



Sudan Country Profile

Urban Context

Armed clashes erupted in April 2023 between the Sudanese Army Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in multiple cities across Sudan, including Khartoum, Al Fasher, Kebkabiya, Merowe, Nyala, El Geneina, and El Obeid. Within one month, it is estimated that approximately 850,000 people have been displaced internally and an additional 250,000 people have crossed the borders into neighboring countries. The major cities above are facing severe destruction and secondary and tertiary cities are becoming hosts for internally displaced populations, putting pressure on infrastructure and basic services. This most recent crisis adds to the humanitarian needs that were already affecting the country, stemming from previous violent conflicts and natural disasters.

Adequate housing and upgrade of slums and informal settlements remains a key priority. In the states of Kassala, Blue Nile, Gadarif, Kordofan and Darfur, a large proportion of housing units are in a poor condition. 8.4 million people (55% women and 15% people with a disability) face critical living standards including 1.8 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), 0.3 million returnees, 0.9 million refugees and 5.4% vulnerable residents. The population under the severe living standard has reached 19% of the total population. Insecure Housing, Land and Property (HLP) rights are a critical issue, not only in the post-conflict states but also in the unplanned informal urban expansions around the major cities.



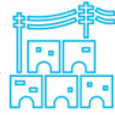
Sudan faces a multitude of challenges related to long-lasting disputes, an oil-dependent economy and climate change. Most recently, violent clashes have caused hundreds of deaths, massive displacement and severe destruction in urban areas. There will be a massive need for recovery and reconstruction, factoring in resilience to future shocks.



Total population is 45.7 million



35.2% of the population is urban



40% of urban youth are unemployed



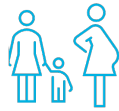
17.7% unemployment



37% of youth and children lack access to WASH facilities



15,500 homes destroyed by natural disasters



3 million internally displaced before recent confrontations



1.4 million newly displaced since 15th of April, 2023



24.7 million are in need of humanitarian assistance



38 attacks on healthcare facilities since 15th of April, 2023

The exploitation of oil since 1999 shifted the structure of the Sudanese economy from one predominantly reliant on agriculture for growth and exports, to one reliant on the oil sector. After the separation of South Sudan, the country incurred significant economic loss, including 75% of the oil revenue. Moreover, Sudan has experienced long-lasting conflicts in Darfur, Blue Nile, South Kordofan and West Kordofan, resulting in large numbers of displaced people around major cities, towns, and villages, leading to unplanned, rapid urbanization in urban peripheries without adequate basic infrastructure and services.

Sudan has also experienced the impacts of climate change in the form of natural disasters, including floods and droughts. Kassala State, for example, experiences annual flooding which takes lives and damages housing, settlements, key infrastructure such as roads and bridges, and crops. In July-August 2020, 27,000 people were affected by heavy rains and subsequent flooding. There is an urgent need to incorporate disaster risk reduction and community resilience building into urban and settlement planning.



UN-Habitat in Sudan



The UN-Habitat Country Programme in Sudan has been actively engaging with national and local governments, as well as key stakeholders, and working on:

- Articulating the key challenges in urban development in the country.
- Providing technical assistance to enhance urban strategies, policies, plans and their implementations.
- Highlighting the needs and priorities in the housing and land sector.
- Promoting basic service delivery and improve sustainable urban environments.
- Mobilizing public, private, and non-governmental partners.
- Promoting fit for purpose land administration tools and participatory mapping methods/ approaches

STORY FROM THE FIELD



“ In 2018, the floods destroyed my house completely. I had to use plastic sheets and mud for temporary shelter ”

Adam, a resident of Al-Mansoura who is also suffering from a medical condition, received a new durable shelter unit, supplied by UN-Habitat, in cooperation with Alwaleed philanthropies. 300 shelter units were rehabilitated, improving housing conditions to 1800 vulnerable beneficiaries including women, children. Besides, the destruction of houses due to floods, the COVID-19 pandemic has added to the challenges Adam and many others face. In response, UN-Habitat held a series of awareness-raising workshops around the preventative measures of the COVID-19 virus, targeting local communities, focusing on women and children. Men, women and children from the most crowded areas in Jabal Awliya village were provided with 30 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene facilities, as well as essential COVID-19 response items, including soap, alcohol based hand sanitizers, masks and cleaning supplies. A habitable shelter is one of the priorities in the mitigation of the COVID-19 risk. “My children have a safe roof now,” Adam adds.

