

COUNTRY PROGRAM DOCUMENT

2013-2016 SUDAN

United Nations Human Settlements Program

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE





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SUDAN

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TABLE 1: UN-HABITAT CURRENT PROJECTS

AKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The formulation of the Sudan Country Programme Document (CPD) was based on close consultations with the Government of Sudan in the concerned Ministries and members of the National Committee for Human Settlements to outline the main priorities and objectives for UN-Habitat's intervention in Sudan.

The final CPD draft was finalized and presented to the competent Ministres for discussion, comments and endorsement before being finally endorsed by GoS and UN partnership steering committee.

The following individuals have contributed to the formation of the CPD:

HE Mr. Mokhtar Abdulkarim Adam; state Minister of Environment, Forestry and Physical Development; and Sabeil Abdelrasoul Ishaq; Secretary General of the National Council for Physical Development

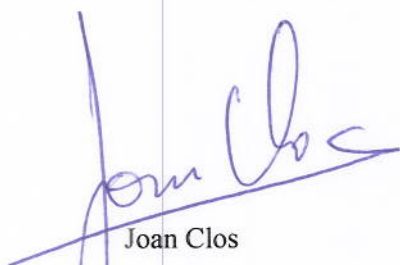
Montserrat Gibert; Human Settlement Officer, Abdel Rahman Mustafa; National Coordinator and Wael Al-Ashhab; Head of Country Programme, in addition to the Team Leaders from the field offices; Mutaz Nugud, Amel Hassan, Adil Hagmusa and Ashraf Khalil.

FOREWORD

Urbanization trends in Sudan have been studied from different angles. The humanitarian exigencies of civil war, droughts and inter-ethnic conflicts in different regions were analyzed in several studies, showing how insecurity in rural areas has been one of the major driving forces behind the massive migration to urban areas. The urban policies applied have been historically unsuccessful in preventing the rural exodus to major cities, since they lacked a national integrated urbanization vision and the inclusion of appropriate standards and pro-poor approaches.

As Sudan is still at a relatively low stage of urbanization, the current fast and rapid urbanization rate has been accompanied by a degree of informal developments and protracted internal displacement. Referring to recent history and current situation in Sudan as determining important socio-territorial changes with massive migrations of people across the country's regions, causing unsustainable use of natural resources, increased desertification, and sprawl of informal settlements around urban centres.

Rapid urbanization, within the context of new urban agenda, will be addressed as part of the CPD to enhance the capacity of national and sub-national authorities to develop a national sustainable urbanization strategy for Sudan. Housing construction for the urban poor and low income groups was yet another serious challenge considered by the CPD. The use of stabilized soil blocks (SSB) as an environment friendly as well as affordable technology was repeatedly referred to in different projects and interventions, recommending it to be taken into account as a key resource to facilitate affordable and decent housing for the urban poor.



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THE URBAN CHALLENGE IN SUDAN

Recent years have witnessed an accelerating process of urbanisation in Sudan. From 7% in 1955 to 25% in 1993 to nearly 40% in 2003. Today it is pushing 45%¹.

However, these figures do not accurately reflect the intensity of the urbanisation process in Sudan, with smaller, formally rural, settlements functioning de facto as part of larger urban centres or coalescing in denser patterns with urban attributes.

In addition to more conventional patterns of rural-urban migration, recent urbanisation dynamics in Sudan have been compounded by large displacements of population due to natural disasters and conflict. Khartoum and the states of Darfur and Eastern Sudan are among those hosting important numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs). In 2012, it was estimated that over 1.3 million IDPs were settling in Darfur. IDP camps near urban areas exert an additional pressure through the increased demand for services (education, health, markets) and employment opportunities which the cities and authorities cannot meet.

National and international efforts have given priority to respond to the humanitarian needs of the population in Sudan, thus, allocating limited resources to the implementation of development initiatives. This approach has had a marked effect in urban areas where fewer activities are being directed to the provision of services and infrastructure for the urban poor, to the better use of land resources, to the promotion of improved means of livelihood and economic activities, and to the upgrading of sustainable IDPs. Do Darfur's IDPs Have an Urban Future?, Alex de Waal, March 31, 2009.

and safe housing and urban areas.

Unlike the situation where urbanisation is considered an opportunity for development and access to income and services, urbanisation in Sudan has become a mechanism for survival. 46.5% of the population in the 17 States of Sudan lives below the poverty line as defined in MDG 1. There are only minor variations between urban and rural poverty. Darfur (62.7%), Kordofan (58.7%) and the eastern States (46.3%) host the largest proportion of the poor.

Most of these human settlements lack well balanced urban development, resulting in high levels of unhealthy and overcrowded housing patterns. Therefore urban dwellers often face poor housing conditions. Over 30 % of them do not have access to safe drinking water, excluding the urban area of Khartoum. 12% of the households in urban areas do not have toilet facilities at all, and most of the remaining use pit latrines under poor sanitary conditions.

The rapid concentration of people in urban areas in Sudan is leading to additional stress on the environment. The massive displacement of people has added more pressure to the already scarce natural resources, especially around population centres and camps for IDPs. The environmental impact of IDPs camps has led to the destruction of shelter belts², forestry and farmland on the outskirts of the major towns. The use of wood as a structural element for housing construction

2 Plantings of single or multiple rows of trees or shrubs that are established for environmental purposes

and production of fired clay bricks has increased alarmingly in the areas surrounding the camps. In addition, urban areas in Sudan (with the exception of Khartoum) have an over-dependency on firewood and charcoal for domestic cooking. The situation is extreme in the States of Darfur and Southern Kordofan where around 90% of the energy for cooking comes from these sources, triggering an accelerated process of deforestation and desertification in these areas.

While cities and towns in Sudan face many challenges, urbanisation processes offer an opportunity to trigger sustainable processes of development, harnessing the capacity and aspirations of the people from urban areas. Achieving sustainable urbanization will therefore require attending in a balanced manner the needs of cities and towns as well as of those peri-urban and rural areas with which they have mutually dependant social, economic and environmental interactions.

Basic Human Settlements Data on Sudan

Area (in km²): **1,861,484**

Total Population: **30.9 Million**

Urban Population (2010): **40%**

Extected Urban Population (2050): **68%**

Population living in poverty: **47%**

Urban population living in poverty: **27%**

Access to improved drinking water: **61%**

Access to improves sanitation: **27%**

People in need: **4.2 Million**

Sources: Sudan-UN and Partners Workplan 2012 and Sudan-HUMANITARIAN Dashboard (December 2011) - OCHA

UN-HABITAT IN SUDAN

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) has been working in Sudan since 2005, supporting the Government of Sudan in developing and implementing sustainable urbanisation strategies. A consistent programme has been developed to address urbanisation trends, by promoting and enhancing urban-regional planning strategies, basic services delivery, housing development and livelihoods.

