



SUDAN LIVELIHOODS ROADMAP (2023-2025)

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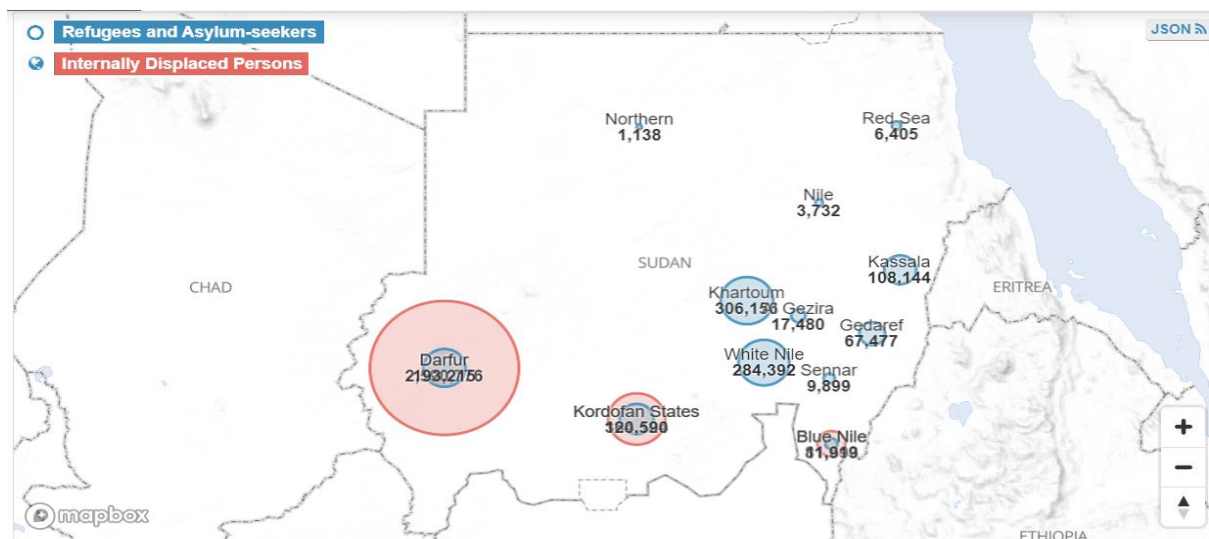
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1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 SUDAN COUNTRY CONTEXT

Sudan hosts one of the largest refugee populations in Africa. As of February 2022, the country hosts [1,129,656](#) refugees and asylum seekers of which 70% of the population is out of camp, while 30% is settled in camps. In addition, the country has a total population of approximately 3,036,593 internally displaced, mostly in the Darfur region that has experienced a volatile security situation for almost two decades. South Sudanese represent more than 70% (800,000) of the refugees in Sudan, followed by 126,000 Eritrean refugees (11%).



Approximately 70 per cent of the current South Sudanese refugee population are living outside of official camps in more than 100 out-of-camp settlements, alongside host communities. Many out-of-camp settlements are in remote and underdeveloped areas, where resources, infrastructure and basic services are extremely limited. Some 30 per cent of refugees in Sudan live in 22 camps, and over half of those living in camps were born there. Sudan's rainy season (June to September) makes access extremely difficult, with many camps and out-of-camp areas completely inaccessible for weeks and months at a time.

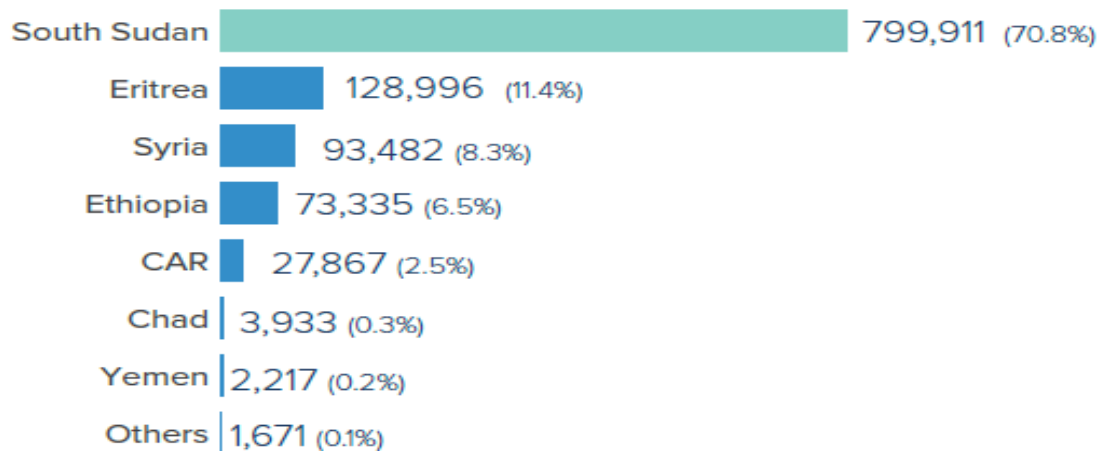


Figure 1: Sudanese Refugees by country of origin: Date: February 2022

New arrivals from South Sudan are granted refugee status on prime facie, as per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between UNHCR and the Government of Sudan's Commission for Refugees (COR) in September 2016. Many others fled violence and persecution in neighboring countries, including Eritrea, the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, and Chad, but also the wars in Syria and Yemen pushed people to seek safety in Sudan. Most refugees live in out-of-camp settlements, host communities and urban areas, while others stay in camps, especially in East Sudan and White Nile State. Sudan continues to generously host and receive additional asylum-seekers. Violent conflicts have also displaced many Sudanese internally, especially in the Darfur and Kordofan states. Internal displacement is also triggered by disasters such as flooding. Resolution of conflicts, including on access to arable land, are critically needed to end violence and subsequent displacement. Continuous international support will be needed to ensure conditions become conducive to return of refugees and internally displaced people.

2.0 POLICY FRAME WORKS

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS): The SDGs were drafted to ensure that 'no one is left behind' and aim to realize 'human rights for all.'

The New York Declaration: In adopting the Declaration, States declare profound solidarity with persons who are forced to flee, reaffirm their obligations to fully respect the human rights of refugees and migrants, and pledge robust support to those countries affected by large movements of refugees and migrants.

The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR): The Global Compact on Refugees aims to transform the way the world responds to mass displacement, by operationalizing the principle

of international responsibility-sharing that underpins the protection, assistance and ultimately pursuit of solutions for refugee situations.

It has four key objectives:

- 1) Ease pressure on host countries.
- 2) Enhance refugee self-reliance.
- 3) Expand access to third country solutions; and
- 4) Support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.



The Global Refugees Forum (GRF): The Global Refugee Forum is an opportunity for UN Member States and other stakeholders to announce concrete contributions and pledges towards the objectives of the Global Compact to achieve tangible benefits for refugees and host communities. On Jobs and Livelihoods, the GRF focused on promoting economic opportunities for refugees to enable them to rebuild their lives and once again become productive members of a community. These efforts, in turn, can help create jobs, stimulate international trade and investment, and boost innovation, enterprise and growth in host communities.

The livelihoods road map for Sudan is guided by the [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (GCR), the [UNHCR Global Strategic Direction](#), the [UNHCR Livelihoods Concept Note 2019-2023](#), the [Stepped-up Livelihoods Strategy 2020-2025](#) for Eastern Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes (EHAGL), the Government of Sudan National Vision for Host Communities and Refugees and Sudan's [Solutions strategy](#).

[Step Up Regional Livelihoods Strategy](#): In responding to the High Commissioner's request to step up livelihoods' interventions, the EHAGL livelihoods strategy 2020-2025 was developed to address the most pressing livelihoods and socio-economic challenges in the region. To achieve this, the strategy focuses on four thematic and outcome areas as follows:

- **Data/Information Management:** Market and evidence-based livelihoods programming for POCs is enabled in the region through the creation of a solid evidence base.
- **Advocacy:** Legal and de facto economic inclusion of POCs is fostered through advocacy and burden-sharing with host governments.
- **Partnerships:** POCs are included in self-reliance projects across the humanitarian development nexus.
- **UNHCR Implementation:** UNHCR's Livelihoods (LH) country programs are aligned with global and regional LH directions and are designed and managed effectively.

The Kampala Declaration on Jobs, Livelihoods, and Self-Reliance for Refugees, Returnees, and Host Communities: Signed in March 2019 by IGAD member states, contains commitments which are an important part of realizing the objectives of the Global Compact for Refugees in the IGAD region. The Declaration holds real potential for realizing Compact objectives globally and builds on the 2017 Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees. The Kampala Declaration meeting picked up some identified transformative areas of Nairobi-such as national systems, partnerships, alternatives to refugee camps, free movement, refugee work rights, self-reliance, economic inclusion, and the 'whole of society' approach and translated them into a Declaration and Plan with a framework for the wider IGAD region. One key element of the declaration is the need for robust support through predictable investments that create local economic opportunities and presuppose a new relation between refugees and development agendas.

2.1 GRF PLEDGES AND SUDAN'S SOLUTIONS INITIATIVE

2.1.1 GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM PLEDGES

The Government of Sudan made [nine pledges](#) at the Global Refugee Forum in December 2019, reflecting a commitment to an approach aligned with UNHCR's Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). The pledges are as follows:

1. *Continue to maintain and implement an open-door policy for refugees*
2. *Develop solutions for the root causes of forced displacement*
3. *Facilitate humanitarian access to affected people*
4. *Facilitate movement for refugees*
5. *Integrate health services for refugees in National Health System in a gradual manner*
6. *Integrate refugee education in national education system in a gradual manner*
7. *Create and enhance an enabling environment for return of refugees and IDPs and facilitate their reintegration*
8. *Adopt self-reliance policy for refugees and host communities*

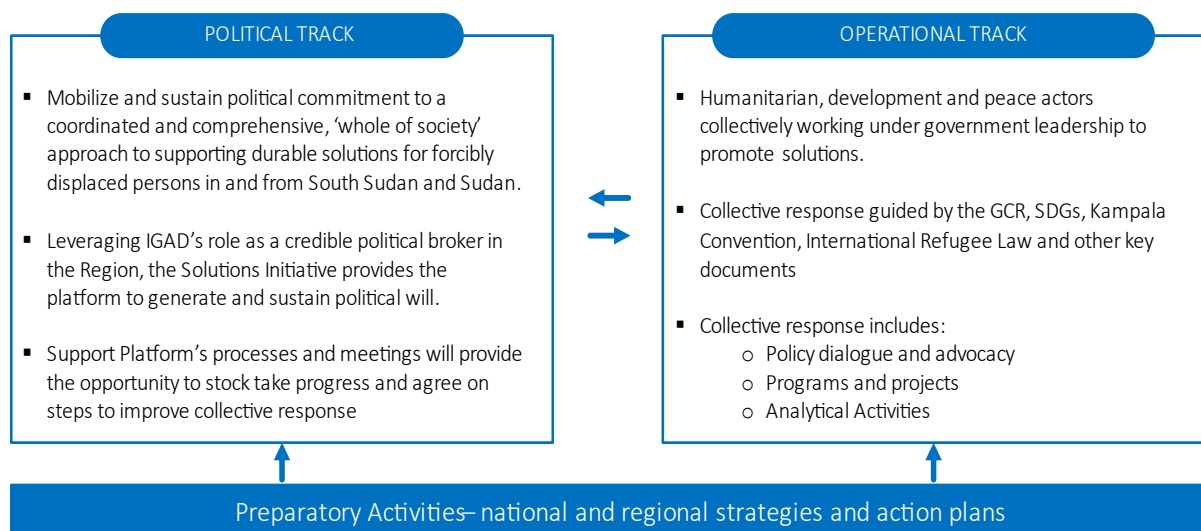
9. *Facilitate work for refugees*

Recent political events have significantly impacted negatively on the development and progress on the implementation of the solutions initiative including slowing down on progress made to implement its nine pledges. However, the government continues to maintain and implement an open-door policy for refugees.

