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CHILD PROTECTION
ANNUAL REPORT

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Cover photo: Children engage in recreational activities in a child-friendly space in North Darfur.

ACRONYMS

CAAC	Children and Armed Conflict
CASI	Child and Adolescent Survival Initiative
COM	Children on the Move
COR	Commissioner for Refugees
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
FCPU	Family and Child Protection Unit
FGM/C	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
FTR	Family Tracing and Reunification
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HAC	Humanitarian Action for Children
HDI	Human Development Index
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
MICS	Multiple Index Cluster Survey
MRM	Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism
NCCW	National Council on Child Welfare
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ORE	Other Resources Emergency (emergency thematic funding)
ORR	Other Resources Regular (thematic funding)
PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
RR	Regular Resources
RSF	Rapid Support Forces
S3M	Simple Spatial Survey Method
SAF	Sudanese Armed Forces
SCCW	State Council on Child Welfare
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals (or Sudanese Pound)
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SPLM/N	Sudan People's Liberation Movement/North
UASC	Unaccompanied and Separated Children
UN	United Nations
UNAMID	United Nations African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations Refugee Agency
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNITAMS	United Nations Integrated Transitional Assistance Mission in Sudan
USD	United States Dollar
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A year after the start of the political transition and the signing of a peace agreement, humanitarian needs continue to rise across the country. These needs are primarily driven by poverty, conflict and climate change, and are exacerbated by decades long underdevelopment. The Sudan 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) points to 12.7 million people – 28 per cent of the population – in need of humanitarian assistance throughout 2021. This is 3.4 million people more compared to 2020.

Despite the many challenges in 2020, planned targets for addressing child protection were surpassed. This was demonstrated through improved legislation and policies, as well as integration of child protection concerns in health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education services and addressing violence, abuse and exploitation. In addition, child victims of violence benefitted from better access to care, support, justice and other services needed to ensure their physical, mental and social well-being.

Results

- The year 2020 witnessed the government adoption of improved child protection legislations, strategies and policies that support prevention and response to child violence, abuse and harmful practices. These were integrated across education, health and social welfare sectors. The criminalisation of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), harmonising the definition of the child across laws, and the prohibition of corporal punishments were major achievements for UNICEF. This reflected the political commitment towards addressing issues related to children and women in Sudan. The social welfare system was strengthened, with an increased number of social workers deployed as well as the development of a mandatory training manual for social workers.

- UNICEF's continuous support and advocacy to strengthen the justice for children system in Sudan resulted in the significant decrease of children in detention (from 207 per 100,000 children in 2019 to 174 per 100,000 children in 2020).

- 179,962 children in humanitarian situations (92,455 girls and 87,507 boys) benefitted from psychosocial support. In addition, 175,546 children (68,676 girls and 106,870 boys) benefitted from social and legal services offered by the family and child protection units (FCPUs), including prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV). Further 15,590 children (1,147 girls and 14,443 boys) who were registered as unaccompanied or separated, were reunified with family members or caregivers.

- The formal foster care system was further strengthened, providing the protective environment and improved living conditions in families for over 5,894 children. For this purpose, UNICEF supported the establishment of case management to ensure proper placement of children and close follow-up and monitoring for children after their placement. The adoption of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for professionals working with children without parental care is another major development for proper case management.

- The adoption of new legislative frameworks, strategies and action plans on FGM/C and child marriage laid the groundwork for significant political change. The first FGM/C case before the court in Khartoum state is a positive sign of operationalising the amendment and bringing justice for children. Awareness raising efforts on the harmful consequences of FGM/C contributed to less girls below fourteen years of age being cut (from 31 in 2014 according to the MICS to 28 per cent according to the S3M conducted in 2019).

Challenges

The main challenges encountered during the reporting period are related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which had a negative impact on project implementation due to restrictions on gatherings and movement (inter-state travel), campaigns, trainings, and supply distribution. This was combined with the difficult economic situation (high inflation rate, shortages of

commodities), the refugee crisis in the Eastern States and internal conflict in West Darfur. The extended school closures also had adverse effects on children's protection and wellbeing. UNICEF continues to provide psychosocial support and family tracing and reunification for children affected by conflict and other crises. The influx of Ethiopian refugees in eastern Sudan raises many protections concerns that need immediate prevention and response services.

The significant disparities in service coverage remained a key challenge to narrowing equity gaps in (previously) inaccessible areas in Blue Nile, Darfur (Jebel Marra) and Kordofan states. In 2020, the humanitarian-peace-development approach was applied as a key entry point to provide multisectoral reintegrated basic services to children affected by armed conflicts across Sudan and include peacebuilding and social cohesion programmes being implemented in Blue Nile, Darfur, and Kordofan.

Looking to the future

There is hope for the future. The newly appointed ministers of the government, as well as negotiations between different armed groups with positive signs of reaching agreement, present a good opportunity to get things right. Establishing peace, ending the economic crisis, as well as the engagement and empowerment of young people and women who were so critical to the change process, have been clearly identified as key government priorities.

As per the rolling work plan 2021-2022, UNICEF's child protection programme will continue to focus on:

- Strengthening the child protection system through legal and institutional reforms.
- Protection of children in armed conflict and implementation of the peace agreement, focusing on the release and re-integration of children associated with armed groups, as well as addressing grave violations through the monitoring and reporting mechanism (MRM).
- Improving the social welfare and justice for children system through access to child-friendly services.
- Prevention of harmful practices against children, with a focus on the prevention of female genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) and child marriage, ending child recruitment and abandonment of babies.
- Preventing and responding to the separation of children.
- Conducting a 'violence against children' study as well as an assessment of the situation of children in Khalwas (Qur'anic schools).
- Establishing a comprehensive child protection information management system (IMS).

SITUATION IN SUDAN

Sudan is the third largest country in Africa occupying approximately 1.9 million square kilometres (almost half the size of the European Union) and is home for a rapidly growing population of 41 million people. More than half of Sudan's population are children. Spurred by a high population growth of 2.4 per cent, Sudan is experiencing a demographic shift towards a youth-based population. However, limited livelihood opportunities exist for youth, resulting in an increased risk of militarisation and recruitment of unemployed adolescents and youth into militias as well as in temporary and permanent migration within Sudan but also increasingly beyond its borders

Bordering some of East Africa's most unstable countries, Sudan receives high numbers of refugees from neighbouring Ethiopia, Eritrea, Chad, Central African Republic and South Sudan. At the beginning of 2021, Sudan hosted more than one million refugees and asylum seekers, including more than 810,000 South Sudanese refugees; the second largest figure in the region (after Uganda)[1] as well as some 60,000 Ethiopian refugees who recently fled conflict in the Tigray region. As such, Sudan is both a temporary and a long-term host country for refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants as many choose to move onwards to North Africa and Europe and Sudan

[1] UNHCR: Sudan Population Dashboard: Refugees and Asylum-seekers (as of 28 February 2019).

stands prominently at the crossroads of the large, complex and constantly evolving Horn of Africa migration route.