The approach and kind of activities implemented differ according to each region of intervention: policy-making with informed technical advice, demonstration activities at ground level, by mainstreaming participatory approach, institutional capacity development and community involvement.

In the Eastern States, Khartoum, and Darfur States has been providing clues for innovative approaches creating alternatives to settle low income communities. In Eastern Sudan, UN-Habitat carried out a project on Sustainable Options for Livelihood Security in Eastern Sudan (SOLSES) for promoting equitable access to sustainable basic services for refugee and refugee-hosting communities through rapid and tangible interventions and effective involvement of CBOs, NGOs and local administrations, building on their capacities to rehabilitate and sustain community services.

In Khartoum UN-Habitat implemented projects in close cooperation with the EC and Italian Cooperation with the overriding objective of eradicating urban poverty through effective

urban planning and pro-poor policies which have become a major instrument in reengineering the public sector institutions to respond to new demands created by the forces of urbanization and to redirect the energies of the urban poor to support construction of self-help housing, health and education facilities in a poor settlements of the Khartoum state using environmental friendly and cost effective technology.

In Darfur, after a Preparatory Programme focused on implementing long-term shelter 'woodless' building techniques utilizing Stabilized Soil Block (SSB) Technology for reconstruction of self-help housing, education and health facilities and other community infrastructure and land tenure recovery programme in all the states. UN-Habitat is currently implementing an Institutional Capacity Development program in Darfur on Urban and Regional

Planning and Land Management with the objective of developing the capacity of the local government for tackling the rapid urbanisation process observed in the region due to the elevated numbers of displaced people and the on-going urban re-integration dynamics.

For the period 2013-2016, the focus is to work with government partners at different levels (federal, state and locality) to support them to strengthen all aspects of governance and management in urban areas. This includes:

- Effective urbanization, urban planning, and local governance;
- Improved land management and administration;
- Increased emphasis on pro-poor housing; and
- Improved infrastructure and basic services.



Aerial view of Muhkjar (West Darfur), 29 March 2011. Photo by Albert Gonzalez Farran. UNAMID

UN-HABITAT STRATEGY 2013-2015

3.1 PROPOSED STRATEGY FOR URBAN AREAS

The main objective of UN-Habitat's current program in Sudan is to bring together national and international expertise and political will for promoting more sustainable urbanisation processes and dynamics, helping people in need through the implementation of durable and environmentally sustainable solutions to reduce their dependency from humanitarian aid.

Within its mandate, the UN-Habitat Sudan Program has identified four main urban sector priorities for its work:

Priority 1 - Urbanization, urban planning and local governance.

Regional and Urban planning

The urbanisation process in Sudan The urbanisation process in Sudan is strongly associated with the presence of thousands of displaced families gathered in displacement sites and camps in and around urban centres. The changing conditions of making a living and providing for livelihoods of displaced families characterise the dynamics of urbanisation, especially in Darfur, to the point that it can be referred to as urbanisation of displacement, a conflict-induced one¹. As a result, the absorptive capacity of the urban centres to provide and maintain serviced land with infrastructure has been strained by the massive migration of returnees, IDPs exiting the camps and the rural exodus provoked by the conflict.

There is an urgent need to identify

¹ *Urbanization Aspects of Durable Solutions in Darfur: A background paper for the United Nations Coordination Support Office in Sudan*. Alban Laze. September 2012.

UN-Habitat Sudan Program main priorities:

Priority 1 - Urbanization, urban planning and local governance

Priority 2 - Land management and administration

Priority 3 - Pro-poor housing

Priority 4 - Urban infrastructure and basic services

concrete solutions for addressing the urbanisation process and facilitate the transition from relief to development, sustaining livelihoods and reducing the dependence on relief assistance. For this purpose a coherent approach of regional and urban planning, land management, housing and service delivery, security and livelihoods represents interlinked factors which should be considered in an integrated manner. There is clear evidence that creating the conditions for a more sustainable urbanisation will strengthen peace building and consolidation in the region.

UN-Habitat has been supporting government authorities at national and state levels by providing technical assistance in the formulation of sustainable urbanisation policies and strategies, including pro-poor and gender aspects.

The Agency is currently working on enhancing the institutional capacity and providing technical support with particular focus on urban and regional planning and land management of the State Ministries of Planning and Urban Development (MPPUs). More specifically, UN-Habitat has been developing:

• ***The Regional Spatial Strategy for reintegration of IDPs in Darfur.***

Providing guidance to the government authorities and the local leaders of the five states of Darfur, in support of decision making and guiding investments as well as the implementation of the reconstruction process.

• ***Regional and Urban planning Strategy for the Blue Nile State.***

To improve the capacity of the government to plan and manage urban settlements for better provision of services and integration of displaced people and improved access to basic services and sustainable livelihood for displaced people and recipient communities.

Governance

Urban planning processes in Sudan involves three levels:

1. **National-level**, headed by the National Council for Physical Planning (NCPP) and Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Physical Development (MEFPD);
2. **State-level**, in charge of Ministry of Physical Planning and Public Utilities (MPPPU), recognising differences between urban and rural areas, operating on land uses and subdivisions, density control, supply of major infrastructures (roads, drainage,...) and
3. **Local-level**, in charge of localities, acting on revenue collection, public services, local infrastructures, building and sanitation control in charge of MPPU branch.

Therefore, federal institutions responsible for physical development and guiding urbanisation are mandated to conduct policy formulation and overall national planning and monitoring of urbanisation processes. State level authorities are responsible for detailed planning, programming and implementation.

Despite national legislation specifying competencies for physical development at the three levels of government - National, State, Locality - the absence of specific regulations or By Laws to allocate those competencies between the States and Localities is the source of continuous conflict particularly on issues of land allocation, land uses and infrastructure development.

Moreover, the lack of resources

and personnel has led to a situation in which the national institutions cannot perform their mandated functions. There is a critical absence of data, assessments and records/ registries on the situation in the sector, precluding the proper appraisal of existing conditions and the formulation of strategic plans.

A *National Conference on Sustainable Urbanisation* was organised by UN-Habitat in 2010, to derive and agree on strategic guidelines for orienting the urbanisation process in Sudan for the next 15 to 20 years. It gathered government representatives from different areas of Sudan (Khartoum State, North Kordofan Region, Southern Sudan, Al Gagarif State, Gizira State, Red Sea State and Darfur Region), from the Sudanese educational and research sector, the private sector, the media and even government representatives from Egypt and Kenya who shared relevant experiences of their countries. It was suggested that, for implementing the urbanisation strategy in Sudan, decentralisation

should effectively take place to enable community participation and the active involvement of local authorities.