2.1.2 SUDAN'S SOLUTIONS INITIATIVE

Despite the recent military takeover in Sudan, South Sudan and Sudan have made major advances to address daunting political, security and socio-economic challenges. In October 2020, the [Solutions Initiative](#) for Sudan and South Sudan was launched by the governments of South Sudan and Sudan, IGAD, UNHCR and the EU-INTPA with the aim of galvanizing a stronger collective response to support durable solutions (voluntary repatriation, local integration, and resettlement/complementary pathways) for over seven million South Sudanese and Sudanese refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Following the launch of the Initiative, the governments of Sudan and South Sudan, with the support of IGAD and UNHCR, embarked on the process of developing national durable solutions strategies and action plans. As flagship activity of the IGAD Support Platform, the Solutions Initiative benefited from the inputs and contributions from the members of the Core Group of the IGAD Support Platform.

The [Solutions Initiative](#) for Sudan and South Sudan aims to galvanize a stronger collective response to create enabling conditions for durable solutions (voluntary repatriation, local integration, and third country solutions) as well as to strengthen asylum by addressing the humanitarian, development and peace-related needs in communities affected by forced displacement in and from Sudan and South Sudan. In line with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), the Solutions Initiative supports the operationalization of the durable solutions-related provisions of the two countries' respective peace agreements. It also complements collective efforts to revive the economies of both countries. By creating enabling conditions for durable solutions, the Initiative will also contribute to addressing some of the drivers of forced displacement. The Solutions Initiative is an integral part of the broader transformation for Sudan and South Sudan with a dual track process that entails political and operational commitments.



The initiative is in line with the Nairobi Declaration and its subsequent thematic declarations on education, jobs and livelihood, and health, which aim to have a comprehensive regional approach to deliver durable solutions for refugees while also maintaining asylum space, strengthening protection, and promoting self-reliance in the countries of asylum.

This Strategy and its Action Plan aims at creating conditions allowing IDPs, returnees and refugees to find solutions allowing them to rebuild their lives in safety and dignity without dependency, as well as in harmony with the communities hosting or receiving them and in full respect of the rights of their members, including those of nomads, herders, and farmers.

Within the solutions strategy, strategic objective 3 emphasizes the need to improve living conditions for IDPS, returnees, and host communities pending solutions. This will be achieved through its strategic objective that is aimed at improving living conditions for IDPs and returnees remaining in protracted internal displacement pending return or another type of durable solution, to strengthen their resilience and enhance their ability to move towards self-sufficiency, as well as for their hosts.

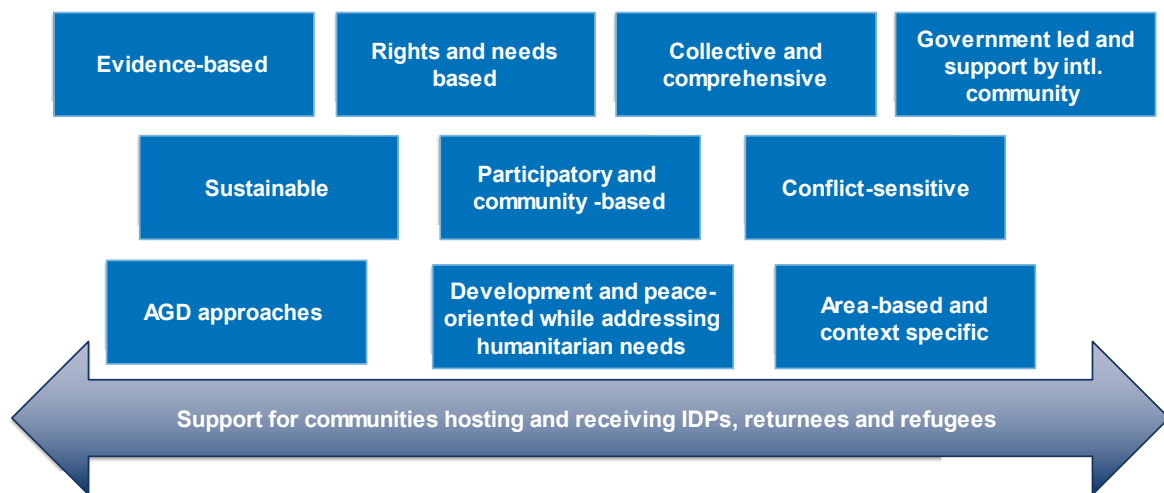


Figure 2: Key principles of Sudan National Solutions Strategy Action Plan

3.0 LIVELIHOODS NEEDS ANALYSIS

Overall economic activity in the country has been hit by reduced mobility and incomes, protests, and labor shortages, as well as the ongoing disruption of critical business services, including logistics and telecommunications, and public services such as health and education. Continued civil unrest, including strikes targeting key economic sectors, is likely to further constrain Sudan's limited productive potential. This impact will be felt more strongly in urban areas where the limited range of formal economic activities takes place. Closing bridges and roads during processions affect daily workers and increase poverty incidence among them. Farmers have been affected by lower wholesale prices for some crops, higher input prices, and limited access to credit. Taken together, these shocks have weakened consumption, investment, and trade, and disrupted businesses' operations and the supply of labor and inputs.

Over the longer term, recent events have the potential to jeopardize much of the development progress that has been made. Significant impacts on investment, human capital accumulation, and the environment for doing business are likely to impair prospects for economic growth over the longer term. Sudan will likely continue to struggle with elevated price levels in 2022, after recording the highest inflation rate in the African continent and the second highest in the world during 2021 (preceded only by Venezuela).

Across most states, refugees experience higher monetary vulnerability than their host communities. Refugees in Gedaref, White Nile, North Darfur, East Darfur, and North/South Kordofan have the highest monetary vulnerability, and those in-camps/camp-like situations report higher monetary vulnerability compared to those settled out-of-camp ([BANVA, 2021](#)). Similarly, refugees in West Kordofan and all respondents in Kassala and South Kordofan experience the highest food vulnerability. Looking at states with a significant difference

between refugees settled in-camp/camp-like situations and out-of-camp, it was found that vulnerability was higher for the latter in Blue Nile and West Kordofan.

However, most refugees, except for those in East Darfur and Blue Nile, report being able to access a marketplace within one hour from their homes and most of them feel safe when traveling to the market except for those in Central and East Darfur. [BANVA \(2021\)](#) report show that a significant proportion of the refugee population and the host community is highly vulnerable to low-income levels and debt repayment. For example, some refugees in East Darfur enter into land co-sharing agreements with host communities who provide food, water, and medicine (these expenses are calculated as debt) which is deducted after harvest season resulting in some refugees getting nothing at the end of the season.

The refugee population and the host communities are highly vulnerable to spending a high proportion of their monthly household income on food. Individuals exhibiting the highest vulnerability were uneducated older widowed women, living in-camps/camp-like situations, with a high number of dependents. The most vulnerable households were found to be led by heads of household with little to no education, a high number of dependents, and a low income.

The available livelihoods opportunities for refugees are largely in the informal sector with high uncertainty of daily labour accompanied by high risks of exploitation, sexual harassment, and abuse. Consequently, the lack of income also undermines refugees' housing security, with many reporting being unable to cover increasing costs for services and food. In East Darfur, Refugees reported that they can be subjected to violence or night attacks whenever they received CBI or any livelihoods options (cash or in kind).

Movement restrictions further reduce the capacity for self-reliance by preventing refugees from moving to areas in Sudan with better work opportunities. Livelihoods gaps have direct impacts on child protection by reducing families' capacity to keep their children in school and turning to negative coping strategies including early marriage and child labour. Child labour and early marriages have been noticed in Kario Camp in East Darfur and has affected the student enrolment rates at schools. Access to formal livelihoods opportunities is even more challenging.

3.1 LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD INSECURITY

Sudan's economy is ailing from the devaluation of the Sudanese pound (SDG), high inflation and soaring food and non-food prices reflected in the high inflation rate recorded every month.

Food prices in most states tripled due to high costs of transportation, production and taxes.

This curtails household purchasing power. According to WFP (Food Security Monitoring Survey for Q1, 2020), 44 percent of refugee households in Sudan are food insecure. Food vulnerability is high among the refugee population as well as host communities. The refugee population and the host communities are highly vulnerable to spending a high proportion of their monthly household income on food.

Female-headed households are more prone to food insecurity. Furthermore, 11 percent of refugee households have poor food consumption. Amidst the economic crisis, the economic vulnerability of the refugee households is the main factor contributing to their food insecurity. The proportion of refugee households with more than 65 percent of their expenditure going on food (and thus not having enough to cover other basic needs and build sustainable assets) increased from 73 percent in 2019 to over 90 percent in 2020. This deterioration is due to inflation, soaring food commodity prices and limited income. Inflation reached 230 percent in October 2020 year on year and the average price of sorghum in November 2020 reached SDG 80.6 per kg, which is 269.72 percent higher than the same period of the previous year, and 775 percent higher than the average of the past 5 years. The Q1 FSMS also shows that 36 percent of the refugee households' resort to negative livelihood coping strategies, such as selling household goods, alcohol brewing, drugs trade, reducing non-food expenses such as health and education, spending savings, and depleting their assets. Alcohol brewing and drugs trade have negatively affected the youth at productive age and communities at large. Around 8 percent of the households' resort to emergency coping strategies such as begging, and selling last female animals, and 19 percent of the households' resort to crisis coping strategies such as selling productive assets. [The 2021-2022](#) Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report for Sudan forecasts persistent high food insecurity levels in Sudan driven by high inflation, increasing food prices and a deteriorating economy. This is further aggravated by an estimated national cereal production in 2019/20 that was 57 percent below the previous year and 18 percent less than the five-year average.

