivity and Do No Harm

The Programme applied a conflict sensitive approach by analysing and understanding the impact of national and local conflict dynamics on the ability of UNITAMS and implementing partners under this Programme to deliver its activities. The peacebuilding assessment field visits and validation workshops (activity 3.5) were instrumental in generating a profound understanding of sub-national and local conflict dynamics. The second aspect of applying a conflict sensitive approach is to consider the impact of Programme activities on the various national and local conflicts. This includes but goes beyond the do-no-harm approach by explicitly providing support to local actors to transform the conflicts. The Programme therefore ensures that all geographically targeted work, including advocacy and outreach activities, consultations and sub-national dialogue processes, and mediation are subject to a local conflict sensitivity analysis prior to activity implementation. The Programme also follows the do-no-harm approach and takes into consideration gender aspects of risks during activity implementation. For instance, in support of the political talks, including the facilitating of the five workshops following the signing of the PFA, UNITAMS as part of the Trilateral Mechanism continued to adopt an inclusive but balanced approach in its facilitation role and engagement with various stakeholders. Considerations included political, gender, geographic and ethnic/tribal balance, among other factors. With the aim to minimize harm and help ensure greater inclusion, the Trilateral Mechanism continued to also meet with parties who were not joining the political process. Finally, the Trilateral Mechanism, as a facilitator, was regularly assessing and reflecting on its actions to help ensure that it was not doing harm.

2.4 Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the programme was undertaken by UNITAMS in respect of the activities/sub-project that various UNITAMS substantive sections implemented. The Programme Management Officer recruited under this programme monitored the overall implementation of programmatic activities and provided quality control to ensure the activities were implemented in line with the Programme results framework and internal programme management processes. UNITAMS also reported on the progress of the Programme's implementation on a bi-annual basis to the MPTF Secretariat and annually as part of MPTFs annual reporting. In addition, UNITAMS ensures that activities were recorded with the purpose to feed into reports of the Secretary-General to the United Nations Security Council on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2524 (2020) as well as other reporting requirements. As part of the evaluation of the Programme, UNITAMS also conducted a lessons learned exercise for the activities conducted under the programme prior to its closure in December 2023, resulting in a lesson learned report.

2.5 Lessons learned

As part of the evaluation of the Programme, UNITAMS drafted a lessons learned report (please see lessons learned report as annex for more details on the findings) at the end of 2023. The purpose of the Lessons Learned report was to gather relevant information on the implemented activities to inform better planning and improvements for the implementation of the Programme moving forward, both with regards to the substantive and operational aspects of the programme implementation. The lesson learned report was based on the data collected from the lessons learned logs and feedback received from colleagues involved in the implementation of the Programme.

3. Finance and Management

3.1 Finance

See final financial report.

3.2 Project management

During the Programme's implementation period, UNITAMS established operational structures and processes to facilitate the implementation of Programme activities. Moreover, as a result of the new political realities in Sudan following the military takeover in October 2021, UNITAMS adjusted the Programme's results framework and workplan although the overall objectives of the Programme which, remained relevant, were maintained. As part of the revisions of the Programme's results framework, UNITAMS developed and agreed upon several sub-projects under the direction of the SRSG and in consultation with senior staff of UNITAMS substantial sections to be implemented in line with the Programme's set objectives and outcomes. The Programme's sub-projects were reflected in the revised results framework as outputs and activities, and their implementation were led by the substantive sections in UNITAMS under the direct supervision of the SRSG and with the support of recruited support staff under the Programme. The recruited support staff included a Programme Management Officer situated within the Chief of Staff Office to support the Programme's results-based management, oversight, accountability, as well as a Finance Budget Officer to support management for financial delivery and reporting. The outbreak of the conflict between SAF and RSF on 15 April 2023 hindered some sub-project to be implemented at all or to continue until completion. As a result, UNITAMS initiated discussions with the donor to review the Programme's results framework and budget to adopt to the new circumstances. However, following the decision of the Security Council to terminate UNITAMS mandate as of 3 December, UNITAMS initiated preparations for the finalisation and closing of the Programme by 31 December 2023 in line with the agreed end date of the Programme.

3.3 Sustainability and exit strategy

The Programme contributed to the Sustainable Development Goals 16 and 5. In addition, the sustainability of the project was promoted by ensuring that programme activities are conducted in close consultation and coordination with national counterparts and relevant stakeholders at national, state and local level, as well as in the context of the ongoing conflict in Sudan. Following the closure of UNITAMS, the good offices function will be assumed by the recently appointed Personal Envoy to the UN Secretary-General for Sudan.

4. Human impact

4.1 Key stakeholders

Due to the nature of the Programme's objective, a wide range of stakeholders are relevant for this Programme, including among others: government representatives, groups affiliated with armed struggles/movements, CSOs, international organisations, marginalised groups such as women and youth as well as the Sudanese general public.

11 | Sudan MPTF | 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)

4.2 Additional human impact

N/A

Annex I - Lessons Learned Report