Concept note on “*National Urbanization Strategy*” was prepared in collaboration with Ministry of Environment, Forests and Physical Development (MEFPD). Federal Ministry of Finance has agreed to initial part of phase 1 of the strategy which consists of establishment of National Urban Observatory at the MEFPD. Balanced territorial development of the country; optimization of resources for regional development; distribution of human settlements system in accordance with available resources; preservation of the environment.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) main areas of cooperation:

- Urban/regional planning and management;
- Land use and development;
- Environmental management/conservation;
- Building standards/specifications;
- Gender and local governance issues;
- Institutional training / capacity building;
- Provision of technical assistance;
- Formulation/implementation of joint initiatives.

Priority 2 - Land management and administration;

The politicization of land ownership dates back to Sudan's division by colonial administrators in 1923 into tribal homelands (diar, singular dar). These diar are clearly visible in contemporary maps and demonstrate the link between tribal identity and geography that continues today. Within each dar are a number of hawakeer (singular hakura), the lands of a particular clan or tribal group. The strong relationship between a tribe and its homeland, in which leadership is traditionally restricted to the original landlords, has allowed the major tribes to use and monopolize the natural resources within their dar and to deny minor tribes any claim to rights or ownership which would allow them to exercise political or administrative power¹.

The Land Settlement and Registration Ordinance of 1925 established the acquisition and registration of property rights through prescription on basis of occupation in good faith. Although the Customary Property Rights (e.g. Dar, Hakura) recognised and governed by customary rules were not registered. The mechanisms on land dispute resolution was through conciliation, mediation and arbitration.

Later on, the Land Acquisition Ordinance of 1930 established the right of land expropriation for public purposes, through compensation mechanisms and decision making processes by the Council of Ministers without judicial review.

¹Peace by piece: Addressing Sudan's conflicts. Mona Ayoub. 2006. (<http://www.c-r.org/accord-article/land-and-conflict-sudan>)

The approval of the Unregistered Land Act in 1970 and consequently the Civil Transaction Act in 1983 provided the Government of Sudan with a legal mechanism to interfere in customary land management. It was indiscriminately implemented all over the country marking a major shift in customary rights arrangement, and denying any formal legitimacy or juridical status to customary property rights. As a consequence:

- Customary rights were very precarious and vulnerable in law;
- Communities enjoyed usufructuary rights but without any real security of tenure;
- All community land is subject to restitution by the Government
- Pecuniary compensation does not recompense lost rights
- Legislation outweighs communities indirectly in a conflict with private people

The Sudan Interim Constitution of 2005 has established a National Land Commission with the mandate to arbitrate and enhance application of law, assess appropriate land compensation, and advise relevant levels of government regarding land reform policies, recommending land reform policies and incorporation of customary land rights. The establishment of a land commission in Darfur and Eastern Sudan was stipulated in the Darfur Peace Agreement (in Abouja and Doha) and Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement for South Kordofan and Blue Nile. However, they have not been established yet.

Nevertheless, institutional structures for land administration and rural development suffer from weak capacities and systemic problems of poor recognition and adherence to participatory approaches. The structure of land governance and administration, at federal and state level, is characterized by a multiplicity of small units related to land but not closely linked to each other.

Moreover, land issues, as it typically occurs in post-conflict scenarios, are particularly complex to manage, and access to adequate shelter and basic services for the poor is among the most critical and urgent matters to be addressed. Furthermore, displacement may also result from returning IDPs and refugees finding their land occupied by others. In order to address these land disputes, the government has been talking about compensation through customary land restitution mechanisms. However, there are no mechanisms at present to make this a legitimate and legal solution.

In this context, UN-Habitat has been supporting government authorities at national and state levels by providing technical assistance in the formulation of land management policies and strategies, including pro-poor and gender aspects.

Through the above mentioned projects the Agency is currently working on enhancing the institutional capacity of Darfur and Blue Nile states, with particular focus on:

Priority 3 - Pro-poor housing

- **Assessing the different typologies of land conflict and disputes at the state level and identify suitable strategies to address them;**
- **Promote inter-sectoral coordination to deal with land issues;**
- **Reinforce the institutional capacity for land dispute resolution and urban land/rural management through on-the-job trainings, provision of technical assistance, development of tools and implementation of demonstration activities such as land surveying and registration;**
- **Strengthen the Native Administration and Customary Law Offices to reintroduce customary laws and protect land resources, and support reconciliation committees at the local level to act as mediators to solve land conflict.**

Since 2007, UN-Habitat has been carrying out several activities for stimulating a more sustainable urbanisation process in Darfur, by introducing seamless construction technologies through direct community involvement, carrying out land studies and delivering institutional capacity development on urban planning and management. In particular, the use of stabilised soil blocks (SSB) for construction was identified and successfully tested as an affordable and environmental-friendly technology for the most vulnerable groups.

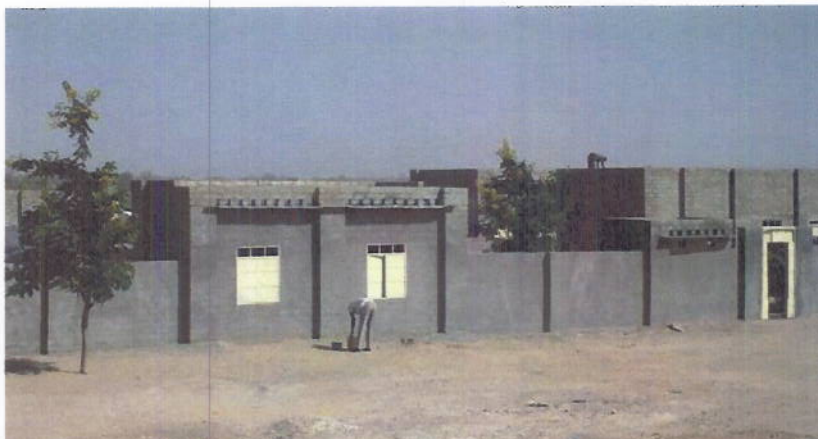
UN-Habitat has identified stabilised soil block (SSB) technology as the most suitable to be used for the reconstruction of settlements for returnees in Sudan. It is considered eco-friendly, socially inclusive and economically competitive. Community empowerment and training in addition to capacity development of Government officials constitute the backbone of the strategy to be implemented in close collaboration with vocational training institutions and COBs.

As a result, more than 100 pilot demonstration buildings were built, and almost 2,000 individuals were trained by using manual machines and through labour-intensive mechanisms. Former implementing partners, in particular international NGOs, are still constructing public facilities using the same SSB technology and are currently demanding for more machines.

In addition, to scale up these efforts regarding construction practices towards a large percentage of population, it is crucial to promote the adoption of pro-poor policy addressing housing issues.

partners, in particular international NGOs, are still constructing public facilities using the same SSB technology and are currently demanding for more machines.