3.2 AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

The economy of Sudan is highly dependent on the agricultural sector, as nearly 65 percent of its population is engaged in agriculture, which is the main supplier of raw material to industries. The agricultural sector, including forestry, livestock, and fishery, accounted for 20 percent of the GDP in 2020 ([FAO Report, 2022](#)). Agriculture is the main hub of economic activity and

livelihoods in Sudan and even during the oil boom years of the 1990s it remained a mainstay of the economy. The sector provides livelihood to approximately two-thirds of the population, employs about 60 percent of the labour force, supplies raw material needed by the agro-based industries and generates demand for industrial consumer goods. With rainfed agriculture accounting for about 95 percent of the total cultivated area in the country, rainfall is the most important driver of national food crop production.

In terms of agricultural value chains, the country's crop portfolio is quite diversified, including cereals (sorghum, millet, wheat, rice and maize), oilseeds (sesame, groundnuts and sunflowers), commercial crops (cotton and sugarcane), fodder crops (alfalfa, fodder sorghum and Rhodes's grass), pulses (broad beans and pigeon peas) and horticultural crops (okra, onions, tomatoes, citrus, mango, etc.). While prices of sorghum and millet maintained substantial increases year in year out, the prices of wheat, increased more than threefold due to reliance on importation despite opportunities of cultivating the crop locally. As noted in Figure 2, the supply/demand gap depicts the highest potential for investments in wheat, sorghum, and Rice value chains. This provides good indication for market availability for these key commodities.

| | Sorghum | Millet | Maize | Wheat | Rice | Total |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| Availability | 3 528 | 901 | 37 | 602 | 28 | 5 096 |
| Production | 3 528 | 901 | 37 | 602 | 28 | 5 096 |
| Food assistance | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total utilization | 3 881 | 901 | 49 | 2 652 | 95 | 7 578 |
| Food use | 3 458 | 821 | 46 | 2 591 | 92 | 7 008 |
| Feed use | 176 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 194 |
| Seed requirements | 71 | 17 | 1 | 32 | 1 | 122 |
| Post-harvest losses and other uses | 176 | 45 | 2 | 29 | 2 | 254 |
| Estimated import requirements | 353 | 0 | 12 | 2 050 | 67 | 2 482 |

Figure 3: Sudan Cereal Supply/Demand Balance, Jan-Dec 2022 ('000 tonnes); Source: FAO, 2022

Land in Sudan is also suitable for animal husbandry, with an estimated total livestock population in 2021 of about 111 million heads of cattle, sheep, goats, camels and others, mainly depending on natural grazing areas for feed and from hafirs, rivers, seasonal streams and bore wells for water.

Most of the refugees reside in rich agricultural areas such as the Kordofan's and Darfur's which are known for production of gum Arabic, groundnuts, sesame, sorghum, etc. UNHCR in late 2018 conducted a [post-harvest assessment](#) in White Nile State which indicated that refugees

already participate informally and/or semi-formally in the harvesting process for sesame and sorghum specifically in White Nile, Gedaref and Sennar states. There is also potential for agriculture in the East (Kassala/Gedaref) which is where there were large cooperatives. These were weakened over time with little investment in the necessary infrastructure and lack of real ownership by smallholders as they did not have title to the land.

There is consensus that refugees are not allowed to buy land (whether customary or owned by government) but rent it, with some recognition that non-Sudanese may legally lease land. In Darfur and Kordofan, land is usually rented by Mukhamis, the equivalent of around 1 acre (.40 ha). Rental costs are reported to range from SDG 5,000 to SDG 10,000 (subject to inflationary changes) for one season. In Kassala state the fees for renting 5 feddan(1feddan=1.03 acres) is SDG 50,000 for one season in rainfed area while it goes up to 300,000 in New Halfa irrigated scheme.

Since refugees do not own land and heavily rely on renting from host communities. Predominantly, two options exist for those renting land from the host communities. The first option entails renting land at a fee as stated above and all the produce goes to refugees during the harvest season. The second option is to rent land at zero cost, but 17% of the produce goes to the landowner and the rest to the individual who rented land. This is common in Kassala, Girba and Shagarab localities. However, in other states, flexibility for refugees renting land at no cost is exercised through a share of typically 2 bags of beans, sesame, groundnuts, charcoal, or any crop produced on a rented piece of land. In East Darfur, the zero-renting cost practice (co-sharing of land) is not recommended as refugees end up with low benefits or nothing at the end of the season.

3.3 FINANCIAL INCLUSION

The Asylum (Organization) Act 2014 does not provide for access by refugees to financial services, including banking. In March 2019, the Central Bank circulated a decree to all banks authorizing the use of COR Refugee ID Card as an acceptable Know Your Customer (KYC) document for banking. Despite this reform, a significant number of refugees are excluded from the financial sector, as most banks have been slow to adapt their procedures to the statement by the Central Bank. The Blue Nile Mashreg Bank does allow refugees to open bank accounts with Refugee ID Cards but requires a referral letter from UNHCR.

Consequently, refugees and asylum seekers have, in practice, limited options to receive and save their money. The absence of a clear regulation on mobile SIM card ownership by refugees also poses another barrier to accessing financial solutions, such as mobile banking apps (mbook, Syber Payplus Sahlago, Fawry) which minimize travel to and from the markets for goods and services. The Telecommunication and Post Regulatory Authority (TPRA), in charge of registration of SIM cards, is willing to authorize mobile SIM card ownership by refugees and may give reduced rates for refugees. However, there must be an official communication from COR and information including on Refugee ID Cards. Further efforts should be made to increase direct engagement of refugees and asylum seekers with financial service providers by raising awareness and dispelling some of the misconceptions which perpetuate barriers for accessing formal financial services.

3.4 ACCESS TO LABOUR MARKETS

Being registered is the foundation of refugee access to formal employment, education, and other rights or opportunities. The Commission of Refugees (COR) under the Ministry of Interior is the authorizing agency for refugee registration and refugee status determination (RSD) as specified by the 2014 Asylum Act. Sudan is party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol, which allow lawful refugees the right to engage in wage earning employment (Article 17) and the right to be self-employed engaging in agriculture, industry, commerce, handicrafts, and the right to establish commercial enterprises (Article 18). Sudan is also signatory to the Organization for African Unity Refugee Convention. The Transitional Government of Sudan reaffirmed their commitment to international agreements and laws relating to the human rights of refugees and displaced people in the 2019 Draft Constitutional Charter for the transitional period.¹

Chapter III of the 2014 Asylum Act outlines the Rights and Duties of the Refugee, under which Article 13 (2) grants refugees the same treatment as other non-refugee aliens with respect to the right to liberal work and liberal professions. Article 18 of the Sudanese Asylum Act states that a refugee is allowed to work if they can obtain a work permit from the competent labour office, who is obligated to send a copy of the permit to the Commission of Refugees (COR) and the Ministry of Interior.

¹ Chapter 15 (Comprehensive Peace Issues), Article 67 (h). "Facilitate the mission of the UN delegation of the High Commissioner of Human Rights to work in Sudan... to ensure and guarantee the human rights of displaced persons and refugees set forth in international agreements and national laws.

Following extensive advocacy by UNHCR and COR with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare Development (MoLSD), in 2019, the Ministry established procedures for refugees to obtain work permits with fewer requirements than for foreigners. For example, refugees do not need a national passport (a Refugee ID Card will be accepted in lieu of a national passport), a letter from the employer or security screening. Refugees need a residence certificate and a referral letter from COR and must pay a fee of SDG 1,250-approximately 3 USD, and a health clearance certificate issued by public health facilities for SDG 600-approximately 1,3 USD. While the procedure works smoothly, it remains a challenge for refugees with limited financial means.

The ministry has opened a special window in the Labor Office in Khartoum state to process work permits for refugees. Some 1,780 refugees in Khartoum obtained a work permit in 2020, and 300 refugees so far in 2021. Many Eritreans and Ethiopian refugees run their own businesses or work in restaurants and shops or as housekeepers. While work permits allow self-employment refugees need a business license from the locality to register a business. In White Nile state, work permits are granted to refugees to work in farms during harvest season through a special procedure under which the government sends an official request to COR to facilitate the movement of refugees for work prior to the harvest season. COR at the state level then issues work permits to refugees. Employers provide transportation for refugees to and from the camps and refugees do not need a travel permit. Some 150,000 refugees are engaged in such seasonal agricultural work in White Nile state. In some cases, child labor is used and there appears to be no means of reporting exploitation or abuse by employers. Refugees in different parts of Sudan work mainly in the informal sector, in agriculture, construction, cleaning, and housekeeping.

Overall, neither the 2014 Asylum Act nor any other piece of legislation reviewed forbids or gives clarity on the ability of or pathways for registered refugees to:

- a) Register a business
- b) Own or lease land
- c) Establish or join a cooperative
- d) Access financial services or open a bank account
- e) Use a refugee ID card as valid means to purchase a SIM card
- f) Access business development services
- g) Access employment services

The commitments made to facilitate work for refugees at the Global Refugee Forum in 2019 have not yet translated into legislation or put into action. Overall, an active national employment policy that considers whether, and to what extent, refugees are to be included within the labour market is required but missing.

Four Freedoms: On 27 September 2012 the Sudanese government and the Government of South Sudan signed a Framework Agreement on establishing an intention to provide South Sudanese in Sudan (and Sudanese in South Sudan) with ‘Four Freedoms’: the freedoms to reside, move, undertake economic activity, and acquire and dispose property.¹ However, the mechanism for the operationalization of the Four Freedoms detailed in the agreement has not been established and implementation requires further progress.

In December 2014 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between UNHCR, COR, and the Directorate General of Passports and Immigration of the Ministry of Interior to allow for registration and documentation of South Sudanese in Sudan. The exercise commenced on 1 February 2015 and registration centers were established to document, register, and issue South Sudanese with ID cards that would be

free of charge and valid for their entire period in Sudan. With these ID cards, South Sudanese could enjoy the full privileges of the ‘Four Freedoms’ in addition to access to public services.²

South Sudanese asylum seekers to Sudan now are still afforded prima facie refugee status and are still eligible for the four freedoms.

The 1997 Labour Act is the key document regulating the workplace, but, as with most laws, does not specify refugee workers as being protected by the same rights as other employees. Neither the 2014 Asylum Act or 1990 Social Insurance Act specifies whether a refugee would be eligible or not for access to social security benefits. The new Trade Union Law was approved by Cabinet in July 2021 but has yet to be enacted. The previous Act did not specify whether or not refugee workers were able to join Trade Unions.