Migration and displacement are fueled by political instability, poverty, conflict and climate change. The already dire situation of children and families has been exacerbated amid the ongoing severe and acute economic crisis. National poverty levels have risen drastically, with the most vulnerable populations bearing its brunt. Incomes, wages and purchasing power have fallen, driving 9.6 million people - almost a quarter of the entire population of Sudan - to severe food insecurity. With over half of households not able to meet basic daily food requirements[2]. Vulnerable communities have resorted to reducing meals, switching to cheaper and less nutritious foods, selling livelihood and household assets, to the detriment of future generations and at the risk of creating poverty traps[3]. Others have spent less on health and education and have for example withdrawn their children from schools.

COVID-19: an additional burden

Sudan's health system is on the brink of collapse with significant shortages of medicines across the primary health care system and hospitals. In 2020, thirteen out of Sudan's eighteen states, experienced one or more outbreaks of chikungunya, dengue fever, rift valley fever or diphtheria. Medical facilities across the country faced shortages of essential drugs, further weakening the national response. The economic crisis has dangerously degraded the already weak, underdeveloped and heavily underfunded primary healthcare system and weak, ageing water and sanitation services.

The COVID-19 pandemic compounded the already dire public health situation in the country. UNICEF has shifted personnel and resources towards the efforts to prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19 in-country and to prepare and strengthen Sudan's capacity to respond to the crisis, while also looking to secure the continuity of other ongoing and critical humanitarian life-saving response activities.

Looking to the future

Yet, in this glooming picture there is hope. The new transitional government, and signed peace agreement present an unprecedented opportunity to get things right. Establishing peace, ending the economic crisis, as well as the engagement and empowerment of young people and women who were so critical to the change process, have been clearly put at the fore by Abdalla Hamdok, Prime Minister for the Transitional Government of Sudan.

The current momentum calls for action to capitalise on a potential shift to an enabling environment. It presents an opportunity to work on sustaining peace, capacity-strengthening and community empowerment. Going beyond treating the symptoms of vulnerability - such as acute malnutrition, poor health status or poor learning achievements - and focusing on opportunities to strengthen the capacities of service providers, systems and communities.

UNICEF, given its mandate spans across the humanitarian-development-peace continuum, continues to take a lead role in working in close collaboration with key UN and NGO partners in developing a humanitarian, development and peace nexus (HDPN) approach to coordination and programming in Sudan. This includes response to emergencies and lifesaving needs, investment in preparedness and resilience, seeking durable solutions for displaced people, supporting conflict prevention, social cohesion and peacebuilding, planning for longer-term development, and building and working with national capacities.

[2] Integrated Food Security Phase Classification estimates from World Food Programme (WFP), 2019. West Darfur State was not analysed by the state-level
technical working group; counting West Darfur, figures were estimated around 6.2 million.

[3] Impact of economic crisis: household economic situation and coping mechanisms: Khartoum state.

CHILD PROTECTION SITUATION

Children of Sudan are deprived largely due to socio-economic factors, hazards and shocks that leave them at risk of violence, exploitation and abuse. According to the 2019 State of the World's Children Report (SOWC), the occurrence of child labour is 18 per cent (20 per cent boys and 16 per cent girls). Child labour restricts children's access to education and exposes them to work that is age-inappropriate, dangerous or harmful for their development. Children engaged in mining is a particular big challenge, especially in the Kordofan region, leading to high school drop-out. Children also work as cattle herders or are used as cheap labour in gum arabic production. The adoption of the regulation in October 2020 will support the improvement in this area.

Sudan is among the five countries with the highest prevalence of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) with 87 per cent of women aged 15-49 years, and 31 per cent of girls below fourteen years of age being cut. As such, prevalence in Sudan is just below Somalia (98%, 46%), Guinea (97%, 45%), Djibouti (93%, 43%). The country also ranks high when it comes to child marriage (34 per cent of girls is married before the age of 18 years, and 12 per cent of girls is married before the age of 15 years) and lack of birth registration (SOWC, 2019).

In Sudan, 64 per cent of children below fourteen years of age experienced various forms of violence. Children, particularly boys, are actively participating in armed conflict. The ratio children in detention reached 238/100,000. More than 32,407 children across all eighteen states (13,183 girls and 19,224 boys) were in contact with the law as victims, witnesses and alleged offenders. While diversion outside the judicial system increased, children in contact with the law still face lengthy judicial procedures and can be placed in pre-trial detention even for petty offences.

Many children in Sudan are not living with their families, mainly due to armed conflict, displacement and poverty. Only 82 per cent of children below eighteen years of age are living in a family environment, while 3.5 per cent live without their parents, including children living on the streets, or those in armed groups, engaged in child labour such as gold mining, or residing in institutions (UNICEF, 2019).

RESULTS

OUTCOME 1

By 2021, more girls and boys are protected from violence, abuse and exploitation and benefit from improved response and prevention systems

Indicators	Baseline	Target 2020	Results 2020
Children in detention (per 100,000)	207 (2019)	174	164
Number of children living in formal foster care	5,780 (2019)	6,266	114 (48 girls and 66 boys) (cumulative 5,894 children)
Percentage of girls (under 14) undergoing FGM/C	31.5 per cent (2014)	28.5 per cent	31.5 per cent
Percentage of women (20-24) married before 18	38 per cent (2014)	32 per cent	38 per cent

UNICEF's continuous support and advocacy to strengthen the justice for children system in Sudan resulted in the significant decrease of children in detention (from 207 per 100,000 in 2019, to 174 per 100,000 in 2020). It is worth noting that COVID-19 prevention measures positively influenced UNICEF Sudan's advocacy with the judiciary to release all children in detention for small offenses.

Due to the small spaces in detention centers, physical distancing could not always be maintained, and girls and boys were therefore released and reunified with their families (or provided with age-appropriate alternative care arrangements). Only murder and rape related cases were kept in detention, in most cases for their own protection from the communities and due to the legal framework for such crimes.

Abandonment of children born out of wedlock continues as a big challenge due to the stigma associated with unmarried mothers, and only the Maygoma Orphanage in Khartoum accommodates more than 350 children. Poverty and the economic situation are one of the main challenges hindering adoption (as per the kafala system, Islamic adoption). In spite of these challenges, UNICEF continues its advocacy and campaigns to move children from institutions to alternative family care. These interventions resulted in the formal foster care system being strengthened. This enables the provision of a protective environment and improved family-based living conditions for over 5,894 children without parental care.