To scale up these efforts regarding construction practices towards a large percentage of population, it is crucial to promote the adoption of pro-poor policy addressing housing issues.



UN-Habitat / UNHCR - Slum Upgrading and Sustainable Housing Development - Sakali / South Darfur. Photo © UN-Habitat

Priority 4 - Urban infrastructure and basic services

There are significant development disparities between regions, rural and urban areas in Sudan, especially with regard to access to basic services. Not only has chronic insecurity constrained efforts to resume the provision of basic urban services to certain areas, such as drinking water, sanitation, electricity, education and health care, but capacities to revive these services also continue to be far from sufficient.

According to the United Nations Country Team in the Republic of Sudan Country Analysis Report from 2012, the provision of basic urban services remains the key priority and require further improvement in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In addition to that, a wide range of populations still lack basic amenities like clean water or reliable electricity supply, and thus consider the restoration of infrastructure as a top priority.

Moreover, infrastructure has been destroyed or severely damaged during the conflict in nearly all sectors in the respective areas across the country. At the same time, it is vital to meet human development needs without undermining the capacity of the environment to provide those needs over generations.

The link between humanitarian and development assistance has been weak, and an important priority of the Government of Sudan is to begin to reorient resources towards more sustainable, developmentally oriented activities.



UN-Habitat / WHO - Primary Helat Center in Shakreen, North Darfur. Strengthening the primary health care system in three states of Darfur - Photo © UN-Habitat 2013

How to provide basic services to the existing displaced and rural population in an affordable and environmentally sustainable way remains the major challenge in Sudan. In the current context of transition towards early recovery, provision of basic services management cannot be viewed in isolation from the social and economic development.

In the context of scarcity of technical capacity and economic means, participatory approaches to engaging communities in the operation, maintenance and management of basic services will be crucial.

Since 2006, UN-Habitat's programmes and activities have been focused on providing innovative approaches and creating alternatives

to settle low income communities in the Eastern States, Khartoum, and Darfur States. In Eastern Sudan, UN-Habitat carried out a project on Sustainable Options for Livelihood Security in Eastern Sudan (SOLSES) for promoting equitable access to sustainable basic services by refugee and refugee-hosting communities through rapid and tangible interventions and effective involvement of CBOs, NGOs and local administrations, building on their capacities to rehabilitate and sustain community services.

Efforts should continue towards early recovery-based activities, advocating for adaptation of humanitarian responses to address aspects of environmental vulnerability, basic service and shelter interventions.

3.2 UN-HABITAT COUNTRY PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES FOR SUDAN (2013-2016)

Priority	Objectives	Related Projects
Priority 1: Effective Urbanization, Regional and Urban Planning, and Governance	Objective 1. Improve regional planning, city planning and governance under an integrated participatory planning approach.	Regional and Urban Participatory Planning Project for the Blue Nile State: The project aims at strengthening Ministry of Physical Planning and Public Utilities (MPPPU) with respect to: (i) participatory approach applying both urban and regional planning concepts; and (ii) facilitating implementation of land conflict management mechanisms; and (iii) design, identification and pilot implementation of environmental-friendly solutions; and (v) vocational and SSB trainings to promote the establishment of small-entrepreneurs and sustain livelihoods.
	Objective 2. Provide capacity building to physical and land-use to targeted trainee groups in Sudan.	
	Objective 3. Expose Sudan's urban professional to targeted trainee groups in order to introduce appropriate participatory planning methods and tools.	
		Institutional Capacity Development in Darfur on Urban and Regional Planning and Land Management: To develop the capacity of the governments of the states of Darfur for tackling the rapid urbanisation process with particular focus on urban and regional planning and land management. Emergency flood response in Khartoum States for Vulnerable Communities: The overall goal is strengthen government and community capacities to conduct emergency construction of public facilities and necessary infrastructure through adaptation and implementation of resilient to floods urban planning and building techniques

Priority	Objectives	Related Projects
Priority 2. Improved Land Management and Administration	<p>Objective 1.</p> <p>Reinforce the institutional capacity for land dispute and promote inter-sectoral coordination to deal with land issues.</p> <p>Objective 2.</p> <p>Assess the different typologies of land conflict and disputes and implementation of land conflict management mechanisms.</p>	<p>Assessment and Technical Support to Darfur Land Commission And Addressing Land Concerns at Return Sites:</p> <p>This project is one of the Darfur Development Strategy foundational activities. The purpose of the Project is to research specific areas of land tenure, gender aspects, property rights and customary land registration issues that would improve current land title system and contribute in the development of evidence-based and gender sensitive land policies, laws and regulations. The project will capacitate concerned government institutions in planning and managing land-use in the Darfur region through research and hands-on support. In addition, the Project will assist the DLC and its partners to establish systems and procedures for policies performance monitoring, reviewing and updating, and a land information system (LIS) at state ministries of Physical Planning and Agriculture.</p> <p>Peace Building in Darfur through Resource Management and livelihoods:</p> <p>The project focuses on improvement of Livelihoods with the focus on youth and women and promotion of social peace among target beneficiaries of pastoralists, farmers and IDPs.</p>

Priority	Objectives	Related Projects
Priority 3. Increased Emphasis on Pro-Poor Housing	<p>Objective 1. Support a gradual shift from humanitarian assistance to early recovery and development interventions, by applying eco-friendly low cost technologies in housing reconstruction</p> <p>Objective 2. Build consensus upon the adoption of Alternative Building technologies to lay basis for a sustainable development of settlements and land management to support large-scale return and reintegration of IDPs.</p> <p>Objective 3. Formulate pro-poor policy addressing housing issues taking into account the disadvantage groups</p>	<p>Improved access to quality urban housing and services:</p> <p>This project is one of the Darfur Development Strategy foundational activities. The project focuses on: assessment of urban housing focusing on inventory of building materials, housing typologies, solid and liquid waste collection and disposal and options for improvement. Capacity building programme to key stakeholders in the housing sector and workers in brick making industry on appropriate and cost-effective technologies. Enterprises/ cooperatives/block suppliers established with capacity to produce and apply appropriate and affordable building materials, such as non-timber techniques and SSB. Small-scale funds and grants accessed by low-income households for self-help housing up-grading.</p>

Priority	Objectives	Related Projects
Priority 4. Improved Infrastructure and Basic Services	Objective 1. Provide capacity building and technical support to promote durable solutions for local service delivery and infrastructure development.	<p>Redesign and Construction of Administrative Buildings in selected Localities using Stabilised Soil Blocks:</p> <p>This project is one of the Darfur Development Strategy foundational activities to address urgent requirements for consistent and standardised environmental friendly administrative building designs and package for provision of basic services needed for village cluster centres, such as medical facilities, schools, police stations, community buildings, staff housing.</p> <p>Upgrading and Rehabilitating the Existing Health Facilities and Basic Health Services in selected return sites:</p> <p>This project is one of the Darfur Development Strategy foundational activities: The focus will be on 30 health infrastructure rehabilitation and/or extension using environmental-friendly technologies, and functional upgrading of health facilities, in terms of service delivery package, medical equipment and supplies, and human resources availability and skills.</p>