URBAN PROFILING AND DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS IN IMMEDIATE POST-CONFLICT SETTINGS IN SUDAN



24 months



US\$ 4,000,000



Khartoum, El Fasher, Nyala



Ministry of Urban Planning and Infrastructure
Localities of Khartoum, El Fasher and Nyala



10,000 IDPs and Returnees

Purpose

Once the security situation permits and a minimum stability is established, a wide scale recovery and reconstruction will be needed to rebuild safer, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities and towns. To achieve this, it is essential to understand the current situations, empower urban communities and guide efforts towards sustainable recovery and reconstruction. Urban Profiling is a tool that provides up-to-date, holistic information and analysis of the impact of the conflicts in key cities that has been applied in various conflict-affected countries.

The proposed project aims at implementing Urban Profiling to facilitate effective humanitarian, stabilization, and recovery responses that are guided by a robust evidence base for planning, prioritization, and monitoring. The objective of the intervention is to enable the sustainable recovery and reconstruction and build resilience of urban stakeholders and affected populations in cities. The project is intended to build the capacity of locality authorities and state government on data collection and analysis, support the development of urban profiles at the city and neighborhood levels, and support the implementation of the action plans supported by the urban profiling as a pilot.

Project Description

A Rapid Urban Profiling will be implemented to collect data at regional, city, and neighborhood levels, which will be managed by the locality authorities while being available for the use by the state and national governments. It will combine satellite imagery with the field data. The urban profiling will be developed through the on-the-job training of technical staff of the locality and state authorities. It will guide decision-making processes for the recovery and reconstruction strategies and involve consultations with local communities, authorities, and relevant stakeholders to come up with action plans. In the immediate post-conflict situation in Sudan, the critical needs to be addressed in urban areas may include: assessment of the damage to houses and urban infrastructure; assessment of housing, land and property (HLP) issues and

potential disputes resulting from new or renewed displacement; finding solutions for adequate housing; and improving access to basic services and infrastructure to reduce pressure in host communities.

Project Strategy

The project will identify priority needs including rehabilitation of infrastructure, basic services and housing, as well as their locations. The selection criteria will be agreed upon with the UN agencies and locality and state authorities, prioritizing most affected neighborhoods.

Urban profiling and conducting damage assessments through satellite imagery and field data will help ensure the proper targeting and prioritization of both humanitarian and development interventions and of recovery and reconstruction efforts of the local authorities. The mapping of the level of damage will be critical in identifying areas of need and orienting urgent housing rehabilitation works.

Repairing and rehabilitating damaged houses is expected to create job opportunities through local contractors and community labour. Skills training for construction related jobs for affected populations, especially for youth, women and other vulnerable households, can help create livelihood opportunities in the post-conflict situations where people live in severe social and economic situations. Local and community labour with improved skills may also be used for rehabilitating and upgrading of community and urban infrastructure and basic services.

Self-help, affordable and environmentally-sensitive semi-permanent low-cost core housing will be supported through the self-help construction of prototype housing units. This will allow vulnerable returnees and tenants whose houses are destroyed to re-establish themselves in shelter sites equipped with low-cost housing units and basic infrastructure. These low-cost core housing units can be incrementally expanded if required, providing affordable and durable shelter solutions to returnees. This is critical in facilitating their reintegration to and rebuilding of lives in the areas they return to.

The project will work together with key stakeholders from the government ministries, local authorities, UN agencies and NGOs and civil society organizations to ensure the categorization of damage levels is harmonized.

An Urban Information Management System will be designed and implemented in target cities. Urban Observatories and Land Administration Offices had been established or strengthened in several states including Blue Nile and Darfur prior to the conflict. The digital information database will serve as a platform to collect, store, and update data related to urban profiles and land rights. It will provide timely and accurate information on ongoing projects, implemented initiatives, and the status of various sectors at the neighborhood level.

The development of City Profiles and Neighborhood Profiles, including action plans, will be based on the data collected through the Urban Information Management System and will involve consultations with local communities, authorities, line ministries, UN agencies, and NGOs. They will serve as comprehensive documents outlining the specific needs, priorities, and proposed interventions for each city and neighborhood.

Main Expected Accomplishments

- Development and operationalization of an Urban Information Management System in cities
- Damage assessments conducted
- City and Neighborhood Profiles created with corresponding action plans.