UNICEF supported the establishment of a case management and information management system to ensure proper placement of children without parental care and close follow-up and monitoring for children after their placement. The adoption of the SOPs for professionals working with children without parental care is another major development for proper case management. However, cross-border case management remains a challenge due to insufficient information-sharing among the child protection actors including but not limited to police, judicial authorities, prosecutors and civil society organizations in neighbouring countries. UNICEF with the support of the regional office is leading an initiative for cross boarder mechanism between Sudan and Egypt that will help proper coordination and case management of cross border cases.

The child protection information management system (IMS) is currently being rolled-out under the PRIMERO system, which is an open-source software system that will help partners securely and safely collect, store, manage, and share data on case management and incident monitoring. The benefit of this new system is that it utilises technology enhancements to manage individual cases and services (case management) for survivors as well as aggregate incidents. The roll-out is ongoing with participation of UNHCR, Save the Children, Plan Sudan under the leadership of the child protection sub-sector and will be an important step towards ensuring smoother case management through quality services mapping as well as updated referral pathways.

Despite the challenges, the continuum of care and protection services continued over the reporting period (even during the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown).

- 179,962 children in humanitarian situations (92,455 girls and 87,507 boys) benefitted from psychosocial support.
- 175,546 children (68,676 girls and 106,870 boys) benefitted from legal and (psycho)social support in the family child protection units (FCPUs), including prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV).
- 15,590 children (1,147 girls and 14,443 boys) who were registered as unaccompanied or separated, were reunified with their families.

UNICEF is playing a leading role when it comes to protection of children in armed conflict, especially regarding the release of children from armed forces and armed groups. In 2020, 58 children were released from armed forces and groups and plans – including joint verification missions – for their release were put in place. However, much of the work was delayed as the Juba Peace Agreement process took longer than expected.

The adoption of new female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) and child marriage legislative framework, strategies and action plans have laid the groundwork for positive change. The first FGM/C case before the court in Khartoum is a positive sign of operationalising the amendment and bringing justice for children affected by this violation. Awareness raising efforts on the harmful consequences of FGM/C contributed to less girls aged below fourteen years being cut (from 31 in 2014 according to the MICS to 28 per cent according to the S3M conducted in 2019).

OUTPUT 1.1

Strengthened and more effective child protection legislation, policies and budget are integrated across sectors.

Indicators	Baseline	Target	Result 2020
Number of new child protection laws, policies, plans and frameworks available and operationalised	9 (2019)	11	14
Number of social workers in the country	12 per 100,000 people	12 per 100,000	50 social workers appointed in North Darfur and West Kordofan. 100 under process in Khartoum.

Enhanced child protection legislation and policies were integrated across sectors – including social protection, social welfare, health and education – to prevent and respond to child separation, violence, abuse and exploitation, as well as harmful practices. Greater political will among policymakers and civil society led to the harmonisation of the Criminal Act with the 2010 Child Act and Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its optional protocols, as well as other human rights instruments and treaties.

The criminalisation of FGM/C, harmonising the definition of the child across laws, and the prohibition of corporal punishments, were major achievements for UNICEF. This reflected the political commitment towards addressing issues concerning children and women in Sudan. The social welfare system was strengthened with an increased number of social workers deployed. Besides, the development of a mandatory training manual for social workers and a review of the university social work curricula also helped to improve basic social services.

1.1.1. Support policy advocacy and legal reform in support of the country transition and peace processes

Pursuant to the provisions of the constitutional document for the transitional period of 2019, the Sovereign Council and the Council of Ministers issued amendments to existing laws that has been published in the official Gazette on 13 July 2020.

Amendments were made to the following laws:

- The Criminal Law 1991
- Criminal Procedure Act 1991
- Traffic Law 2010
- Political Parties Law 2007
- National Security Law 2010
- The Passports and Immigration Act of 2015
- The Public Prosecution Act of 2017

The amendments to these laws was a positive sign and reflected a change of mindset of the new political leadership in the country. One of the big achievements for women is the amendment to the Passports and Immigration Act of 2015. This includes repealing article 12, requesting the consent of the male guardian of a child under the age of 18 to be able to travel with her/his mother. Other positive developments include: the criminalization of FGM/C, unifying the definition of the child as 'anyone who does not exceed the age of 18', increasing the age of criminal responsibility from 7 years to 12 years, as well as prohibiting the inflicting of the death penalty on children.

The adoption of number of a number of bylaws are an additional asset to implementation of the Child Act during 2020. This has been enhanced by the adoption of two major Rules and Regulations (R&Rs), namely positive behaviour and prohibited sanctions (corporal punishment) in educational settings and prohibition of hazardous work. Several standard operating procedures (SOPs) have been adapted including, but not limited to, SOPs for professionals working with children without parental care.

Harmful practices are rooted in cultural beliefs. Therefore, behavioural change interventions related to girls and women were implemented in communities. Awareness raising efforts on the harmful consequences of FGM/C contributed to less girls under fourteen years of age being cut (from 31 in 2014 according to the MICS to 28 per cent according to the S3M conducted in 2019).

The Technical Committee of the Council of Ministers approved the strategy and action plan on ending child marriage and submitted the plan to the two councils (Sovereign and Ministers) for their final approval.

Advocacy for progressive allocation of government resources for staffing of the social welfare and justice for children systems continued. This progress reflects the commitment of the Government of Sudan to child protection issues and ensure child rights budgeting is being taken seriously.

1.1.2. Support the social welfare institutional reform including social workforce policy

The Government of Sudan, with the support of UNICEF, continues to implement the 'social service workforce mapping' (which was published in September 2019). During 2020, and in collaboration with the Economic and Social Research Bureau of the Ministry of Higher Education, the assessment of the social work curricula in more than thirteen universities across Sudan was finalised. The assessment identified the gaps in the curricula and recommendations to address these gaps.

The mandatory training manual for social workers was finalised and the roll-out will start in 2021. In addition, a law for the establishment of a professional social workers council was drafted and consultations are ongoing with social workers for it final adoption.

During 2020, with the support of UNICEF, 150 social workers were appointed in Khartoum, North Darfur, and West Kordofan which will support prevention and response services to the most vulnerable children.

1.1.3. Generate Evidence and strengthen data, knowledge management, monitoring and reporting

In 2020, two research studies on *children on the move* were conducted with the support of UNICEF's Office of Research (INNOCENTI) and the International Social Service (ISS) institute. The validation and development of the two studies, as well as the development of an action plan for the implementation of the recommendation, by government officials is expected to improve the quality of services and improve the lives of girls and boys on the move.

An assessment on children living in institutions provided information on the gaps in social services for children without parental care and highlighted the need for a greater focus on de-institutionalisation and provision of age-appropriate, alternative family care.

As a result of these studies, the Government of Sudan and partners developed an action plan covering the four identified thematic areas in the two reports namely: legal reform, case management, improved services, and cross-border collaboration. Implementation of the action plan started under the leadership of the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW). A Sudan/Egypt cross-border collaboration concept note was developed and shared with the two governments in preparation for the joint meeting that is proposed to take place in March 2021 under the leadership of UNICEF's Regional Office.