Opportunities for refugees to engage in the formal labour market are minimal, as is the case for most Sudanese outside Khartoum. Additionally, most of the refugees in West Kordofan and East Darfur are South Sudanese, for whom different treatment applies. The practice of applying for and approving work permits for refugees was therefore not widespread outside Khartoum.³ The COR office in Khartoum estimates supporting between 2-10 applications per day, however they do not keep records of work permits granted. These data are collected by the Ministry of Labour but are not publicly available. Whoever hires a refugee without COR’s permission is punishable with two years’ imprisonment or a fine according to the 2014 law.

Building on Sudan’s GRF pledges on self-reliance and facilitation of work for refugees, further advocacy is needed to expand work permits for refugees under decent work and sectoral exemption conditions.

² Citizenship Rights in Africa Initiative [‘UNHCR welcomes the registration of South Sudanese citizens in Khartoum’](#). 2 April 2015.

³ Data on refugee work permit applications received and approved is held by the Ministry of Labour and while not available through the National Statistics Bureau or other publicly available means, the rates are assumed to be low.

3.5 FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Sudan is a party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (1951 Refugee Convention). Sudan is also a party to the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. However, the country has a reservation against Article 26 of the 1951 Refugee Convention, which restricts refugees' freedom of movement and is resulting in encampment policies. Within the 2014 Asylum Act, Article 14 (2a) specifically prevents refugees from leaving their assigned residence without special authorization from COR or other competent bodies. Article 31 (2) of this law outlines a penalty of up to five years imprisonment and/or a fine for any person who conveys a refugee or asylum seeker without a travel permit outside camps or between towns. A refugee caught travelling beyond their stated residence without permission may be punished and fined (Article 31[3]). These restrictions create barriers for refugees to freely undertake their entrepreneurship and work-related activities.

3.6 OWNING AND REGISTERING BUSINESSES

Refugees in Khartoum may register businesses with the Ministry of Trade and Supply, facilitated by COR and with a legal basis in the 2014 Asylum Act; however, reference to this is not found within the Act. While there is no legal basis to prohibit a refugee from registering a business, neither is there a framework to support it.

3.7 MOBILE MONEY AND BANKING APPS

Mobile money options are offered through the Sudani and MTN mobile networks. Refugees were not able to purchase SIM cards in their own name. Mobile network providers outside Khartoum do not accept refugee cards as valid means to buy SIM cards. While the telecoms regulation act does not prohibit refugee cards as a valid form of ID, neither does it specifically allow it; there is little awareness among mobile providers of refugee cards and therefore they are not inclined to accept them as legitimate forms of ID. However, many of the refugees have mobile phones and all are able to purchase SIM cards through Sudanese friends. Syrian and Yemenis refugees are more likely than other refugee nationalities to have passports in Sudan, and therefore have easier access to SIM card ownership and banking app options.

3.8 OWNING OR RENTING LAND

Land rights are an essential human right, especially in a large country like Sudan, where most of the people gain their livelihood from the land. In addition, violation of people's right to land and natural resources by successive governments have been instrumental in the outbreak of wars and conflicts, so a comprehensive and far-reaching settlement of these issues is essential in Sudan for peace and sustainable human development. Two parallel systems of land rights exist in the country-the statutory legal system and the indigenous system of tenure based on customary rights. The former served larger rural entrepreneurs, urban dwellers, foreign investors and elite groups to obtain land through secure leaseholds, while a large majority of land users depended on the latter, which did not ensure formal security of tenure([FAO Database, 2022](#)). Customary rights continue to enjoy legitimacy among diverse ethnic groups and sub-groups of rural people in different parts of the country. Even though customary tenure varies in forms across the country, it has some common fundamental characteristics:

- a) The authority to allocate community land lies with a system of local chiefs and individuals and groups have rights to land through membership in the community;
 - Land, once possessed by an adult male in accordance with existing rules, can be inherited by his son;
- b) Women have access to land only through male relatives; and
- c) Rights of herders to the commons operate on the same principle of membership to the community.

For example, land in East Darfur and West Kordofan is customary land owned by local tribes, whereas the land in Gedaref and other parts is owned by the Government of Sudan. This differentiates how land may be bought, used, and arbitrated. In all cases, however, there was consensus that refugees are not allowed to buy land, with some recognition that non-Sudanese may legally lease land. Land is usually rented by Mukhamis, the equivalent of around 1 acre (.40 ha). Rental costs are reported to range from SDG 5,000 to SDG 6,000 for one season; a share of the season's produce is also accepted instead of cash in some cases, usually 2 bags of beans, sesame, groundnuts, charcoal, or whatever is being grown. Working as daily farm laborer's is considered less problematic for many refugees but they may be exploited, with wages withheld including threats of violence.

3.9 ACCESS TO VOCATIONAL OR APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING.

According to the Supreme Council for Vocational Training and Apprenticeships (SCVTA), if a refugee has completed basic education from an equivalent curriculum to Sudan, such as from South Sudan, Chad, Ethiopia, or Somalia, they may be accepted onto the course. However, non-Sudanese qualifications are not recognized. There are ongoing efforts by GIZ and UNESCO to establish recognition of prior learning with authorities. A trade testing system exists which refugees are not ineligible for, but for which they are unlikely to pass, as assessed by TVET.

Overall, market based vocational training opportunities are very limited compared to the number of productive youths who keep remaining idle in camps and settlements. Through PROSPECTS funding mechanism, ILO intends to facilitate vocational training interventions by including some youths from the refugees' community in targeted states including East Darfur.

4.0 EXISTING INITIATIVES/DIALOGUE

Prior to the events of October 2020¹, there were a range of key development partners engaging in Sudan including multilateral development Banks (World Bank and African Development Bank), as well as bilateral partners including BMZ (via GIZ and KfW), the Netherlands (PROSPECTS), EU INTPA, JICA, AICS, SIDA, and UN Agencies (UNDP, FAO, UNICEF) and others to explore whole society approaches to implement the solutions strategy. Key to this was promotion of self-reliance to ensure that refugees and host communities are empowered to be self-dependent and live-in harmony (co-exist peacefully). Examples of these partners engagement in areas related to forced displacement and livelihoods include:

- **BMZ** programmes focus on areas such as job creation and vocational training, food security, health protection and migration management. GIZ has several active projects in the forced displacement sector in Sudan, including in Khartoum for livelihood and vocational for refugees and host communities, and in Eastern Sudan through the Regional WASH Open Programme with KfW funding and implemented jointly with UNICEF and UNHCR, targeting both refugees and host communities. BMZ has currently suspended all operations in Sudan until further notice.
- **World Bank** engagement focused on the process for Sudan's eligibility to access the IDA Window for Host Communities & Refugees, a dedicated financing window that provides support to countries hosting large numbers of refugees to strengthen medium to long term development prospects for refugees and host communities, mitigate shocks

caused by new inflows, and support prospects for solutions. The World Bank has temporarily paused its operations in Sudan.

- **African Development Bank (AFDB):** AFDB is in the process of developing a new country strategy for Sudan and has in the past been focused on the issues of fragility and forced displacement. For example, the AFDB's Country Brief 2017-2019 featured fragility and resilience as a key area. Furthermore, the AFDB also funded a project benefitting South Sudanese Refugees in White Nile, in partnership with UNHCR and IOM, the US\$1million "Sudan Emergency Assistance to White Nile State" which provided support to the GoS to meet emergency needs of vulnerable South Sudanese refugees and provide them with essential services.
- **Netherlands (PROSPECTS) Partnership** for "Inclusive Jobs and Education for Forcibly Displaced Persons and Host communities in Sudan", funded by the Government of the Netherlands, aims to support host communities and forcibly displaced persons through equitable and inclusive interventions in several sectors including protection, education, and livelihoods-ILO focuses on vocational skills training and wage employment constraints.
- **JICA:** JICA's support to Sudan focuses on several areas including consolidation of peace, supporting basic needs and services, and diversification of industry. UNHCR is actively engaging and strengthening its partnership with JICA focusing on programming, and technical and policy opportunities that can benefit forcibly displaced populations and their host communities.
- **UNDP** is also engaged through co-chairing the Durable Solutions Working Group with UNHCR and the Danish Refugee Council, focused on identifying durable solutions for displaced populations in Sudan, including IDPs, returnees and refugees. UNDP also has projects in the agricultural and livelihoods sector, and wider community stabilization initiatives targeting both host communities and refugees.
- **FAO** has in the past had several agricultural livelihoods projects targeting refugees and host communities, especially in East Sudan. FAO has been implementing various interventions including sustainable livelihoods through provision of technical support in climate smart agriculture, post-harvest training, development of irrigation canals, water harvesting, provision of inputs and vaccination of livestock.
- **IOM** Sudan's transition and recovery projects complement the organization's humanitarian response and migration management programming through efforts that prevent or mitigate conflict- and disaster-related population movements. This work

emphasizes the role of contextual understanding and investing in locally relevant, locally driven and locally-owned solutions in displacement-affected areas to help promote stability and create conditions for durable solutions.

- **UN Transitional Framework:** the process for development of the UN Transitional Framework will focus on the UNCT's collective approach to supporting the Government of Sudan's humanitarian, peacebuilding and development needs under the leadership of UNITAMS. UNHCR will advocate for inclusion of displaced populations' needs within this framework and across the UNCT members. This process is also on pause until further clarity is achieved as to the government configuration.

5.0 OPPORTUNITIES

- Sudan has a long history of hosting refugees and asylum seekers. Many host communities continue to welcome refugees and provide them with support where possible. Building on this generosity, and government pledges provides a conducive environment to invest in market-based livelihoods interventions that have more potential to create employment for both refugees and host communities.
- Pledges made to the global refugees' forum. Collaborating with the government and key development partners to implement these pledges might provide a gate way for refugees to meaningfully participate in livelihoods activities that will make them self-reliant and less dependent on humanitarian aid.
- Adoption of the 2014 Refugee Act. The act provides a conducive environment for refugees to meaningfully contribute to the economic transformation of the country through participation in various value chains that have potential to create employment for both refugees and host communities.
- Khartoum has better access to jobs, movement, residence than other areas. Collaboration with the COR, MOL, ILO will provide better opportunities for refugees with skills to access work permits that will facilitate access to employment for refugees.

