Sudan has been experiencing long lasting conflicts and tribal disputes. To respond the uprising challenges and economic opportunities in Sudan, UN-Habitat is making its effort to promote the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus through providing the assistance to the returned refugees, IDPs and host communities to live together in a peace. Japan supports UN-Habitat in Sudan to undertake context-specific responses and integrate the principles of the New Urban Agenda into programmes and interventions. UN-Habitat has been successfully implementing the projects in White Nile State with USD 900,000 (2018 - 2019) and in South Darfur State with USD 700,000 (2019 - 2020) with the support of Japan.
PROJECT 1: SUPPORT TO HOSTING COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEE IN WHITE NILE STATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Location</th>
<th>Aljabalain Locality, White Nile State, Sudan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target Population</td>
<td>South Sudanese refugees and host communities in Aljabalain Locality, White Nile State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Period</td>
<td>2018 - 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

■ Background

In Sudan, as of the end of 2018, over 3.1 million still remained displaced as refugees or Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs) due to decades of conflicts. Continuous arrival of South Sudanese refugees has severely resulted to rapid social instability between the refugees and hosting communities. White Nile State is one of the areas accepting a number of refugees and IDPs who are in need of urgent humanitarian and development support. 61.5 percent of the population are living without access to improved drinking water and 79.8 percent without adequate and safe sanitation and hygiene. Moreover, poor quality of the facilities in market places brings a huge risk of outbreak of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) and other infectious diseases. Starting with camps hosting IDPs in Darfur for the first time, a minimum of between 15,000 - 23,000 people have been reportedly infected with AWD, with 280 - 320 deaths. White Nile has had the highest number of cases so far.

The project aims to mitigate risk of conflicts between the refugees and host communities, to prevent wide spread of infectious and water-related diseases, and to achieve better access to livelihood and employment opportunities through the rehabilitation and upgrading of the main market places as public spaces/facilities. The project also enhances self-reliance of the refugees and hosting communities particularly by engaging youths and women.

■ Expected Outcomes

1. Safe, clean and accessible markets as centers of town and hosting communities affected by South Sudanese refugees functioned in Aljabalain Locality.

2. Self-reliance of the hosting communities and South Sudanese refugees particularly youths and women enhanced through self-help construction and improvement of market places and public spaces in Aljabalain.

Ongoing construction work by the trained youths in Aljabalain Locality (2019)
Main Expected Achievements

1. Two town markets’ structure and the basic infrastructure including water and sewage facilities, security lighting and access roads improved in Aljabalain.
2. Two units of public latrine (one unit=10 cells) developed and 100 concrete slabs distributed and improved for household latrines, separate units for women and men for the public latrines in Aljabalain.
3. 200 youths and women trained on producing environmentally-friendly Stabilized Soil Block (SSB) and self-help constructions and rehabilitations in Aljabalain.
4. 100 trained youth and women engaged as labors in construction of the markets in Aljabalain.
5. Technicians trained by JICA vocational training center in White Nile State engaged in upgrading the market places in Aljabalain.

Voices from the Field

“The public toilets are very important especially for women. We used to walk a lot or to go home just for toilet. Some people even had to defecate in the open air along the river Nile. I hope our community can maintain the new toilets.”

Nemat Awad-Alkarim Hamid
Tea seller in the market

“The newly constructed fence around the livestock market by UN-Habitat provides the security and protection for humans and animals as well as prevention of the surrounding environments.”

Abd-deen Osman Mohammed
Livestock trader

Production of Stabilised Soil Blocks (SSBs)

Particularly in conflict affected areas and/or rural areas in Sudan, most of housing and public facilities are made by mud bricks, woods or fire bricks due to the lack and high price of modern construction materials such as concrete. Typically, those housing and public facilities made by mud bricks or woods cannot cope with heavy rain and flood, which highly affect people who lives in high hazard areas located aside the river Nile.

UN-Habitat introduced Stabilised Soil Blocks (SSBs) technology as the most suitable to be used for reconstruction of settlements, public facilities, and markets, because it is eco-friendly, socially inclusive and economically competitive. SSB manufactured by compressing mud/soil mixed stabiliser such as cement which requires 43 percent less water than fire bricks, and notably stronger than typical mud or wood housing for poor.

Under the project, 200 youths and women were trained and develop pit latrines to improve sanitation and hygiene for public facilities. They were also engaged for the construction of two market places and four public pit latrine including the trained technicians by JICA vocational training center in White Nile.
PROJECT 2: EMERGENCY SUPPORT TO IDP RETURN IN ALSALAM LOCALITY, SOUTH DARFUR STATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Location</th>
<th>Alsalam Locality, South Darfur State, Sudan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target Population</td>
<td>Returned IDPs and host communities in Alsalam locality, South Darfur State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Period</td>
<td>2019 - 2020</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Background**

The Government of Sudan declared the end of Darfur conflict in 2017 and the security and safety situation has been improved in the region. However, around 2.1 millions of IDPs, the highest proportion of IDPs in Sudan are still in need of urgent assistance in Darfur. The long lasting humanitarian aid such as emergency distribution of food and non-food items to a large number of IDPs cannot be sustained any more. Some IDPs also want to reclaim their original farming and residential lands because there is a general understanding that the more IDPs are absent in their own village, more difficult to regain their land tenure. As a result, IDPs have unexpectedly started returning their home villages.

One of the urgent cases of the IDP returns is currently under the way at Dagariss village in Alsalam Locality, located 22 km southwest of Nyala, the capital of South Darfur State. The project will support sustainable IDP return to Dagariss village in Alsalam Locality through providing minimum basic services and public facilities, securing of land tenure in the target village by enhancing resilience of the returned IDPs in the village.

**Expected Outcomes**

1. Ensured human security of both the returned IDPs and hosting communities in Dagariss village through the development of guiding principle of IDP returns and securing their land rights.

2. Enhanced Self-reliance of the IDPs and hosting communities particularly youth and women through self-help construction and improvement of basic services and public in Dagariss village.

*In the kick-off meeting with UN-Habitat, the returned IDPs and host communities in Dagariss appreciated “the support from international community not to leave us behind.” (2019)*

*Handover of the construction site of public latrines to the contractor in the presence of community leaders and administrative representatives from the locality (2019)*