To ensure more protection for children without parental care, the Minister of Labour and Social Development, issued a decree establishing a committee to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the situation of children in institutional care across Sudan. The assessment was finalised beginning of 2021 and will be validated during the first quarter of this year together with an action plan for the implementation of the recommendations.

OUTPUT 1.2

Service providers at the state and local levels in UNICEF-targeted areas have strengthened capacities and deliver quality specialised child-protection services with appropriate referral mechanisms in place

Indicators	Baseline	Target	Result 2020
Number of UNICEF-targeted children in humanitarian situations benefitting from psychosocial support	245,366 (46.9 per cent girls) (2019)	245,366	179,962 (92,455 girls and 87,507 boys) in 2020 and 425,328 (48.8 per cent girls) cumulatively.
Number of children who benefited from FCPU services, including prevention and response to GBV	151,920 children (59,372 girls and 92,548 boys) (2019)	161,920 children (65,372 girls and 96,548 boys)	175,546 (68,676 girls and 106,870 boys)
Number of UNICEF-targeted children in humanitarian situations registered as unaccompanied or separated who were reunified with family/caregivers.	11,378 (58.8 per cent girls) (2019)	11,778 (70 per cent girls)	15,590 (1,147 girls and 14,44 boys) in 2020 and 26,968 (29 per cent girls) cumulatively.
UNICEF-targeted children released from armed forces/groups who were reintegrated	43 (2019)	658	47 (4 in 2020)
Percentage of children diverted outside the judicial system	32.3 per cent	40 per cent	56.4 per cent

During 2020, 176,648 people were reached with mental health and psychosocial support interventions. The number of unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care services or reunified with their primary caregiver increased to 15,697 children. In addition, 264,367 people were reached through prevention and response to violence services, which is more than double the target identified at the beginning of the year. The COVID-19 pandemic outbreak required more attention to gender-based violence (GBV) risk mitigation, prevention and response.

UNICEF's leading role in child protection, especially when it comes to grave violations of children's rights (such as recruitment of children), has opened the door for civil society partners to play their part in child protection, especially the prevention of violence against children. It is worth mentioning that protection in general has been a sensitive area within government structures. These actions in addition to UNICEF's role in building child protection capacity, systems and

processes has contributed greatly in broadening engagement by different partners and to the achievement of increased protection for vulnerable boys and girls.

1.2.1. Strengthen the capacity of the professional working on alternative care, promote de-institutionalisation and prevent separation of children.

During 2020, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development and the Khartoum State Ministry of Social Development, identified children without parental care as key priority area for response. The following actions were taken: increasing the salary and entitlements for caregivers in institutions to ensure provision of proper services, signing an agreement with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development with the approval of the Ministry of Finance to increase the number of social workers in Khartoum state (an additional 100 social workers), and adoption of SOPs for professionals working with children without parental care. All these developments resulted in 6,266 children being placed in alternative family-based care (under Kafala, Islamic adoption). The below chart illustrates the increase during 2018, 2019 and 2020.

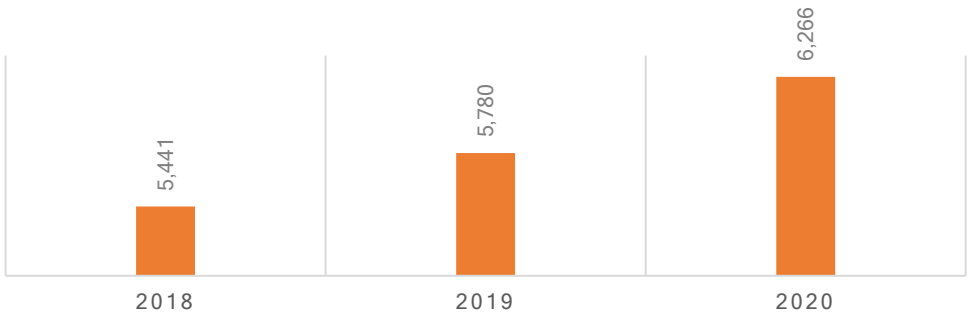


Figure 1: Children in the kafala system.

Further, 15,697 separated and unaccompanied children (501 girls and 15,196 boys) were identified and provided with alternative care services or reunified with their families. The large number of children reached was due to the release of children living away from their families/primary care givers in Khalwas (Qur'anic schools) around Sudan.

UNICEF and partners – through the National Committee for Alternative Care – strengthened the collective monitoring of the institutions that accommodate children, including the Maygoma orphanage in Khartoum.

1.2.2. Build the capacity of justice and law enforcement and scale up diversion and access to justice services

Children in conflict with the law (offenders) continued to benefit from alternative measures to detention, including diversion of pre-trial detention. This could be achieved thanks to the strong partnership with the national mechanisms for the FCPUs, as well as the contribution of civil society organisations. A total of 25,456 children in contact with the law (10,025 girls and 15,431 boys) - including victims, witnesses or alleged offenders - as well as children on the move in 77 localities in all states, benefitted from child-friendly protection services in one-stop centers for medical, psychosocial and legal support. A total of 3,594 children - constituting 56.4 per cent from the total child offenders' cases - were diverted outside the justice system.

Analysis of the data from FCPUs across the country is providing useful information on the number of child offenders per state. The below charts provide more visualisation on the situation of children in contact with the justice system in Sudan.

