

## STATE LIAISON FUNCTION: BUILDING A STRONG AND RESILIENT HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM IN DARFUR

Since the outbreak of the Darfur conflict, the Human Rights situation of civilians, including IDPs, has been of concern and amplified by impunity and a capacity deficit of law enforcement and judicial institutions. In particular, lack of equipment, skills and enhanced knowledge on Human Rights-based approaches to protection concerns, amongst others, have contributed to the gaps in Human Rights mainstreaming and protection in Darfur. The withdrawal of UNAMID from large parts of the four Darfur states left a significant protection gap which state authorities could not, on their own, fulfil without the requisite support. The introduction of the SLF brought about interventions and programs which addressed protection concerns as well as help in contributing towards stabilization in areas from which UNAMID had withdrawn.

The **Human Rights** brief constitutes a cornerstone of protection and stabilization, human rights programs and projects, including monitoring, mainstreaming and capacity building, these activities are crucial in expanding and strengthening the platform for the provision of technical assistance to ensure that human rights concerns and protection gaps are addressed in the SLF areas of operation, through provision of support and improvement of institutional policies and infrastructure in collaboration with the UNCT.

In July 2017, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 2373, which introduced the concept of a “**Two-Pronged Approach**” to the UNAMID mandate. The concept delineated the functions and operations of the Mission into a drawdown of its presence and to facilitate transfer of some substantive tasks and functions to the United Nations Country Team (UNCT). A unique feature of the “**Whole-of-System**” approach was the creation of the State Liaison Functions (SLF).



UN Deputy Secretary General (DSG), Ms. Amina J. Mohammed inaugurated the Human Rights Resources Center at Elfasher University in North Darfur, Oct. 2019

**3 PARTICIPATING AFPs**

UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA

**BUDGET**

**\$ 2,194,790**

**11 UNAMID STAFF**


**EMBEDDED**





## STATE LIAISON FUNCTION (SLF) -HUMAN RIGHTS

Project Locations	North, South, East and West states of Darfur, Khartoum
Target population	Communities of Darfur including IDPs, those in return areas, institutions etc.
Project Period/phase	January to December 2019/ SLF1

### ■ OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECTS

 The SLF framework allowed UN-AMID and UNCT to cooperate through joint analysis and planning, toward stabilization as integrated approaches to prevent relapse into conflict. The nature of the conflict in Darfur and its impact on human rights needed a sustained and integrated engagement to improve existing human rights monitoring and accountability mechanisms.

 Activities jointly implemented with UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA were designed to contribute to the expansion of the scope of the SLF primarily directed toward strengthening local capacities, enhancing knowledge and providing the necessary infrastructure to ensure that human rights protection and promotion are at the core of interactions between the state institutions, and civilians.

 The human rights programs have focused on providing critical tools in prioritizing vulnerable groups, improving livelihoods, enhancing stabilization and development through the integration of rights-based approaches, capacity building, and human rights related infrastructural programmes.

### ■ PROJECT ACTIVITIES/INTERVENTIONS

Interventions under the Human Rights pillar have been informed by the existing **Joint Rule of Law and Human Rights Programme**, UNAMID and participating AFPs programmatic priorities.

The unique nature of the human rights brief implied that innovative approaches had to be formulated to ensure the alignment of operational functions and mandate with the implementation framework of the SLF. Notwithstanding the challenges and earlier concerns over elements of the SLF, considerable progress and achievements have been made in the human right programming, especially monitoring and reporting in SLF areas, human rights related infrastructure initiatives, capacity development, sensitization and enhancement of a human rights culture.

#### Monitoring and Reporting Function Mobile Monitoring Team

1



Through a special arrangement, a very small Mobile Monitoring Team (MMT) based in El Fasher undertakes monitoring of Human Rights in areas where UN-AMID has withdrawn. Despite operating under challenging circumstances, HRS has optimized the limited resources of the MMT to enhance confidence-building and human rights networking with leaders of vulnerable communities, especially IDP and youth leaders, and members of civil society organizations.

