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Letter from the Country Director



The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in January 2005 heralded exciting years for the development agenda in Sudan. While major political benchmarks have been reached under the CPA, these past years have also witnessed a reaffirmation of the Government and the international community

to realize a shared vision for reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

UNDP is glad to have played a partnership role in providing technical and logistical assistance for the Sudan Presidential, gubernatorial and state legislative election in April 2010 as indeed for the smooth conduct of the January 2011 Referendum in Southern Sudan.

We have seen a perceptible increase in attention and resources accorded to the area of institution-building and democracy, leading the Government towards progress in its capacity to manage its own development. However, continuing low access to jobs and basic public services for citizens whose habitats are dispersed across the vast geography of Sudan is compounded by ongoing capacity challenges, particularly at the state level to plan and deliver. Despite marked economic growth riding on the crest of the oil revenue, livelihoods opportunities and choices for Sudanese men and women are limited. UNDP's Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP), 2009-2012, has taken head-on the challenge of state and peace building and the expansion of skills and job opportunities for the poor.

Our programme, while being focused on institutionally complex projects that enhance local-level democratization, rule of law and sub-national governance itself, have also delivered on large-scale conflict-prevention operations such as disarmament, demobilization and the reintegration of Sudanese men and women who would like to turn a new leaf and benefit from the peace dividend that the new environment provides in the country. Clearly, more efforts and many more resources are needed before the country can be fully rid of illegally-held weapons and youth can participate in a vibrant overground economy. Noticeable progress

has been made in assisting the Government with tools and statistics that enable and drive a focused social and development policy planning agenda. UNDP supported the preparation of the *Sudan Millennium Development Goals Progress Report 2010* and the soon-to-be launched National Human Development Report, both path-finding documents that will have a bearing on social sector allocations and poverty alleviation in the country.

Over the course of the last three years of the CPAP, UNDP mobilized more than US\$600 million in support of the people of Sudan, an important affirmation of the confidence partners have in UNDP's role and performance. Partnerships with the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), Canada, Denmark, the European Commission/ Union, France, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the World Bank, only to name a few, have been critical in achieving the level of results described in this report. Our assistance to the people of Sudan was sustained despite operating in a challenging environment. In 2010 alone, UNDP delivered US\$309 million worth of development assistance in the country.

This report highlights some aspects of our impact on the ground in Sudan in areas such as crisis prevention and recovery, fostering democracy and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. As we move forward into the post-conflict era UNDP remains committed to partner with the Government and people of Sudan to design better policies for poverty reduction, to build stronger State institutions and to mobilize additional resources advancing the human development agenda. We want to continue to play our role in helping build national capacities for sustainable development and advocate for the policy and institutional change needed to fight poverty and achieve the MDGs. ●


Claudio Caldarone
Country Director

Foreword

As the UN's global development network, UNDP strives to make a concrete difference in the lives of the people it serves. UNDP Sudan's policy advice, technical support, advocacy and contributions to strengthening human development are aimed at one end result: real improvement in the lives of Sudanese people and in the choices and opportunities available to them.

Seeds for Development: UNDP Sudan in Action provides an overview of the Organization's three core areas of work in Sudan: (1) Poverty Reduction and the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); (2) Democratic Governance and Rule of Law; and (3) Crisis Prevention and Recovery. The document provides a snapshot view of how UNDP's work in Sudan over the years has touched the lives of ordinary Sudanese citizens while helping efforts for

institutionalization of good governance, poverty reduction and peace building.

In partnership with national and international development partners, UNDP promotes an environment that reduces poverty and disease, fosters democratic governance, increases access to justice, enhances human security and empowers women.

A large part of UNDP's work is in support of the Millennium Development Goals through human development efforts ranging from empowering women, strengthening a multi-sectoral and multi-partner national response to HIV/AIDS to promoting pro-poor national policies. The eight MDGs – which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, by the target date of 2015 – form a blueprint agreed to by world leaders comprising member states of the United Nations.



Hakama women used to sing to encourage their men to fight. Now they use their lyrical talents to encourage their community to strive for peace, progress and development. The Hakamas are a part of the UNDP and the North Sudan Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Commission (NSDDRC)-implemented project that trains these traditional singers in peace education, human rights, HIV awareness and DDR. The Hakamas have since traveled all around their region and to Khartoum, spreading messages of peace and reconciliation. Photo: UNDP.

UNDP is committed to supporting advocacy campaigns designed to raise awareness of the MDGs and the progress of Sudan towards achieving them in addition to awareness of their importance across the country. Part of UNDP assessment and planning advice comes through support to the National Population Council in preparing the *Sudan Millennium Development Goals Progress Report 2010* that assesses the progress made towards achieving the goals in the country.

UNDP is assisting the Government of Sudan to achieve sustainable peace and development and its development efforts support the implementation of the peace agreements. UNDP's strategic interventions aim to develop the capacity of public institutions, civil society, and communities, and help them consolidate peace, prevent more conflicts, and build a better life for the Sudanese people. ●

The Country and its People

Sudan has often made the headlines through its historical calamities, droughts, conflicts, and famines. But Sudan is also a country that fascinates and intrigues visitors, from anthropologists and archaeologists to historians and travellers.

Sudan is a land richly diverse in cultures, religions, ethnicities, languages, politics and climate. It is home to deserts, mountains, swamps and rain forests, with the Red Sea washing along 500 miles of the east coast and the Blue and White Nile rivers flowing north to meet in Khartoum and become the mighty Nile.

The population of Sudan is 39 million, with more than 30 million people living in the 15 northern states and the remainder living in the ten southern states. In the arid and semi-arid north many people are pastoralists and live on farming and livestock herding that entails a nomadic way of life. However, an increasing number of people live in urban areas, with the tri-metropolis capital of Khartoum having a population of more than 5 million people. In the vast wetlands of the South's 10 states, most people are farmers, though the capital Juba is rapidly expanding and has an estimated population of 250,000¹.

In January 2005 two decades of north-south civil war ended when the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Still, as Africa's longest war was coming to an end, conflict erupted in the western part of Sudan in 2003 during a drought crisis engulfing the three Darfur states. More than 200,000 people are estimated to have died and two million others fled their homes. The Darfur Peace Agreement signed in 2006 has yet to bring comprehensive and sustained peace to the region. Meanwhile, in the east a low-intensity conflict of more than a decade was settled with a 2006 peace deal.



Umm Aidan, Sennar State. Photo: UNMIS/Tim McKulka.

Following stipulations of the CPA a referendum on self-determination for South Sudan was held in January 2011, the results of which will see the South officially secede in July 2011. Nevertheless the two entities will remain inextricably linked.

The *Sudan Millennium Development Goals Progress Report 2010* avers that today - with the peace agreements and ongoing efforts to reach a comprehensive peace deal in Darfur - Sudan has its greatest opportunity in a generation to consolidate peace and make significant progress towards reaching the MDGs by 2015. ●

¹ 5th Sudan Population and Housing Census, 2008.

Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in Sudan²



MDG 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

Target 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day

Target 2: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Indicators	Northern Sudan	2015 Target
Proportion of population below the national poverty line	46.5%	23.2%
Prevalence of child malnutrition (underweight for age; % under 5)	31.8%	-
Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption	28%	-



MDG 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

Target 3: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

Indicators	Northern Sudan	2015 Target
Gross enrolment ratio	71.1%	100%
Literacy rates of 15-24 year olds, women and men	77.5%	100%



MDG 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015

Indicators	Northern Sudan	2015 Target
Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education	53.9% - 46.1%	100%
Share of women in employment in the non-agricultural sectors	59%	100%
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament	25%	-



MDG 4: Reduce Child Mortality

Target 5: Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

Indicators	Northern Sudan	2015 Target
Under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000)	102	41
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	71	53
One-year-olds immunized against measles	85%	100%



MDG 5: Improve Maternal Health

Target 6: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality rate

Indicators	Northern Sudan	2015 Target
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	534	134
Birth attended by skilled health staff	57%	-
Contraceptive prevalence rate (current use)	7.6%	-



MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases

Target 7: Achieve by 2010 universal access to HIV/AIDS treatment for all those who need it

Target 8: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

Indicators	Northern Sudan	2015 Target
15-24 year olds with knowledge of HIV/AIDS and prevention	4%	-
Access to antiretroviral drugs for HIV infection	13.1%	-
Incidence and death rates associated with malaria	3.1 million cases 8,844 deaths	-
Incidence and death rates associated with tuberculosis	120 per 100,000	-
Tuberculosis cases detected and cured (short treatment)	81.8%	-



MDG7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

Indicators	Northern Sudan	2015 Target
Proportion of population using improved drinking water source	65%	82%
Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility	42%	67%



MDG 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

Target 18: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies

Indicators	Northern Sudan	2015 Target
Telephone land lines per 100 persons	0.9%	-
Internet users per 100 persons	10.4%	-

² Sudan Millennium Development Goals Progress Report, 2010.

Programme and Development Focus Areas

UNDP Sudan works on the basis of “one country – two systems”. The Country Office, located in Khartoum manages programmes at the national and regional level, and collaborates closely with the UNDP sub-office in Juba in Southern Sudan. This document focuses primarily on programmes managed and implemented by UNDP in the northern part of the country, while data presented on achievements in the South pertain to national level programmes. Financial resources presented in this section represent the country-wide resource allocation to UNDP in 2010.

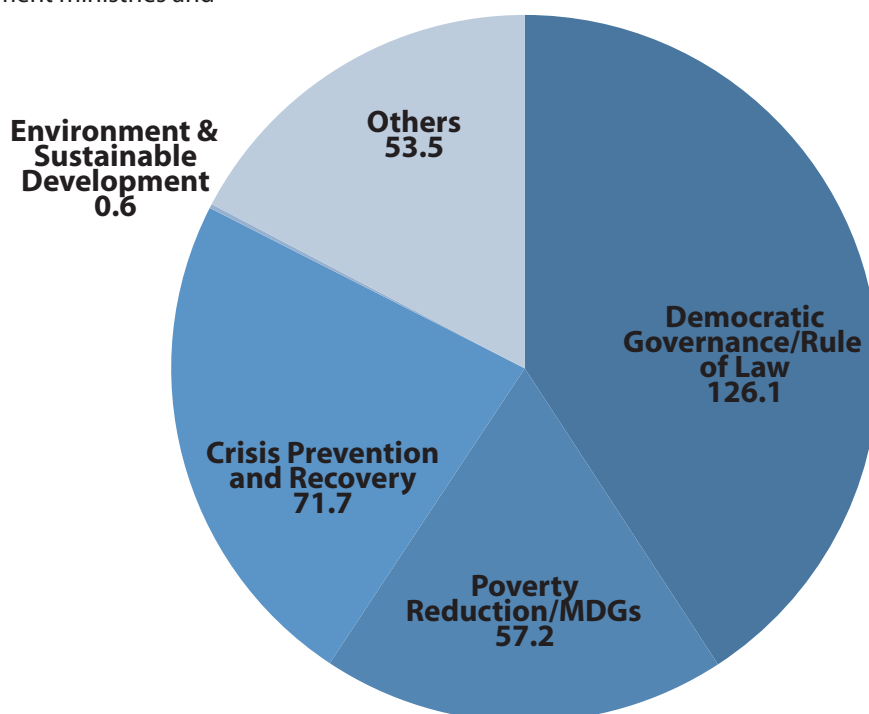
UNDP’s work in Sudan supports three key areas of intervention: (1) Poverty Reduction and Achievement of the MDGs; (2) Democratic Governance and Rule of Law; and (3) Crisis Prevention and Recovery. Field offices have been established to ensure the effective management of projects supported by UNDP, including 18 sub-offices and project offices located in eastern Sudan, Southern Sudan, the Three Protocol Areas (Abyei, Blue Nile State and Southern Kordofan State) and Darfur. Most UNDP projects are implemented through this network of field offices.

UNDP’s work in the country is based on the *Standard Basic Assistance Agreement* signed in 1978 by the Government of Sudan and UNDP. The Organization’s activities are carried out in partnership with Government ministries and departments, national development partners such as non-governmental organizations and Sudanese academic institutions, as well as UN agencies and international development partners.

UNDP’s current programming is based on: The *Common Country Assessment and The United Nations Development Assistance Framework* (UNDAF) for 2009-2012, the latter is a business plan of how UN agencies coordinate their work to support development in Sudan. The *Country Programme Document* (CPD) for Sudan for 2009-2012 and The *Country Programme Action Plan* (CPAP) for 2009-2012 detail the programming for which UNDP is accountable, and outline its work in terms of projects to be implemented and the modalities of the work.

Prominent throughout UNDP Sudan’s work is the provision of technical and policy advice and solutions based on decades of development experience, as well as an emphasis on crosscutting strategies such as capacity building and women’s development. UNDP considers capacity development the means by which individuals, governments, and societies strengthen and sustain their ability to achieve their own development goals. Much of UNDP’s policy and programme support in Sudan has been in the state sector, such as to key development ministries and electoral commissions, to develop institutional capacity for good governance and development planning and achievement of the MDGs. UNDP continues to promote gender equality in Sudan and has put in place a number of policies and strategies to mainstream gender throughout its programmatic activities. ●

<i>DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE/RULE OF LAW</i>	US\$ 126.1	M
<i>POVERTY REDUCTION/MDG</i>	US\$ 57.2	M
<i>CRISIS PREVENTION AND RECOVERY</i>	US\$ 71.7	M
<i>ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</i>	US\$ 0.6	M
<i>OTHERS</i>	US\$ 53.5	M



Poverty Reduction and the Millennium Development Goals

Poverty Reduction and the Millennium Development Goals

At its heart UNDP's work in Sudan and around the world is about creating an enabling environment for eradication of poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This involves strengthening national and sub-national capacities for MDG reporting, and promoting MDG-based policies and strategic planning. The MDGs are reflected in the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) as a prerequisite to achieving stability in Sudan, and also in Sudan's Interim Constitution.

According to the recent *National Baseline Household Survey* (NBHS 2009) by the *Central Bureau of Statistics* (CBS), 46.5% of the population of North Sudan and 50.6% of South Sudan live below the national poverty line of 1366 SDG per person per annum (2009 prices). The hardest hit by poverty are people living in rural areas, in particular women and internally displaced persons (IDPs), as indicated by the relatively high level of poverty in rural North Sudan (57.6%) and in comparison with that of urban areas in the North (26.5%).

Data from the most recent National Census (2008), The National Baseline Household Survey 2009, The State Household Survey and the MDG Report reveal that economic growth in the country has not been broad-based, with investments and services concentrated in and around Khartoum State. Outside Khartoum State, roads, railways, power and water services are at best underdeveloped and at worse non-existent.

Building National Capacity for Development Planning

As a UN member state and signatory to the Millennium Declaration, Sudan has committed itself to reducing the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by half following MDG number one for the 2015 timeline. With the intention to reduce poverty and achieve the MDGs the Government launched a five-year National Strategic Plan for Sudan in 2007 (within a 25-year strategy 2007-2031), which is now in its final year of implementation.