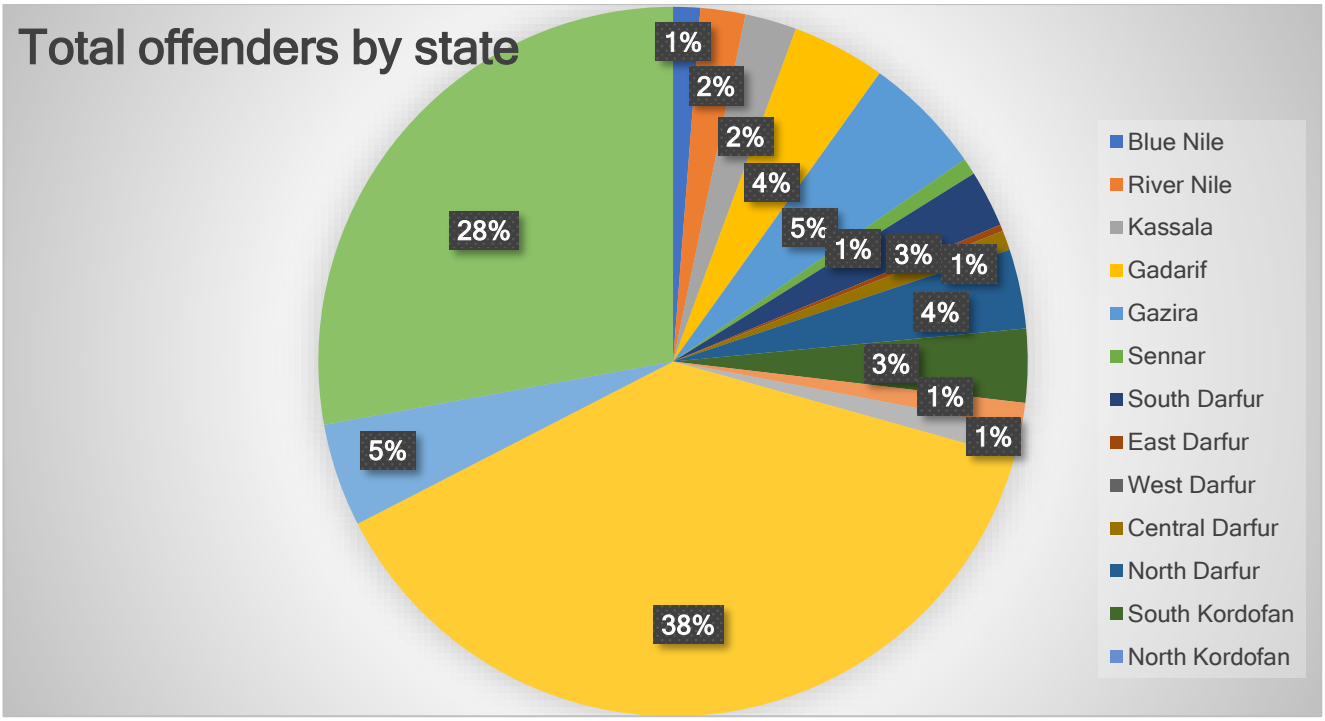


Figure 2: Total child offenders per state

From the total number of child victims of offences, 76.2 per cent are victims of non-sexual victims (out of this percentage, 60.4 per cent of victims were male). While from the 23.8 per cent of victims of sexual offences, 53.9 per cent of victims are girls, as indicated in the below chart.

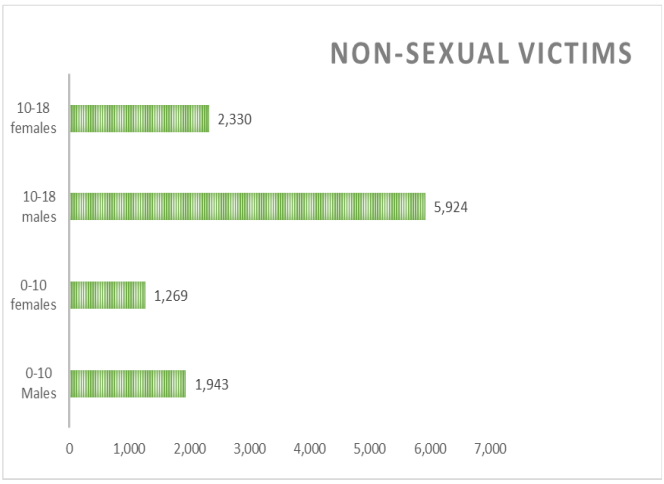


Figure 3: Sexual and non-sexual victims (age/gender)

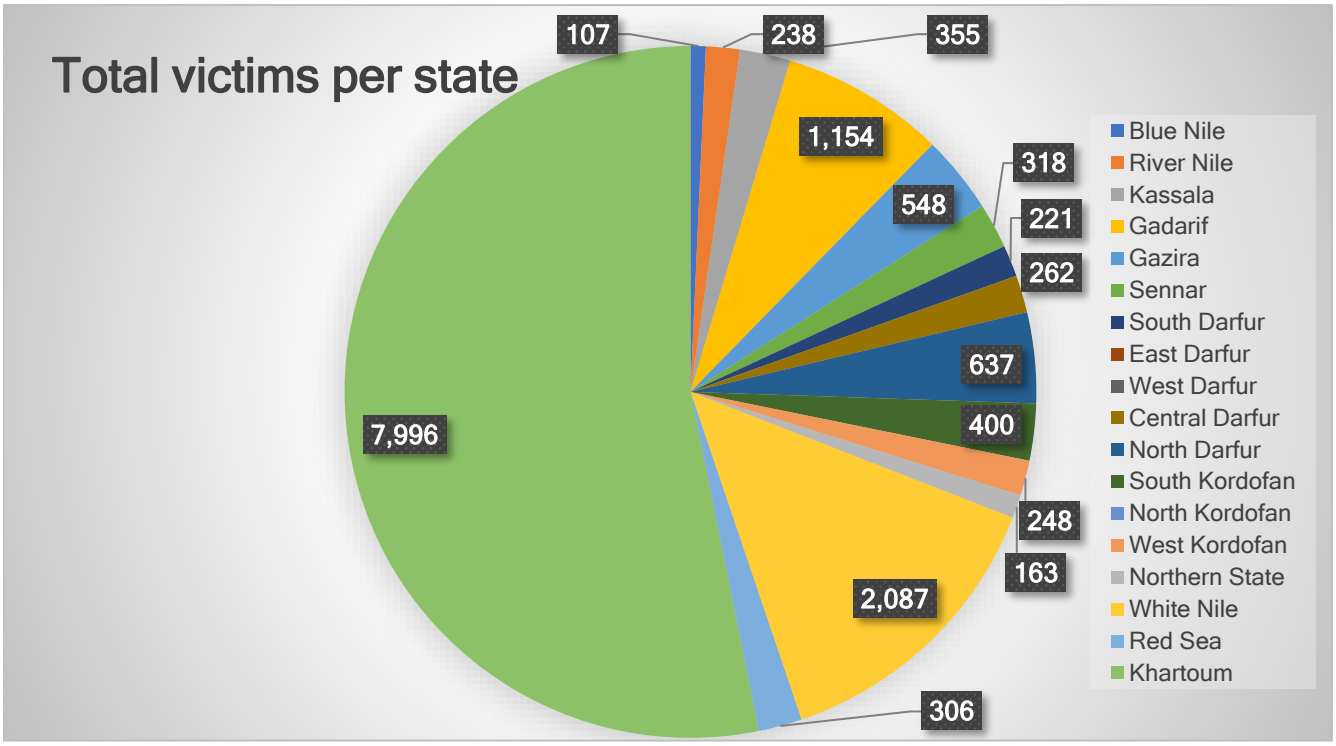
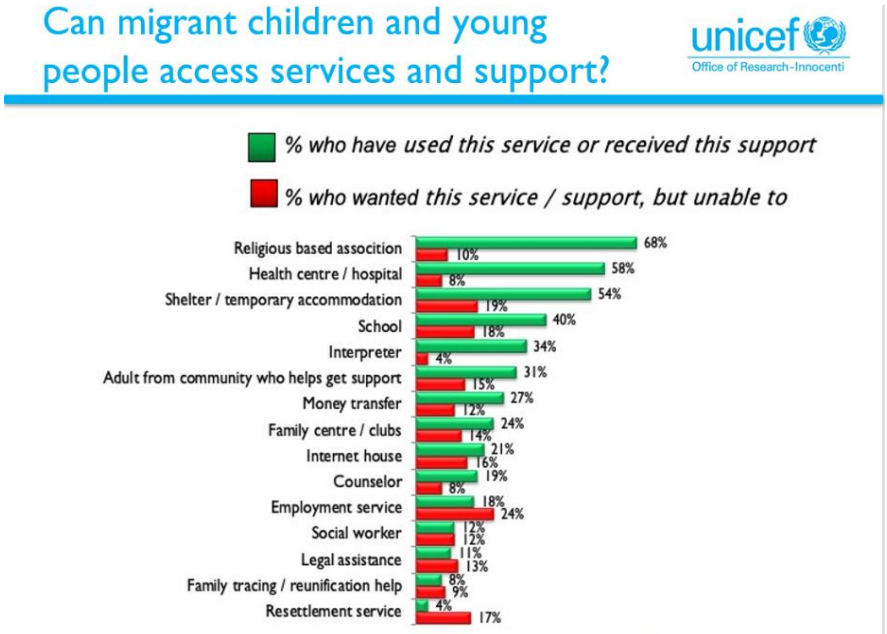