3.3 IMPLEMENTATION OF UN-HABITAT STRATEGY

To enable effective implementation of all programs and projects addressed by this Country Program Document and to ensure alignment with the UN-Habitat global and regional strategies, the UN-Habitat Sudan Program will be guided by the following key principles:

3.1.1 Conformity with the UN Habitat Medium –Term Strategic and Institutional Plan 2008-2013 (MTSIP) and the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan (2014-2019)

Sustainable urban development has been the theme of UN-Habitat's 2008–2013 Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Plan and has remained a key priority in the

agency's normative and operational work until 2013. The main goal of the new UN-Habitat 's Strategic Plan (2014-2019) will focus on environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable, gender sensitive and inclusive urban development policies implemented by national, regional and local authorities have improved the standard of living of the urban poor and enhanced their participation in the social economic life of the city.

In this context, the overall framework within which UN-Habitat has shaped the hereby UN-Habitat Programme in Sudan is in conformity with the above

mentioned documents.

Through the medium-term plan, UN-Habitat aims to contribute to the achievement of the relevant Millennium Development Goals, which are to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation (Target 7C), and to achieve, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers (Target 7D).

UN-Habitat Strategic Plan for the periode of 2014 to 2019 will prioritize on the following focus areas:

New Focus/Subprogrammes	Strategic result for each new focus area
New Focus Area 1: Urban Land, Legislation, and Governance	National governments and city, regional, and local authorities have established systems for improved access to land, have adopted enabling legislation, and have put in place effective decentralized governance that fosters equitable sustainable urban development.
New Focus Area 2: Urban Planning and Design	City, regional, and national authorities have implemented policies, plans, and designs for more compact, better integrated, and better connected cities that foster equitable sustainable urban development.
New Focus Area 3: Urban Economy	City, regional, and national authorities have improved capacity to implement urban policies supportive of local economic development, the creation of decent jobs, and enhanced municipal finance.
New Focus Area 4: Urban Basic Services	City, regional, and national authorities have implemented policies for increasing equitable access to basic urban services and for improving the standard of living of urban dwellers.
New Focus Area 5: Housing and Slum Upgrading	City, regional, and national authorities have implemented policies for increasing access to adequate housing and improving the standard of living in existing slums.
New Focus Area 6: Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation	Cities are more resilient to the impacts of natural and human-made crises, in an equitable manner.
New Focus Area 7: Research and Capacity Development	Knowledge of sustainable urbanization issues disseminated and capacity enhanced at international, national, and local levels in order to improve the formulation and implementation of evidence-based policies and programmes and to improve public awareness of the benefits of sustainable urbanization

3.2.2 Arab States' Regional Strategy for Sustainable Urbanization (Final Draft for consultation, December 6, 2012)

In May 2012, The State of Arab Cities Report was launched featuring the theme of Challenges of Urban Transition. This normative UN-Habitat policy paper presents a comprehensive analysis of urbanization trends and housing conditions in the 22 countries that comprise the Arab Region.

It is part of a series of reports on the evolution of urban conditions that document the state of cities in the different regions of the world. This Strategy Paper is based on the key findings of the report and takes into consideration the impacts of the 2011 turmoil in the region.

This Strategy is a still a living document. The preparations for its development had been launched in the regional meeting of Ministers in Kuwait in May 2012. Its outline has been presented at the Sixth

Session of the World Urban Forum in Naples in September 2012. Since then it is being discussed with the member states and adjusted in result of consultations for its final review by the Arab Ministers in mid December 2013.

Developing a strategy to improve the management of the urbanization in the four sub-regions (Maghreb, Mashreq, Gulf Cooperation Council Countries and The Southern Tier Arab Countries) will require inter- and intra-regional cooperation as well as cooperation with adjacent and Mediterranean countries.

The strategy should emphasize both the Sustainable Urban Development Agenda and the Humanitarian Agenda. Economic development interventions should reflect an expansion of traditional economic flows, historically dominated by trade between Eastern and Southern Mediterranean countries and Europe, to new ties among the Southern Mediterranean countries and between North and Sub-

Saharan Africa as well as with Asian countries

Sudan belongs to The Southern Tier Arab Countries region (Comoros, Djibouti, Somalia, and Yemen), that share a special set of similar problems. Except for Djibouti, which is 76% urban, the region's population is still primarily rural although conflict, desertification and rural poverty have started to generate significant rural -urban migratory flows. Urbanization has typically taken the form of unplanned expansion on the periphery of cities, making the provision of services challenging. Their economies are still underdeveloped with high unemployment and poverty ratios.

Constraints on development include scarce technical and managerial capacity, cumbersome administrative processes, degraded infrastructure, and the difficulties involved in acquiring securely titled, serviced land for development.

Main Priorities for Sustainable Urbanization to be jointly considered by the Arab States	Main Priorities for Sustainable Urbanization in The Southern Tier
Improving the Integration of Comprehensive Urban Strategies in their National and Regional Development Plans	Advising governments on dealing with rapid urbanization, including meeting the basic needs of growing urban populations and mitigating land speculation driving up land values and construction costs.
Responding to Demands for Inclusive Economic Opportunities, Affordable Housing, and Access to Services for all	Developing plans for regional infrastructure improvements
Improving Urban Management and Promoting Participatory Governance	Exploring strategies to engage a variety of actors in meeting the MDGs, including local governments, the private sector, and CBOs and NGOs.
Mitigating Climate Change	Preparing for the predicted increase in water scarcity brought about by climate change.

Moreover, these countries share a recent history of civil unrest, violent conflict and political instability. Much of the unrest is associated with the efforts to impose centralized government systems on traditionally dispersed clans and tribes. To resolve these conflicts, countries have tried to implement decentralization reforms but the lack of adequate funding for local authorities and the scarcity of technical skills has hampered their effectiveness. The development of local capacity and improved urban services are key areas requiring international support. While most of them do not have comprehensive national or urban spatial strategies, they do have infrastructure improvement plans and poverty reduction programmes. Urban plans are beginning to emerge at the local and regional level, particularly for major cities. Although roads provide access to major cities there is a lack of financial resources to maintain adequate national networks.

UN-Habitat's role in supporting the Sustainable Urbanization Strategy of the Arab Region

The UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States (ROAS) will be UN-Habitat's main arm in partnering with the Arab States in implementation of the Sustainable Urbanization Strategy, in close collaboration with the UN sister organizations.