SUPPORT TO HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS OF DISPLACED PERSONS IN IMMEDIATE POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS IN SUDAN



24 months



US\$ 4,000,000



Darfur



State Ministry of Urban Planning and Infrastructure in Darfur states, Native Administration, Global Land Tool Network, civil society organizations



Internally Displaced Persons

Purpose

In Sudan, traditionally, housing, land, and property (HLP) rights were governed by customary law with a traditional administration. Due to a complexity of the history, HLP has been conceptualized as the mixture of statutory, customary, and religious legal systems. After the introduction of many statutory laws, regulations, and decrees, current land tenure has been mainly secured by the following methodologies: “statutory law,” “customary law,” “statutory & customary law,” “allocated and secured by tribal leaders,” and “unregistered.”

In post-conflict states including Darfur, Blue Nile, South Kordofan, and West Kordofan, the land dispute is recognized as a root cause of conflicts and tribal disputes. Following the declaration of the end of Darfur conflict, resolving land issues has been broadly acknowledged as a critical objective necessary to strengthen the country’s social fabric and economic stability. It will also create durable solutions for IDPs and returnees who fled from their home during the conflict.

The violent conflict that flared up since mid-April 2023 has propelled a large scale displacement internally and across borders. This represents new displacement from cities that were previously relatively unaffected by conflicts, new host communities that have not been accustomed to receiving IDPs, as well as renewed (secondary and tertiary) displacement in communities that were historically affected by violent conflicts.

Once the current conflict subsides and the security situation allows, addressing HLP issues is critical and urgent, to achieve stability and avoid future land-related disputes. The proposed project aims to structure and formalize the land administration mechanism to secure land tenure for IDPs, those who: return to their original villages; relocate new adequate residential sites, and reintegrate existing urban settlements through formalization and improvement of existing IDP camps.

Project Description

The project will build on the recent and ongoing achievements of land management projects in post-conflict states including Darfur and Blue Nile that introduced a practical, pragmatic,

transparent, and cost-effective land management tool. The project will deliver the following activities.

- Assessment of HLP issues related to the conflict-affected displacement to have an updated overview of HLP hotspots.
- Capacity development of land sector stakeholders including State ministries, localities and other local authorities, including the Native Administration.
- Support to the land tenure registration by applying the Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM), a fit-for-purpose, pro-poor, cost-effective land administration tool that can capture informal land tenure, developed in collaboration with the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), in IDP return villages in Darfur through public consultation processes in collaboration with key government counterparts
- Developing guiding principles and mechanisms for sustainable return, relocation and resettlement.
- Structuring and clarifying land disputes resolution mechanisms (formal judiciary and transitional justice).
- Undertaking the rehabilitation of basic service infrastructure and self-help semi-permanent housing construction in support of return, resettlement and reintegration in areas where the STDM was applied.

Project Strategy

A Technical Committee will be established with the leadership of government representatives from the State Ministry of Urban Planning and Infrastructure. The committee will serve as a coordination mechanism to ensure that the project is in line with the priorities of the state and the localities to enable sustainable, informed, dignified and safe return, relocation and reintegration. The project will have a particular emphasis on promoting women's access to land rights, which is severely limited as it is not supported by the customary land rights system in the patriarchal, traditional communities of Darfur. This is done by sensitization of the Native Administration and community members (men and women) on the importance of promoting women's access to land rights, prioritizing female-headed families as beneficiaries, ensuring the land registration in the name of both husband and wife (the usual custom is the registration in the name of husband only). The project will be implemented through the learning-by-doing approach, combined with technical training and advisory support. The project will build on the extensive work done on HLP issues in conflict-affected States of Darfur and Blue Nile.

Main Expected Accomplishments

- An overview of the HLP issues and HLP hotspots updated
- Enhanced institutional capacity of HLP in the State Ministry of Urban Planning and Infrastructure
- Improved awareness of the Native Administration and communities on women's access to land
- Developed guiding principles and mechanisms for sustainable return, relocation and reintegration
- Land tenure documented through the application of the STDM
- Structured land disputes resolution mechanisms in place in state level.
- Land administration mechanism in state level being placed and demonstrated under the value of the fit-for-purpose innovative approaches
- Selected basic service infrastructure rehabilitated and self-help semi-permanent housing is prototyped.