Figure 4. Total number of victims per state

The above chart indicates that Khartoum, White Nile, Gedaref and Gezira have the highest number of child victims for both sexual and non-sexual offences.

Training of law enforcement officials by the Judicial and Legal Science Institute, the Training Department of the Ministry of Interior, and the General Prosecutor Offices continues across Sudan, reaching out to more than 1,000 legal personnel in 2020.

1.2.3. Support capacity-building and institutional development for children in the move



The research study conducted by UNICEF's INNOCENTI institute identified clear gaps in services.

When comparing the percentage of children who were able to use a service with those who had wanted to but were unable to, it shows that highest demand is for religious associations. Overall demand for these associations from children and young people was 78 per cent, followed by 73 per cent for shelter/accommodation, 66 per cent for health center/hospital and 58 per cent for school. Among children, the demand level was 83 per cent for school. Overall, one in four (24 per cent) children and young people wanted to and/or used a social worker.

There was significant difference in access to key services by nationality. Ethiopians were significantly less likely than their Sudanese or Eritrean counterparts to be able to access key services, including schools, hospitals, counsellors and social workers. These results indicate that Ethiopians face more barriers in accessing services than other nationalities. It may be that language plays a role, as Eritreans are more likely to have studied Arabic prior to traveling and have at least a basic knowledge of Arabic. It may also be a result of discrimination or poor integration of this community.

Despite the significantly lower levels of access to services among Ethiopians, however, they did not express significantly more demand for them. This lack of demand is likely partly explained by the fact that Ethiopians tended to have been in their current location for less time than their Sudanese and Eritrean counterparts (only 38 per cent of Ethiopians had been in place more than a year, as compared with 50 per cent of Eritreans and 72 per cent of Sudanese). However, this is likely not the whole story as 49 per cent of Ethiopians had been in place at least six months, which is a considerable amount of time. It is likely that other factors, perhaps less awareness about available services or frustration about making demands that remain unmet, also contribute.

During 2020, the total number of children on the move who received services in nine states are 91,693 children (46,927 girls and 44,766 boys).

1.2.4. Provision of integrated, gender-sensitive, humanitarian services including re-integration and case management based on the child protection Core Commitments for Children and emergency, peace and development nexus.

The year 2020 has been very for children caught in emergencies, due to the different crises that hit Sudan in the past year. These crises included heavy rains and floods (the 'worst in a century'), political changes, intercommunal conflicts, disease outbreaks including the COVID-19 pandemic, and the deteriorating economic conditions. In addition to that, the peace process and humanitarian access to new areas that were inaccessible for more than a decade in the Blue Nile, South Kordofan and Darfur states provided additional challenges.

As a result, there is a growing need for more humanitarian support in different parts of the country. UNICEF and partners still managed to reach 176,648 people with mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), which represents around 63 per cent of the 2020 target. The full target was not achieved due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent prevention measures, which caused the closing of schools and child-friendly spaces; the major platforms for provision of MHPSS services.

In collaboration with the Child Rights United of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF), Dallaire Institute supported the development of a training manual with wide consultations from both SAF and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). UNICEF expects that the number of children associated with armed groups is significant, and with the signing of the Juba Peace Agreement, more children are expected to be released in 2021.

1.2.5. Provision of birth registration services particularly to vulnerable children and victims of violence.

Registration of birth, as the first right of a child, is a passport to security, access to education, and good health for children. It is the foundation of any effort to invest in people. Birth registration establishes formal proof of a child's name, existence and age. This proof can help protect a child against child marriage, recruitment into armed forces or groups, against child labour, and against being prosecuted and sentenced as an adult in the justice system. A birth certificate, as proof of birth, can assist in tracing unaccompanied and separated children. For an orphan, a birth certificate provides proof of parentage and helps to secure inheritance rights. Not being counted leaves a child vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, which is particularly crucial for children from marginalised groups.

During 2020, UNICEF Sudan made significant progress in birth registration. The birth registration system review (which indicates an increase in birth registration from 67 per cent in 2015 to 77 per cent in 2020) was finalised. The validation of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the registration of the most vulnerable children, the amendment to the Civil Registry Regulation of 2005 from a child lens, development of a legal document on free birth registration, and the establishment of twelve birth registration offices in Kassala, North Darfur and West Darfur states were all considered major success in 2020.

Midwives played an important role in the birth registration process. A mapping of midwife services in Sudan was conducted, which showed that the total number of midwives in Sudan stands at 15,409 (of which only 3,919 midwives are officially registered with the Ministry of Health). UNICEF Sudan reached an agreement with the Ministry of Health to include a chapter on birth registration in the midwives training manual. The development of the chapter started and is expected to be finalised by the end of this year (2021).

UNICEF adopted multiple strategies to increase the coverage of birth registration. These strategies include advocacy and high-level engagement of state policy makers, health workers and improved coordination between stakeholders.

Awareness raising for service providers and community members has been one of UNICEF's key area of intervention. The training of 240 government staff and community leaders, whom reached 60,212 people in Blue Nile, Kassala and North Darfur states with awareness messages on the importance of birth registration. In addition, 160 youth in West Darfur were reached with such messages. A total of 66,228 girls and boys were registered during the reporting period.

To improve access to birth registration through education institutions/services, five capacity-building workshops were conducted in five localities in Kassala state for 235 staff from the State Ministry of Education (47 per cent women). The workshops discussed the importance and procedures of birth registration as well as the role of Ministry of Education staff to ensure children have access to birth registration services. The trained staff conducted five school-based awareness activities in five localities, which were attended by more than 3,200 people, including 1,150 children, expected to increase birth registration through education.

