# UN Darfur Fund (UNDF) Foundational and Short-Term (FaST) Activities







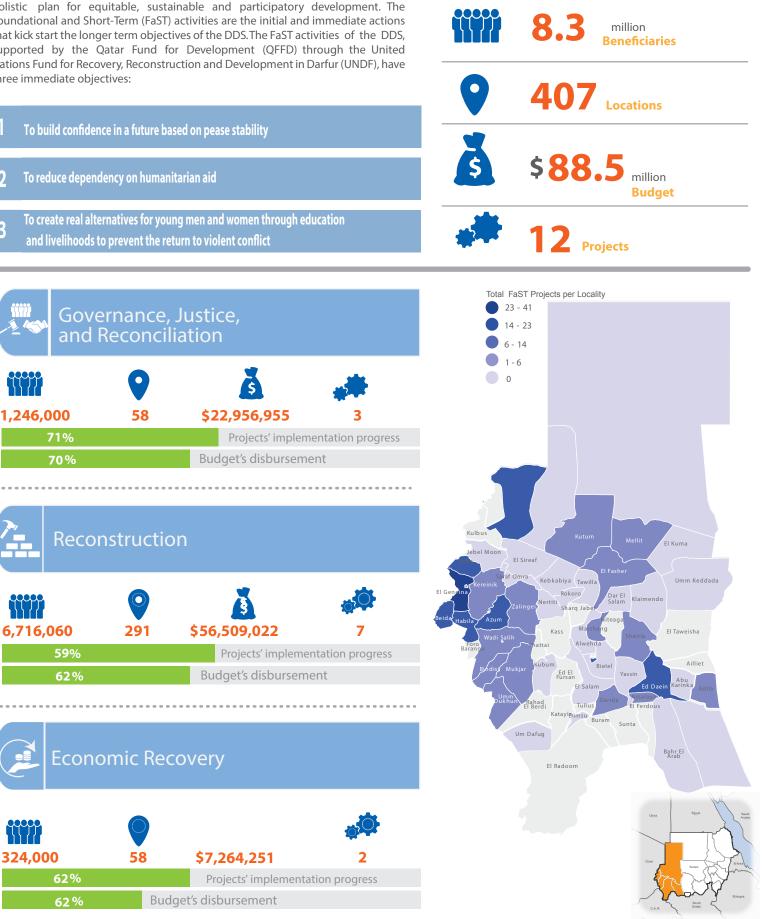


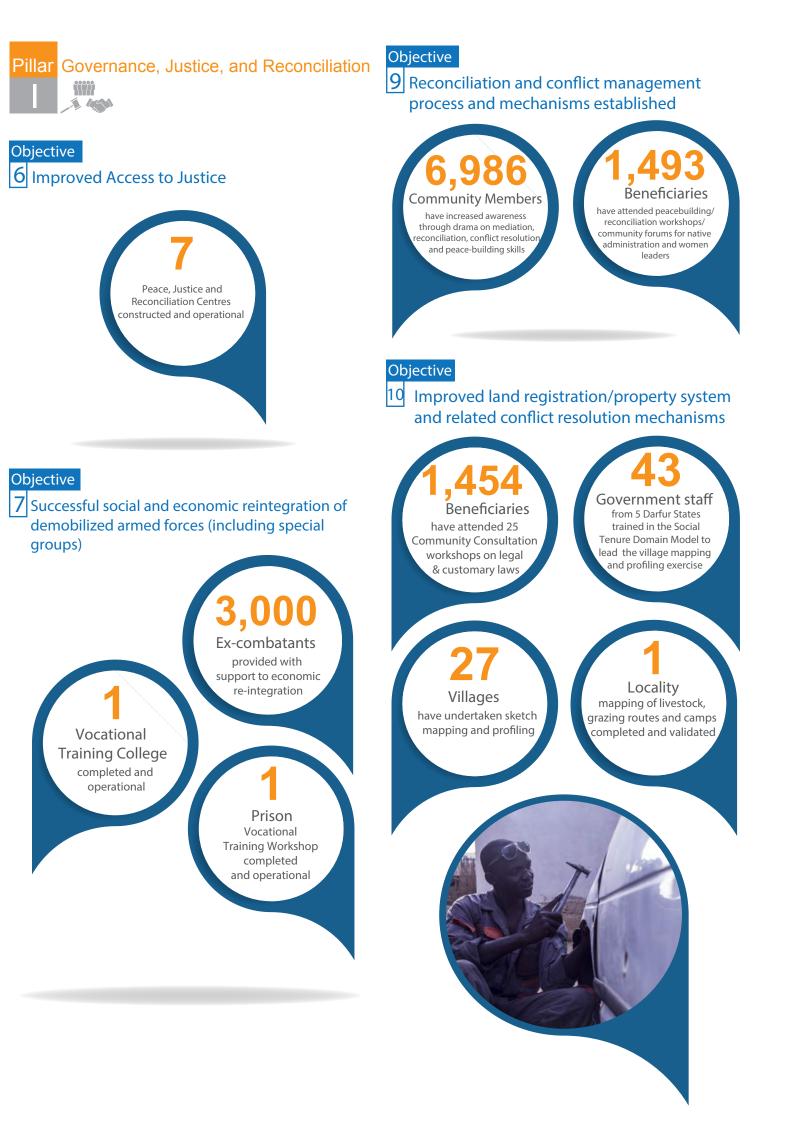
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After a decade of conflict, the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) was signed in Doha in July 2011. The Darfur Development Strategy (DDS) was endorsed in April 2013 by Government partners and the international community led by the State of Qatar. The DDS offers a sequenced, coordinated and holistic plan for equitable, sustainable and participatory development. The Foundational and Short-Term (FaST) activities are the initial and immediate actions that kick start the longer term objectives of the DDS. The FaST activities of the DDS, supported by the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) through the United Nations Fund for Recovery, Reconstruction and Development in Darfur (UNDF), have three immediate objectives:

The Foundational and Short-Term (FaST) **Activities Snapshot:** 





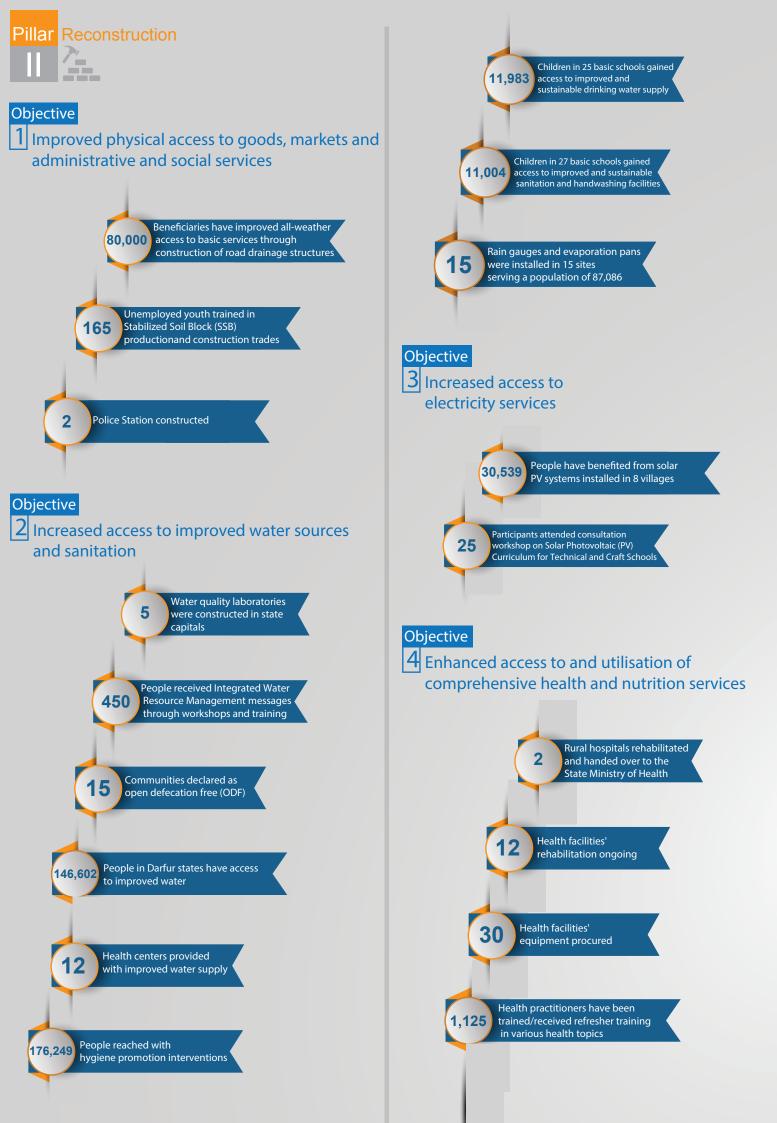
## Solidarity

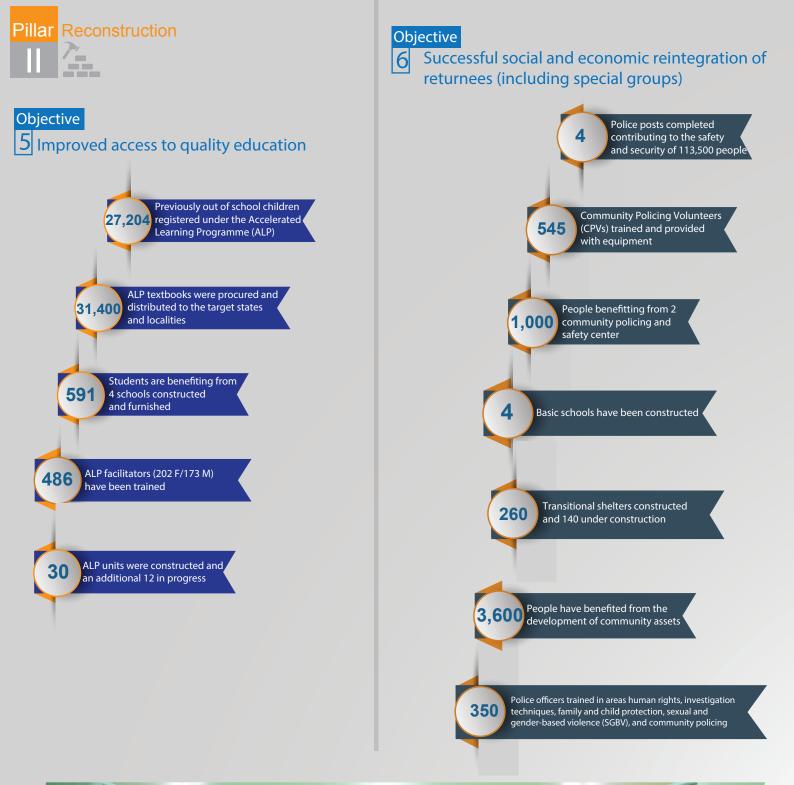


Years ago due to violent conflict, Hawa fled her home village in West Darfur. A single mother of an eight years old boy, Hawa also battles her motor disability that resulted from an undiagnosed illness. Displaced from her home and unable to work and provide for herself and child, Hawa depended on the support of relatives and neighbours. "I had absolutely nothing! I was alone and did not know what to do to make a living" said Hawa; "I was a stranger in a strange city".

The conflict in Darfur has resulted in massive displacements, especially affecting women and children. Communities have been displaced and dispersed over prolonged periods of time, this can lead to internal conflicts and tensions over resources when returning to their areas of origin. The 'Promote Reconciliation and Coexistence for Sustainable Peace in Darfur' FaST activity aims to address reconciliation at multiple levels, with an emphasis on vulnerable groups (women, children and minorities). And for that purpose, women networks, community-based organisations and youth volunteers are assisted in organising diverse types of activities, such as community dialogues, awareness-raising sessions and vocational training with a view to empowering communities economically through income-generating activities. "One day a group of women came and visited me," said Hawa, "I could tell they were from everywhere. I mean, there were women from every tribe, from the (IDP) camp, the city, and even nomadic tribes, as if they were a delegation. They told me that they were the Peace and Reconciliation Committee, and were trained and assisted by the UN to form this committee to help people like me! I told them I needed help and they did help me."

The Reconciliation project is assisting in bringing communities together through various interventions to support traditional leaders to effectively conduct dispute settlement processes and reconciliation. Hawa was assisted, with other vulnerable women in Geneina city, with income generating activities, including goat restocking, but what really made an impact on her was as she explained: "I was surprised that others do care about me! I never thought that after all that happened during the war people would still care for someone who is not a relative or from your tribe or village! The women in the committee told me that we all need to move on with our lives, not to dwell in the bitterness of the past. They supported me and others and taught us that we must take things into own hands, to participate in making the decisions that affects our lives. Now that I know they accept me as part of them and I can depend on them I feel much better. What a relief!".







# Breaking the Isolation



The road network and infrastructure in Darfur is little developed and much of what exists is badly damaged due to seasonal effects and the lack of maintenance. Both humanitarian assistance and early recovery activities depend not only on security and administrative access but also on the physical infrastructure, such as rural roads, bridges and drainage systems, being passable.