As UN-Habitat strives to be more responsive to the situation in each country, there is an opportunity to inject creativity and innovation into its functional spheres. As such, engagement in the Arab Region may consist of combinations of the

following priority areas:

- **Policy development and advocacy;**
- **Knowledge, exchange and capacity building;**
- **Guiding implementation of new policies.**

3.3.3 National Ownership

All of UN-Habitat Sudan's projects will be developed, implemented, and monitored in partnership with the relevant Sudanese ministries to ensure they are in line with the *Five-Year National Development Plan (2012–2016)* and the *UNDAF priorities (2013–2016)*.

a. Sudan's Five-Year National Development Plan (2012–2016)

The second *National Development Plan 2012–2016 (NDP)* for Sudan was completed and published in January 2012 to address challenges facing the economic and social development in Sudan for the period between 2012 and 2016.

The plan has articulated the difficulties that different sectors are endeavored and thereby the different approaches which will be applied at the national, regional and state levels to overcome those development challenges at the short term and medium terms, which will eventually contribute the realization of the goals set forth under the 25 years national strategic plan (2007–2031) which aims at building a united, secured, civilized and developed nation.

The NDP has identified three key sectors with the following strategic goals and objectives:

Governance and Public Management:

Preserve the unity and security of the homeland and the consolidation of the foundations of good governance to achieve and strengthen national unity and peaceful coexistence establishing constitutional and institutional frameworks.

Objective 1. Codify the practice of good governance and the rule of law

Objective 2. The extension of justice, freedom and the realization of the Shura

Objective 3. Achieve social peace through balanced and sustainable development

Economic Sector

Mobilize the productive sectors and the diversification and development of resources and energies, direct spending according to the priorities to bring about an economic renaissance and comprehensive development of a balanced and sustainable economy.

Objective 1. Achieve economic stability

Objective 2. Raise revenue rate of the gross national product (GNP) by adding new sources and expand the productive base and improve the performance of collection devices

Objective 3. Direct external funding and internal debt for national development projects and infrastructure

Objective 4. Achieve optimum utilization of the Nile waters, groundwater, and the use of modern technologies for water harvesting

Objective 5. Maintaining the ecological balance and bio-diversity conservation in production areas with the consolidation of the environmental factor in all economic and social policies

Objective 6. Reform the technical and scientific educational system to accommodate young people and motivate them to work in technical services self-employment.

Objective 7. Achieve universal primary health care in rural and urban areas in all states

Objective 8. Provision of safe drinking water in rural and urban areas in all States

Objective 9. Development and modernization of the basic structures of the transport sector

Objective 10. Motivate and empower the private sector and create channels of communication with the public sector in order to overcome the obstacles and provide an enabling environment for national and foreign and joint investment

Objective 11. Expansion in the execution of the national affordable housing project and the provision of adequate shelter and housing for low-income people and the poor in the cities.

Objective 12. Development of basic services in rural and conflict-affected areas to reduce the internal migration of civilians



An Internal Displaced Person (IDP) based in Kasab camp, in Kutum (North Darfur), makes "hijabs". March 2012. Photo by Albert González Farran © UNAMID

Social and Cultural Sector

Building self-sufficient community and cultural compatibility to promote social development. And deployment of institutional and human capacity development for an advanced performance and improved service delivery.

Objective 1. Highlight the civilized face of the Sudan independent cultural and civilization at the international, regional and local levels

In the field of poverty alleviation and achieving the *Millennium Development Goals*:

- a. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- b. Achieve universal access to basic education by 2015.
- c. Gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- d. Reduction of child mortality

rates.

e. Improving maternal health in the postpartum stage

f. Ensuring environmental sustainability

e. Develop a global partnership for development

b. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2012-2016

This UNDAF is a collective, coherent and integrated response by the United Nations System to national priorities set out in the Five-Year National Development Plan (2012–2016); these priorities address the situation for Sudan resulting from recent major political and socioeconomic developments.

The UNDAF also reflects the aspirations of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well as the broader Millennium Declaration, and Sudan's initiatives

in this regard, noting the increased emphasis of the Government on bridging social gaps.

The UNDAF recognizes the interface between humanitarian and development engagement, and that these stages often occur simultaneously. Achieving a smooth transition to recovery and longer-term development thus represents the cornerstone for the UNDAF.

Four UNDAF pillars 2013-2016 were identified between the United Nations System and the Government on overall development directions:



Surroundings of UNAMID team site in Shangil Tubaya (North Darfur), January 2011. Photo by Albert González Farran © UNAMID

UNDAF Pillar	UNDAF Outcome	Participating UN Agencies
Pillar One: Poverty Reduction, Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Livelihoods	Outcome 1: People in Sudan, with special attention to youth, women and populations in need, have improved opportunities for decent work and sustainable livelihoods and are better protected from external shocks, thereby reducing poverty.	Co-lead lead UN Agencies: UNIDO & FAO
	Outcome 2: Populations vulnerable to environmental risks and climate change become more resilient and relevant institutions are more effective in the sustainable management of natural resources	Co-lead lead UN Agencies: UNEP & WFP UN-HABITAT is a contributing Agency
Pillar 2: Basic Services	Outcome 3: Government and stakeholders have evidence-based policies, strategic plans and mechanisms to ensure an enabling environment for improved basic services.	Co-lead lead UN Agencies: WHO & UNFPA UN-HABITAT is a contributing Agency
	Outcome 4: People in Sudan, with special emphasis on populations in need, have access to equitable and sustainable quality basic services.	Co-lead lead UN Agencies: UNICEF, UNHABITAT & WHO
Pillar 3: Governance and Rule of Law	Outcome 5: Governance institutions at all levels are strengthened to effectively plan, deliver and monitor their mandates, particularly public services, in an equitable and accountable manner	Co-lead lead UN Agencies: UNDP & UNOPS UN-HABITAT is a contributing Agency
	Outcome 6: People in Sudan are protected under an enabling environment that guarantees rule of law, basic rights and fundamental freedoms	Co-lead lead UN Agencies: UNDP & UNICEF UN-HABITAT is a contributing Agency
Pillar 4: Social Cohesion, Peace Consolidation and Peace Dividends	Outcome 7: Government and civil society initiatives that promote social cohesion, peace consolidation and pluralism are strengthened	Co-lead lead UN Agencies: UNDP & UNFPA UN-HABITAT is a contributing Agency
	Outcome 8: Peace dividends are delivered for sustainable return, reintegration and recovery.	Co-lead lead UN Agencies: UNDP & UNHCR UN-HABITAT is a contributing Agency

3.4 SELECTED PROJECTS REQUESTED BY SUDANESE COUNTERPARTS

3.4.1 Memorandum of Understanding

A *Memorandum of Understanding* (MoU) was signed between UN-Habitat and the Federal Government of Sudan (FGoS) in November 2010, with the main purpose to establish a framework for collaborative efforts on national development programmes and activities related with sustainable urbanisation and harmonised physical planning in Sudan, enable both of them to identify common interest and priorities, in accordance with availability of funds.

Objectives:

The following mutual objectives

where identified:

- to develop, share and transfer capacity development tools, methods and best practices;
- to train professionals in the field of sustainable human settlements development and urban management;
- to support the formulation of a National Strategy (Master Plan) for Physical Development;
- to promote exchange of experiences and institutional capacity building.

Areas of cooperation:

Both parties agreed to collaborate in the following areas:

- urban and regional planning and management;
- land use and physical planning and development;
- environment and management and conservation;
- building standards and specifications;
- gender and local governance issues;
- institutional training and capacity building;
- provision of technical assistance;
- formulation and implementation of joint initiatives.

Efforts should be made to jointly design and deliver training courses on sustainable human settlements, strategic planning, urban monitoring through the establishment of urban observatories and indicators, and gender in local governments.

Furthermore working on raising awareness and visibility of shelter and human settlements is needed for the Sudan development, acknowledging that efforts are being made to improve housing and related basic services in slums and informal settlements.



Assistants at the UN-Habitat National Consultative Workshop held in Khartoum. November 2012. Photo © UN-Habitat

3.4.2 World Urban Forum

a. 6th World Urban Forum in Naples

Representatives from the Federal Government of Sudan headed by the minister of Environment, Forestry and Physical Development participated in the *6th World Urban Forum* held in Naples on September 2012, organized by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat with the main aim to promote and identify new ideas and working models to feed into the medium-term strategic and institutional plan of UN-Habitat and form part of the subsequent work programme.

UN-Habitat promotes strong participation of Habitat Agenda partners and relevant international programmes, funds and agencies, thus ensuring their inclusion in the identification of new issues, the sharing of lessons learned and the exchange of best practices and good policies.

The Forum is also intended to re-examine the manner in which UN-Habitat and its partners contribute to guiding and enriching policy work on sustainable urbanization through an open dialogue

General recommendations

As an outcome of the event general recommendations were made in different fields:

Partnership, coordination and cooperation:

- To attain sustainability, it is essential to further strengthen the participatory approach in order to assure inclusive ownership of the urban development process.
- There is a need for a



Tukumare village (North Darfur) is nearly abandoned due to the conflict in Darfur, February 2011. Photo by Albert González Farran © UNAMID

United Nations inter-agency mechanism to align approaches and programmes for sustainable cities. In this context, UN-Habitat should continue to be the lead agency in the production of reliable urban data for the United Nations system.

Governance: structures and analysis

- The Forum advocates for a national urban policy as a tool for improving the conditions of urbanization. It also advocates for appropriate urban planning and city infill projects in order to prepare the city for future challenges.
- There is a need to redefine, strengthen and formalize relations between organizations of the urban poor and local authorities. In this context, local authorities need to strengthen their resource base

at all levels by leveraging existing and new opportunities so as to improve their capacity to deliver services to their citizens.

- Legal and regulatory frameworks aimed at giving access to land for the urban poor should be based on a clear understanding of how urban land markets work.

Urban economy

- There is a need to recognize the strong positive link between urbanization and development.
- Urgent attention should be given to the urban economy, especially job creation. In that respect, deliberate efforts should be made to empower women and youth in designing job creation proposals at all times.

Social inclusion

- The Forum demonstrated the need for inclusive planning to invest in diverse cultures, empower the marginalized and integrate the different elements that increasingly characterize cities of the twenty-first century in order to that they may become prosperous cities of the future.
- Public spaces as a common good should be provided

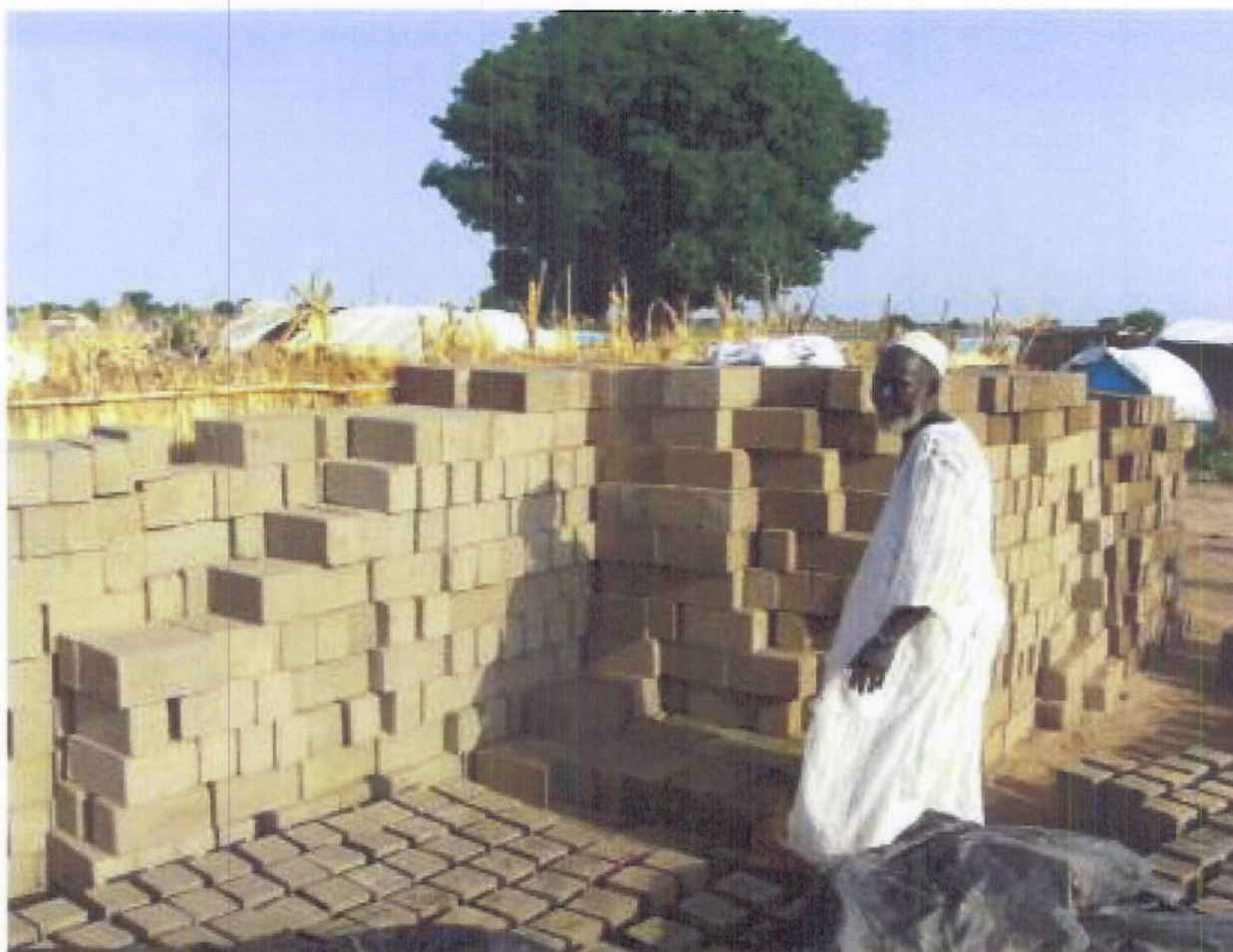
as a priority through urban planning, with the purpose of enhancing the quality of life.

Way forward and future actions

- A new approach is required in providing adequate and affordable housing.
- The city prosperity index as a measure of urban well-being should be a tool of engagement with partner cities to broaden the quality of life for all citizens.

- The World Urban Forum calls for a joint session of ministers and mayors in subsequent sessions.

- The proposal for a “World Cities Day” should be given consideration by the UN-Habitat Governing Council and, ultimately, by the General Assembly.



UN-Habitat/DFID/Government of Japan. Sustainable Reconstruction of Shelter, community infrastructure and land tenure, South Darfur. 2009. Photo © UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat and the Federal Government of Sudan

In particular, efforts were made to strengthen the relations between UN-Habitat and the Federal Government of Sudan:

- Commitment of UN-HABITAT to offer technical and financial support to the Federal Government of Sudan with respect to urban development.
- Commitment of some of Arab States to finance training of the Sudanese engineers when holding workshop.

b. 7th World Urban Forum in Medellin.

The Seventh Session of the World Urban Forum will bring together some of the most committed -City Changers from the South and from the North. It will be a platform to create new networks and partnerships and strengthen existing ones, with a meaningful impact on equity and development. Participants will gain new awareness about the role that cities, countries, international agencies and development partners can play in advancing an equity agenda, sharing knowledge and best practices. They will also discuss how to implement the — Cities for Life concept that is both normatively and operationally linked to the notion of equity.

The WUF 7 will be held in the City of Medellin, Colombia, with the main theme on Urban Equity in Development – Cities for Life, and will help to define new objectives and strategies for integrating equity in the development agenda.

The concrete objectives of WUF7 are to take stock of where the world stands with respect to the Equity concept, analyzing how this concept is perceived and utilized. By sharing perspectives and viewpoints on the present - day relevance of equity, it will be possible to initiate a debate on the operational ways to make cities and development more equitable. As proposed by the City of Medellin, the —Cities for Life concept will help to frame the discussions by looking at the transformative role of government and citizens in shaping a more equitable, socially inclusive and secured world; a world that requires a set of critical actions today, yet with a long - term integrated perspective.

UN-Habitat together with representatives of the Federal Ministers of the Government of Sudan and Universities will attend the Forum and participate in the Dialogue sessions by presenting action based activities and projects implemented in the country.

TABLE 1: UN-HABITAT CURRENT PROJECTS

The table reflects current projects being implemented by UN-Habitat Sudan:

Project Title	Donor/ Funding Partner	Duration	Budget	Objective
Slum Upgrading and Sustainable Housing Development Project in Sakali Settlement, Nyala, South Darfur and Dorti Settlement, El Geneina, West Darfur	UNHCR	2010-2013	1,500,000 USD	<p>To improved land administration capacity by allocation of 2,000 for IDP families (including single female HH, widows and disabled persons) who are willing to leave the camp and reintegrate with the local communities.</p> <p>To empower communities to coordinate production of Stabilized Soil Blocks (SSB) and housing and public facilities construction.</p> <p>To improve housing for 150 vulnerable IDP households with secure land tenure built through self-help mechanisms using environmental friendly and low-cost construction technology.</p>
Institutional Capacity Development of Darfur on Urban and Regional Planning	USAID-OFDA	2011-2013	2,128,315 USD	<p>To develop the institutional capacity and expand the technical support provided to the State Ministries of Planning and Urban Development (MPUDs), with particular focus on urban and regional planning and land management.</p> <p>Preparation of a <i>regional spatial strategy for reintegration of IDPs in Darfur</i> providing guidance to the government authorities and the local leaders for supporting decision making on where to invest and carry out the reconstruction process</p>

COUNTRY PROGRAM DOCUMENT SUDAN 2013-2016

Project Title	Donor/ Funding Partner	Duration	Budget	Objective
Strengthening the primary health care system in three states of Darfur	USAID in partnership with WHO	2011-2013	1,400,000 USD	To strengthen the primary health care system in three states of Darfur, in partnership with the World Health Organisation (WHO) with the construction of 12 Health Facilities applying environmental friendly and cost-effective construction material.
Peace Building in Darfur through Resource Management and livelihood	Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund DSPCF	2013-2015	763,982 USD	To improve environment for sustainable peace, through livelihood support and resource management
Participatory and Gender-Balanced Urban and Regional Planning, Land Management, environmental friendly Construction and Sustainable Livelihood in Blue Nile State	Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	2013-2015	1,900,000 USD	To improve capacity of the government to better plan and manage urban settlements for better provision of services and integration of displaced people and improve access to basic services and sustainable livelihood for displaced people and recipient communities in Blue State.
Emergency flood response in Khartoum States for Vulnerable Communities	Government of Japan	2014 - 2014	1,600,000 USD	The overall goal is strengthen government and community capacities to conduct emergency construction of public facilities and necessary infrastructure through adaptation and implementation of resilient to floods urban planning and building techniques

COUNTRY PROGRAM DOCUMENT SUDAN 2013-2016

Project Title	Donor/ Funding Partner	Duration	Budget	Objective
Assessment and Technical Support to Darfur Land Commission & Addressing Land Concerns at Return Sites	Qatri Fund	2015- 2016	2,061,130 USD	The purpose of the Project is to research specific areas of land tenure, gender aspects, property rights and customary land registration issues that would improve current land title system and contribute in the development of evidence-based and gender sensitive land policies, laws and regulations
Redesign of Urban Basic Services facilities in selected	Qatri Fund	2015 – 2016	1,070,000 USD	Intends to address urgent requirements for consistent and standardised environmental friendly administrative building designs and package for provision of basic services needed for village cluster centres at return sites
Upgrading of Urban basic services	Qatri Fund	2015- 2016	6,447,906 USD	To contribute to the recovery and stabilization of 2.9 million war-affected populations (including returnees) through the rehabilitation of basic health services.
Improve Access to Quality Urban Housing and Services	Qatri Fund	2015 - 2016	1,070,000 USD	The project focuses on assessment of urban housing focusing on inventory of building materials, housing typologies, solid and liquid waste collection and disposal and options for improvement.