6.0 LIVELIHOODS KEY PRIORITY AREAS

6.1 REFUGEE EMPOWERMENT AND SELF-RELIANCE

Livelihoods strategic objectives are based on UNHCR's five Global Strategic Directions:



The GRF pledges recommitted many countries to support and extend the feasibility of refugee self-reliance including through increased access to livelihood opportunities and economic inclusion. In partnership with government, the private sector, NGOs, and other development actors, UNHCR will strive to recognize, utilize, and build on the skills, and capacities of persons of concern through increasing livelihood opportunities to improve self-reliance and support solutions. Advocacy to lift reservations by governments to the refugee convention will also ensure inclusion and empowerment of refugees.

There is need to empower the community of persons of concern in being agents of change and effective partners in delivering protection. Communities hosting or living alongside refugees can benefit substantially from investments in local infrastructure and services when these are enhanced to accommodate refugees' humanitarian needs. The increase in trade and services can stimulate the local economy and agricultural productivity. In addition, it is critical to promote the empowerment and protection of women and girls, children, the elderly, as well sexual and gender minorities.

Recognizing that refugees and host communities need longer term development approaches spanning across sectors will be critical to broadening the response base and helping to address widespread needs. There is need to engage with various partners including development actors to establish linkages and mobilize resources, technical expertise, and programming efforts to address the medium to long-term needs of refugees and host communities. Refugees in Sudan need multi-sectoral interventions to address their specific vulnerabilities, bolster their self-reliance over the long term, and maintain and fulfil their rights as refugees.

6.2 LIVELIHOODS STRATEGIC DIRECTION

THEORY OF CHANGE: UNHCR's vision for refugees' economic inclusion is that all refugees can overcome poverty and dependency through participation in host country economies, and that both refugees and host communities enjoy shared prosperity, expanded access to employment and entrepreneurship services and decent work opportunities, and improved social cohesion.

IMPACT STATEMENT: Refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs and host communities progressively achieve self-reliance through gradually increased socioeconomic inclusion and access to multi-sectoral services to meet their needs and improve their wellbeing.

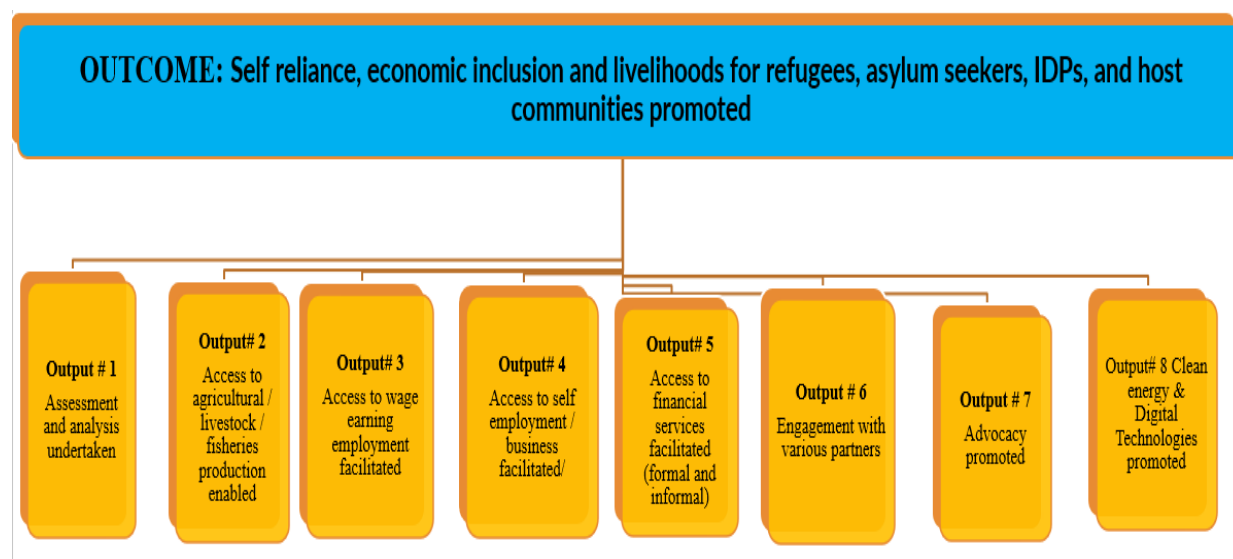


Figure 4: UNHCR Sudan Livelihoods Road Map for 2023-2025

OUTPUTS

a) **Assessments Conducted/Stakeholder Analysis completed**

Activities

- Mapping key stakeholders in livelihoods related activities such as key private sector players (companies, chambers of commerce, employment agencies, business associations), NGOs, financial service providers, business development service providers, donors, training institutions (public and private), development actors(BMZ, GIZ, IFC/WORLD Bank, African Development Bank, etc); Government; UN Agencies; and academia and research institutions.
- Conduct Rapid/Market Assessment conducted/Value chain analysis in collaboration with FAO, ILO and regional livelihoods technical teams.
- Conduct Capacity Assessment of implementing partners.
- Facilitate Skills Profiling exercise of refugees and asylum seekers with technical support from World bank if available.
- Provide technical support in the implementation of the graduation approach
- Provide technical support in conducting participatory wealth ranking assessments

- b) **Access to agricultural / livestock / fisheries production enabled**-In many parts of Sudan agriculture is the main source of livelihood for refugees and host communities. This strategy will focus on scaling up the successful model of joint agricultural projects between refugees and host communities, through climate smart agricultural practices and market-based approaches, for multi-year production and technical supports to ensure adequate income from the enterprises. The strategy will promote context specific value chains in partnership with the private sector, and agro-processing industries in collaboration with FAO, UNDP, UNIDO, ILO, WFP and other agencies. This is subject to willingness and availability of land, the strategy may also seek appropriate, market-based land renting/leasing/production sharing arrangement between refugees and host community farmers, in collaboration with state authorities in Sudan.

Activities

- Develop capacity in the agricultural sector by strengthening extension services/advisory services.
- Provision of inputs and productive assets to increase farming outputs
- Promotion of small-scale home/backyard gardens to provide opportunities for women-suitable for urban settings.
- Increase agro-processing and value addition for farmers.
- Promote farming techniques that minimize their impact on climate change, promote land rehabilitation and improve farming methods
- Facilitate linkages to markets for farm and value added products
- Develop solar powered irrigation schemes to reduce dependency on rainfed agriculture and promote production of crops throughout the year.
- FAO, WFP, UNIDO, UNDP, partnerships are strengthened and POCs included into ongoing projects, advocacy, and assessments.
- Joint projects (FAO, WFP, UNIDO, UNDP, UNHCR) are developed at country level befitting POCs food security and income levels.

c) Access to wage earning employment facilitated

Activities

- Capacity development to increase employability-training in CVs writing, interview skills.
- Employment linkages facilitated (formal and informal) etc
- Comprehensive review jointly with ILO, COR, MOL on various types of work permits, requirements, processes, identifying an action plan for streamlining the process for refugees to access work permits(WPs) in various sectors, providing technical and financial support to MOL/COR. Development of joint FAQ on the application process for WPs and awareness raising tours with government officials to inform refugees.

d) Access to self-employment / business facilitated/Vocational training promoted

Activities

- Promote self-employment through market driven business enterprises and registration.
- Market based/driven vocational training, business management and entrepreneurship skills promoted.
- Language training promoted
- Coaching and mentoring support to help refugees to benefit from existing skills and build on them to further increase their income.
- Facilitate the engagement of impact investors and grantees to support the expansion of refugee owned businesses.
- Capacity development of partners to promote business entrepreneurship and management skills-Roll out ILO Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) trainings to strengthen entrepreneurial skills.

e) Access to financial services facilitated (formal and informal)

Activities

- Engage with FSPs to increase access to financial services by POCs and host communities.
- Financial literacy training promoted.
- In collaboration with development partners, IFC, UNCDF and Equite Bank lobby and advocate for the recognition of COR ID as a KYC document.

- Provide technical support towards the establishment of VSLA's to improve group lending with digital offline tools and savings for investments rather than consumption
- Explore options of generating digital identities to enable refugees to access financial services through piloting Blockchain based identity management platforms to circumvent challenges associated with refugees or IDPs in accessing financial services.
- Working with 1 or 2 willing MNOs in Sudan to expand their agent networks to refugee-hosting areas.

f) Engagement with the private sector and other partners

Activities

- Facilitate access to Markets through private sector partnerships
- Facilitate access to inputs and services through engagement with private sector suppliers and service providers.
- Enhance partnership with WFP, ILO, FAO, UNDP, UNIDO, and other NGOs to improve alignment of LH approaches-use existing MOUs between UNHCR and other sister agencies as starting points;
- Joint projects are developed and fundraised for with key partners.
- Facilitate access to wage employment opportunities for refugees and host communities
- Facilitate access to technical capacity building
- Promote investment opportunities in refugees hosting areas with high product or service potential
- Promote country level Poverty Alleviation Coalition together with NGOs and development actors, to implement the Graduation Approach.
- Promote employment creation in value chains with highest potential for markets and creation of employment for both refugees and host communities.
- Explore the inclusion of refugees in job centers, and establish job centers or job fairs in settlements.
- Private sector workshops are organized in collaboration with Impact Hub and other partners.

- g) **Advocacy promoted:** -Continued policy dialogue with the government and key partners on self-reliance and access to work in line with GRF pledges

Activities

- To facilitate access to business registration opportunities
- To promote access to work permits
- To promote awareness on the use of refugees' identity cards issued by COR to facilitate access to financial services.
- Promote inclusion of refugees in the national planning systems. Engage government, the private sector, donor agencies etc-including refugees and other persons of concern in development plans will help develop self-reliance mechanisms and raise persons of concern out of poverty.

- h) **Clean Energy and Digital Technologies Promoted**-Promote Access to Clean Energy and Digital Technologies with high employment creation potential.

Activities

- a. Facilitate interventions in the energy sector with high potential of creating employment (i.e Solar electrification of schools, clinics, cold chains, irrigation systems, lighting etc.)
- b. Promote skills training in installation and maintenance of solar systems.
- c. Promote skills uptake in digital technologies with high potential to create employment for the youth.

By investing in refugees' self-reliance, local markets will be supported by benefitting from increased economic activities. This is in line with the Government of Sudan's commitments at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum which aims to enhance the integration of refugees into national education and health systems as well as facilitate work and remove movement restrictions for refugees.

6.3 ADOPTION OF THE GRADUATION APPROACH(GA)

Interventions will adopt the graduation approach where feasible. The graduation approach is aimed at lifting refugees and host communities out of extreme poverty through sequenced and timebound interventions that aim to help people living in extreme poverty build resilience and engage in sustainable livelihoods. It integrates social protection, livelihoods promotion with

large cash grants or a productive asset transfer component, financial inclusion, market linkages and social empowerment to build self-reliance of participating households on sustainable basis. The poverty alleviation coalition will be instrumental through joint concept note development, joint resource mobilization, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of project success and challenges. Best practices can be drawn and used to develop further concept notes and scale up interventions in various parts of the country.