"In the rainy season water flows with flash floods and valleys are filled" said Omer Arbab the Chief of Angeme village, West Darfur, "when this happens we are completely isolated from the rest of the world! We cannot reach markets, sick children and women in labour cannot reach hospital. This happens for days and days every time it rains."

Aiming to allow better access to social services and economic activities the FaST Project 'Rehabilitation/-Construction of Access Roads and Crossing Points' works on constructing and/or rehabilitating road crossing structures. Already construction of simple road structures has provided an immediately improved road network benefiting over 110,000 citizens in widespread communities in Darfur; two structures were built in South Darfur and another four were completed and handed over to the communities in West Darfur providing year-round access to essential services, such as hospitals/health centres, markets and schools.

A further 41 structures are planned to be constructed throughout Darfur using funding from the UN Darfur Fund.

"The UN asked us to help them to help us" said Arbab with a laugh "I was wondering what kind of help could we offer the United Nations? They said they want us to be the owners of the crossings! So, we sat with them, they were asking us our opinion about the best locations to build the crossing. Then soon after the decision was made the work began and shortly a crossing was completed! You may see it as a small concrete structure but what we see is far larger! It's a bridge that breaks our isolation during the rainy season. Children from nearby villages can come to our school, relatives from nearby can still visit, supplies can still be brought from Geneina city. It's a guarantee that we can always reach wherever we wish!



### Pillar Eo

#### Pillar Economic Recovery

### Objective

#### 5 Increased access to employment opportunities



Beneficiaries acquired enhanced entrepreneurial potential and technical skills

Out of school, school drop-outs and youth have completed vocational trainings in different disciplines



School drop-outs received small business development and entrepreneurship trainings

### Objective

6 Increased access to financial services



Clients trained on proposal development for income generation activity

2,432

People have attended public awareness activities on Microfinance finance and client services and products

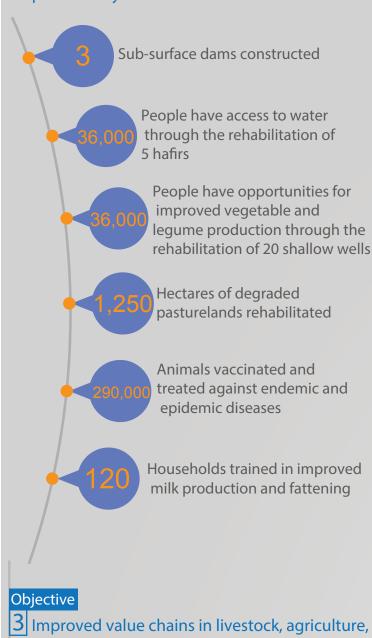
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Village Savings and Loans Associations have been established and supported with seed grants

Groups awarded grants through competitive process, benefiting over 2,000 individual clients



Objective 2 Increased crop and livestock production and productivity



livelihoods development



Beneficiaries have been trained in entrepreneurial potential and technical skills

Private veterinary service providers have been supported with drug and equipment kits



Abdelmoneim is a 27 years old young man who decided to take the chance and lead his group into unchartered territories. "We wanted to do something new," said Abdelmonaim "something that is needed in our hometown of Habilla, West Darfur yet it's never been addressed before; a video games centre for kids."

Abdelmonaim and his group are beneficiaries of the UNDP led Microfinance FaST activity. They were trained on the fundamentals of microfinance, bookkeeping and management. They were also supported with a start-up capital to run their project of choice. "We had very informative training, I am a law school graduate yet, I didn't know much about investment and management." said Abdelmoneim,

"What I really appreciated is that we were given the freedom to decide on what sort of investment that we want to be in. Technology literacy is crucial nowadays, and it's becoming hard for people who don't know how to deal with computers and smartphones to compete in the work markets. This why I suggested that we establish this video games centre. To familiarize children with technology and too keep them off the streets drifting aimlessly. Our second phase would be introducing training on how to use computers for children and adults". The video games centre that comprises of a small shop and 5-4 screens and a video game console in addition to a power generator running on diesel fuel was financed after the group presented their feasibility study which they prepared after concluding their training.

Abdelmoneim's microfinance group believe that they are offering an innovative and important solution to the prevalent computer illiteracy issue in their locality. "We intend to train government employees, youth and children in using computers. It will surely impact the development process in Habilla locality and Darfur at large" said Abdelmoneim.





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