OUTPUT 1.3

More communities have strengthened mechanisms to protect children from violence, abuse, and exploitation including female genital mutilation and child marriage.

Indicators	Baseline	Target	Result 2020
Number of communities that have participated in a public declaration of support for the abandonment of FGM/C	1,154 (2019)	1,204	1,195 (41 in 2020)
Number of active community-based child protection networks	830 (2019)	934	934
Number of at-risk adolescents equipped with knowledge and life skills that reduce their vulnerability and protect them from violence.	142,832 (51.8 per cent girls) (2019)	147,832 (52 per cent girls)	145,733 (51.5 per cent girls)

Forty-two (42) communities made public declarations to join the Saleema[4] 'FGM free' movement and protect girls from the ordeal of female genital mutilation. More than 273 communities established structures that enabled them to conduct 14,866 dialogues on Saleema. Ten communities piloted the risk mapping and early warning system on FGM and child marriage. A total of 107,278 children and adolescents were encouraged to, and participated in, communication discussions and social mobilisation platforms on FGM and child marriage. Boys and men were engaged in community advocacy sessions on social norms as well.

1.3.1. Scale-up community engagement and social movement for abandonment of social norm and harmful practices including FGM/C and child marriage, child recruitment

During 2020, forty-two communities (42) were declared FGM free and joined the Saleema movement, including six communities that held public declaration ceremonies. This came as a result of UNICEF community engagement efforts that reached more than 135,006 people in more than 273 communities in the nine programme states (Blue Nile, Gedaref, Gezira, Kassala, Khartoum, North Darfur, North Kordofan, South Kordofan, and White Nile). A total of 14,866 community dialogue sessions for social mobilisation to support the Saleema movement were conducted, while other communities continued to receive programme support to move towards or maintain their status as FGM-free. Strengthened national and local level supported social movements to end FGM, advance the rights of women and girls, and promote youth empowerment and participation. A diversity and depth of organised social groups were mobilised to scale up FGM prevention, protection, and care though the health sector continued to be key focus.

Further, 49,133 girls and 25,342 boys have enhanced knowledge on FGM/C through established child clubs. A total of 1,221 child clubs were reached with Saleema messaging on FGM/C in schools in Blue Nile, Gezira, Khartoum North Darfur and White Nile states.

The adoption of the road map for the implementation of Article 141 in collaboration with the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW) will support the enforcement of the FGM law. National, state, and locality-level coordination of FGM activities continued under the leadership of the Government of Sudan l. On-going support for integration of FGM into national plans and policies, as well as targeted FGM policies and action plans also remained an area of key focus.

With the technical and financial support from UNICEF and partners, the development of the National Child Marriage Strategy (2020-2025) together with the Action Plan was finalised and approved by the Technical Committee of the Council of Ministers and will be adopted by the two councils.

1.3.2. Prevent and respond to violence against children.

Violence against children occurs in different settings: community, school, home, institutional care, justice institutions and places of work. School and home environments are the most important influence in a child's life, and therefore should provide an environment that is physically safe, emotionally secure and psychologically enabling. Parents and teachers are the single most important factors in creating a safe environment for children. Violence against children in the family may frequently take place in the context of discipline and takes the form of physical, cruel or humiliating punishment and neglect. Victimisation of students by teachers, administrators, and other school staff, most often in the name of discipline, is seldom recognised for its potential to contribute to student misbehaviour, alienation, and aggression.

[4] The Saleema Initiative is a Sudanese government programme, with technical and financial assistance from UNICEF, and provides positive communication tools that support the protection of girls from female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), particularly in the context of efforts to promote collective abandonment of the practice at community-level. The broad objective is to change the way that people talk about FGM/C by promoting wide usage of new positive terminology to describe the natural bodies of girls and women.

During 2020, UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development (MoLSD and NCCW reached a milestone on agreeing to conduct two major studies related to 'violence against children' in Sudan and assessment of the situation of children in Khalwas (Qur'anic schools). These two studies will inform evidence-based interventions to address the issues holistically.

1.3.3. Support children and adolescents' active engagement through Generation Unlimited/CASI/UPSHIFT through sensitisation, life skills training and capacity building with more emphasis on girls

Addressing the vulnerability of children on the move is integral to strengthening children and adolescents' resilience, empowering them to protect themselves from violence.

The financial and livelihood opportunities mapping for adolescents and young people contributed to the adjustment of the programmatic focus and led to 145,733 adolescents (51.5 per cent girls) benefitting from meaningful life-skill training and are now better equipped with life skills, knowledge and awareness on financial literacy in 2020. In collaboration with the education section through the UPSHIFT[5] social entrepreneurship programme, a global Generation Unlimited empowerment model that targets vulnerable and at-risk adolescents and young people, by equipping them with social innovation skills.

1.3.4. Support communication for development (C4D) within child protection sector

Introducing communication for development (C4D) as an integral part of the annual work plan of the child protection section has been helpful in looking into how to look at child protection from different angles, especially reaching out to communities through structured interventions. Together with C4D, a campaign on ending child recruitment started with the focus on the role of the community in encouraging children to join either armed forces or groups.

Partnerships

The existing strategic partnerships with both financial and non-financial partners, continued to contribute to sustainable changes for children under the child protection programme component. These partners include the European Union (EU), governments of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom, as well as sister UN agencies (UNFPA, WHO, UNAMID, UNHCR, IOM) and non-governmental and civil society organisations.

According to the UN Security Council Resolutions 2525 (2020) and 2524 (2020), UNAMID started its draw-back as of 31 December 2020 and the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) will be established. This means the arrival of a new strategic partner with a robust mandate for child protection. UNICEF continued to partner with the National and State Councils for Child Welfare (NCCW/SCCW) and Ministry of Labour and Social development. The ongoing crisis in the Tigray region of Ethiopia has led to an increased collaboration with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to respond to the protection needs of the children in Blue Nile, Gedaref and Kassala states of Sudan.

[5] UPSHIFT programme combines social innovation workshops, mentorship, incubation and seed funding, to equip young people with the skills and resources they need to identify problems in their own communities and design solutions for them. Sudan has embraced UPSHIFT as a new model to help create a generation of empowered, resilient, employable adolescents who are change agents in their societies.