6.4 LIVELIHOODS ROAD MAP FOR 2022 AND 2023-2025 MULTI-YEAR STRATEGY

| Impact | Outcome | Outputs | Activities | Lead Partners | Impact Indicator | Baseline | Milestone FOR 2022 | Milestone Yr1-2023 | Milestone Yr2-2024 | Milestone Y3-2025 | Assumptions & Risks |
|--|--|------------------------------------|---|---------------|--|----------|---|---|--|--|---|
| Refugees and persons of concern along with their host communities, have increased access to livelihoods and economic inclusion opportunities, enabling them to move from poverty and dependency to self-reliance, and achieve lasting solutions. | Self-reliance, economic inclusion, and livelihoods | Assessment and analysis undertaken | <p>Mapping key stakeholders in livelihoods related activities such as key private sector players (companies, chambers of commerce, employment agencies, business associations), NGOs, financial service providers, business development service providers, donors, training institutions (public and private), development actors(BMZ, GIZ, IFC/WORLD Bank, African Development Bank, etc); Government; UN Agencies; and academia and research institutions.</p> <p>Conduct Rapid/Market Assessment conducted/Value chain analysis in collaboration with FAO, ILO, and regional livelihoods technical teams.</p> <p>Conduct Capacity Assessment of implementing partners.</p> <p>Facilitate Skills Profiling exercise of refugees and asylum seekers with technical support from World bank if available.</p> | | <p># of Market survey / labour/value chain sector survey conducted or available (yes/no)</p> <p># Number of technical capacity building sessions offered to partners</p> | | <p>Mapping key stakeholders in livelihoods related activities such as key private sector players (companies, chambers of commerce, employment agencies, business associations), NGOs, financial service providers, business development service providers, donors, training institutions (public and private), development actors(BMZ, GIZ, IFC/WORLD Bank, African Development Bank, etc); Government; UN Agencies; and academia and research institutions.</p> <p>Conduct Rapid/Market Assessment conducted/Value chain analysis in collaboration with FAO, ILO, and regional livelihoods technical teams.</p> <p>Conduct Capacity Assessment of implementing partners.</p> | <p>Facilitate Skills Profiling exercise of refugees and asylum seekers with technical support from World bank if available.</p> <p>Provide technical support in the implementation of the graduation approach</p> <p>Provide technical support in conducting participatory wealth ranking assessments.</p> <p>Comprehensive review jointly with ILO, COR, MOL of various types of work permits, requirements, processes, identifying an action plan for streamlining the process for refugees to access work permits in various sectors, providing technical and financial support to MOL/COR</p> | <p>Comprehensive review jointly with ILO, COR, MOL of various types of work permits, requirements, processes, identifying an action plan for streamlining the process for refugees to access work permits in various sectors, providing technical and financial support to MOL/COR</p> | <p>Comprehensive review jointly with ILO, COR, MOL of various types of work permits, requirements, processes, identifying an action plan for streamlining the process for refugees to access work permits in various sectors, providing technical and financial support to MOL/COR</p> | <p>The volatile political situation and protests to continue</p> <p>Stringent restrictions and containment measures for new COVID-19 variants outbreaks. Lack of donor interest, and funding. Economic breakdown. Lack of willingness refugees and host communities to participate in livelihoods programmes. Dependency on humanitarian assistance</p> |

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|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| | | | <p>Provide technical support in the implementation of the graduation approach</p> <p>Provide technical support in conducting participatory wealth ranking assessments.</p> | | | | | | | |
| | Access to agricultural / livestock / fisheries production enabled | <p>Develop capacity in the agricultural sector by strengthening extension services/advisory services.</p> <p>Provision of inputs and productive assets to increase farming outputs</p> <p>Promotion of small-scale home/backyard gardens to provide opportunities for women-suitable for urban settings.</p> <p>Increase agro-processing and value addition for farmers.</p> <p>Promote farming techniques that minimize their impact on climate change, promote land rehabilitation and improve farming methods</p> <p>Facilitate linkages to markets for farm and value added products</p> <p>Develop solar powered irrigation schemes to reduce dependency on rainfed agriculture and promote production of crops throughout the year.</p> <p>FAO, WFP, UNIDO, UNDP, UNHCR partnerships is strengthened and POCs included</p> | <p>#of PoC receiving production kits or inputs for agriculture/live stock/fisheries activities</p> <p>% of households with access to arable land or other productive natural resources</p> | | <p>Conduct Capacity Assessment of implementing partners.</p> <p>Facilitate decent informal employment for seasonal agricultural production (informal jobs in seasonal farming and harvesting through seasonal migration)</p> <p>FAO/UNHCR partnership is strengthened and POCs included into FAOs ongoing projects, advocacy and assessments.</p> <p>Joint projects are developed at country level befitting POC food security and income levels.</p> <p>FAO, WFP, UNIDO, UNDP, UNHCR partnerships is strengthened and POCs included into ongoing projects, advocacy, and assessments.</p> | <p>Develop capacity in the agricultural sector by strengthening of extension services/advisory services.</p> <p>Provision of inputs and productive assets to increase farming outputs</p> <p>Promotion of small-scale home/backyard gardens to provide opportunities for women-suitable for urban settings.</p> <p>FAO/UNHCR partnership is strengthened and POCs included into FAOs ongoing projects, advocacy and assessments.</p> <p>Joint projects are developed at country level befitting POC food security and income levels.</p> <p>Develop solar powered irrigation schemes to reduce</p> | <p>Develop capacity in the agricultural sector by strengthening of extension services/advisory services.</p> <p>Provision of inputs and productive assets to increase farming outputs</p> <p>Promotion of small-scale home/backyard gardens to provide opportunities for women-suitable for urban settings.</p> <p>Increase agro-processing and value addition for farmers.</p> <p>Promote farming techniques that minimize impact on climate change</p> <p>FAO/UNHCR partnership is strengthened and POCs included into FAOs ongoing projects, advocacy and assessments.</p> <p>Joint projects are developed at country level befitting POC</p> | <p>Develop capacity in the agricultural sector by strengthening of extension services/advisory services.</p> <p>Provision of inputs and productive assets to increase farming outputs</p> <p>Promotion of small-scale home/backyard gardens to provide opportunities for women-suitable for urban settings.</p> <p>Increase agro-processing and value addition for farmers.</p> <p>Engage with host communities on possibility of joint agricultural production with refugees through irrigation schemes.</p> <p>Promote farming techniques that minimize impact on climate change</p> <p>Develop solar powered irrigation</p> | <p>Policy environment doesn't allow engagement of PoCs in economic activities.</p> <p>COVID-19 pandemic negatively impact on health and livelihoods of POCs.</p> <p>The volatile political situation and protests to continue</p> <p>Stringent restrictions and containment measures for new COVID-19 variants outbreaks.</p> <p>Lack of donor interest, and funding.</p> <p>Economic breakdown.</p> <p>Lack of willingness</p> | |

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| | | | <p>into ongoing projects, advocacy, and assessments.</p> <p>Joint projects(FAO, WFP, UNIDO, UNDP, UNHCR) are developed at country level befitting POC food security and income levels.</p> | | | | | <p>dependency on rainfed agriculture and promote production of crops throughout the year.</p> <p>Joint projects(FAO, WFP, UNIDO, UNDP, UNHCR) are developed at country level befitting POC food security and income levels.</p> | <p>food security and income levels.</p> <p>Develop solar powered irrigation schemes to reduce dependency on rainfed agriculture and promote production of crops throughout the year.</p> <p>Joint projects(FAO, WFP, UNIDO, UNDP, UNHCR) are developed at country level befitting POC food security and income levels.</p> | <p>schemes to reduce dependency on rainfed agriculture and promote production of crops throughout the year.</p> <p>Joint projects(FAO, WFP, UNIDO, UNDP, UNHCR) are developed at country level befitting POC food security and income levels.</p> | <p>refugees and host communities to participate in livelihoods programmes. Dependency on humanitarian assistance</p> |
| | | <p>Access to wage earning employment facilitated</p> | <p>Capacity development to increase employability-training in CVs writing, interview skills.</p> <p>Employment linkages facilitated (formal and informal) etc</p> <p>Comprehensive review jointly with ILO, COR, MOL on various types of work permits, requirements, processes, identifying an action plan for streamlining the process for refugees to access work permits(WPs) in various sectors,</p> | | <p># of PoC provided with guidance on labour market opportunities</p> <p># of PoC receiving work permits</p> | | <p>Comprehensive review jointly with ILO, COR, MOL on various types of work permits, requirements, processes, identifying an action plan for streamlining the process for refugees to access work permits(WPs) in various sectors, providing technical and financial support to MOL/COR.</p> | <p>Increased access to work permits</p> <p>Employment linkages facilitated (formal and informal) etc</p> <p>Capacity development to increase employability-training in CVs writing, interview skills.</p> <p>Support with complementary</p> | <p>Increased access to work permits.</p> <p>Employment linkages facilitated (formal and informal) etc</p> <p>Development of joint FAQ on the application process for WPs and awarness raising tours with government officials to inform refugees.</p> <p>Increased access to work permits.</p> <p>Support with complementary pathways for refugees that have</p> | <p>Development of joint FAQ on the application process for WPs and awarness raising tours with government officials to inform refugees.</p> <p>Increased access to work permits.</p> <p>Support with complementary pathways for refugees that have</p> | <p>The volatile political situation and protests to continue</p> <p>Stringent restrictions and containment measures for new COVID-19 variants outbreaks. Lack of donor interest, and funding. Economic breakdown.</p> |