2



#### Capacity Development and Human Rights Mainstreaming

Capacity Building, Awareness-Raising and Human Rights mainstreaming are important elements in the SLF programmes.

3



#### Infrastructure and Institution Building

A main feature of Human Rights programs in the SLF has been the development of infrastructure and enhancement of national institution building. UNDP engineers took a lead role regarding for the construction, aimed at providing critical support to the national Human Rights institutions and the transitional justice architecture, especially in the context of providing office space and equipment.

# HUMAN RIGHTS STATE LIAISON FUNCTION -PROJECT ACTIVITIES



**146 ACTIVITIES**  
**In 5 LOCALITIES**

66

Activities in Training/Capacity Building to State and Local Institutions

32

Activities Support Human Rights Awareness & Promotional Materials

17

Activities in Strategy for Implementation of Transitional Justice Mechanisms under DDPD

12

Activities in Exchange Visit/Study Tours

12

Activities in Strengthening Community Protection Mechanisms

7

Activities in Construction and Rehabilitation of Rule of Law Facilities

Human Right Impementation of Activities by Locality

Human Right Pillar

Activities

Construction and Rehabilitation of Rule of Law Facilities

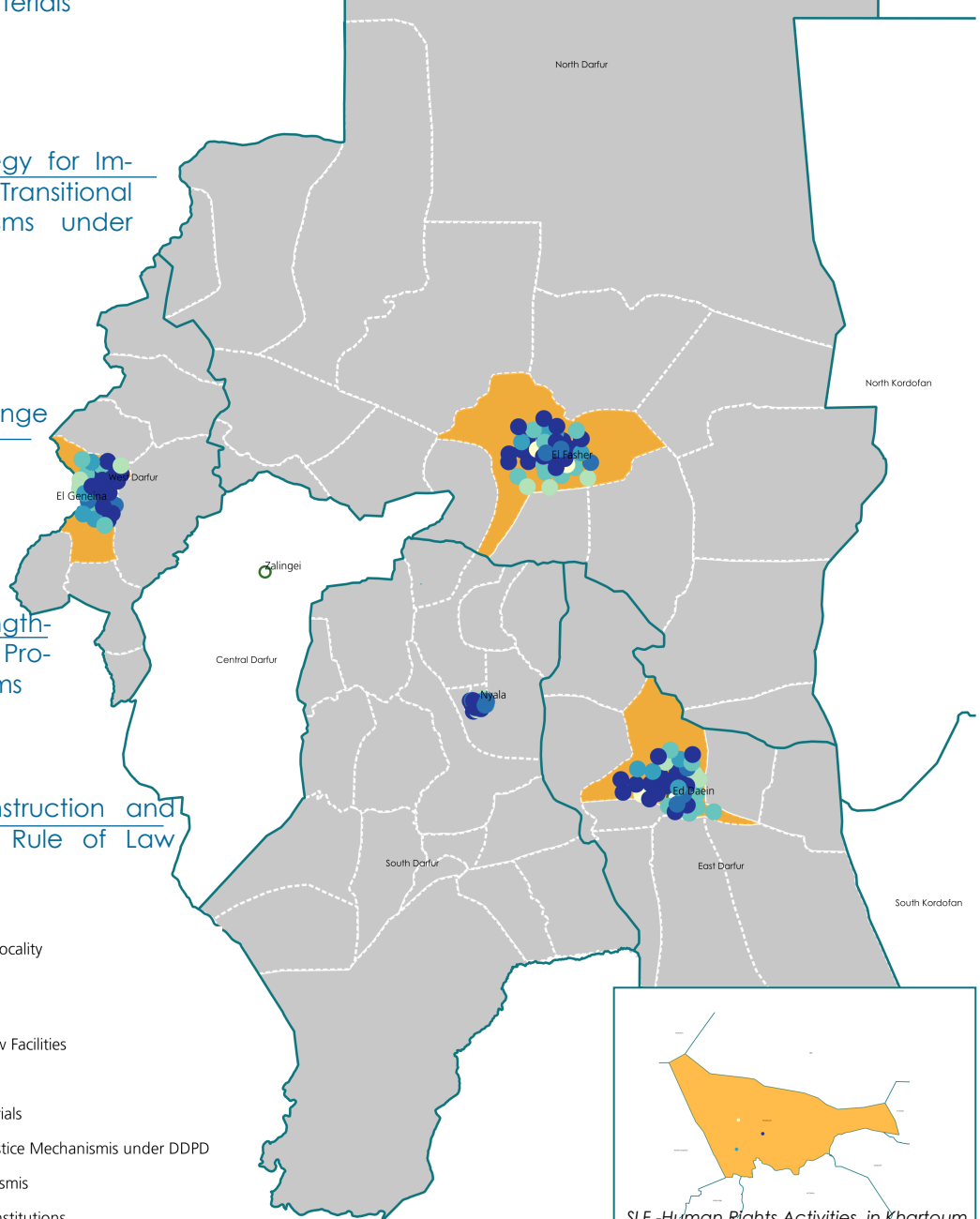
Exchange visit/studytours

Human rights awareness & promotional materials

Strategy for implementation of Tranistional Justice Mechanisms under DDPD

Strengthening community Protection Mechanisms

Training/Capacity Building to State and local institutions



SLF -Human Rights Activities in Khartoum





## ■ MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

53

### TRAINING CAPACITY BUILDING

, awareness-raising and human rights mainstreaming conducted, in women Leadership, Equality & Disability rights, Human rights, Children Rights, sensitization and awareness raising, Children community-based protection- Justice etc.

Innovative protection campaign for

63

### MONITORING AND FACT-FINDING MISSIONS

conducted by the MMT Mobile Monitoring Team successfully in the SLF areas of operation and held 133 meetings and follow-up activities. To building a vibrant community network of human rights stakeholders, for providing early warning information and leads on cases.

4

