

COUNTRY  
PROGRAMME  
DOCUMENT  
**2013 - 2015**

# Sudan



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## **SUDAN: COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT 2013 - 2015**

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**2013 - 2015**

# Sudan

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# FOREWORD

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# 01

## THE URBAN CHALLENGE IN SUDAN

Recent years have witnessed an accelerating process of urbanisation in Sudan. While in the 1980's only 20% of the people lived in cities, now approximately 36% of the population is urban in a country whose population growth is among the fastest in Africa. 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 in Sudan has 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). It is estimated that over 1.3 million IDPs are in Darfur in 2012. IDP camps near urban areas exert an additional pressure on them 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 and safe housing and urban areas.

Unlike other situations where urbanisation means an opportunity for development and access to income and services, urbanisation in Sudan appears as 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 of urban structure, which causes high levels of unhealthy and overcrowded housing patterns. Therefore urban dwellers live under poor housing quality conditions. Over 30 % of them do not have access to safe drinking water. This figure increases if Khartoum is not included in the average. 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 add more pressure on the already scarce natural resourcesenvironment, especially around population centres and camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs). The environmental impact of the IDPs camps, has led to the destruction of shelter belts, forestry and farmland on the outskirts of the major towns. The use of wood as a structural element for housing construction and to produce 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.

In this context, urbanisation is not only seen as a concentration of poverty and needs but also as an opportunity to trigger sustainable processes of development, harnessing the capacity and aspirations of the people in 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 km<sup>2</sup>): **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*



# 02 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.

**ABOVE:** Aerial view of Muhkjar  
(West Darfur), 29 March 2011.  
© Albert Gonzalez Farran/UNAMID

In Eastern Sudan, UN-Habitat carried out a project (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.

In Khartoum UN-Habitat implemented projects (EC and Italian Cooperation) with the overriding objective of eradicating urban poverty through effective urban planning and pro - poor policies.

In Darfur, after the implementation of a Preparatory Programme which aimed at long-term shelter, community infrastructure and land tenure recovery programme in all the states of Darfur, by implementing 'woodless' building techniques utilizing Stabilized Soil Block (SSB) Technology for reconstruction of self-help housing, education and health facilities and other community infrastructure.

UN-Habitat is currently implementing an Institutional Capacity Development program in Darfur on Urban and Regional Planning and Land Management Project 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 2013-2015 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.

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



**RIGHT:** Aerial view of Muhkjar (West Darfur), 29 March 2011.  
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# 03

## 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:

#### **UN-Habitat Sudan Program main priorities:**

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**Priority 1** - Urbanization, urban planning and local governance

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**Priority 2** - Land management and administration

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**Priority 3** - Pro-poor housing

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**Priority 4** - Urban infrastructure and basic services

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#### **PRIORITY 1 - URBANIZATION, URBAN PLANNING AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE.**

##### **Regional and Urban planning**

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 a number of urban centres. The changing conditions of living and livelihood of the displaced families characterise urbanisation, especially in Darfur, to the point that it may be called an urbanisation of displacement, a conflict-induced one<sup>1</sup>. 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 concrete solutions for addressing the urbanisation process and facilitate the transition from relief to development, sustaining livelihoods, and reducing the dependence on relief assistance.

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



**RIGHT:** Women construction.  
© Albert Gonzalez Farran/UNAMID

For this purpose a coherent approach of regional and urban planning, land management, housing and service delivery, security and livelihoods represent 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. In this context, UN-Habitat is 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 with particular focus on urban and regional planning and land management.

More specifically, UN-Habitat is 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, for supporting decision making on where to invest and carry out 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.

## Governance

Urban planning processes in Sudan involves three levels:

1. **National-level**, headed by the National Council for Physical Planning 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, urbanisation, have competencies for policy formulation and overall national planning and monitoring. State level authorities are responsible for detailed planning, programming and implementation.

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### MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) MAIN AREAS OF COOPERATION:

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- 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.

Despite that national legislation specifies the 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 similar situation is replicated at the State level with the Ministries of Planning and Urban Development as well as the State Physical Planning Committees being unable to fully perform their tasks. The transfer of competencies to the States has not been accompanied by a proportional transfer of resources.

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.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between UN-Habitat and the Federal Government of Sudan for providing technical assistance on urban related issues, particularly by supporting the preparation of a National Urbanization Strategy.

## 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 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 the Land acquisition Ordinance of 1930 established the right of land expropriation for public purposes, through compensation mechanisms and decision making processes by council of ministers without judicial review.

The approval of the Unregistered Land Act in 1970 and consequently the Civil Transaction Act in 1983 provided the Government of Sudan a legal mechanism to interfere in customary land management. It was indiscriminately implemented s 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 establishes 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 rightsand.

Nevertheles the current situation of the institutional structures for land administration and rural development suffer 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 linked 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, to address these land disputes the government has been talking about compensation through customary land restitution mechanisms, but there are no mechanisms at present to make this a legitimate and legal solution.

In this context, UN-Habitat is 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.

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

- Assessing the different typologies of land conflict and disputes 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;
- 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

### PRIORITY 3 - PRO-POOR HOUSING

UN-Habitat has identified stabilised soil block (SSB) technology as the most suitable to be used for the reconstruction of settlements for the returnees in Sudan, since it is eco-friendly, socially inclusive and economically competitive.

Community empowerment and training and capacity development of Government officials constitute the backbone of the strategy to be implemented in close collaboration with vocational training institutions and COBs.



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

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



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.

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.

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.

#### **PRIORITY 4 - URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE AND BASIC SERVICES**

There are significant disparities between regions and between rural and urban areas in Sudan, regarding the access to basic services. Not only has chronic insecurity constrained efforts to re-start provision of the basics of modern life in some areas – 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, services remain key priorities and require strong further improvement to achieve the 2015 Millenium Development Goals.



Many people still lack basic amenities like clean water or reliable electricity supply, and thus see the restoration of infrastructure as a top priority.

In addition, infrastructure has been destroyed or severely damaged in nearly all sectors in parts of 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 is to begin to reorient resources toward more sustainable, developmentally oriented activities.

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.

### 3.2 UN-HABITAT COUNTRY PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES FOR SUDAN (2013-2015)

UN-Habitat's key objectives given the Urban Sector Priorities outlined above are:

PRIORITY	OBJECTIVES
<b>PRIORITY 1:</b> Effective Urbanization, Regional and Urban Planning, and Governance	<p><b>Objective 1.</b> Improve regional planning, city planning and governance under an integrated participatory planning approach.</p> <p><b>Objective 2.</b> Provide capacity building to physical and land-use to targeted trainee groups in Sudan.</p> <p><b>Objective 3.</b> Expose Sudan's to targeted trainee groups to new, modernized and participatory planning methods and tools.</p>
<b>PRIORITY 2.</b> Improved Land Management and Administration	<p><b>Objective 1.</b> Reinforce the institutional capacity for land dispute and promote inter-sectoral coordination to deal with land issues.</p> <p><b>Objective 2.</b> Assess the different typologies of land conflict and disputes and implementation of land conflict management mechanisms</p>
<b>PRIORITY 3.</b> Increased Emphasis on Pro-Poor Housing	<p><b>Objective 1.</b> 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><b>Objective 2.</b> 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><b>Objective 3.</b> Formulate pro-poor policy addressing housing issues taking into account the disadvantage groups</p>
<b>PRIORITY 4.</b> Improved Infrastructure and Basic Services	<p><b>Objective 1.</b> Provide capacity building and technical support to promote durable solutions for local service delivery and infrastructure development.</p>

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

Since 2006, UN-Habitat's programmes and activities have been focused on providing clues for innovative approaches creating alternatives to settle low income communities in the East-

ern States, Khartoum, and Darfur States. In Eastern Sudan, UN-Habitat carried out a project (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.

### 3.3 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 Regional and Head offices, the UN-Habitat Sudan Program will be guided by the following key principles:

<b>NEW FOCUS/ SUBPROGRAMMES</b>	<b>STRATEGIC RESULT FOR EACH NEW FOCUS AREA</b>
<b>NEW FOCUS AREA 1:</b> 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.
<b>NEW FOCUS AREA 2:</b> 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.
<b>NEW FOCUS AREA 3:</b> 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.
<b>NEW FOCUS AREA 4:</b> 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/ SUBPROGRAMMES	STRATEGIC RESULT FOR EACH NEW FOCUS AREA
<b>NEW FOCUS AREA 5:</b> 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.
<b>NEW FOCUS AREA 6:</b> Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation	Cities are more resilient to the impacts of natural and human-made crises, in an equitable manner.
<b>NEW FOCUS AREA 7:</b> 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

### 3.3.1: Conformity with the UN-Habitat Medium – Term Strategic and Institutional Plan 2008-2013 (MTSIP)

Sustainable urban development is the theme of *UN-Habitat's 2008–2013 Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Plan* and remains a key priority in the agency's normative and operational work until 2013.

In this context, sustainable urban development is an overall framework within which UN-Habitat is addressing more specific priorities and this will shape the UN-Habitat Programme in Sudan.

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).

Although the new *UN-Habitat's Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Plan* is under discussions and pending approval, the following seven focus areas and corresponding subprogrammes have arisen to be prioritized for the period of 2014 to 2019:

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

Since 2010, UN-Habitat and partners have been working on the first issue of *The State of Arab Cities 2012: Challenges of Urban Transition* (2012).

This authoritative UN-Habitat policy paper launched in May 2012 presents a comprehensive analysis of urbanization trends and housing conditions in the 22 countries that comprise the Arab States 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 this report and takes into consideration the impacts of the 2011 turmoil in the region.

This Strategy is 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.

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* (The 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 difficult. 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.

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.

### **Main Priorities for Sustainable Urbanization to be jointly considered by the Arab States**

1. Improving the Integration of Comprehensive Urban Strategies in their National and Regional Development Plans
2. Responding to Demands for Inclusive Economic Opportunities, Affordable Housing, and Access to Services for all
3. Improving Urban Management and Promoting Participatory Governance
4. Mitigating Climate Change

## Main Priorities for Sustainable Urbanization in The Southern Tier

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.

Developing plans for regional infrastructure improvements

Exploring strategies to engage a variety of actors in meeting the MDGs, including local governments, the private sector, and CBOs and NGOs.

Preparing for the predicted increase in water scarcity brought about by climate change.

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 funds to maintain adequate national networks.

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

UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States will be UN-Habitat's main arm in partnering with the Arab States in implementation of the Sustainable Urbanization Strategy in collaboration with all 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

- a. Five-Year National Development Plan (2012–2016) and the
- b. UNDAF priorities (2013-2016)

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

The second *Five-Year 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 Sector**

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



**RIGHT:** An Internal Displaced Person (IDP) based in Kasab camp, in Kutum (North Darfur), makes "hijabs".

© UNAMID/ Albert González Farran

*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

## 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. Achieve universal access to basic education by 2015.
- b. Gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- c. Reduction of child mortality rates.
- d. Improving maternal health in the postpartum stage
- e. Ensuring environmental sustainability



**RIGHT:** Surroundings of UNAMID team site in Shangil Tubaya (North Darfur).  
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**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 socio-economic 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:

UNDAF Pillar	UNDAF Outcome	Participating UN Agencies
<b>PILLAR 1:</b> Poverty Reduction, Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Livelihoods	<b>Outcome 1:</b> 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
	<b>Outcome 2:</b> 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
<b>PILLAR 2:</b> Basic Services	<b>Outcome 3:</b> 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
	<b>Outcome 4:</b> 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, UN-Habitat & WHO
<b>PILLAR 3:</b> Governance and Rule of Law	<b>Outcome 5:</b> 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
	<b>Outcome 6:</b> 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
<b>PILLAR 4:</b> Social Cohesion, Peace Consolidation and Peace Dividends	<b>Outcome 7:</b> 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
	<b>Outcome 8:</b> 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.

#### *Objectives*

The following mutual objectives were 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 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.

**RIGHT:** Assistants at the UN-Habitat National Consultative Workshop held in Khartoum. © UN-Habitat



### 3.4.2 6<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum

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



**RIGHT:** Tukumare village (North Darfur) is nearly abandoned due to the conflict in Darfur.

© UNAMID/ Albert González Farran

- There is a need for a 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. 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 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.



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

**TABLE 1: UN-Habitat CURRENT PROJECTS**

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

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Donor/ Funding Partner</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Objective</b>
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 empowercommunities 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 regional spatial strategy for reintegration of IDPs in Darfur 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>

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Donor/ Funding Partner</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Objective</b>
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	2013-2014	763,982 US	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	2013-2014	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.







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