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| | | | <p>providing technical and financial support to MOL/COR.</p> <p>Development of joint FAQ on the application process for WPs and awareness raising tours with government officials to inform refugees.</p> <p>Increased access to work permits.</p> <p>Support with complementary pathways for refugees that have completed their education through access to wage employment.</p> | | | | | <p>pathways for refugees that have completed their education through access to wage employment.</p> | <p>pathways for refugees that have completed their education through access to wage employment.</p> | <p>completed their education through access to wage employment.</p> | <p>Lack of willingness refugees and host communities to participate in livelihoods programmes. Dependency on humanitarian assistance</p> |
| | | <p>Access to self-employment / business facilitated</p> | <p>Promote self-employment through market driven business enterprises and registration.</p> <p>Market based/driven vocational training, business management and entrepreneurship skills promoted including support with complementary pathways for refugees that have completed their education through secondary, primary levels including informal pathways.</p> <p>Coaching and mentoring support to help refugees to benefit from existing skills and build on them to further increase their income.</p> <p>Facilitate the engagement of impact investors and grantees to support the expansion of refugee owned businesses</p> | | <p># of PoC provided with guidance on business market opportunities in the business sector</p> <p># of PoC provided with entrepreneurship / business training</p> <p># of refugees and hosts receiving start-up kits/asset transfer</p> | | <p>Capacity development of partners to promote business entrepreneurship skills.</p> | <p>Market based/driven vocational skills promoted.</p> <p>Promote self-employment through market driven business enterprises and registration.</p> <p>Market based/driven vocational skills promoted.</p> <p>Language training promoted</p> <p>Business management, development and entrepreneurship skills training promoted</p> <p>Coaching and mentoring support to</p> | <p>Market based/driven vocational skills promoted.</p> <p>Promote self-employment through market driven business enterprises and registration.</p> <p>Market based/driven vocational skills promoted.</p> <p>Language training promoted</p> <p>Business management, development and entrepreneurship skills training promoted</p> <p>Coaching and mentoring support to</p> | <p>Market based/driven vocational skills promoted.</p> <p>Promote self-employment through market driven business enterprises and registration.</p> <p>Market based/driven vocational skills promoted.</p> <p>Language training promoted</p> <p>Business management, development and entrepreneurship skills training promoted</p> | <p>The volatile political situation and protests to continue</p> <p>Stringent restrictions and containment measures for new COVID-19 variants outbreaks. Lack of donor interest, and funding. Economic breakdown. Lack of willingness refugees and host communities to</p> |

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| | | | Capacity development of partners to promote business entrepreneurship and management skills-Roll out ILO Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) trainings to strengthen entrepreneurial skills. | | | | | help refugees to benefit from existing skills and build on them to further increase their income. Capacity development of partners to promote business entrepreneurship and management skills-Roll out ILO Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) trainings to strengthen entrepreneurial skills. | help refugees to benefit from existing skills and build on them to further increase their income. Capacity development of partners to promote business entrepreneurship and management skills-Roll out ILO Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) trainings to strengthen entrepreneurial skills | Coaching and mentoring support to help refugees to benefit from existing skills and build on them to further increase their income. Capacity development of partners to promote business entrepreneurship and management skills-Roll out ILO Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) trainings to strengthen entrepreneurial skills | participate in livelihoods programmes. Dependency on humanitarian assistance |
| | | Access to financial services facilitated (formal and informal) | Engage with FSPs to increase access to financial services by POCs and host communities. Financial literacy training promoted. In collaboration with development partners, IFC, UNCDF and Equite Bank lobby and advocate for the recognition of COR ID as a KYC document. Provide technical support towards the establishment of VSLA's to improve group lending with digital offline tools and savings for investments rather than consumption | | # of PoCs participating in community-based group savings / loans / insurance schemes. # of PoC clients who have used national microfinance institutions or banks | | Engage with FSPs to increase access to financial services by POCs and host communities. In collaboration with development partners, IFC, UNCDF and Equite Bank lobby and advocate for the recognition of COR ID as a KYC document. | Engage with FSPs to increase access to financial services by POCs and host communities Financial literacy training promoted. Access to financial services promoted VSLA's to improve group lending with digital offline tools and savings for investments rather than consumption. Explore options of generating digital | Engage with FSPs to increase access to financial services by POCs and host communities Financial literacy training promoted. Access to financial services promoted Provide technical support towards the establishment of VSLA's to improve group lending with digital offline tools and savings for | Engage with FSPs to increase access to financial services by POCs and host communities Financial literacy training promoted. Provide technical support towards the establishment of VSLA's to improve group lending with digital tools and savings for | The volatile political situation and protests to continue Stringent restrictions and containment measures for new COVID-19 variants outbreaks. Lack of donor interest, and funding. Economic breakdown. Lack of willingness |

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| | | | <p>Explore options of generating digital identities to enable refugees to access financial services through piloting Blockchain based identity management platforms to circumvent challenges associated with refugees or IDPs in accessing financial services.</p> <p>Working with 1 or 2 willing MNOs in Sudan to expand their agent networks to refugee-hosting areas.</p> | | | | | <p>identities to enable refugees to access financial services through piloting Blockchain based identity management platforms to circumvent challenges associated with refugees or IDPs in accessing financial services.</p> <p>Working with 1 or 2 willing MNOs in Sudan to expand their agent networks to refugee-hosting areas.</p> | <p>investments rather than consumption.</p> <p>Explore options of generating digital identities to enable refugees to access financial services through piloting Blockchain based identity management platforms to circumvent challenges associated with refugees or IDPs in accessing financial services.</p> <p>Working with 1 or 2 willing MNOs in Sudan to expand their agent networks to refugee-hosting areas.</p> | <p>investments rather than consumption</p> | <p>refugees and host communities to participate in livelihoods programmes. Dependency on humanitarian assistance</p> |
| | | <p>Increased private sector and other partnerships collaboration/engagement</p> | <p>Facilitate access to Markets through private sector partnerships</p> <p>Facilitate access to inputs and services through engagement with private sector suppliers and service providers.</p> <p>Enhance partnership with WFP, ILO, FAO, UNDP, UNIDO, and other NGOs to improve alignment of LH approaches-use existing</p> | | <p># of private sector players providing support to refugees and host community livelihoods interventions</p> <p># of agencies jointly implementing livelihoods</p> | | <p>Enhance partnership with WFP, ILO, FAO, UNDP, UNIDO, and other NGOs to improve alignment of LH approaches-use existing MOUs between UNHCR and other sister agencies as starting points.</p> <p>Facilitate the organization of Private sector workshops in</p> | <p>Facilitate access to Markets through private sector partnerships</p> <p>Enhance partnership with WFP, ILO, FAO, UNDP, UNIDO, and other NGOs to improve alignment of LH approaches-use existing MOUs</p> | <p>Facilitate access to Markets</p> <p>Facilitate access to technical capacity building</p> <p>Promote investment opportunities in refugees hosting areas with high product or service potential</p> | <p>Promote employment creation in value chains with highest potential for markets and creation of employment for both refugees and host communities.</p> | <p>The volatile political situation and protests to continue</p> <p>Stringent restrictions and containment measures</p> |

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| | | | <p>MOUs between UNHCR and other sister agencies as starting points;</p> <p>Joint projects are developed and fundraised for with key partners.</p> <p>Facilitate access to wage employment opportunities for refugees and host communities</p> <p>Facilitate access to technical capacity building</p> <p>Promote investment opportunities in refugees hosting areas with high product or service potential</p> <p>Promote country level Poverty Alleviation Coalition together with NGOs and development actors, to implement the Graduation Approach.</p> <p>Promote employment creation in value chains with highest potential for markets and creation of employment for both refugees and host communities.</p> <p>Explore the inclusion of refugees in job centers, and establish job centers or job fairs in settlements.</p> <p>Facilitate the organization of Private sector workshops in collaboration with Impact Hub and other partners.</p> | interventions with UNHCR | | collaboration with Impact Hub and other partners | <p>between UNHCR and other sister agencies as starting points.</p> <p>Joint projects are developed and fundraised for with key partners.</p> <p>Facilitate access to wage employment opportunities for refugees and host communities</p> <p>Facilitate access to technical capacity building</p> <p>Promote country level Poverty Alleviation Coalition together with NGOs and development actors, to implement the Graduation Approach</p> <p>Promote employment creation in value chains with highest potential for markets and creation of employment for both refugees and host communities.</p> <p>Explore the inclusion of refugees in job centers, and establish job centers or job fairs in settlements.</p> <p>Facilitate the organization of Private sector workshops in collaboration with Impact Hub and other partners.</p> | <p>Promote country level Poverty Alleviation Coalition together with NGOs and development actors, to implement the Graduation Approach</p> <p>Promote employment creation in value chains with highest potential for markets and creation of employment for both refugees and host communities.</p> <p>Explore the inclusion of refugees in job centers, and establish job centers or job fairs in settlements.</p> <p>Facilitate the organization of Private sector workshops in collaboration with Impact Hub and other partners.</p> | <p>Explore the inclusion of refugees in job centers, and establish job centers or job fairs in settlements.</p> <p>Facilitate the organization of Private sector workshops in collaboration with Impact Hub and other partners.</p> | <p>for new COVID-19 variants outbreaks. Lack of donor interest, and funding. Economic breakdown. Lack of willingness refugees and host communities to participate in livelihoods programmes. Dependency on humanitarian assistance</p> |
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| | | | | | | | | workshops in collaboration with Impact Hub and other partners. | | | |
| | | Advocacy promoted | <p>To facilitate access to business registration opportunities</p> <p>To promote access to work permits</p> <p>To raise awareness on the use of UNHCR identity cards for access to financial services.</p> <p>Promote inclusion of refugees in the national planning systems. Engage government, the private sector, donor agencies etc-including refugees and other persons of concern in development plans will help develop self-reliance mechanisms and raise persons of concern out of poverty.</p> | | <p>Proportion of inclusion of refugees in national planning systems.</p> <p># of business licenses acquired by refugees</p> <p># of advocacy interventions made</p> | | To raise awareness on the use of UNHCR identity cards for access to financial services. | <p>To facilitate access to business registration opportunities</p> <p>To promote access to work permits</p> <p>To raise awareness on the use of UNHCR identity cards for access to financial services.</p> <p>Promote inclusion of refugees in the national planning systems. Engage government, the private sector, donor agencies etc-including refugees and other persons of concern in development plans will help develop self-reliance mechanisms and raise persons of concern out of poverty.</p> | <p>To facilitate access to business registration opportunities</p> <p>To promote access to work permits</p> <p>To raise awareness on the use of UNHCR identity cards for access to financial services.</p> <p>Promote inclusion of refugees in the national planning systems. Engage government, the private sector, donor agencies etc-including refugees and other persons of concern in development plans will help develop self-reliance mechanisms and raise persons of concern out of poverty.</p> | <p>Promote inclusion of refugees in the national planning systems. Engage government, the private sector, donor agencies etc-including refugees and other persons of concern in development plans will help develop self-reliance mechanisms and raise persons of concern out of poverty.</p> | |
| | | Promote Access to Clean Energy and Digital Technologies with high | <p>Engagement with private sector players in the energy and digital technology industries.</p> <p>Facilitate interventions in the energy sector with high potential of creating employment (i.e Solar electrification of schools, clinics, cold chains, irrigation systems, lighting etc.)</p> | | # of PoC receiving training in Clean Energy and Digital Technologies. | | Engagement with private sector players in the energy and digital technology industries. | <p>Engagement with private sector players in the energy and digital technology industries.</p> <p>Facilitate interventions in the energy sector with high potential of</p> | <p>Engagement with private sector players in the energy and digital technology industries.</p> <p>Facilitate interventions in the energy sector with high potential of</p> | <p>Engagement with private sector players in the energy and digital technology industries.</p> <p>Facilitate interventions in the energy sector with</p> | <p>The volatile political situation and protests to continue</p> <p>Stringent restrictions and</p> |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | employment creation potential. | Promote skills training in installation and maintenance of solar systems. Promote skills uptake in digital technologies with high potential to create employment for the youth. | | | | | creating employment (i.e. Solar electrification of schools, clinics, cold chains, irrigation systems, lighting etc.) | creating employment (i.e. Solar electrification of schools, clinics, cold chains, irrigation systems, lighting etc.) Promote skills training in installation and maintenance of solar systems. Promote skills uptake in digital technologies with high potential to create employment for the youth. | high potential of creating employment (i.e. Solar electrification of schools, clinics, cold chains, irrigation systems, lighting etc.) Promote skills training in installation and maintenance of solar systems. Promote skills uptake in digital technologies with high potential to create employment for the youth. | containment measures for new COVID-19 variants outbreaks. Lack of donor interest, and funding. Economic breakdown. Lack of willingness refugees and host communities to participate in livelihoods programmes. Dependency on humanitarian assistance |
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7.0 PARTNERSHIPS AND COORDINATION