UNDP focuses on catalyzing efforts aimed at improving the national capacity to plan and monitor a comprehensive approach to reduce poverty in line with the MDGs and the *UN Development Assistance Framework* (UNDAF). Interventions have been aimed to develop the Government's capacity to manage and coordinate external assistance and support aid management as well as devise monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. ●



Livelihoods support to fishermen benefitted more than 100 families in Arabaat, Red Sea State. Photo: Omer Abdelrahman/UNDP.

UNDP works closely with the Ministry of International Cooperation, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Women and Children and the Government of Southern Sudan to support poverty reduction efforts. Key policy interventions include support to the preparation of the MDG Report 2010, which aims to measure progress towards the MDGs in the country, and generate national and public awareness, and pro-poor policies; and the preparation of the National Human Development Report, an independent publication sponsored by UNDP, which supports discussion, understanding and action towards sustainable human development.

UNDP works with the Central Bank of Sudan and the Sudanese Microfinance Development Facility to strengthen national microfinance coordination and support the expansion of microfinance services across the country through mobile phone technology (jointly with the Central Bank of Sudan and the State of Northern Kordofan).

In October 2010, the *Sudan Millennium Development Goals Progress Report 2010* was released at the Millennium Summit in New York. The preparation of this Report was coordinated by the National Population Council (NPC) of the Government of Sudan, with the lead role of UNDP Sudan in project preparation and follow up of its implementation in collaboration with other UN agencies. The Report has outlined the progress made so far across the various MDGs and articulated the challenges ahead to meet the goals by 2015.

Poverty reduction is a crosscutting issue as reflected in UNDP projects undertaken in Democratic Governance and Rule of Law, as well as in Crisis Prevention and Recovery. As such, supporting the institutions and processes of democratic governance gives voice to the poor and opens up their chance at building a better future for themselves and their communities. UNDP's work with communities in mitigating and recovering from crisis focuses on the needs of the most vulnerable, as they are the ones hardest hit by conflict and natural disaster. ●



H.E. Minister Amira El-Fadl (centre) flanked by Claudio Caldarone, UNDP, and Sitt El-Naffar, NPC, at New York launch of the Second Sudan Millennium Development Goals Progress Report in October 2010. Photo: Omer Abdelrahman/UNDP.

The Fountain of Life in a Parched Land



Local resident Salim Turab with cattle at El Ganaya hafir, Southern Kordofan. Photo: Karen Ringuette/UNDP.

For the women of Al Ganaya water is the fountain of life, as it is to people around the world. Without it you perish. But until recently water was only plentiful in this hamlet of 1,000 homesteads during the rainy season. In the dry months, locals, often women and children, walked hours to El Buram village to fetch a minimum to survive. But since partners of the UNDP-managed *Recovery and Rehabilitation Programme* built a water reservoir in the Al Ganaya district, life has improved tremendously.

Al Ganaya lies southeast in the Nuba Mountains of Southern Kordofan State. It is a picturesque place blessed with rich soil, grasslands and countless trees, including giant baobabs. But owing to its central location the area suffered greatly during the north-south civil war from 1983-2005. And for many people there hardship was not

confined to the hostilities and did not end when the 2005 peace agreement was signed.

Some 40% of the population of Southern Kordofan lack ground water. Hence, from June to October they rely solely on rainwater and its run off which dries up by December. For the rest of the year they have to search for it.

Salim Turab, a resident, is head of an extended family of 14 members and also head of the water committee overseeing the reservoir, known locally as a hafir. Salim and his family live simply cultivating the local cereal crop sorghum on their 10 acres of land. From a good harvest the family can eat for a year and a small surplus can be sold for cash. He also tends the family's cattle and earns money brick making.

THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE IN A PARCHED LAND

The water needs of Salim's family stand at a modest 200 litres per day, the volume of a large bathtub. However, this quantity used to be a dream during the six-month dry season. Then, family members, often women, had to make a 4-hour return trek to El Buram just to collect a minimum to survive. And they had to haul their precious liquid back in jerry cans. Thankfully, water from the newly built hafir is now only twenty minutes away.

The hafir is the first of its kind in the state and just one project from the *Recovery and Rehabilitation Programme* (RRP) that has been running since 2006. The largest and most comprehensive recovery programme in Sudan, the RRP has been managed by UNDP on behalf of the Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan and funded largely by the European Union (EU). Linking rehabilitation and development, the RRP partnered with 44 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in 10 areas across Sudan working to improve capacity building, livelihoods and basic services, such as water.

The El Ganaya project was realized through a consortium of NGOs led by Save the Children Sweden and including Danish Church Aid, Nuba Relief Rehabilitation and Development Organization and the Diocese of El Obeid as partners.

The hafir work was completed in September 2010 and includes a large over ground reservoir and a 40,000-litre water storage tank. It also has defined storage and drinking facilities for livestock and multi-use water collection points for residents, as well as a water treatment station with cistern and taps.

Salim says, "A reliable water resource close to our village means our children will spend less time collecting water and have more time for school". He adds, "Now villagers won't have to go in search of water and they will have more time and can stay in El Ganaya to prepare their land for the next sorghum crop. The hafir will also encourage new construction here".

“I have never ever seen so much water in the village taps.”

An elected, 15-member water committee headed by Salim manages the El Ganaya water project. The committee and State authorities are negotiating an agreement to divide responsibility and future management of the project. Nominal water fees are being discussed with locals to ensure an equitable distribution and responsible utilization. Water for personal use will remain free, while water for cattle, trade, and agriculture will incur some costs.

Abdel Gadir Elemam is the consortium's project manager and has been working with the Government, partners, and the community since February 2010 to ensure the project's success. The hafir, he maintains, is life changing for the local population.

Elemam said, "I remember the big smiles on the faces of the people, especially the children, who attended the first day we tested the pumping of water in the elevated tank and taps. I heard a young boy telling his friend, 'I have never ever seen so much water in the village taps'. Then his friend pointed his finger and said to him, 'You see that engine ...' and they continued laughing and looking at the running pumps in awe." Elemam continued, "Now the problem of chronic water shortage in this area, going back hundreds of years, is just a memory."

“Now the problem of chronic water shortage in this area, going back hundreds of years, is just a memory.”

The project provides water to more than 10,000 people in the area. As part of the RRP a second hafir is being built 150 km southwest of Kadugli in Al-Dabakaya district and will soon serve 8,000 people.

The new fountain of life eases local tensions over scarce water resources. Nowadays, Salim and his family are happy to travel the 20 minutes from their home to the hafir. The 35-year-old can also water his cattle beside the station and won't have to walk long hours to find a source. And his wife won't have to make the long daily journey to El Buram in the dry season anymore. ●

NOTE: Case study courtesy UNDP/RRP project.

UNDP supports poverty reduction through a variety of income-generating activities to reduce, and increase food security and employment in rural Sudan. *Creating Opportunities for Youth Employment in Sudan* is the UN Joint Programme that aims for individuals and communities, especially youth and vulnerable groups such as ex-combatants, and mine victims, to have access to improved income-generation opportunities and employment through decent work.

While progress in the MDGs had been hindered by armed conflict, today, with the signing of the three peace agreements and ongoing efforts to reach a lasting and comprehensive peace agreement in Darfur, Sudan has a great opportunity to consolidate peace and make progress towards achieving them.

The annual *Human Development Report* issued by the Human Development Report Office of UNDP since 1990 measures development through a composite human development index (HDI) using three components: life expectancy, educational attainment and income. As per the *2010 Global Human Development Report*, Sudan is placed at 154 on the Human Development Index (HDI) of 169 countries.

Given the importance of empowering women in the country, UNDP Sudan is working to include a gender sensitive approach throughout its programmatic activities and help national partners identify and implement strategies to promote gender equality and development. UNDP sponsored a baseline assessment on value-chain commodities including hibiscus in Southern Kordofan and Northern Kordofan; and groundnuts, leather, livestock, honey, and hibiscus in Darfur.

In its work to develop rural economies and improve local livelihoods, UNDP is supporting local hibiscus tea value-chain activities for improving the livelihoods of Sudanese women hibiscus farmers. This initiative is part of a larger programme for recovery in conflict-affected regions in Sudan. In a value-chain business model a product passes through a chain of

production activities in which at each stage the product gains value. The process gives the end product more added value than the sum of an independent activity. In Northern Kordofan State 150 female farmers have benefitted from the hibiscus value-chain project to date, it is also being implemented in Southern Kordofan and Darfur. Hibiscus is used primarily for making tea and is a major cash crop in Sudan with North Kordofan State producing about 66% of this commodity. ●



Women hibiscus farmers from Southern Kordofan. Photo: Sabir Dedan/UNDP.



Processing the hibiscus harvest for higher market returns, Southern Kordofan. Photo: Sabir Dedan/UNDP.

Fund Links Women to Skills and Income Opportunities

The women of the Diem Arab Centre in downtown Port Sudan have traditionally suffered from absence of viable economic options and welcome income-generating opportunities to earn money for their families. The members greatly appreciated the eight bakery ovens and eight sewing machines received from UNDP in late 2010 that have provided a new lease on life to the women's centre. "Though the centre was functioning years before" Amna, the centre head explained, "our machines fell into disrepair and we had little left to keep activities going. The new equipment has reactivated the working groups and there are more than 30 families engaged in making biscuits and baked goods that they sell at neighbourhood shops".

UNDP provided support through the Local Development Fund (LDF) of its *Poverty Alleviation-Oriented Governance Programme*. The programme aims to strengthen the capacity of localities to deliver services and thereby reduce poverty. Financial support was allocated to the Local Development Fund (LDF) through which staff members of the locality Planning and Information Units (PIUs) received training in budgeting and project management. Following this the PIUs were provided a budget to identify and support projects benefitting vulnerable groups in their locality. Income-generating activities at two women's centres and support to a local health unit were among the projects selected.

At the Diem Arab Centre women are also making clothes and school uniforms, Amna said. They provide uniforms free to those in absolute need or sell them at a discounted or full price according to the purchasing capacity of the community. During a recent visit by the Port Sudan Locality Commissioner, the women expressed their need for a market distribution point to help widen their customer base and give them more independence.

The women work in groups of 6 to 7 members, generally twice a week working on bakery and sewing activities. The lack of electricity at the Centre means that women can work for only limited hours.

At the Um Elgora Women's Centre on the outskirts of Port Sudan, the fledgling enterprise is just getting started. Most



Women at Diem Arab Centre, Port Sudan, Red Sea State. Photo: Kumar Tiku/UNDP.

of the members have been internally displaced by local drought or war in Darfur and South Sudan and suffer from abject poverty. In addition they lack skills and livelihood opportunities to improve their situation. UNDP support to the Centre through training, sewing machines and ovens has increased the women's production output. They hope to strengthen their Centre through further support and also would like to open a place in the market to sell their goods.

In addition to helping the less fortunate in the ten localities, lessons learned from the Local Development Fund project will help the Red Sea State Government draw up policies on decentralization and strengthen local government.

Aziza Abdalla, UNDP's National Capacity Development Officer in Red Sea State, concluded, "It is good to see that the local authorities and communities are addressing poverty issues through the LDF initiative and that the *Poverty Alleviation-Oriented Governance Programme* goals and targets are being realized. Moreover, it is a credit to the programme to work among women in eastern Sudan, where they are relatively more secluded and their participation in outdoor activities is limited, and also to succeed in making a positive impact." ●

NOTE: Case study courtesy Democratic Governance Programme of UNDP Sudan.

Amna Ibrahim: A Beacon of Women's Empowerment

Amna Ibrahim has spent much of her life helping women get an education and earn a living in Port Sudan. She is head of the Diem Arab Women's Centre, which was recently rejuvenated, along with another local women's centre, with technical and equipment support from UNDP. This support is helping more than 250 women in the area improve their livelihoods.

For more than 20 years Amna Ibrahim has been active in the Diem Arab neighbourhood of downtown Port Sudan. When she was a housewife in the area back in the late 1980s, the Islamic Relief Organisation opened an office nearby. Amna became a supervisor at their Koranic learning school and after her first two groups graduated, she started a special class for girls who had opted out of formal schooling because of early marriage or family exigencies. The experience galvanized her to gather female dropouts from the nine area schools and start evening classes for them.

Since then more than 500 women have benefitted from Amna's teaching, which ranges from classes for illiterate students to grade eight. Some of her students have now

graduated from university. "Later", she said, "they supported me to become a leader and now I am in the State Assembly."

In addition to being a member of parliament, Amna spends mornings at the women's centre and afternoons at the school. She would like to hire staff for the Centre to make it more viable as currently everyone works on a voluntary basis to keep it running.

Amna has seen many positive changes for women over the years but, she said, there remain cultural constraints like early marriage that still hinder women's education and opportunities. Also, girls are often taken out of school to work to help support their families. Offering women training and the tools to pursue livelihood activities helps address poverty and is essential to countering the disadvantages faced by many women.

Amna is also a proud mother of five children, among them two daughters, one of whom, Haisat, has just finished her graduate degree in medicine and the other one is a computer programmer. ●



Amna Ibrahim (right) with her daughter Haisat and women from the Diem Arab Centre, Port Sudan. Photo: Karen Ringuette/UNDP.

HIV and AIDS

The UNDP HIV/AIDS programme in Sudan pursues an integrated strategy to develop the national capacity for a broad-based, multi-level, multi-sectoral response to HIV/AIDS. UNDP works to develop a deeper understanding of the epidemic and its underlying causes in order to address vulnerability, stigma and discrimination. It also strives to improve understanding of socio-economic determinants of the epidemic to help Sudan adopt suitable strategies and mitigate its impact. Determinants point to the social norms and practices that increase the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV/AIDS.

UNDP Sudan advocates for ensuring the rights of *People Living with HIV and AIDS* (PLWHA) and vulnerable groups, and promotes HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care. It works in close collaboration with the *Sudan National AIDS Programme* (SNAP) and the technical department of the Government responsible for national level policy, planning, and coordination and the *South Sudan National AIDS Council* under UNAIDS. UNDP works to mainstream HIV/AIDS into national development plans, budgets and poverty reduction strategies.

UNDP HIV/AIDS projects reach out to the community by mobilizing religious leaders, parliamentarians, and other influential groups. They provide services to people living with HIV/AIDS and their families, internally displaced persons (IDPs), pregnant women, military personnel, female tea and food sellers and youth, including street children and high school and university students.

In 2010, the UNDP/ Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) partnership with the Ministry of Health contributed to expanding HIV/AIDS services. As a result, HIV care and treatment sites are now available in all 15 states in North Sudan. Support to protecting the rights and securing the livelihoods of people living with HIV has been a prominent feature of UNDP's contribution,



Membership and friends of the Kassala HIV/AIDS association is growing. Photo: Omer Abdelrahman/UNDP.

including support to establish *Sudanese Living With HIV/AIDS Associations* (SLWHA) in each of the 15 northern states.