### CONSTRUCTION OF FOUR HUMAN RIGHTS RESOURCE CENTERS

in El Daein, Nyala, El Fasher and Geneina as part of strategy to strengthen civil society-led Darfur human rights culture. The resource centres were completed in September 2019 with furniture and equipment.

1

### CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST REGIONAL OFFICE

in El Fasher was completed in November 2019 and inaugurated on 27 January 2020. The Regional Office will contribute significantly to the Commission's strategic plan to decentralize its activities and enhance operational presence in Darfur.

2

### TWO STUDY TOURS

to Liberia and Morocco were organized to enhance the capacity of transitional justice actors in Sudan.

The two countries were reference points for best practices for the development of a transitional justice strategy appropriate for Darfur and Sudan. The tours exposed government actors, academia, civil society and the Sudan National Human Rights Commission to victims lived experiences, frameworks that supported the protection and promotion of human rights and policies that contribute to the strengthening of rule of law, justice and equity.

## ■ EXPECTED IMPACT

The completion of the human rights aspects of SLF (1) programs and activities have brought about major benefits for state institutions and local communities in Darfur. While there is much more to be done to consolidate the gains of SLF (1), some of the results are worth highlighting. In many ways, the programs and activities have helped in addressing critical gaps in the capacity and skills of law enforcement and judicial institutions, national human rights agencies and civil society groups, women and child protection actors as well as local communities.

This has allowed these entities to adopt Human Rights based approaches to strengthen access to justice, promote accountability, contribute to the expansion of democratic spaces. In light of the improvement of the political and civil rights environment in Sudan, the human rights infrastructure projects and knowledge enhancement activities are anticipated to strengthen the capacity of national stakeholders to enable them to adequately assume human rights and protection roles in the aftermath of UNAMID exit.



Human Rights workshop organized by the MMT for civil society organizations, El Fasher, North Darfur



Human Rights workshop organized in July 2019 by the MMT for civil society organizations, Nyala, South Darfur



UN SLFs support construction of national Human Rights institutions