As of 2021, UNHCR Sudan had 82 PPAs with 51 different organizations, of which 26 agreements are with 21 different government bodies (COR, state level line ministries), 40 with a total of 22 INGOs, and 15 with a total of seven national NGOs, working across a wider range of sectors and geographical areas. The largest sectors are shelter/NFIs and health, followed by community mobilization, education, operations management, sanitation, and water.

Many partners selected lack capacity and consume a lot of management time, with some ultimately unable to deliver (also a concern on the side of government). There are challenges in attracting experienced INGOs to bid for PPAs, particularly in the context of budget cuts (for example in Darfur). There is over reliance on INGOs as implementing partners without providing technical capacity to local NGOs for sustainability of interventions.

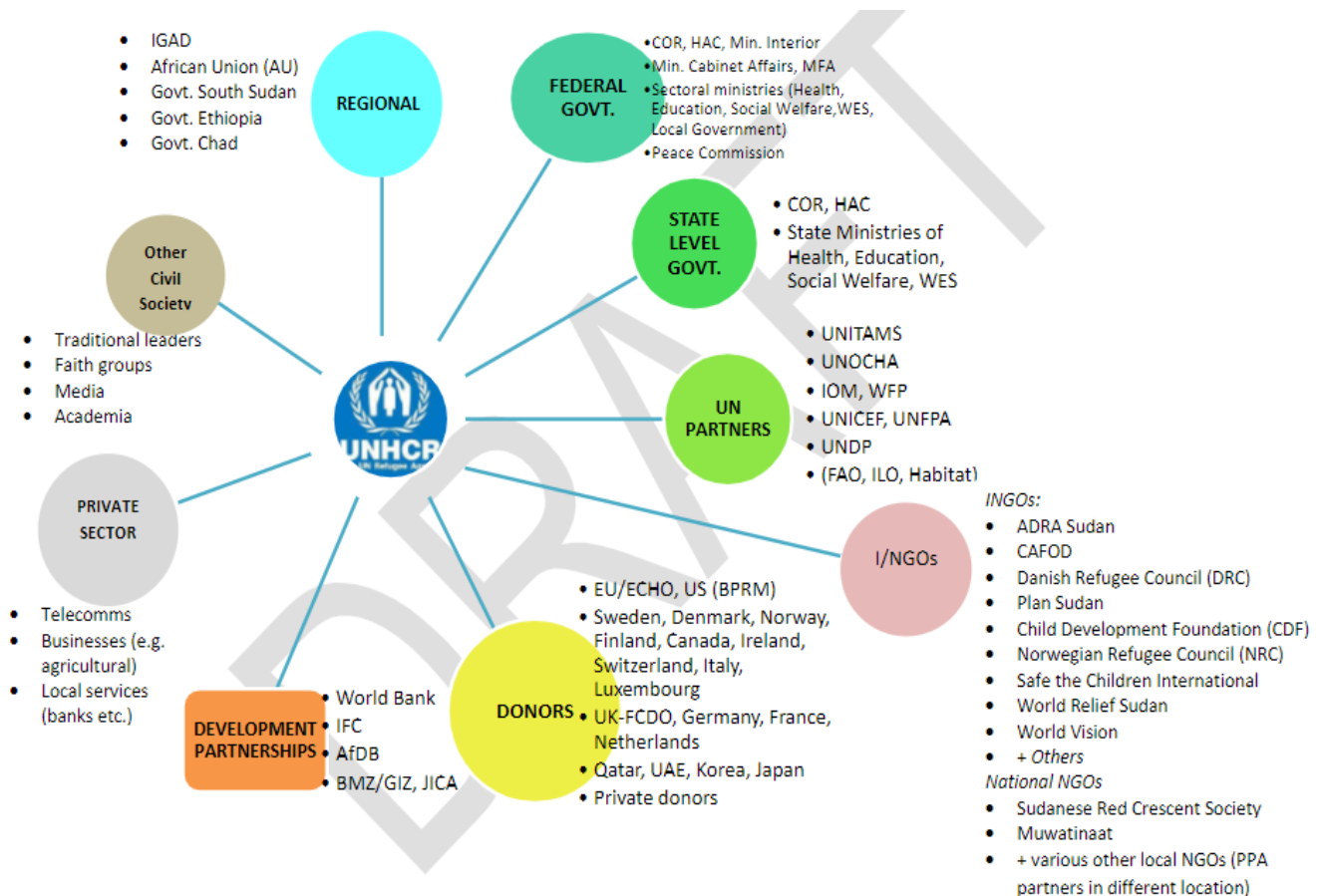


Figure 5: UNHCR Key Partners

| # | NAME OF ORGANIZATION | ACRONYM |
|----|---|------------|
| 01 | Adventist Development and Relief Agency | ADRA |
| 02 | Al Manar Voluntary Organization | AMVO |
| 03 | Alsalam Organization for Rehabilitation and Development | AORD |
| 04 | Alshrooq Organization for Social and Cultural Development | AOSCD |
| 05 | American Refugee Committee | ALIGHT |
| 06 | Business and Professional Women Organization | BPWO |
| 07 | Catholic Agency for Overseas Development | CAFOD |
| 08 | Care International Switzerland | CIS |
| 09 | Concern Worldwide | CWW |
| 10 | Cooperazione Internazionale | COOPI |
| 11 | Danish Refugee Council | DRC |
| 12 | Food and Agriculture Organization | FAO |
| 13 | Global Aid Hand | GAH |
| 14 | Hope and Friendship for Development Organization | HOPE SUDAN |
| 15 | International Organization for Migration | IOM |
| 16 | Islamic Relief Worldwide | IRW |
| 17 | JASMAR Human Security Organization | JASMAR |
| 18 | Medair Organization | MEDAIR |
| 19 | Mercy Corps | MC |

| # | NAME OF ORGANIZATION | ACRONYM |
|----|---|---------|
| 20 | Nada El Azhar for Disaster Prevention and Sustainable Development | NADA |
| 21 | Norwegian Church Aid | NCA |
| 22 | Norwegian Refugee Council | NRC |
| 23 | Plan International Sudan | PIS |
| 24 | Relief International | RI |
| 25 | Save the Children International | SCI |
| 26 | Sudanese Organization for Relief and Recovery | SORR |
| 27 | United Nations Development Programme | UNDP |
| 28 | United Nations Population Fund | UNFPA |
| 29 | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees | UNHCR |
| 30 | United Nations Children's Fund | UNICEF |
| 31 | United Nations Office for Project Services | UNOPS |
| 32 | United Nations Women | UNWOMEN |
| 33 | United Peace Organization | UPO |
| 34 | World Food Programme | WFP |
| 35 | Welthungerhilfe | WHH |
| 36 | World Health Organization | WHO |
| 37 | World Vision International | WVI |
| 38 | ZOA International Sudan | ZOA |

On the private sector side, UNHCR Sudan has in the previous years approached a few private sector partners for partnerships in order to facilitate access to employment and self-employment for refugees. These PSPs include DAL Group, Premier company (dairy products), Kenana Sugar, SAY group (Darfood – peanut and plumpy nut production in East Darfur), Solar Food (Solar dried food in White Nile State) and Careem (Taxi application company in Khartoum).

8.0 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

UNHCR's resources will not be adequate to support programmes at scale. UNHCR through the livelihoods focal point will conduct assessments, facilitate planning, implementation and evaluation of livelihoods interventions including provision of technical support to partners in the rolling out of market-based livelihoods interventions using the graduation approach. At best, it is essential that available resources within UNHCR are used through livelihoods implementing partners to catalyze livelihoods and inclusion. On the other hand, UNHCR holds a comparative advantage to facilitate engagement with donors and development actors, hence will leverage its cooperation with these actors or partners to advocate for joint resource mobilization and allocation in support of larger scale livelihoods and economic inclusion programmes in refugee contexts. As much as possible, UNHCR will collaborate with partners to develop concept notes/programmes to be fundraised.

Below lists a few prioritized projects in Sudan:

- Agricultural value chain development with the aim to progress beyond subsistence farming. This includes developing, improving, and expanding agricultural related interventions including agro-processing and value addition.
- Development of non-agriculture value chains/ sub-sectors with potential to generate employment/self-employment opportunities relevant to PoCs and host communities, with a focus on women and youth employment.
- Entrepreneurship development through improved access to business development services, seed capital and markets.
- Scaling up of the graduation approach through the Poverty Alleviation Coalition, and of similar programs that strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus.
- Joint programming with UN agencies (UNDP, UNIDO, WFP, FAO, ILO, etc), NGOs, local enterprises (Impact Hub etc), and others.
- Collaborating with development actors such as BMZ, World Bank, IFC, AfDB, GIZ, Netherlands (PROSPECT) etc,
- Strengthening of local market actors including financial institutions through technical assistance to expand opportunities and inclusion of PoCs and host community members.

9.0 TECHNICAL CAPACITY

Technical capacity is critical to enable UNHCR deliver meaningful impact of its livelihoods and economic inclusion programs and importantly, to effectively play its role as key advocate, convener, and facilitator in stepping up humanitarian-development efforts that enhance economic inclusion of PoCs and their hosts. UNHCR requires a full-time livelihoods expertise and in addition, undertake short-term engagement of need-based technical experts where needed.

It is also important that the concepts of and the global approach to refugee economic inclusion and self-reliance and how it fits within UNHCR's mandate is fully understood across UNHCR staff and partners.

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