CHALLENGES

- Political instability in the country continues to be a challenge, along with changes at the decision-making level in the Government of Sudan. UNICEF works with technical staff within the different government institutions in order to help the continuation of the programme implementation.
- The impact of COVID-19 and the imposed lockdown delayed many interventions due to restrictions on gatherings and movement of staff. However, this also presented an opportunity to support the release and reunification of number of children in conflict with the law and children in Khalwas (Qur'anic schools).
- The current economic crisis presents a significant challenge, as more children are in need, but resources are limited (due to discrepancy between official and market rate of the Sudanese Pound). The entire social system is fragile and overstretched at all levels. The economic reforms, particularly subsidy reforms, are increasing poverty and deprivation. The recent government decision to devaluate the Sudanese Pound will have a positive impact on UNICEF's ability to implement, however the situation needs close monitoring over the next weeks and months.
- The security situation and eruption of political instability and tribal conflicts in different parts of the country, is adding another layer of vulnerability for the children in Sudan. UNICEF is leading the advocacy at different levels to have access to previous inaccessible areas in Blue Nile, Darfur (Jebel Marra) and Kordofan states.
- The high turnover of justice professionals, insufficient deployment from the Ministries of Labour and Social Development and the dramatic changes and restructuring of the relevant transitional government institutions led to lack of institutional memory and continues to be a significant bottleneck for ensuring continuity of quality services to children in contact with the law. The investment by UNICEF in the development of mandatory training manuals and their inclusion within the different government training institutions, limited to some extent the impact of this challenge. UNICEF also keeps up its advocacy efforts to increase the number of social workers in all states.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education, as well as with the Economic and Social Research Bureau, highlighted the need to improve our partnership with academic institutions. These institutions have strong research capacity and good networks with universities in other states.
- Seeing adolescents and youth involved in leading the political change highlighted the need to focus on empowering children to innovate and participate in change – encourage them to be change agents. This has been done through the establishment of child rights clubs and scaling-up of girls' clubs. The UPSHIFT social entrepreneurship programme is another example of adolescent and youth empowerment and of them taking leading roles in their communities.
- COVID-19 provided an opportunity for those children to escape the harsh realities of the *Khalwas* and a chance to be safely reunited with their families and communities. As COVID-19 safety measure, family tracing and reunification was conducted with a special focus on children between the age of 5 to 12 years, especially girls. 14,170 children (694 girls and 13,476 boys) without parental care have been provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements, and if possible were reunified with their families in the different states.
- As the community transmission of COVID-19 is on the rise in Sudan, a multi-sectoral 'whole of UNICEF' approach has been promoted. The aim is to ensure access to healthcare and essential services at the targeted health facilities in an integrated manner, to contain the spread of COVID-19 and limit fatalities. This approach covered all child protection measures including psychosocial support and gender-based violence interventions to including the children without parental care.
- Emergency preparedness plans in a country like Sudan need to be given priority, since many emergencies have repetitive annual patterns and therefore, UNICEF can to some extent predict these crises.
- Innovative approaches, such as WhatsApp groups in White Nile state, have enabled access to target populations in remote rural areas sharing information and reporting cases of FGM/C and child marriage, assist in ensuring the secure and timely protection of girls against FGM/C and child marriage.

FUTURE WORK PLAN

In 2021, and with the rolling work plan 2021-2022 in place, UNICEF will intensify its efforts and provide technical support to the Government of Sudan, to continue the development and endorsement of the child focus legislations, regulations and policies and their enforcement. UNICEF will continue working with partners on justice for children, to ensure the restructuring within the Ministry of Interior includes the establishment of the General Directorate for Family and Child Protection, which will help leverage resources and mitigate the issue of turn-over of staff. UNICEF's child protection team will work with partners – including federal and state authorities and the armed groups – to provide protection services and reintegration packages for the expected release of children from armed groups as part of the implementation of the Juba Peace Agreement.

UNICEF's will focus its child protection work in 2021 on:

- The continuation of the legal and institutional reform and ensuring harmonisation with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and other international human rights treaties.
- Establishing the comprehensive child protection information management system, to ensure timely and proper intervention.
- Supporting evidence-based intervention through studies and researches namely: conducting the 'violence against children' study and the assessment of the situation of children in Khalwas (Qur'anic schools).
- The scaling-up of UNICEF's work related to peace, with more children associated with armed conflict expected to be identified and reintegrated.
- The finalisation of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) mandatory training manual and its roll-out will increase the knowledge of the armed forces on child rights and grave violations of child rights and support the protection of children in armed conflict.
- The provision of child protection specialised services to unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), children on the move, and children in contact with the law – with appropriate legal, medical and psychosocial services.
- Scaling-up birth registration efforts.
- Empowering adolescent and child participation – encouraging them to be 'change agents.
- Continuing the behavioural change in addressing social norms, related to child marriage, FGM/C, child recruitment and abandonment of infants.

Given that 65 per cent of the Sudanese population are under 25 years of age, getting things right for children, adolescents and youth in the immediate and longer term, will to a great degree determine how successful Sudan will be in the future. Urgent action is needed to make a critical difference in the most vulnerable children's lives in the next months, and years to come.

CASE STUDY: CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW

Background:

Children in Sudan have been severely impacted by ongoing violent conflict in the country. The killing, injury, sexual violation of children, and recruitment of child soldiers has been documented in the context of the country's internal conflicts. There is generally a lack of timely, gender-sensitive, age-specific, preventative and responsive child protection services with adequate case management protocols; limited access to a continuum of care and lack of clear referral pathways to health services and social protection schemes. As a result, children and community understanding of their rights and where and how to find protection is limited. Additional factors that impact the welfare and treatment of children in contact with the law include stigma, a limited legal framework, and religious beliefs that may affect attitudes and conduct toward children in Sudan.

Many crimes against children, particularly those involving sexual violence, go unreported due to fear of social stigma and lack of child-friendly mechanisms. Children who violate the law are treated within the criminal justice system and detained as adults without any consideration to

their age and the impact of this on their wellbeing and the future re-integration in their communities.

Based on Sudan's obligation after its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1990, the Government of Sudan began the establishment of the 'justice for children' system, to serve children in contact with the law as victims, witnesses and offenders. The first family and child protection unit (FCPU) became operational in Khartoum by the end of 2006. Following a decree of the Sudan Police Force General Commissioner issued in September 2007, all states were requested to establish a FCPU as a replication of the unit in Khartoum state. In addition, the Child Act (2010) legally obligates the states to establish FCPUs. Chapter 11 of the Child Act (2010) elaborates on the functions of the FCPUs and the rights of children in contact with the law, including child victims, witnesses and offenders. As per the Child Act, a FCPU is working in an inter-disciplinary manner with the existence of different professionals (police investigators, social workers/psychologists and medical/forensic staff).

Challenges faced by children in contact with the law

Children in contact with the law are encountering many challenges related to the existence of the specialised justice services for children, along with social stigma around children in contact with the law.

The legal framework was not supportive in addressing the challenges that the children are facing and deals with them as criminals, using the criminal law which in reverse does not help in their rehabilitation and re-integration in the communities. Law enforcement officials lack the capacity and skills to address the children in contact with the law and are not aware of the child-friendly justice for children and the specialised services provided to these children. These factors influenced and motivated UNICEF to embark on the protection of the children in contact with the law. