



## Monthly Protection Monitoring and Intervention Report

January 2022

### Protection coverage

During the reporting period, protection actors conducted protection monitoring through active Community-Based Protection Networks (CBPNs) in various Darfur states and South Kordofan. Due to inaccessibility and insecurity issues in hotspot areas, partners completed monitoring remotely over the phone. UNHCR and other protection sector members such as UNICEF, UNFPA and UNMAS participated in numerous interagency assessments across Sudan, including in Sortony IDP Site (North Darfur), areas of displacement in South Kordofan and the Fasi cluster villages in East Darfur. The information was gathered through Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focused Group Discussions (FGDs). Protection Sector partners identified 11,892 females and 7943 males with specific needs, 3,960 of these individuals were between the ages of 5-17 years old.

The Protection Sector recorded 48 protection of civilians incidents in January 2022. These included 24 attacks against civilians, 18 incidents of intercommunal conflict, five incidents of armed conflict and one incident of explosive remnants of war.

### Identified/stated protection concerns:

The protection risks and concerns negatively impacted the IDPs' enjoyment of rights and well-being are as follows:

#### Physical safety

- Insecurity and displacement of civilians. According to IOM DTM, 11,100 persons were displaced in Ag Geneina.
- An increase in crime was widely reported in all five Darfur states and South Kordofan. Partners in Darfur also reported violence and looting along major roads in January.
- The significant inter-communal conflict between Nomads and IDPs is an important protection risk. The nomads also resent that humanitarians do not target them for assistance.
- The presence of arms and proliferation of small arms into the hands of civilians compromised the civilian character of IDP sites, especially in South Kordofan, Central Darfur and North Darfur.
- Partners reported SGBV related risks, concerns, and incidents involving the host community, nomads and IDPs. These risks are in firewood and water collection outside IDPs' residence areas. Protection monitoring partners reported incidents of rape, sexual violence, child abuse, physical violence and violence against women and children.
- Child protection issues, including child marriage and child labour, are critical concerns raised by the nomad communities of Rossi, Galala and Taksana in West Darfur. Boys from 15 to 17 are travelling to Libya to work grazing animals.
- The presence and threats of Explosive Ordnance (UXOs) pose risks to the IDPs, humanitarian aid workers and NGO personnel in some parts of Darfur, Kordofan and Blue Nile states.

Material safety (access to land and natural resources, and access to humanitarian assistance and services, etc.)

- Humanitarian access is impeding humanitarian and protection assessment and responses.



- Destruction of Property: Looting of personal property, burning of houses, village, and farm destruction remain significant security concerns affecting civilians, including IDPs.

#### Legal safety

- Absence of formal government and law enforcement organs (police). This was noted in Defra, North Abyei region and by North Darfur in Sortony IDP site render the IDPs vulnerable and susceptible to attack and secondary displacement.
- Impunity, accountability, and rule of law issues.
- An inadequate police force and capacity to respond to any protection incidents.

#### Freedom of movement and residence

- Forced displacement due to intercommunal violence continued.
- Lack of basic services in return areas. For example, two community leaders from Om Shejeira in East Darfur told UNHCR that 1,912 HHs of 9,560 IDP returnees are experiencing a lack of basic services in their return areas since their voluntary return in 2018. These include water, health, and education.
- Secondary occupation: In North Darfur and elsewhere, most villages where the IDPs are originally from are reportedly occupied by Arab nomads. This impedes access to land for farming in areas of origin. Secondary occupation by the Arab nomads is hindering the return of IDPs. IDPs expressed a willingness to return to their places of origin if there was a resolution of the security and secondary occupation issues.
- During the protection monitoring, the local leaders cited three central Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) issues, including the destruction of crops, property destruction and lack of land tenure documentation. These HLP concerns aggravate existing land disputes, forced eviction and secondary occupation.
- The IDPs, mainly women and girls, minimized their movement out of the camps in Zalingei, Central Darfur, out of fear of GBV.

#### Coordination Meetings

Meetings	Numbers
Protection Working Group meetings held	6 <sup>1</sup>
Protection partners attended	36
Sub PWG meetings held (AoRs)	4
Bilateral meetings held	OHCHR, UNITAMS, UNDP, FAO, UN-Habitat; authorities, etc., HAC OCHA COR

#### Protection Interventions

##### **General Protection**

- The Protection Sector developed evidence-based advocacy reports that contribute information to the Protection Sector, the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC), HCT and other relevant stakeholders.
- The PWG in West Darfur drafted a work plan on capacity building for MSW.
- Protection actors conducted weekly remote protection monitoring by contacting Community-based protection Networks (CBPNs) in three Darfur states (East, North, West) to identify the needs and

<sup>1</sup>PWGs in all five Darfur states and South Kordofan. Blue Nile PWG did not hold a meeting.



protection risks at areas affected by inter-communal violence. CBPN in East Darfur in El Neem IDP camp identified a vulnerable case of a single mother with a severe medical condition and referred her to Al Dau'yn hospital for further treatment.

- In South Kordofan, UNHCR continues to follow up the protection concerns by monitoring community-based protection networks (CBPNs) activities and developing CBPN mapping in coordination with MoHSD.
- On 9 January 2022, UNHCR conducted a field monitoring visit to Al Neem IDP camp, East Darfur. They met with three IDP women Representatives during the visit who requested additional construction needs. Another issue raised was the presence of unknown armed men in civilian attire who walk in the camp during the night hours. UNHCR raised this issue with HAC.
- On 17 January 2022, UNHCR, in coordination with HAC, handed over sports kits to four football and four volleyball teams, comprising 136 young people (M 96, F 40). They also distributed livelihood IGA shaving tools to 10 male youths in Al Neem IDP camp. The main objectives were to enhance livelihood and talent development for youth and adolescents who engage in different sports events, which creates a conducive protection environment, peacebuilding, and self-reliance.
- UNHCR led an inter-agency mission to monitor the security, protection and humanitarian situation by conducting community-level meetings with key community leaders and local authorities to obtain information on Sortony IDP site, North Darfur.
- The West Darfur Protection Working Group has conducted a weekly remote protection monitoring to identify the needs and protection risks at areas affected by inter-communal violence.

**GBV subsector:**

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- GBV sub-sector has supported five temporary spaces in the IDPs gathering sites in EL Geneina: Moheria girl's school, Imam Kazim School, health science academy, Musheradin and Donkidisa. CDF conducted skill-building and recreational activities (Henna, Stove Making and handcraft) in five temporary women spaces and two WCs in Kerienk and Masteri for 1,500 women and girls. The recreational activities are part of the group psychosocial support for the conflict-affected communities.
- GBV sub-sector conducted three days of training of Judiciaries on survivor-centred approach attended by twelve Judges from Genina and Kerik.
- GBV actors distributed 240 Sanitary Pads for vulnerable women and girls Ardmata gathering point (new IDPs) in Geneina town. They also did awareness-raising about GBV, existing GBV services, referral system and the benefits of reporting sexual violence in 72 hours.
- GBV sub-sector provided psychosocial and case management services to GBV survivors. They referred GBV survivors who required additional services to other service providers.
- The GBV AOR in West Darfur updated GBV referral pathways.
- GAH conducted four awareness-raising sessions on harmful traditional practices such as GBV, FGM, domestic violence, child /force marriage, etc., in Abu Jabra, Abu Karinka and Assalaya in East Darfur.



### **Child Protection subsector including on MRM**

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- The child protection subsector participated in interagency missions to Jebel Moon and Kreinik, West Darfur. In Kreinik, the key findings of the mission included the identification of five separated children.
- More than 200 hundred children showed unusual behaviours in Murayat and Umtajok, West Darfur, including stress, trauma, sleep disorders, and loss of appetite.
- Two MRM cases of injured children from Selena, West Darfur, were successfully verified.
- CP AoR in West Darfur conducted Child Protection Working Group meeting on 16 January 2022, and the critical discussion point was the emergency response for Jebel Moon and Kreinik.
- SCCW initiated Family Tracing and Reunification FTR for two registered unaccompanied children in East Darfur.
- UNHCR's partner, the Civil Registry, conducted a Birth Registration Campaign in Ottash IDP Camp in South Darfur from 16 to 18 January 2022. A total of 251 IDP children were registered (111 boys and 140 girls).
- CRS trained 260 persons on child rights, seven awareness campaigns on MRM conducted and 12 awareness sessions on child rights in Assalaya and Ed Daein in East Darfur.
- UPO trained 9 CBPNs of 90 members on child protection and peacebuilding in Yassin, Assalaya and Sheria in East Darfur during the reporting period.
- Two attempted cases of child marriage were reported in El Neem IDP camp, East Darfur. CP partners and GBV sub-Sector had a meeting and made recommendations to address the issue by engaging CBPN.
- The Child Protection Sub-sector participated in interagency missions to Jebel Moon and Kreinik. In Kreinik, the key findings of the mission included the identification of five separated children and all the five reached in Murayat. An injured eleven-year child from Murayat was identified and referred for treatment to Nyala. More than 200 hundred children have shown unusual behaviours in Murayat and Umtajok, including stress, trauma, sleep disorders, and loss of appetite.

### **Mine Action subsector:**

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- UNMAS from Khartoum joined a mission to Sortony site in North Darfur to conduct a quick assessment of the site and to meet community leaders and community representatives who have been demarcating areas with UXOs. Through advocacy to the relevant stakeholders, the Government granted UNMAS permission to deploy its demining team to conduct demining activities in and surrounding of Sortony IDP gathering site.
- South Kordofan UNMAS and OCHA lead an inter-agency assessment in coordination with UNDSS, UNTAMAS, UNHCR, conducted a quick assessment in Ar-Rashad, Abu Kershola, Abu Jubaihah, El Leri, El Tadamon and Talawdi locality to demarcate areas with Explosive Ordnance UXOs, and the road accessibility. They held several meetings with community leaders and community representatives during the assessment. UNMAS, in coordination with relevant partners, will work to deploy its demining team to conduct demining activities in IDP gathering sites and other locations as required.



## Other agencies POC interventions including UNDP, FAO, OHCHR, other agencies

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- In West Darfur, State Level POC Committee met regularly. The Government deployed Joint Security Forces to hotspot areas. Formation/deployment of conflict resolution committees, sending high-level delegations, securing access to villages, land, firewood and water collection points, crops protection, improved early warning mechanism established, perpetrators of crimes arrested/ brought to justice etc.

### Gaps, recommendations

**Humanitarian access** across Darfur and South Kordofan impeded humanitarian responses. The ability of humanitarian agencies to deliver services is directly linked to the capability and willingness of the authorities to assure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and assets. Without guaranteeing security and humanitarian access, service provision is at risk.

Moreover, there are inadequate police forces and capacity to respond to any protection incident. Security forces, including armed movements, should adhere to the full letter of **international humanitarian law**. Whereby civilians are not subject to harassment, threats, arbitrary killing and attacks, and the right to life and liberty. In North Darfur, the Wali through its **State Security Committee**, should urgently establish joint forces to secure the two main roads between El Fasher-Nyala and El Fasher-Tawilla by guaranteeing patrol and escort of civilians to involve the civilian members of the POC committee.

PWGs identified a **lack of specialized lifesaving GBV services** in multiple locations, including West and North Darfur, such as clinical management of rape (CMR), psychosocial support (PSS), legal aid and case management. North Darfur reported that GBV services are not available in Sortony IDP gathering site. Survivors must travel to Kebkabiya for clinical management of rape (CMR), referrals and PEP kits, where services are not always available, and access. Insecurity along the Kube and Kebkabiya road also impedes access. In South Kordofan, the GBV WG has been absent since July 2020. The State also lacks GBV services in most localities due to the absence of UNFPA and its partners. Survivors, in most cases, need to get the necessary support in big town hospitals and clinics such as Abu Jubaihah, Dilling, Kadugli. For extreme cases, GBV actors refer victims to North Kordofan hospitals in Um Rawaba and El Obied for clinical management of rape (CMR), referrals and PEP kits.

The State Governments in East and North Darfur should convene a meeting of their **State POC Committees** to immediately address inter-communal tensions, including allegations of harassment, imminent attack and looting, between nomads in nearby communities and IDPs. This meeting should include representatives of the Governor's peaceful co-existence committee, security forces and native administration leaders to mediate an immediate cessation of hostilities between both communities, including the disarmament of civilians. In East Darfur, the Government should also address the issue of land disputes and animal migratory routes to prevent conflict and facilitate durable solutions in return areas.

The North Darfur Government should convene a **gender-sensitive investigatory committee** to consult with both nomads and IDPs in coordination with the State Legal Administration Department and Sudan Police Force to ensure that the Government holds perpetrators of violence, looting and destruction of property to account in accordance with Sudanese and international law. In North Darfur, there is a need for a community radio station to play a leading role in the community sensitization, mobilization and awareness raisings activities led by government line ministries.



A-ISCGs should engage partners to improve **basic services**. Within East Darfur, this includes Yassin, Sheria and Assalaya localities, including WASH, Health, education, shelter, NFI and IGAs to support IDPs and IDP returnees. Protection actors recommend, given the multitude of fires in East Darfur sites, training of CPBNs on fire prevention. In South Kordofan, humanitarian actors conducted an inter-agency mission assessment in the eastern corridor (SKS) on 16-22 January 2022 to assess the newly displaced population's situation following the intercommunal conflict in late 2021. The findings identified that the IDPs immediately need NFIs, protection, health, nutrition, education, and WASH support. **Protection services** also need to be increased, and for instance, in Shamal Jebel Marra in Central Darfur, protection services coverage is only 30%.

Provision of training on Protection Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) is recommended for UN, civil society organizations, CBPNs and NGOs. In Central Darfur, the WG recommends regular capacity building and training for police and protection actors working in Fasi cluster villages and Damras in Zalingei.

In Central Darfur, the Protection Working Group recommends including **nomadic communities** for assistance.

**Mine Action AOR** should assess areas suspected to have landmines in Jabrouna, South Kordofan.