UNDP Sudan manages the funds allocated by the GFATM as well as interventions that address HIV/AIDS as it affects development, governance, the protection of human rights and gender equality. As the principal recipient of GFATM grants, UNDP assists the Government of Sudan in the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, by mobilizing partners and civil society to help ensure a coordinated, effective response to these diseases. UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA, UNAIDS, and international NGOs, ACCORD and Christian Aid, implement HIV/AIDS project activities under the GFATM according to their various expertise.

UNDP's Khartoum office is managing four grants related to HIV/AIDS support to the sum of US\$181 million for the period 2005-2012. In South Sudan, the Juba office is managing four grants totalling US\$94 million for 2004-2011. This involves programmatic and financial management of the grants, and procurement of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and items.

UNDP also works to develop the institutional capacity of national partners, including the *Sudan National AIDS Programme* (SNAP), *National Malaria Control Programme*, *National TB Programme*, and *General Directorate of Pharmacy*, *Sudanese Living with HIV/AIDS Associations*, and local NGOs working in the field of HIV/AIDS such as Rufaida, Lokita, Ana Sudan, and the Sudan Family Planning Association. ●

Living Positively with HIV in East Sudan

Forty-year old Hamza learned about the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) while listening to the radio, and decided to visit a Voluntary Counselling and Testing Centre (VCTC) at the Kassala Hospital. Ever since results showed he had contracted the virus, Hamza has been living positively with the disease. Fortunately his community and family attach no stigma to his status, and his wife and three children are free of the virus. Hamza takes care of himself and has advised people against unsafe sexual relations. He continues to be respected by his community and is enjoying a normal life.

Sara Mohamed has been UNDP's Social Worker at the *Sudanese Living With HIV/AIDS Association* (SLWHA) in

Kassala State for the last two years. At the time she took up her post only one person admitted to being HIV positive given the heavy stigma surrounding the disease. Thanks to the example set by people like Hamza in the art of positive living, the fight against stigma and discrimination is giving hope to others infected and affected by HIV in Kassala.

These days nearly a hundred men, women and children are affiliated with Kassala's SLWHA facility, including friends of the community and the Executive Committee, though only half of them are HIV-positive. Through positive living, Sara asserts, HIV-positive individuals can take on a leadership role and set an example for society.

“We feel when an HIV-positive person comes to SLWHA that he believes in himself and is living positively.”



Hamza at home with his family. Photo: Omer Abdelrahem/UNDP.

LIVING POSITIVELY WITH HIV IN EAST SUDAN

Despite Hamza's experience, and increased awareness raising about HIV/AIDS, most individuals are afraid to admit to being HIV-positive. In general, families and society shun people who have contracted the disease.

The *Sudan National AIDS Programme* (SNAP) is spearheading the countrywide HIV/AIDS response with the assistance of national and international NGOs, UN agencies, and with the UNDP-managed *Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria* providing financial support.

UN agencies and non-governmental organisations provide a wide array of harmonized support to the national HIV/AIDS response such as awareness raising, care and treatment, and prevention of mother to child transmission.

Through its extensive network UNDP supports the SLWHA associations in 15 northern states by providing diverse training to their Executive Committees to improve their capacity and increase their leadership role in the national response to combat HIV/AIDS. UNDP is also implementing a capacity development programme for 35 NGOs working in HIV/AIDS including four SLWHA associations.

Treatment and medical and nutritional advice from counsellors / home-care givers is paramount for people living with the disease. UNDP supports medical assistance and home-care counselling for people like Hamza and their families, while UNICEF and the NGO ACCORD have provided counsellors with home-care training.

Sara explained that, "In Kassala there are many organizations that work with SNAP". "They are strong and combining their efforts to fight HIV/AIDS through the Kassala AIDS network. There are also mobile Voluntary Counselling and Testing Centres (VCTCs) in rural areas and voluntary testing is going smoothly", she added. UNDP constructed a VCTC at Halfa Hospital and Saudi Hospital, which support HIV/AIDS prevention of mother-to-child transmission.

People are becoming more aware of the importance of addressing HIV-related issues. Last year, through the Elshimal Charity Organization, SLWHA members met with state-level legislators for discussions. It was a breakthrough for widening the circle of positive advocacy for HIV to the local political leadership in Kassala. A federal law that supports people with HIV/AIDS is under

SOME FACTS ABOUT HIV/AIDS

33 million - Number of people living with HIV/AIDS in the world in 2009.

30 million - Number of people who have died from AIDS related-illnesses since the epidemic began.

Early diagnosis enables more effective treatment and care and reduces the risk of onward transmission. Once a person knows he/she has the virus that person is more likely to take precautions to avoid infecting others.

consideration and Sara stated many legislators said they would support the law if it came before them.

An important achievement has been the engagement of religious leaders in the HIV response, Sara said, with Imams talking about HIV/AIDS in a non-discriminatory and compassionate way in Kassala. Seventy-five religious leaders in Kassala State received training on HIV/AIDS issues using a manual specially designed to help them address their communities. The training was a collaborative effort by the Ministry of Guidance and Endowment, SNAP and UNDP. Religious and community leaders can help educate their people and reduce the stigma attached to HIV that hampers efforts to fight the spread of the disease.

Sara said, "We feel when an HIV-positive person comes to SLWHA that he believes in himself and is living positively." As part of its activities the Association organized three picnics in 2010, which were greatly appreciated by participants. She sees Kassala's SLWHA becoming increasingly active and said gradually people are learning that opening up about HIV/AIDS is the best way to counter its advance in society. Being accepted by family and community, and living positively with HIV like Hamza, is an example to be followed everywhere. ●



A front row seat in education. Photo: Karen Ringuette/UNDP.

Quick Facts on MDG Progress: Hunger and Poverty

According to the 2010 MDG Report, progress has been made in the Gross Enrolment Rate in basic education, which increased from 65% in 2004 to 71% in 2009 in North Sudan. The literacy rate for 15-24 year-olds increased from 27% in 1990 to 77.5% in 2010. Reported malaria cases fell from 7.5 million in 2001 to 3.1 million in 2009, and deaths from malaria dropped from 35,000 in 2001 to 8,840 in 2009. Access to communications also improved with cellular phone subscribers rising from 9% in 2005, to 28% in 2009. Meanwhile Internet users grew from 8.2% in 2009 to 10.4% in 2010³.

Food deprivation varied significantly across northern states ranging from 15% in Gazira and River Nile states each to 44% of people affected in the Red Sea State.

Existing data also showed that food deprivation is higher among female-headed households at 37%, than in male-headed households, which stood at 31%. This is generally a reflection of men's improved access to education and income. Food deprivation also varied by family size with the rate of deprivation averaging 5% for households of one or two members to 49% for households of more than 9 members.

Although figures varied significantly across states, overall the nutrition situation was found to be poor with 32.5% of children suffering from moderate or severe chronic malnutrition, underlining the long-term and prevalent under nutrition and morbidity throughout the country. Nationally, the level of global acute malnutrition is just below internationally recognized standards of a nutritional emergency.

³ Sudan Millennium Development Goals Progress Report 2010.

The MDG Report also revealed development disparities between urban and rural areas and between regions that have contributed to growing inequalities in the country. While the overall per capita income increased from US\$777 in 2004 to US\$1,454 in 2009, distribution of income reflected regional disparities and unbalanced growth among states owing to conflict in areas such as Darfur.

Statistical Capacity Development in North Sudan

UNDP is currently engaged in supporting the *Central Bureau of Statistics* (CBS) in developing a *National Strategy for the Development of Statistics* (NSDS). This activity is designed to see the development of statistics within a medium-term perspective (2012-2016) to guide production and dissemination of socioeconomic data necessary for planning and monitoring of development policies and interventions. The preparation of this statistical development strategy envisages the participation of all stakeholders, including all producers of statistics as well as users, including donors, the private sector and NGOs/civil society organizations (CSOs), under the coordination of the CBS. The NSDS also needs to be aligned to the Government's upcoming five-year plan (2012-2016).

Aid Management and Coordination

UNDP's *Capacity Development for Aid Management Project* has produced significant and tangible results with the establishment of the *Sudan Aid Information Database* (SAID), which records all international aid to Sudan. It has also other important initiative on organizing management of foreign Aid to Sudan.

Further support is provided for the capacity development of staff of the Aid Management Unit in the Ministry of International Cooperation; the preparation of the Aid Management Strategy of Sudan; as well as the process of formulating the Monitoring and

Evaluation System for Aid Management in Sudan.

Fostering Economic Revival in Eastern Sudan

A two-day conference in support of human development and the revival of eastern Sudan was held in Kuwait in December 2011. UNDP was a part of the six-member steering committee for the preparation of the conference together with the Government of Sudan, the East Sudan Fund, the Kuwait Fund, the Arab Fund and the Islamic Development Bank.

Support was provided to coordinate the production of the conference document, which included the profiles of 177 donor and investment projects submitted to the conference. UNDP coordinated preparation meetings of Government and international donors in Khartoum; sponsored a study on barriers to investment in the East for preparation of the conference; and supported the production of a short film on development and investment opportunities in East Sudan for the opening session. It also supported a project proposal for the establishment of a polytechnic in the East.

UNDP has partnered with the Government of Sudan to catalyze activities geared to delivering basic services and developing infrastructure in all three eastern states in order to ensure balanced growth and progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Along with the Government and members of the steering committee, UNDP continues to be a member of the coordination mechanism for the implementation of conference resolutions. ●



UNDP supported the International Investors and Donors Conference on Eastern Sudan held in Kuwait. Photo: Omer Abdelrahman/UNDP.

Vocational Training Centre Revamped in Kassala



Taking exams at Kassala Vocational Training Centre. Photo: Omer Abdelrahman/UNDP.

Kassala's Vocational Training Centre (VTC) has been recently rejuvenated with UNDP support. The government institution is a beacon of hope in the area, and offers courses ranging from upgrades to specializations which provide skills training to 120 students a year. Through UNDP support old sections of the Centre were renovated and new ones built. As a result the VTC plans to increase enrolment and expand its programme in 2011.

It was not so long ago that East Sudan was embroiled in conflict stemming from perceived marginalization and grim socio-economic conditions. Since the 2006 peace deal ended more than a decade of hostilities, the area has been slowly recovering.

To support the Kassala State in its efforts to address poverty and sustainable development, UNDP conducted a socio-economic mapping exercise in coordination with

the State Government as a basis to plan and prioritize resource allocation. Since livelihoods were identified as a priority, UNDP created the *Recovery of Livelihoods and Natural Management Programme in Kassala State* to bolster vocational training and skills building.

For many years Kassala's VTC, built in 1992, has successfully offered courses in auto and diesel mechanics, and machinery. The Centre was however in need of renovation and facilities had become inadequate to meet the growing demands for training.

UNDP sponsored the renovation of the older sections of the VTC, as well as construction of new ones. The new buildings now offer training in general electricity, car electricity, and welding, as well as food processing and tailoring courses aimed at women. UNDP also supplied much needed equipment for the workshops and plans to help establish a women's division in the near future to cater to their specific requirements.

NOTE: Case study courtesy UNDP "Recovery of Livelihoods and Natural Resource Management Programme in Kassala State".

VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE REVAMPED IN KASSALA

The VTC offers three-year courses in mechanics and electricity, and accelerated courses lasting one to six months in auto mechanics, car electricity, general electricity, pump mechanics and welding. It also offers two-week upgrade courses in these fields.

Mubarak Abdelrahman is Director of the VTC and said that, "As a result of UNDP's support the Centre plans to increase the number of trainees from 120 to 200 per year. Also, the additional tools and equipment provided by UNDP will improve the quality of training".

He said, the Ministry of Finance oversees the VTC and pays the salaries of the 18 teachers and technical staff employed there. They also plan to significantly increase the number of trained staff and courses by midyear.

The *Japanese International Cooperation Agency* (JICA) is actively supporting the centre by providing equipment, office furniture, computers and training. It will co-sponsor with UNDP a labour market survey to determine which trades can be more easily absorbed and therefore successful.

Until now trainees have come largely from Kassala city but the VTC would like to also reach out to students in rural areas and build a boarding house for them to stay during their training. UNDP is leading a process to establish a council to help develop a strategy for sustainable management of the Centre, oversee similar initiatives in the state, and encourage more women to pursue training.

Mohammed Altahir is a graduate of the three-year VTC mechanics course. Commenting on the importance of training, the 30 year old says, "Now I am a skilled worker in an auto mechanics workshop in Kassala and do the repair work related to my job expertise in auto mechanics. I am happy because I have received training that improved my skills to enable me to compete in the labour market.

I am now making SDG 750 a month, a reasonable amount, but those who lack skills and training hardly get to make an equivalent amount of money".

Mohamed Ibrahim, Project Analyst for UNDP's Livelihood Project in Kassala State, said, "Dignity in life is a common concern for all who value who they are and where they live. To achieve that dignity you need to secure your living costs, and that is tenable with adequate skills and knowledge of a trade. This vocational training is directed to meet these required skills and enable people to lead a decent life".

Experience has shown that even a short training course can restore a person's dignity by offering the chance to earn a living and the opportunity to become an active member of the community. Support to livelihood activities and facilities such as Kassala's Vocational Training Centre gives students the means to help themselves and places them on the path to self-reliance. ●



Mechanics trainees at Kassala Vocational Training Centre. Photo: Omer Abdelrahman/UNDP.

Democratic Governance and Rule Of Law

Democratic Governance: Nurturing Participation and Voice



Registering to vote in Nyala, South Darfur. Photo: UNDP.

More than twenty years of civil war ended with the signing of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement and Sudan was left with depleted resources. In addition to loss of life, population displacement and widespread destruction, the post-conflict situation is one in which the institutions of governance have been undermined and the domestic capacity for service delivery seriously limited.

UNDP's democratic governance programme supports governance institutions and capacity building of the government at all levels in Sudan. This includes support to local governance, public administration reform, decentralization, civil service development, civil society participation, strengthening the judiciary, and supporting political participation and multi-party elections.

UNDP works to strengthen access to justice and promote the rule of law to empower marginalized and vulnerable groups across Sudan. It is assisting the country in meeting post-conflict expectations with new legal and judicial structures by building the capacity of the national Judiciary and also supporting the process of legislative reform, including efforts by the Ministry of Justice to develop legal aid legislation.

Through its support to a wide-variety of training and awareness-raising activities for democratic governance and rule of law, UNDP has helped strengthen the knowledge and capacity of government, community-based organizations, and the public. ●

Supporting Inclusive and Effective Local Governance

UNDP provides technical assistance to local government development and public expenditure management through initiatives that strengthen their ability to provide public services, strategic development planning and financial management. Notably, the National Council for Strategic Planning was supported to ensure that states develop 5-year strategic plans aligned to the National Strategic Plan for Sudan, against which criteria shall be developed for resource allocation from the centre to the states.

A key achievement towards bringing transparency and coherence to government financial management at the state government level has been the adoption of the Government Financial Statistics National Budgeting Framework in the three eastern states. UNDP has encouraged strategic planning initiatives with the development of long-term strategic plans for Kassala, Gedaref and Red Sea states to reach the MDGs and The *National Security and Stabilization Plan* (NSSP) goals and targets. This has included initiatives in communes and localities and resulted in 10 development plans harmonizing state goals.

Following a bottom-up approach to planning, citizens and Government have together implemented more than 20 small community projects under the UNDP supported Local Development Fund. These projects have improved school infrastructure, constructed sewage systems, improved access to health centres and water for villages, and organized citizens into community-based organizations – a valuable asset to local policy-making.

Through joint and coordinated initiatives UNDP has been able to better assist the needs of the Sudanese people. At the central level UNDP's initiative of the Fund

Management Unit under the supervision of the High Council on Decentralization improved coordination efforts of donors working in the area of decentralization and public expenditure management.

Having successfully completed its pilot phase, the local governance initiatives have shown to be a model for participatory planning involving citizens in decision making, establishing linkages and partnerships among the different levels of local government and localizing MDG goals at the sub-national level. ●

Building Governance Capacity in Red Sea State

Red Sea State has some of the lowest socio-economic indicators in the country. Nearly half of the State's 725,000 residents live in the capital Port Sudan where the urban unemployment rate is exceptionally high. UNDP support to local government development and public expenditure management has significantly improved financial administration and planning in Red Sea State. The process has involved sustained training of state personnel and the establishment of a standardized planning and financial management system. As a result of these reforms the institutional and economic capacity of state and local government have been greatly improved.



Government staff benefitted from financial management training in Port Sudan.
Photo: Omer Abdelrahem/UNDP.

To help address some of the pressing issues in the area UNDP's Governance and Rule of Law Programme launched the *Poverty Alleviation-Oriented Governance Project in Red Sea State* in 2005. It was developed in consultation with the Federal Ministry of Finance and National Economy (MoFNE), State Government, local authorities, relevant government bodies, and civil society organizations.

As part of the capacity building process a core group of eight government officials drawn from various state government ministries was trained in budgeting and planning for a year and a half by a UNDP specialist in budget

execution, gender budgeting, and financial management systems, Government Finance Statistics (GFS) and basic information, and technology use.

This core group trained accounting staff in each locality on the internationally standardized accounting framework. Government personnel now use it for preparing the annual budget, diverse reports, and general and internal audits.

Mohamed Ahmed Adam, General Director at the Ministry of Finance, one of the core group members, said, "In the past, each ministry and locality was using different reporting methods and there were discrepancies and conflicting

BUILDING GOVERNANCE CAPACITY IN RED SEA STATE

information. Now it is unified by use of the same format and itemized codes.” He added that since ministries and localities have an identifying code, compiling, analysing, monitoring and follow-up of information is easier and an overview of the entire budget and expenditure is now possible.

Throughout their training the core group also trained other state government staff and budget so as to ensure smooth implementation of the accounting and budgeting system. This cascade model of training has allowed for an efficient transfer of knowledge at low cost.

Osman Mohammed Ali Ahmed is Head of the Expenditure Department in the State Ministry of Finance and a member of the core group. Osman said, “Before there was lack of sound expenditure planning and budgeting, and a lack of adequate capacity to appraise and analyze budget performance. The budget structure, moreover, did not reveal the use of government funds according to functional units, and generally led to lack of fiscal transparency in state operations”.

Osman observed, “Budget reforms have improved budget planning, structure, classification, implementation and evaluation. Overall, the state now has a disciplined, predictable and transparent budget which improves service delivery and accountability”.

The Ministry of Local Government and Civil Service (MoLG) has also trained its staff in salaries, compensation of employees, and budgeting. Part of the reform process includes the implementation of budget ceilings that were previously thought impossible to achieve. More work is required towards budget prioritization within each ceiling, which is well underway.

Core group member Elawia Eltaher who works at the MoLG, said, “I was trained in various steps of financial budgeting and now I am able to train others.” She added, “During the training we made field trips to all localities and ministries in Red Sea State to observe the system in use, and trained all staff on how to prepare the budget by using the GFS system. We now conduct monitoring visits three times a

year.”

As part of the initiative, Locality Planning and Information Units (PIU) were established in the state’s ten localities and their staff trained by core group members with the aim of enhancing the PIU’s ability to identify, prioritize, plan, implement and monitor projects for their locality.

In addition, financial support was provided to a Local Development Fund (LDF), which allocated resources to each locality. To operationalize grants given under the LDF the PIUs selected small-scale projects addressing poverty in their area,

such as providing health cards for vulnerable individuals in Suakin and support to livelihood activities at women’s centres in Port Sudan.

Elawia concluded, “The localities are now more aware of how to prepare, process, implement and evaluate a budget and have shown remarkable progress in their performance.”

“We feel UNDP is part of the Red Sea State. They have helped us a lot, upgrading and supporting us in the core group and in other activities. They have helped us refresh our skills in terms of work plans, budgets and cash flow. Now, each locality has trained staff and is applying this knowledge”, said Taha, one core group member.

Aziza Abdalla, UNDP Capacity Building Officer and once a core group member, said, “Developing the state capacity in planning and budgeting contributes tremendously to improving governance and creating an institutional, social and economic environment conducive for poverty reduction in the State”.

UNDP’s *Poverty Alleviation-Oriented Governance Project in Red Sea State* has built partnerships with and within the Government. Through provision of intensive training in financial management it has helped improve the capacity of the state government to plan and prepare budgets that better reflect the needs of citizens. In this way it has also helped build a foundation conducive to poverty reduction in the state. ●

“Overall, the state now has a disciplined, predictable and transparent budget which improves service delivery and accountability”.

Supporting the First Elections in 25 Years



Women voted in high numbers in Sudan's April 2010 national elections. Photo: UNDP.

U NDP's *Support to Elections Project* assisted the Sudan National Elections Commission (NEC) to successfully conduct presidential and state legislative elections in April 2010 for the first time in nearly 25 years. Similar to the NEC, UNDP provided technical advice and material support to the newly-established Political Parties Affairs Council (PPAC).

UNDP managed the US\$82,115,233 *Basket Fund for Elections* and provided the necessary technical and logistical support to the NEC. The Basket Fund has been made possible thanks to contributions from the European Commission, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Japan, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Italy, France and Spain.

UNDP coordinated the broader UN effort for the elections and supported a multitude of activities. This included support to NEC in developing the elections operational plan, as well as production of registration materials, warehouse rentals, and the distribution of furniture, computers, and generators to 25 State High Committees.

Grants were distributed to national and international community support organizations to promote voter registration, while grantees were trained on the elections system, voter registration procedures, and civic education. UNDP produced and distributed a mass of civic education materials and supported radio and TV programmes for the elections, while also supporting the establishment of a public resource centre in Khartoum and in Juba.

The advocacy of UNDP and partners for increased political participation of women was of a piece of the national consensus on the quota for women representation in the parliament. The high voter turnout of women was in part attributed to efforts encouraging women's participation through the *Basket Fund for Elections*. A gender and governance expert advisor worked with the NEC to help ensure equitable participation of women,

and workshops were held to educate and encourage women voter participation and candidates. Journalists and editors were supported in an awareness-raising campaign on women's participation.

UNDP further supported some 100 Sudanese judges who received training on election-related issues as well as

1,000 police officers who participated in security training. The Political Parties Affairs Council (PPAC) worked with some 200 representatives from 76 registered political parties to strengthen their ability to participate in the electoral process and be trusted to represent and respond appropriately to the needs and concerns of the voting constituencies. The national elections were held peacefully with 62% voter turnout.

South Sudan Referendum

UNDP provided technical and operational support to the South Sudan referendum held in January 2011. The event marked the culmination of the CPA and presented a historic opportunity for self-determination for the people of Southern Sudan. UNDP managed the US\$58 million *Basket Fund for South Sudan Referendum*, and provided support for the functioning of the South Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) and the South Sudan Referendum Bureau (SSRB). This included technical and material support for civic and voter education, media and monitoring training, as well as logistical and operational assistance for Referendum planning and administration. The Referendum was assessed by international and national observers as free and fair, and broadly in line with international standards.

Strengthening Legal Aid and Justice Infrastructure in Darfur

UNDP achievements in Darfur have included support to a Legal Aid Network (LAN) of some 60 Sudanese lawyers and 150 paralegals who provide legal aid to vulnerable individuals. The LAN has dealt with more than 550 cases, including acquittals of women charged with adultery and release of people arbitrarily detained. UNDP has provided support for the establishment and operation of seven Justice and Confidence Centres (JCCs) in the three Darfur states as well as training for paralegals to staff them. The JCCs have taken on a significant number of cases involving family disputes, neighbourhood quarrels, armed robberies, assault, murder, and sexual and gender-based violence, among others. Also, mobile legal aid clinics were supported in six locations in Darfur with a LAN lawyer and a UNDP Rule of Law Officer providing legal assistance to conflict affected populations in remote areas.



Mudathir Hussein is head of Humanity, a lawyers' association in South Darfur. Photo: UNDP.

Project governance and local ownership has improved since UNDP supported the establishment of Project Advisory Boards in each state. The boards serve as the selection committee to assess calls for proposals for management of paralegal centres, delivery of legal aid, and to assess draft agreements with government institutions including universities and technical colleges.

Alongside national partners UNDP supported awareness raising and capacity development in Darfur on rule of law, human rights, and justice for some 10,000 civil society and community members, police and security services at the state level.

Together with state universities UNDP helped conduct 35 public debates for local academia, government authorities, civil society organizations and community representatives on rule of law and human rights, thus, widening knowledge of the internationally accepted human rights standards. In collaboration with the three state universities of North, South and West Darfur, UNDP established Legal Information Centres (LIC) in each of the three institutions. The LICs were stocked with thousands of legal texts and documents and provided with Internet access for people in the law profession to study, discuss and exchange ideas. ●

Supporting Darfur Prison Reform

Since the eruption of conflict in Darfur in 2003, the concept of civilian rule of law as a state responsibility has been greatly undermined; with a marked deterioration in the state of justice sector institutions including the judiciary, police, prosecution and prisons. Similarly, customary courts and other traditional mechanisms were eroded due to the large-scale migration of people and breakdown in the social structures.

International actors, while focused on the immediate protection of civilians, have made key efforts in rebuilding an effective and capable state in Darfur, in cooperation with Darfur's rule of law institutions, traditional leaders, civil society and displaced populations.

UNDP launched the *Rule of Law Programme in Darfur* in September 2004. It currently employs more than 20 national and international staff across the three Darfur states. More than US\$4,000,000 in funding has been generously donated to UNDP's *Strengthening Rule of Law and Sustainable Protection in Darfur Programme* mainly by the United Kingdom (DFID) and Sweden (SIDA), as well as the Netherlands. The work entails cooperation with

relevant state ministries and institutions as well as with UNAMID's Prison Advisory Unit and UNICEF.

Prison infrastructure in Darfur is in need of support; seven of the eight prisons were built in the colonial era and are crumbling from neglect and the harsh climate. The buildings require substantial restoration, and their water and sanitation facilities necessitate urgent attention. The holding capacity of the prisons is also woefully inadequate for the population they house.

Brigadier Babiker Nasr is Director of Prisons in North Darfur. Babiker is in charge of improving the eight prisons in the State, including the living conditions of the some 900 inmates under his responsibility. And he is doing so with the assistance of UNDP and other partners. The Brigadier's open and progressive attitude is helping advance prison reform in North Darfur.

Despite the challenges, the prison conditions and those of their inmates in Darfur have been steadily improving. Babiker noted the improvements he had already witnessed in his short time as Director in North Darfur. In 2010 UNDP,



In El Fasher, Brigadier Babiker Nasr, Director of North Darfur Prisons. Photo: Karen Ringuette/UNDP.



Prison Officer Abu Aziz benefitted from training on human rights, Nyala, South Darfur. Photo: Kumar Tiku/UNDP.

SUPPORTING DARFUR PRISON REFORM

alongside UNAMID instructors, supported trainings on human rights and the standard minimum treatment of prisoners for 110 prison officers (guards) in North Darfur. As a result Babiker said staff behaviour had improved significantly and had resulted in a relatively more positive relationship between the officers and inmates. Ninety prison officers in West Darfur and 80 in South Darfur also received this training.

Thirty-five-year-old prison officer Abu Aziz said the three five-day workshops he attended in Nyala, South Darfur opened his eyes to human rights and the internationally accepted treatment of prisoners. Abu admitted that previously he knew nothing of the human rights framework and that he was not alone; but the prison officers who participated in the training have keenly shared their knowledge with colleagues, he said. And it has been an important learning step for each of them.

Abu remarked, "The prison officers have changed with regard to the treatment of inmates and this is reflected in the prisoners' behaviour and a mutual respect." He added, "Whenever you find the door open you want to explore further. I have definitely benefitted from the training and would like to learn more".

The Brigadier said, "I would like to improve and preserve the dignity of women in prison, and see them learn something useful, so as they have skills from which they can benefit when they are released." He would also like to provide children, who are held with their mothers until they are weaned, with educational opportunities and a play area.

He added, "The three most important aspects of support for the prisons are the training of high-level officers; improving prison infrastructure; and providing vocational training for prisoners."

Brigadier Babiker said his own participation in deliberations for senior prison staff in Accra, Ghana broadened his perspective and gave both knowledge and ideas for improving North Darfur's prisons. The training was invaluable, he saw, for example, that prison conditions were generally much better in Ghana, and also that female inmates received skills training. As a result, he vowed to do what he could to upgrade prisons in North Darfur.

Stephen Moore, a UNDP official involved in the earlier stages of the design of the Rule of Law programme in North

Darfur said, "Technical assistance from UNDP, coupled with enthusiasm, dedication and commitment from partners, is a recipe for results". Furthermore, he said, "It strengthens the national ownership of the programme to engage in the process of shaping and influencing policy in the recovery and transition process".

UNDP also supported the participation of three prison officers in a 'Building Bridges' conference in Belgium in 2010 which looked at prisoner reintegration, inter-agency cooperation; management capacity; and vocational training for inmates.

UNDP works in collaboration with the relevant state ministries and institutions as well as with UNAMID's Prison Advisory Unit and UNICEF. More than \$4,000,000 in funding has been generously donated to UNDP's *Strengthening Rule of Law and Sustainable Protection in Darfur Programme* mainly by the United Kingdom (DFID) and Sweden (SIDA), as well as the Netherlands and Switzerland.

For 2011, the work plan includes renovation and construction of a school at the prison for juveniles, skills training for prisoners including tools and training materials, and procuring furniture and equipment for four prisons.

UNDP also aims to develop procedures between prisons and the Attorney General's Legal Aid Office and other legal aid services to ensure prisoners have access to justice. Alongside the police, prosecution, judiciary and customary courts, the prison system is one element of the rule of law. Restoration of each is vital for the restoration of peace in Darfur.

Brigadier Babiker noted that nowadays UN and human rights organisations frequently visit North Darfur prisons and conduct evaluations. He said improvements are evident and he welcomed the means to undertake more, but admitted, "Results take time, assessment and follow up." ●

Building Access to Justice and Human Rights in East Sudan



Kindergarten authorities say the area is safer since the El Murabaat Police Station was built. Photo: Omer Abdelrahem/UNDP.

UNDP's work in the East has supported the establishment of a Justice and Confidence Centre (JCC) in Kassala serving vulnerable people and helping authorities become more responsive. During a 4-year period, the skills and knowledge of 200 paralegals were strengthened to provide legal aid and advocacy services, including mediation and case referral to the lawyers' network. Training was provided in basic human rights principles, Sudanese Law, and mediation skills. The lawyers' legal aid network provided more than 1,000 free legal aid services for referred cases. These interventions were supported by the Legal Information Centre in Kassala Community College, which continues to provide a space for legal research and information sharing for legal practitioners, students and paralegals. Free access to legal information has facilitated the work of legal professionals in their case representation role, and provided students with additional academic research material. An awareness raising campaign on the importance of formal education for girls and boys was also conducted.

Capacity development support was provided to Kassala Police in collaboration with UNMIS Police, with nearly 2,500 officers (500 female) receiving training on community policing, human rights, rule of law, criminal investigation techniques and basic computer skills over the course of three years. The GoS Police in Kassala was also supported

with the construction of two new police stations co-financed by the European Commission. The stations provide increased access to justice for at least 68,000 people in Kassala town and Wad Sherife Locality.

In collaboration with UNMIS Police, UNDP supported the establishment of Community Safety Centres that serve as a complement to human rights awareness and information sessions. The three Community Safety Centres in Kassala are staffed and managed by trained community safety committees. The centres serve as a focal point for community

leaders to interface with GoS Police in implementation of a community policing programme. Citizens acknowledged that there was an improved environment of order and security in their neighbourhoods as a result of the enhanced police infrastructure and training. Community members were now actively participating in their own security through community policing, which had also enhanced the relationship of trust between citizens and the police force.

UNDP supported the Prison Service with capacity development training for 270 prison officers at Kassala State Prison which focused on human rights, good prison management, the concept of dynamic security in prisons, classification of prisoners and the rehabilitation of offenders.

Further support was provided through 150 awareness-raising workshops, in which 4,500 people participated, which were conducted in rural Kassala, namely, Adrman, Dablaweet, Meswat, Hendawwa, Jamam and Elradeef villages. The workshops covered basic human rights principles, Sudanese law, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement (ESPA) and the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

Helping Rule of Law, Public Confidence in Abyei



Abyei Parliament constructed with support from UNDP's Governance and Rule of Law Project was handed over to authorities in December 2010. Photo: UNDP.

UNDP's field presence in Abyei enables collaboration with counterparts to undertake needs assessments and identify priorities in the various communities. The Abyei Area Administration (AAA) is composed of both the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) that represents the Dinka, and the National Congress Party (NCP) that represents the Misseriya. UNDP ensures that both parties are represented in any decisions that relate to projects. UNDP has facilitated the formation of the Governance Project Local Steering Committee (LSC) and Recovery Steering Committee, which are chaired by the Chief Administrator from SPLM and his Deputy from NCP. This arrangement ensures balanced decisions in determining the geographical and needs-centred focus of UNDP support to the Abyei Area Administration.

Given that the AAA is newly established, UNDP's *Governance and Rule of Law* project provides support to the establishment of a functional civil administration through infrastructure and technical advisory support including construction and rehabilitation of civil administration offices, formulation of a legislative and regulatory framework for governance, and urban planning support. UNDP supports the civil administration and the Joint Integrated Police Unit (JIPU) to develop laws, policies, guidelines and systems to manage a coordinated and organized urban planning process. This includes a participatory appraisal and needs assessment of infrastructure and supply of water, sanitation and power services; budget planning coordination, public expenditure management and accountability processes through capacity development.

UNDP provided support for three technical advisors in financial management, urban planning and legislative reform who provide support to the Abyei Civil Administration to facilitate the re-establishment of local government and restore public services as a means to encourage the return of displaced citizens to the area.

UNDP collaborated with the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS)

to support the Abyei Road Map, which included the establishment of the Joint Integrated Police Units (JIPU) in September 2008. The support included training 280 police officers in human rights and policing techniques, including 250 JIPU officers. In addition, 90 youths participated in community policing awareness sessions conducted with UNMIS. In the returnee village of Nyinikwach north of Abyei town, a community policing village committee was established to improve security, while southward in Agok, construction of a police station is nearing completion.

A significant contribution to infrastructure was supported through UNDP's *Governance and Rule of Law* Project with the construction of the Abyei Parliament that after completion was handed over to the local authorities in December 2010 (see photo).

Human rights and rule of law awareness activities supported by UNDP reached more than 250 community members, including 160 women. A draft Paralegal Training Manual was prepared and 37 paralegals, including ten women, received training in human rights, legal aid and management. Construction to expand the Abyei Justice and Confidence Centre has been initiated.

Legislative reform received UNDP support through the development of an interim basic law for Abyei and facilitation of public consultations between the Abyei Council and civil society representatives. The 20-member legislative council has representatives from both the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and the National Congress Party. UNDP also facilitated the translation of the law from English to Arabic. ●

Supporting Justice and Confidence in Blue Nile State

UNDP supported the establishment and operation of a Justice and Confidence Centre (JCC) in Damazin through which paralegals received training to provide legal assistance to vulnerable groups and raise awareness on human rights and rule of law. A case-tracking system was established for the JCC, which improved documentation and follow up of cases; similar efforts are underway for Kurmuk and Giessan. The JCC also hosts workshops, forums, and events on human rights and the rule of law for community members, government officials, and civil society organizations. The Justice and Confidence Centre's technical capacity, confidence and quality of legal aid services improved with regular training and other capacity development activities that have enhanced the quality and frequency of their engagement with the community and partnership with government and other stakeholders. The JCC is a model institution for facilitating citizens' access to justice in Blue Nile State.

UNDP's *Rule of Law* project in Damazin is working through the Local Steering Committee (LSC), stakeholders and partners; the main role of the LSC is planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of rule of law achievements. The Committee comprises representatives from the Judiciary, Attorney General, Lawyer's Union, Paralegals Association, the Native Administration Chief, Criminal Police, Prison Correction Police and others UN partners. UNDP works closely with partners for law enforcement reform and rehabilitation and recovery, and facilitates lecturers and trainings in rule of law, human rights and judicial administration.

To support institutional capacity building trainings have been conducted for native administration judges and court members in criminal law, criminal procedures law and court meditation as well as for the judiciary police in computer and justice administration. Some 2,600 police officers have been trained in community policing, rule of



Mak Al Fatih Yusif, Chief of Native Administration for Blue Nile State, at traditional court in Roseries, Blue Nile State. Photo: Omer Abdelrahman/UNDP.

law and human rights, while local civil society members have been provided trainings on genders issues, rule of law, human rights and project management. Together with civil society partners and the United Nations Police (UNPOL), trainings have also been conducted in child protection and rehabilitation. UNDP's activities to combat sexual and gender-based violence are outlined in the story that follows.

Workshops on rule of law, including human rights and conflict mediation for traditional leaders aim to harmonize local customary law with international standards. In April 2011 thirty traditional leaders took part in an 8-day rule of law training workshop with facilitators participating from the Government, prison services, State Police and UNDP.

UNDP supported the construction of a Court in Risers Locality and provided technical training for staff in computers and justice administration. Support was provided for the construction of a Health Unit in Risers Federal Prison and for training prison staff in rule of law, human rights as well as office management and computer skills. A training hall for Police HQ office was sponsored and equipment provided. UNDP worked closely with UNMIS/ UNPOL to ensure election security. ●

Combating Violence Against Women



Workshop closing ceremony in Damazin, Blue Nile State. Photo: Omer Abdelrahem/UNDP.

Awareness raising and capacity building activities are helping to address sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Blue Nile State. In April 2011, an eight-day Training of Teachers (TOT) workshop on SGBV, human rights and related issues, involved 24 participants from civil society and Government, two thirds of them women. The SGBV workshop was held in collaboration with implementing partner Labena, a Sudanese women's NGO working with UNDP in Blue Nile since August 2010. Course facilitators came from the Ministry of Social Welfare, the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, UNMIS Civil Affairs / Human Rights and UNDP.

Salifa Mohamed, a computer teacher from Damazin said the course opened his eyes to many issues and he pledged to make changes. He said: "As a father and husband I was shocked to learn of the forms of violence we commit in the family without realizing the impact they have on our lives and on our children. From now I will not allow SGBV in my family or violence on my children. And as a teacher I will not

commit violence against students, and will advise other teachers to treat children with the respect they deserve."

Police Officer Arafa El Fadel vowed she would use her improved knowledge to support change as well. She said: "SGBV is a form of violence that faces me in my daily life as a woman and in my society. I am determined to make my family a model example and choose good behaviour and positive actions to combat it. I will also transfer the knowledge acquired in my training to other police officers, women in my neighbourhood and school teachers."

Activities to combat SGBV are carried out under UNDP's *Rule of Law Project* that works to contribute to human security and promote conditions for recovery and development, and create a basis for interventions to address SGBV. Activities aim to meet the needs of SGBV survivors and work to prevent and strengthen existing capacities to respond to it. Nevertheless, lack of data makes it difficult to know precisely how widespread the phenomenon is.

COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN BLUE NILE STATE

The population of Blue Nile State is 832,000, 47% of whom are female. Women carry out up to 60% of cultivation work, but their role in society is limited to family care and they have little access to land, markets and financial institutions. Socio-cultural practices keep women at the bottom of the social ladder with no say in decision-making.

SGBV plays a significant part in the high rate of maternal and child mortality as this is often the result of early marriage and pregnancy, forced abortions and related suicides. Early marriage frequently involves withdrawing girls from school and contributes to their high rate of illiteracy. *The Sudan Household Health Survey (2006)* moreover estimated the harmful practice of female genital mutilation at 58% in the State. Added to these factors is widespread poverty and lack of access to primary healthcare leaving women in Blue Nile State with a life expectancy of 51 years.

Rabah Osman is originally from the border area with Ethiopia and represents the Kadalo Society Association. On her training experience Rabah said: "I have learned how to

prevent domestic violence in my future family and how to treat my children, and I will spread this knowledge to my society. I plan to hold a coffee ceremony under a tree even if I have to pay from my pocket, and I will explain to my people what I learned in simple language."

Salma Soliman, UNDP's SGBV officer based in Damazin, said: "UNDP's capacity building efforts have helped the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Women's Departments in the State Ministries to implement their part of the 5-year Government plan. UNDP provided technical support and training in strategic planning, leadership, resource management, English and computer skills, among others."

Faiza Osman said participating in the course was a valuable experience. The 50-year-old mother, grandmother, teacher and women's leader said: "As a women's leader I will transfer this knowledge to women in my area and at my work. And on a personal level, I will definitely not allow female genital mutilation in my family anymore." ●

WHAT IS SGBV?

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is violence that is directed against a person on the basis of gender or sex. This includes physical, sexual and psychological violence in the family such as battering, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse of children in the household, dowry-related violence, forced marriage, child marriage, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women. It also encompasses physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the community, including rape, sexual abuse and harassment, intimidation, trafficking in women and forced prostitution. In addition, SGBV includes physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State and institutions, wherever it occurs. While women, men, boys and girls can be victims/survivors of gender-based violence, women and girls are the main victims/survivors⁴.

⁴ UNHCR.

Widening the Net for Justice and Human Rights in Southern Kordofan

Some of the significant milestones of UNDP's capacity enhancement efforts for rule of law and respect for international norms of human rights in Southern Kordofan included support to three Justice and Confidence Centres, legal aid training for paralegals and awareness-raising activities. Support was also given to the establishment and operationalization of an inter-ministerial gender task force, and UNDP forged a partnership with the UN Mission that helped generate resources for gender mainstreaming across various government ministries, departments and entities.

Support was given to the State Judiciary and Prosecutors with the training of 95 court staff in case management and court administration; 120 judges and prosecutors in IT skills; 75 court staff in basic human rights; 50 judges and court staff in juvenile justice, and 44 prosecutors and senior court staff in English language and legal terminology. On average women represented a third to half of all participants.

Support to institutional capacity development included technical and professional training in human resources, and equipment and facilities in governance offices at the State and Locality levels UNDP sponsored civil works through its *Local Government Capacity Development Project*, notably a training centre in Kadugli. The Southern Kordofan Civil Service Training Centre is a capacity development institution established through partnership between UNDP and the State Government of Southern Kordofan, with the support of funding from the Netherlands and DFID (UK).

Civil Service Institutions will benefit from the Centre's extensive and targeted trainings on institutional and management advisory support; information and knowledge management; and research services. The Centre will also cater to the needs of civil society organizations, NGOs, the private sector and individuals. In the medium to long term, the Centre shall, through necessary affiliation,



Civil Service Training Centre in Kadugli, Southern Kordofan, nearing completion, February 2011. Photo: UNDP.

partnerships and legislation, provide or coordinate the upgrading of skills and knowledge at certificate, diploma, postgraduate and higher degree levels.

The Centre, to be inaugurated in 2011, will ensure development of innovative trainings and advisory services, and research services consistent with its mandate. It will also ensure effectiveness in management and coordination of services, development interventions, strategic partnership development for effective services delivery and local resource generation and building resource reserves for sustainability.

To further support institutional capacity development a national civil service reform advisor was recruited and seconded, helping establish the reform committee in the Ministry of Local Government and Civil Service and initiate reforms, and a conference on civil service reform and good governance was held for some 100 civil servants. Extensive training sessions in operational, managerial and technical knowledge and skills benefited more than 1,500 government officials, native administrators and leaders of civil society organizations. Capacity building efforts saw 20 public sector and civil society training modules developed and translated into Arabic for training programmes. In addition, computer training and equipment was provided to staff of line ministries and localities as part of enhancing the e-governance capacity of public sector institutions in Southern Kordofan State. ●

Restoring Confidence in Justice in Southern Kordofan

Kadugli is the capital of Southern Kordofan State, and home of the Nuba Mountains, vast fertile lands and giant baobab trees. Situated in central Sudan, its 2,500,000 residents were especially hard hit by the north-south civil war and much of the fabric of their community was destroyed in the 21-year conflict. Since the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement UNDP has been supporting the reweaving of the social fabric through the restoration of the community level rule of law institutions in the area. This includes supporting Justice and Confidence Centres that inform the population of their rights, and offer free legal aid including mediation services to those in need.

The main objective of the three Justice and Confidence Centres (JCC) in the state is to provide legal assistance to vulnerable people free of charge. Most beneficiaries are women and children, with the majority of cases involving civil, criminal, family and land-related issues.

In Southern Kordofan, one JCC is located in the capital Kadugli; while two others are in Dilling and Lagawa, respectively. The centres are staffed by more than 80 paralegals from the community who have received training in human rights, legal aid issues and conflict resolution through UNDP. UNDP provided technical support to ensure that the JCCs were registered with the Government's Humanitarian Aid Commission in 2005 allowing them to operate with due governmental cognisance, and has been supporting them with annual grants and training ever since. The grants cover rental and running costs of the centres as well as case fees. The community-based organization of paralegals is made up of respected members of society including teachers, community and youth leaders, emirs and omdas.

While the Government does not fund the centres, several key Government institutions are part of the Local Steering Committee for this project and provide inputs and feedback. There is also a network of 20 lawyers in the State providing legal aid to an ever-increasing number of cases. UNDP continues to work towards an expansion of the network to include more lawyers willing to provide services to the poor and marginalized.

Thanks to the intervention of the Kadugli JCC Bakhita Anjelo and her cousin Bakhita were released from prison in early February after spending twelve days there. The two Dinka women live together and ended up in jail after a dispute with a neighbour over a hen. Unable to pay the fine of 100 Sudanese pounds each [US\$30], they were obliged to serve a sentence.

During a visit to the prison Sister Rosa, who works for a faith-based organization, learned of the women's plight.

Familiar with the JCCs, she contacted the Kadugli centre and Rawda Kela, a female paralegal, went to the jail to investigate. Following negotiations and payment of the fines, Kela managed to secure the women's release.

Traumatized by her experience Bakhita Anjelo said: "Prison is like

death and when you go there you are like a dead person." The two women were thankful to return home, in particular to take care of Bakhita Anjelo's two children.

While paralegals frequently visit prisons in their area, in future they hope to mediate such cases before they reach court. There is also a group of friends of paralegals that is working to inform the public about the JCC's legal services.

In the last five years the paralegals have successfully concluded 82 court cases and an equal number of out-of-court mediation cases. The majority of cases were handled within the last year, as the JCCs have spent considerable effort in building their organisations from scratch. After a period of institution building with UNDP support, the JCCs are now reasonably established and functioning well.

The centres have also carried out awareness-raising activities in 40 villages to inform communities of their legal rights and available assistance. In addition, they have formed village sub committees to help address social justice issues requiring local attention. As a result there is an expanding network of awareness and support within communities around the State.

Re-establishing rule of law, including access to justice through legal aid, is an essential element in the restoration of peace and security in society.

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RESTORING CONFIDENCE IN JUSTICE IN SOUTHERN KORDOFAN



Legal aid beneficiaries at Kadugli JCC, Southern Kordofan. Photo: Karen Ringuette/UNDP.

Lawrence Oematum, UNDP's Regional Programme Manager, said: "For UNDP rule of law programming in Kadugli, the Justice and Confidence Centres are home-grown delivery mechanisms for extending justice services to remote and vulnerable communities in a participatory way. It's part of the process of empowerment of communities which is the basis of our partnership with JCCs."

Through UNDP's support, the Justice and Confidence Centres have been well established in Southern Kordofan. They are contributing to the reestablishment of the rule of

law and their trained paralegals are helping resolve cases involving family disputes, juvenile delinquents, and rape and murder, amongst others. They are also raising awareness about people's rights and responsibilities and their legal options. The JCCs often facilitate conflict resolution and confidence building in some of the difficult tribal conflicts in the area. With the growing evidence of the viability of the JCC model, there is opportunity for dialogue with the State government on the need to provide for allocations within the State annual budget for legal services, and thereby ensure a sustainable process for the provision of legal aid to the poor. ●

Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN)

Building on the favourable policy situation and the increasing political stability in Sudan, and with the support of the Netherlands Government and the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), UNDP launched the *Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals project*, widely known as the TOKTEN, in January 2006. This initiative calls on expatriate nationals to volunteer in their country of origin for a short period of time.

The objective is to support national capacity building of Sudanese institutions in various development sectors, through the transfer of knowledge of professional Sudanese by facilitating their return to Sudan to share their expertise with their compatriots. This provides an invaluable, efficient, and sustained input to the humanitarian, peace and development efforts to rebuild Sudan, while capitalizing on Sudan's own human resources. To date more than 59 volunteers have taken

part and provided institutional capacity building support for some 90 government institutions, universities, and private sectors in North and South Sudan, in addition to directly supporting 50 national and state government institutions, universities and research institutions, private sector organizations, and NGOs in Northern and Southern Sudan.

TOKTEN has trained and built the capacity of more than 2,556 personnel from 66 national and state government institutions, universities and research institutions, private sector organizations, and NGOs across Sudan. Trainings included governance and rule of law; HIV/AIDS and health sector; food security; basic and higher education; public administration and governance; sustainable environmental conservation; economic development; micro finance development; geographic information system; media professional training; and public administration and project management. The project has also established a database of more than 370 professional Sudanese expatriates who are willing to contribute to the TOKTEN project through a mission in Sudan. ●

Crisis Prevention And Recovery

Recovery Through Development

To help Sudan rebuild, recover and cope with its vulnerability to conflict and natural disasters, the UNDP Crisis Prevention and Recovery Unit has adopted a conflict sensitive approach to recovery and development. The approach links conflict prevention and peacebuilding with economic recovery, filling institutional and capacity gaps, addressing environmental threats, gender inequalities and human security challenges.

On the recovery side, UNDP managed the *Recovery and Rehabilitation Programme* (RRP), the largest community-based initiative in the country that served up to 800,000 people across rural Sudan. Additional area-based recovery programmes in Abyei and Southern Kordofan were run in parallel to the RRP, while a livelihoods support programme in Darfur is in the initial stage of implementation.

UNDP's *Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Programme* addresses the root causes of conflict in Sudan especially those emanating from competition over natural resources in volatile areas. Additionally UNDP supports a geo-referenced state-by-state mapping and analysis of the key security threats and socio-economic risks in the country. This tool facilitates the identification of linkages between these threats and risks, while prioritizing responses and interventions in a conflict-sensitive manner.

UNDP provides comprehensive management and technical advice to the national Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) and Mine Action authorities within the Government to assist in developing national programmes.

Recovery and Rehabilitation

UNDP *Recovery and Rehabilitation Programme* (RRP) focused on building the capacity of community-based organizations to improve livelihoods and support basic services within affected communities in 10 areas (5 in North Sudan and 5 Southern Sudan). Funded and supported by the European Commission through the Government, the programme was implemented by 10 NGO consortia and aims to benefit 800,000

people. To date over 2,600 local government authorities and community leaders have been trained in public administration and 149 village development committees have been established or strengthened.

Achievements of the RRP in basic services include construction/rehabilitation of 88 health facilities benefitting over 600,000 people; construction/rehabilitation of 281 classrooms, construction of 3,351 household and institutional latrines, and, construction/rehabilitation of 685 water systems benefitting over 260,000 people.

Capacity building and institutional strengthening included training of some 1,800 health professionals and volunteers in health management and community health, training for 25 local health committees in health management and material grants for 11 fishery groups. In livelihoods 33,383 households benefitted from provision of various agricultural inputs to improve their productivity including seeds and small-scale irrigation schemes. To improve access to start-up funds 81 grants were provided to micro-entrepreneurs, and 100 savings and lending schemes were established. Also in support of livelihoods, 125 honeybee cells were provided to local beekeepers and 246 people participated in trainings related to veterinary services. Over 100,000 people benefitted from Mine Risk Education sessions. ●



The Recovery and Rehabilitation fishing project benefitted more than 100 families, Red Sea State. Photo: Omer Abdelrahman/UNDP.

A Arabaat is a rural community some 30 km west of Port Sudan. Four years ago 37 farms here were supplied with generators and water pumps through UNDP's *Recovery and Rehabilitation Programme* (RRP) that ran from 2005 to 2010. Whereas in the past farmers waited for the rains to come before planting, this support has helped them move from subsistence seasonal cultivation to rotating and growing crops yearlong.

While the land is fertile and ground water close to the surface in this area, farmers lacked the capacity to harness it for irrigation. With the generators and pumps, they began producing a variety of vegetables and other crops that are now sold at markets in Port Sudan.

Hussein Musa is in charge of getting the farmers' produce to market. He said, "In the past some people had access to wells but they were run by merchants who took 50% of the profits and the farmers earned little. Now each farm has a well",

He said, "The farms are shared between community members and the new productivity has brought residents together to work and set goals. They have also widened their agricultural experience with new crops. Overall new life has been breathed into community organizations and networks as well as farming institutions".

Previously management leadership was scattered, Hussein said, and though farmers knew each other there was no structure to their association as farmers. Through UNDP's implementing partner, SOS Sahel, farmers received training in management and have established the Arabaat Development Association (ADA).

Aisha Sharief is a member of the ADA and heads the farm run by women. She said, "There is a big difference now. With the well we have permanent irrigation and yearlong crops. Nowadays we alternate the crops and have sorghum and vegetables." Tomatoes, okra, and jarjeer, known in English as rocket or arugula, are among the vegetables they grow.

offs too, Aisha explained, "Previously women were not represented in leadership but now they are part of the structure" of the new farms and organisational network. Women decide where to spend the increased income from the farms, and tough earnings remain modest most families have doubled their revenue.

Arabaat farmland is owned by tribes and registered with the Government. Communal farming is a traditional practice, and Sheikhs distribute plots of roughly eight acres to groups of 13 members who then cultivate the land together. No fees are paid for using tribal land but if you use the land of another tribe, tribute money will have to be paid to the Sheikh in recognition of ownership.

Osman Daitak is SOS Sahel's Capacity Building Officer, he said, "As result of income increase, some farmers bought



Aisha is a beneficiary of Arabaat irrigation support, Red Sea State. Photo: Karen Riquette/UNDP.

THE WELLS OF ARABAAT – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN EAST SUDAN

used vehicles for transporting their crops to market and others replaced their old cars with ones in better condition. Before the RRP only male pupils used to walk some kilometres to attend classes at remote schools, but now girls and boys enjoy education at their villages.”

He added, “Now ADA has an independent office, vehicle and external staff, and it supervises all RRP ongoing projects of farms, fisheries and water provision.”

The project was funded by the European Commission and Norway, a post-conflict endeavour to bring peace dividends to rural communities in Sudan. UNDP managed the programme on behalf of the Government of National Unity and the Government of South Sudan. Under the RRP 44 international and national NGOs implemented projects in 9 states across the country and Abyei, focusing on capacity building, improving livelihoods and basic services.

UNDP Programme Manager in East Sudan, Elmutalib Ibrahim explained, “The RRP implementation model in Red Sea State has left many positive impacts on the programmatic coordination among development actors, and strong links between grassroots initiatives and local government”.

He continued, “It has contributed to harmonizing development work in the State, and as for the beneficiary community the projects have provided livelihoods and basic services to very needy individuals, and significantly contributed to strengthening social structure, particularly gender equality.”

Hussein Musa concluded, “These projects improved our lives and we benefitted. We were lacking support but we had the capacity and the experience, and we needed water.”

RRP projects like this one implemented in Arabaat have assisted communities to recover from conflict and reduce poverty by improving livelihood opportunities and supporting sustainable development. ●



Irrigation support nurtures cultivation in Arabaat, Red Sea State. Photo: Karen Ringuette/UNDP.

Further support in Darfur benefitted nearly 300 government officials in computer training and equipment, which improved overall institutional capacity. A web platform was designed to facilitate information sharing and experiences among NGOs, UN and Government partners in the areas of livelihoods and natural resource management. UNDP supported workshops, notably in partnership with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and TUFTS University (USA) in Nyala, South Darfur, which brought together more than 100 national and international experts from the Government, UN and civil society involved with livelihoods, natural resources management and microfinance in humanitarian situations.

The *Spanish Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund Joint Programme on Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding* (JP) is a new initiative currently working in Southern Kordofan and Warrap states. The JP involves the Government of National Unity, the Government of Southern Sudan together with eight UN agencies. Over a two-year period through June 2012, this programme aims to prevent a relapse of conflict in four bordering states of Sudan by bolstering peacebuilding, rule of law, and socio-economic recovery within and between vulnerable communities and local authorities in targeted areas along the 1-1-1956 borders. ●

Peacebuilding Brings Communities Together



Community members come together in a participatory mapping exercise, Southern Kordofan. Photo: UNDP CRMA Project.

Al Buram and Um Dorein localities of Southern Kordofan State had seen fierce fighting during the civil war between the Nuba-supported Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA) and the Popular Defence Forces (PDF), who recruited widely from the Hawazma tribe. Attacks on the civilian population were commonplace. The post-Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) period has seen a continuation of this animosity as well as conflict over natural resources. A collaborative effort by the Government, UNMIS and UNDP helped bring the two communities closer together at a 3-day peace conference that produced remarkably positive results.

In 2010 insecurity peaked in areas shared or contested by Shatt Nuba and Rawawga Hawazma. Disagreement over

land ownership brought encroachment through Hawazma cattle grazing, and the resulting crop damage led to clashes with Nuba farmers. This spiralling conflict saw increased deaths, a rise in cattle theft, and fuelled mistrust between the two communities.

To combat such conflicts, Southern Kordofan created the *Reconciliation and Peaceful Coexistence Mechanism* (RPCM) by governor decree in June 2009. UNDP has closely supported the RPCM through its Kadugli-based *Conflict Reduction Programme* (CRP) to achieve the State's goals of promoting peace and reconciliation. With CRP's funding and technical support, RPCM and UNMIS Civil Affairs Division led the preparations for a peace conference in Kululu, Buram locality between 13 and 15 December 2010.

PEACEBUILDING BRINGS COMMUNITIES TOGETHER IN SOUTHERN KORDOFAN

In a large tent packed with community leaders and community members including, women and youth, initial exchanges of the peace conference were often tense. However, by the end of the first day of the conference, the tension eased as representatives from each side came together in three thematic working groups to identify solutions that resolve pressing issues. This momentum carried into a second day, and amid traditional music and dancing, tribal leaders signed a broad-based peace accord with critical parallel assurances over government support for diyya (compensation payments).

The agreement specifically addressed issues of attacks, land claims, farmer-nomad friction and peaceful coexistence and contributed to improved relations. To build the communities' longer-term ability to deal with conflict, Buram Commissioner Abdulbagi Garfah, pressed for including a reference to the role that native administration leaders can play on issues of conflict resolution and governance. This was eventually stipulated in the final agreement.

A month later, in January 2011, the RPCM and UNDP returned to Kululu to hold a follow-up workshop with the two communities with a twofold aim: To jointly decide on priority interventions, services and capacities that may assist in bolstering the nascent peace accord and to encourage joint decision-making between the two communities.

Utilizing a model developed by UNDP's *Crisis and Recovery Mapping and Analysis* (CRMA) and piloted in Al Sunut locality, CRP joined RPCM staff in encouraging 20

representatives from each community to jointly list the 'ten critical issues' collectively affecting their communities. They were then dispersed in three thematic groups (conflicts over land and security, basic services and livelihoods) to map and prioritize interventions and their locations. One Shatt woman set the conciliatory tone, describing to the participants how she has often walked to the top of the mountain between Al Hamra and Kululu to look for the day when the Rawawga had zinc roofs.

"To this day, I have not seen these zinc roofs on their [Rawawga] houses and so I know that they are living the same way as we do and that we need assistance equally," she said.

Observing the workshops, and soon to play a potential role in fulfilling these interventions was the *Spanish MDG-Fund UN Joint Programme on Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding* (JP). The programme, being implemented in and around Daloka town in Buram brings the resources of eight inter-governmental agencies to assist in consolidation of peace between the Shatt and Rawawga tribes.

On the second and last day of the workshop, the groups reconvened and presented their mapped interventions. It was evident that after two days of dialogue, trust between the communities was strengthened. The Rawawga reached out to the Shatt, inviting the tribe, RPCM and UNDP to Al Hamra for a mid-February 2011 festival of wrestling, dance, food and music. The invitation accepted, Hawazma leader Omda Sharif offered a warm thanks to both their hosts and workshop facilitators before departing on the road back to Al Hamra. ●

Jonas Horner

Crisis and Recovery Mapping and Analysis

UNDP's Sudan *Crisis and Recovery Mapping and Analysis* (CRMA) project has focused on developing a strategic planning and decision-making toolkit for recovery and development programming and coordination for UNDP, UN agencies, INGOs, donor agencies and Sudanese Government authorities.

CRMA produced a comprehensive digital atlas on the cross-border states of North and South Sudan involving geo-referenced data collected from state government bodies, UN agencies and secondary open source compendiums. It covers basic services, security, the seasonal movement of pastoralists, oil and mineral resources, land cover and threats and risks collected over the last three years. The data sets are significant and unique sources to visualize and compare ground realities. They are used to address key conflict issues around land resources, borders, basic services, ecological hazards, food security, rule of law, small arms and light weapons proliferation as well as the attitudes of vulnerable communities. CRMA endeavours to assist decision-makers to better design policy responses to potential conflict in cross-border areas.

Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration

As part of an overall CPA implementation process, signatory parties have committed to a transparent and effective Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) process to support the transition of 180,000 ex-combatants (XCs) and associated members from military to productive civilian life aimed at ensuring a secure, stable and peaceful Sudan. The National DDR Coordination Council was established by presidential decree to oversee the DDR process at the highest policy level followed by the formation of the Northern and Southern Sudan DDR Commissions to lead design and implementation of the DDR process.

The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) was mandated by UN Security Council to assist in the establishment and implementation of the DDR programme. In this context, the Integrated UN DDR Unit comprising UNMIS, UNDP, UNICEF,

the World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), has been set up within UNMIS to assist national institutions in the DDR process. UNDP takes the lead in supporting the implementation of the reintegration component of this programme. UNDP's DDR programme has been working with national NGOs to build institutional and programmatic capacity and 17 national NGOs and two international organizations have become implementing partners.

At the end of 2010, there were contracts and small grants in place to deliver reintegration support to 18,859 ex-combatants throughout the CPA areas, and 14,905 ex-combatants were registered with an implementing partner, 10,368 ex-combatants had completed the targeted training component of their reintegration option, and 6,589 ex-combatants had received their reintegration packages.

The project introduced social reintegration and community security and arms control initiatives in 2010. Workshops with leaders from some 100 communities were held in Southern Kordofan and in some 40 communities in Blue Nile State to raise awareness and build long-term partnership with the DDR programme. ●



Former combatant Abulgasim Aldow is now a baker, Southern Kordofan. Photo: Karen Ringuette/UNDP.

Fatha Idris tears up when asked about his most difficult memory of the war. The 42-year-old ex-combatant had buried that painful souvenir, as he buried his nine friends killed in Kurmuk in 1998. These days however his life is far from the tragedy of conflict. With the help of the joint Government-UNDP *Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration* (DDR) Programme Fatha has become a sorghum merchant in the Gedaref grain market.

During 2008 and 2009 Fatha worked selling seeds in Gedaref's market following his demobilization. This on-the-job experience in small business influenced his decision to become a merchant and he began selling sugar provided as in-kind support through DDR's reintegration phase. When sugar prices jumped in 2010, Fatha converted his stock to sorghum, the staple cereal grown around Sudan.

Fatha said, "I wanted to work for myself as I have served a lot and this is a better life. Also, it has improved my income and my family has benefitted."

during the war, Fatha remains active in the market. Through the programme he is to benefit from special support for the disabled and receive a medical insurance card, like the sixty other disabled ex-combatants in the town.

The programme provides counselling on civilian life, training, and in-kind support to help ex-combatants get started in their new lives. Fatha said the five-day course in small business, basic management, and bookkeeping proved very useful for him. "The training made me capable of developing a small business. I have been able to plan for my business and I was also given the chance to choose the most appropriate option for me." He said DDR had carried out a market feasibility study and counsellors assisted him in making a decision on what trade to pursue.

Fatha concluded, "My family life has improved and now my children are all in school. Being reintegrated has made my life better overall, before I could not even feed my children." While Fatha is enjoying his new life as a sorghum merchant, he said, he dreams of having his own shop and of being a bigger success in his business. ●



Sudan's staple cereal, sorghum, for sale in Gedaref market, Gedaref State. Photo: Omer Abdelrahem/UNDP.

Mixing Business and Pleasure: A United Nations Volunteer Story in Sudan

On a dusty side road in Damazin in Blue Nile State, near a sparkling but empty Chinese hospital, Amir Babiker tends his shop. It's not big, but it's his and this Tuesday morning it seems the whole town is looking for sugar.

A girl not more than five or six years old steps forward and shyly hands Babiker a crumpled one Sudanese pound note. He measures out the appropriate amount of sugar and hands it to her, and then she scurries off. He watches her go and smiles, "I am stable." Babiker says quietly. "My family is stable. It is better than when I was in the army. Now my children are in school."

I wasn't always interviewing ex-combatants as part of UNDP's Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Programme, but when I received my confirmation for the Reporting Officer position from the United Nations Volunteer (UNV) office in New York late last year, I knew I was ready for the challenge. Working in the head office in Khartoum, with frequent trips to the field, I'm fortunate to get both a bird's eye and working view of this difficult, yet rewarding, development process. My colleagues in UNDP have been nothing less than terrific - teaching and informing me every step of the way.

I'm lucky that I get to come across a lot of inspiring men and women like Amir Babiker in my day-to-day work. Balancing reporting and public information duties means that a great part of my responsibility lies in conveying the manifold struggles and successes facing the DDR programme in a post-conflict environment. As a Reporting Officer it is my job to convey these challenges and show how far we've come and how much further we still have to go.

But back to Babiker. Five years ago, he was discharged from the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF). At 35 years old, he had spent exactly 18 years and 9 days of his life serving in the SAF. He is 40 years old now and has a wife and six young



Ariel Rubin is a UNV Reporting Officer with UNDP Sudan. Photo: UNDP.

children ("all girls", he says, beaming, "Mabruk!"), and he is living an entirely new chapter in his life.

For Babiker, like many men living in the shadow of a civil war, which destroyed infrastructure and stigmatized those who fought, work has been hard to come by. But the answer came from the Chinese. For 10 SDG a day (roughly US\$2.50), he worked long shifts in construction on the local water dam heightening project. Babiker recalled, "If you got ill or couldn't make it to work, you were docked pay for that day, and they didn't pay you anything until the end of the month". He remembered the day he received his reintegration package. March 3rd, two and a half months after finishing his small business training course. Now he is earning more than 50 SDG a day. When asked how business was going he glanced back at his store and the dwindling pot of sugar in front of him and said, "Mafi Mushkeleh. Business kwaysa!" ("No problem. Business is great!") He laughed and then turned away, another customer had arrived and it was back to business for Amir Babiker. ●

Ariel Rubin

Mine Action

Mine action in Sudan has focused on opening primary and secondary routes, and on removing landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) threats. To date, the sector has declared more than 36,000 kilometres of roads opened through assessment and clearance, and 55 million square meters of land cleared and released back to communities for productive use.



As part of the unified UN Mine Action Office, UNDP is the lead agency for Mine Action Programme Development and Capacity Building. Photo: UNDP.

As part of the unified UN Mine Action Office (UNMAO), UNDP is the lead UN agency for Mine Action Programme Development and Capacity Building in Sudan. As part of the first phase of its mine action capacity development

support during 2005-2008, UNDP provided management, technical, financial and logistical support to the Government of National Unity (GONU) and Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) to establish the two national mine action authorities, the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) and the Southern Sudan Demining Authority (SSDA) through two separate presidential decrees. UNDP has since then assisted these authorities to develop their institutional and management structures, recruit and train staff, establish headquarters and field level offices, procure equipment and materials and introduce regulatory and legislative frameworks required to fulfil their mandates. More than 100,000 people have benefitted from mine awareness sessions.

Energy and Environment

UNDP has contributed to the development of comprehensive strategic frameworks on the environment and natural resource management at the national and sub-national levels in Sudan. It works with a wide sector of the government and civil society, including the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Physical Development, the Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources, the Sudanese Environmental Conservation Society, and the University of Khartoum, among others.

Climate change mitigation for the main green house gas (GHG) emissions has been supported by UNDP, in the areas of land use change and forestry, as well as through the training of more than 50 experts from government, universities, NGOs, research institutes and the private sector on the technology of GHG mitigation. The training addressed ways of incorporating climate change mitigation into national policies, strategies and development programmes. UNDP supported the preparation of a technical report on the water sector through

training on data collection, modelling and analysis and further supported vulnerability assessments such as one on coastal ecosystems supporting local livelihoods.



UNDP supports adaptation to climate change in Sudan. Photo: UNDP.

UNDP provides support to public and private sectors to raise awareness on the carbon market in Sudan to create an enabling environment for an efficient clean development mechanism. In Gedaref State different water harvesting techniques were employed in over 650 feddans and the 55 participating farmers received sorghum plants and tree seedlings. In North Kordofan, three new wells support cultivation and irrigation of tree shelterbelts, and seven village development committees were established with training to build capacity. Some 300,000 tree seedlings were produced and planted, 12,000 of which are fixing sand dunes to keep the desert at bay. In South Darfur, water harvesting interventions were implemented in six sites over 600 feddans to improve crop production; while a marked increase in productivity as a result of terracing techniques benefitted 270 farmers and some 1,000 tree seedlings were planted as live fences for crop protection.

Linking Recovery to Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

UNDP's strategic interventions under the *Crisis Prevention and Recovery Programme* is helping Sudan rebuild, recover and cope with its vulnerability to conflicts and natural disasters. The strategy links conflict prevention and peacebuilding with economic recovery, and works to address institutional and capacity gaps, environmental threats, gender inequalities, and human security challenges. Conflict prevention and peacebuilding projects help address the root causes of conflict, while geo-referenced mapping and analysis of security threats and socio-economic risks assist in strategic planning and programming. UNDP's recovery work with the Government and its partners supports a wide array of activities, including environmental management, institutional capacity building, livelihoods activities, and basic services, such as water and health. ●

Building Skills and Livelihoods in South Darfur



Nyala Technical College offers an array of training courses, short and long term. Photo: Karen Ringuette/UNDP.

Adam Omer is an internally displaced person (IDP) and one of many Sudanese living in more than 50 IDP camps in Darfur. These days the 28 year old is the breadwinner for his 14-member family, including multiple siblings and mother. Adam's mobile repair work has given him a new hold on life and was made possible through training offered by UNDP's *Darfur Livelihoods Programme*.

Adam grew up tending the family's cattle in a village outside Nyala town in South Darfur. In 2004, most of the animals in his village were looted by a rampaging group of armed militiamen. With the haunting threat of more violence in the air Adam and his community warily moved closer to Nyala town for safety. During this period other Darfuris were also being displaced, many fleeing attacks and the destruction of their villages. In 2004 Kalma IDP Camp was established and is still home to 75,000 internally displaced persons.

Adam learned to get by in Kalma camp by recharging mobile phones for other IDPs. After years of making a subsistence living, one day in 2009 a sheikh told him of an upcoming UNDP training course for IDPs at Nyala Technical College. Following a lengthy process Adam was selected for mobile repair training in June that year. During the three-month training he learned about the hardware and software of mobile phones, an important means of communication in Darfur where few landlines exist.

Established by UNDP and the Nyala Technical College, the vocational training programme has provided 208 youths from Kalma Camp with three months training in one of 13 trades. Courses were offered in mobile phone and satellite dish repair, general electricity, machine maintenance, motor vehicle and submersible pump repair, food processing, welding, carpentry, plumbing, basic construction, and water and sanitation. Trainees received toolkits to get started in their new trades.

BUILDING SKILLS AND LIVELIHOODS IN SOUTH DARFUR

UNDP launched the *Darfur Livelihoods Programme* in October 2007. Its goal has been to improve the socio-economic situation of youths and other beneficiaries living in IDP camps through vocational training. Funding for the programme came from UNDP's Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR).

UNDP Livelihoods Officer in Nyala, Abdalla Eltelai, said getting the Kalma Camp project started required intensive consultative efforts with the college, as well as with one hundred sheikhs, and eventually youths and women from the camp. Discussions covered what courses to offer, the selection criteria and various practical issues. "The apprehensive IDP community needed to be convinced it was safe to participate in training in town at a government institution", said Eltelai.

The Darfur-wide programme has involved a range of partners including the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, as well as UNEP, UNICEF, UNAMID and UNFPA and non-governmental and community organizations. Another 108 youths from IDP camps northwest of Nyala, benefitted from vocational training in 2010.

The programme has had a salutary social and economic effect on participants' lives. Female IDPs have been trained in non-traditional trades such as mobile phone repair, installation and maintenance of satellite dishes and driving.

Mariam is also a beneficiary of the mobile phone repair training. She has been living in Kalma Camp since 2004 - the year her village was attacked and her family's house burned. The quiet 27-year-old has lost many relatives to the war, including her mother. She is one of the first females in Darfur to repair mobile phones.

Competition for a trainee position was fierce, Mariam said. But in a context where many people have only grade 8 schooling, Mariam completed high school in the face of adversity during the war. Experience has shown that a certain level of education ensures participants finish the training. The course gave Mariam the chance to improve her life, and when she leaves the camp for good she can take that knowledge with her.

In a happy twist to the story Mariam and Adam took the same course and afterward married. Now the couple run

a small mobile repair shop in the camp. Adam has even trained some youths to repair phones and they too have opened a shop. He also helps people send and receive money by phone. Still, even with their two incomes life remains challenging as the couple supports 14 family members.

Like elsewhere in the world, Darfuris aspire to improve their lives. Hundreds of trainees like Adam and Mariam have had this opportunity with skills training. UNDP and the college would like to broaden participation in the courses and make more of them available to the many idle and unemployed youth in Darfur.

Musa Abdalnabi is Dean of Nyala College. He believes the school can play an important part in rebuilding society with training. He said, "There are so many unemployed and unskilled youths in the community, and when those people don't have skills they join the movement for conflict. We have to absorb them into the community so they don't become fuel for the fire."

This UNDP project demonstrates that even in a conflict situation, livelihood activities can be carried out. It has also helped ease tensions between camp youths and the Government as the training is being done at Nyala College, a government institution. The Government has recently opened a US\$100,000 fund for training displaced youths.

The pilot programme that helped provide youth the hope of a better life was realized through UNDP's partnership with local community leaders and in coordination with UNAMID Civil Affairs Division and other UN agencies involved in early recovery work in South Darfur.

Sometimes a little effort goes a long way. Abdalla Eltelai said he has witnessed a significant change in participants after being in a college setting and taking the three-months training. Thanks to the training and income opportunities, he said, some youths had undergone a complete change in their attitude, behaviour and appearance, as well as in their respect for society. Eltelai observed that, "Their hostility had been replaced by a purpose in life through the simple opportunity to participate in their own well-being". ●

UNDP and the UN System in Sudan

The United Nations presence in Sudan dates back to the 1950s with agencies such as UNICEF setting up operations in 1952. UNDP established itself in the country in 1965 and is the lead development agency. In 1983 the country entered a long and devastating civil conflict between successive governments in the north and the Sudan's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) from the south. While United Nations agencies scaled up their humanitarian assistance to the Sudanese people for the next two decades, development was hampered by war which consumed much of the country's resources and was compounded by drought and flooding.

As the signing of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement opened new opportunities to better serve the country, the United Nations agencies and their national and international partners decided in consultation with government counterparts to jointly develop an integrated planning, coordination and fund-raising tool to support the humanitarian, protection, recovery and development activities being undertaken in Sudan.

UNDP's partnership with the United Nations agencies, governments, civil society and other national and international partners is crucial. Partnerships generate resources and capacities for development, and also mobilize a collective commitment to solving challenges. The guiding principle of partnerships is that development strategies must be nationally driven, and backed by coordinated international assistance.

UNDP's Role as Global Fund Manager

The *Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria* (GFATM): GFATM was created in 2002 as a global public/private partnership dedicated to attracting and disbursing additional resources to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. In Sudan GFATM funds are managed by UNDP.

UNDP's Role as an Administrative Agent of the UN Pooled Fund

The UN system is stepping up its efforts to enhance coherence and efficiency at the country and global levels and to increase joint UN activities. Against this background and in the context of humanitarian, transition, reconstruction and development programmes, the UN system, national authorities and donors have

established The Multi-donor Trust Funds (MDTF) and Joint Programmes (JPs) that use the pass-through fund management model. The increasing use of MDTFs is an application of the Aid Effectiveness Agenda, the UN Reform initiative "Delivering as One" and the need to provide flexible, coordinated and predictable funding to support the achievement of national and global priorities such as the MDGs.

MDTF usually use the pass-through fund-management modality. Under this arrangement, Participating UN Organizations appoint an Administrative Agent (AA) through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as their administrative interface with donors. The AA subsequently signs a Standard Administrative Arrangement (SAA) with donors, and receives, administers and transfers donor funds to Participating UN Organizations in accordance with the MOU and SAA. Participating UN Organizations assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds received from the AA, operating under their own individual financial regulations and rules.

The MDTF Office Delegated the Administrative Agent function to the Country director of UNDP Sudan. Accordingly the Sudan Country Office through the Fund Management Unit (FMU), is playing a dual role both as Administrative Agent (AA) and as a participating UN organization in administering the pooled UN funding from external donors, providing operational support for programme resource management, finance and accounting and legal services.

UNDP Provides Administrative and Management Agent Functions

The *Common Humanitarian Fund* (CHF): UNDP's Fund Management Unit (FMU) provides operational support to the Humanitarian Co-ordinator in disbursing funds to UN agencies and NGOs allocated under the Sudan Work Plan, including a newly established Emergency Response component.

The CHF is a pooled funding mechanism established in 2005 for humanitarian activities in Sudan. Under the overall authority of the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC), the Sudan CHF is intended to give the HC greater ability to target funds to the most critical humanitarian needs, encourage early donor contributions and enable a rapid response to unforeseen circumstances.

Only humanitarian projects included in the UN and Partners Work Plan for Sudan (the Work Plan) are eligible for CHF funding. The Work Plan outlines the annual strategic and operational plan for the UN and partners' assistance in Sudan and is developed in consultation with national, regional and local authorities. The total contribution to CHF from donors to date (May 2011) has reached around US\$867.82 million.

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF): In cooperation with OCHA and the Conflict Prevention and Recovery Unit of UNDP in the Juba office, the CO has ensured access of funds complementing the CHF, for implementation of life-saving activities in the conflict affected areas of South Sudan.

Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund (DCPSF): [36. Photo] The *Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund (DCPSF)* has been established on 24 October 2007 to promote peace building and reconciliation in Darfur through the implementation of community-based recovery and development activities. Under the overall authority of DCPSF steering committee, chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator (RC), the DCPSF is a pooled funding mechanism intended to channel funds towards the most critical needs and encourage early donor contributions.

The UN and its partners apply to this fund to support priority programmes and projects promoting peace and stability in Darfur. The scope of the DCPSF focuses on, though is not limited to, the following areas:

1. Support Peace Building at the Local Level
2. Expansion of Basic Social Service Delivery
3. Enhancing Livelihoods of Communities
4. Improving Governance and the Rule of Law

Priority programmes and projects of the DCPSF will be implemented by a range of organizations such as UN Organizations, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs).

The DCPSF is administered by the MDTF of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in accordance with its financial regulations and rules.

It is generally accepted that any lasting end to the protracted conflict in Darfur will need to address the root causes of the conflict, which lie in extreme poverty as well as political and economic marginalization of the region exacerbated by environmental degradation and competition over natural resources.

The purpose of the *Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund (DCPSF)* is to support the timely allocation and disbursement of donor resources to activities that help to create the conditions for stability, security, justice and social equity in Darfur. The UN and its partners will apply to this fund to support priority programmes and projects promoting peace and stability in Darfur. The total contribution to DCPSF from donors to date (May 2011) has reached around US\$33.5 Million.

Sudan Recovery Fund for Southern Sudan (SRF-SS):

The *Sudan Recovery Fund - Southern Sudan (SRF-SS)* was established in May 2008 at the Sudan Consortium meeting in Oslo to support the provision of recovery assistance to Southern Sudan and bridge the gap between the short-term emergency/humanitarian aid and longer-term development assistance. Under the overall authority of SRF-SS Steering Committee chaired by the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) and co-chaired by the UN Deputy Resident Coordinator, the SRF-SS is a pooled funding mechanism intended to channel funds to support GoSS recovery priorities and provide immediate benefits for the population while laying the foundation for sustainable development.

The total contribution to SRF-SS from donors to date (May 2011) has reached around US\$90.6 Million.

United Nations Volunteers (UNVs)

The UNV programme is administered by UNDP and is an integral part of UNDP in Sudan. UNDP Sudan attracts the fourth-largest number of volunteers after UNMIS, UNAMID peacekeeping missions and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). It works in partnership with Government, UN agencies, and non-governmental and community-based organizations. UNV interventions are usually managed by government institutions as well as the following UN agencies that provide technical guidance and supervision: the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and UNDP.

The UNV programme in Sudan works with and through partners to integrate volunteers into programmes to achieve national objectives. The programme contributes to development effectiveness through its advocacy activities, advisory support in development programming and through the volunteers it deploys across the country.

More than 800 international and national UNVs are currently deployed in different UN agencies in Sudan under the management of four UNV offices. International UNVs in Sudan represent more than 40 nationalities and Sudan is the largest recipient of UN Volunteers in the world.

Human Resources

The Human Resources programmatic delivery of UNDP Sudan has significantly expanded since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in January 2005. To meet the increasing demands and to promote the smooth implementation of more than 40 projects across the country, priority has been given to strengthening operational support through the recruitment of more professional staff and increased in-house training.

As a result, the number of staff has significantly increased over the past three years. From 180 staff in 2004, the Country Office now counts over 800 core and project staff, including fixed term staff, short-term consultants and interns, working under various contracts and in multiple locations. This makes UNDP Sudan one of the largest offices in the UNDP global network.

The Khartoum office employs 236 staff, including 174 UNDP staff and 62 United Nations Volunteers (UNVs), while the Juba office employs 144 staff, including 110 UNDP staff and 34 UNVs.

UNDP also provides human resource services to 14 Khartoum-based UN agencies and entities, including: WFP, UNFPA, UNAIDS, OCHA, UNIDO, IFAD, UNIFEM, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNHABITAT, UNEP, UNDSS, UNV and UNIC, and 7 Juba based UN agencies and entities: UNAIDS, OCHA, UNIFEM, UNHABITAT, UNDSS, UNV, and UNDOC.

Financial Resources

Over the past few years, UNDP Sudan has gradually expanded to more than 40 development projects across the country. In light of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), UNDP works on the basis of “one country, two programmes”, with two main offices: one based in Khartoum and the other in Juba. In Sudan, UNDP supports its development activities through a variety of sources of funding. These funds are divided into two types: core resources and other resources

often referred to as non-core resources.

Core resources

UNDP Sudan receives core funding from UNDP Headquarters based in New York. Core resources are voluntary contributions made by the Member States of the United Nations. There are two different resource streams through which UNDP finances its programmes and operations: (1) The management resource stream, which includes allocations from the Headquarters for staff related costs for posts approved by the Executive Board, as well as operating expense; and (2) The development resource stream, through which UNDP receives so-called TRAC (Target for Resource Assignment from the Core) funds.

UNDP Headquarters distributes the TRAC resources to the programme countries throughout the world based on several criteria such as the country's Gross National Product per person, its population size, the quality of the Country Cooperation Framework, and the special development needs of countries in crisis. In Sudan, Khartoum and Juba Offices use the TRAC resources to fund the projects that are selected based on priorities established by the Government.

Non-core resources

Other resources represent an important complement to the regular resource base of UNDP and the ability of the Organization to effectively mobilize and manage them is increasingly crucial to its long-term financial sustainability. Beside the regular resources, UNDP Sudan funds its activities through these non-core resources:

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM)

The Global Fund was created in 2002 as a global public/private partnership dedicated to attracting and disbursing additional resources to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. In 2010, GFATM allocations to Sudan amounted to US\$63 million (US\$41 million for the North and US\$22 million for the South).

The Global Environment Facility (GEF)

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established in 1991 to forge international cooperation and finance actions to address critical threats to the global environment. In 2010, GEF's contribution to Sudan amounted to US\$858,547.

UNDP Thematic Trust Funds (TTF)

The Thematic Trust Funds are donor contributions' funds that have been established by the UNDP Headquarters to help the country offices focus on their work in priority areas while providing donors with an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to this process.

There are seven main Thematic Trust Funds including Democratic Governance, Crisis Prevention and Recovery; HIV/AIDS; Gender; Environment; Poverty Reduction; and Information and Communication Technologies. In 2010, UNDP Sudan received US\$1.9m through the Transition Recovery CPR TTF, US\$175,000 through Disaster CPR TTF and US\$59,950 through the Conflict CPR TTF.

MDG Achievement Fund

The *Spain MDG Achievement Fund* was established in late 2006 to accelerate efforts to reach the MDGs and to support UN reform efforts at the country level. In 2008, a UNDP-led joint programming proposal for *Conflict Prevention and Peace Building in Sudan* as well as a joint programme proposal on *Creating Opportunities for*

Youth Employment in Sudan, in which UNDP is participating, were approved by the Fund. The two-year projects will receive a total funding of US\$7.6 million.

Bilateral Partnerships

UNDP Sudan has also established bilateral partnerships with key donors to finance programme activities. The main development partners of UNDP Sudan are: the UK's Department for International Development; the European Commission; the Governments of Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Italy, Japan, and France; the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA); the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA); Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT); and the US Agency for International Development (USAID). In 2010, development partners allocated US\$155 million to fund development programmes run by the Khartoum Office (including funds for national projects, such as support to the elections, DDR and RRP) and US\$119 million for the Juba Office.

Multi-Donor Trust Funds (MDTFs)

There are five multi-donor trust funds established in Sudan, three of which are administered by UNDP: the *Common Humanitarian Fund*, the *South Sudan Recovery Fund*, and the *Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund*. Two trust funds are administered by the World Bank to coordinate the reconstruction and development needs of both Northern and Southern Sudan (one for the North and one for the South). Further information on MDTFs is provided in the section UNDP and the UN System.

Gross Income Received in 2010 from partnerships for North Sudan in US\$ millions⁵

<i>TOP DONORS</i>	<i>RESOURCES (US\$ MILLIONS)</i>
UNDP Joint Programme Administrative Agent (JPAA)	74,817,778
Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM)	44,853,876
Department for International Development (DFID), United Kingdom	24,909,504
Netherlands	20,614,765
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)	14,308,797
United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)	8,408,060
Norway	6,414,839
Swedish International Development Corporation (SIDA)	6,281,217
Denmark	4,197,848
European Commission (EC)	1,566,265
Japan	1,549,253
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), Canada	750,767
France	651,178
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	375,000
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	160,000
Switzerland	124,475
Total	209,983,622

County-wide Resource Allocation for UNDP Sudan Activities in 2010

2010 UNDP Activities in Sudan		
Theme	Donor	Total (US\$ millions)
Democratic Governance and Rule of Law	Canada; Denmark; European Commission; International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/World Bank; Italy; Japan; Netherlands; Norway; Sweden; United Kingdom; United Nations Children's Fund; and UNDP	126.1
Poverty Reduction and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)	European Commission; Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; Italy; Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; Spain; United Kingdom; and UNDP/As Joint Programme Administrative Agent	57.2
Crisis Prevention and Recovery	Global Environment Facility; Netherlands; Norway; Switzerland; United States of America; Canada; Japan; Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Conflict and Peace Building; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom; United Nations; and UNDP/As Joint Programme Administrative Agent	71.7
Environment and Sustainable Development	Global Environment Facility	0.6
Others	International Fund for Agricultural Development; United States of America; and UNDP/As Joint Programme Administrative Agent	53.5
Total		309.1

⁵ UNDP 2010.

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COVER PHOTO: Fishermen in Red Sea State received UNDP/RRP equipment support. Photo: Omer Abdelrahem, UNDP.



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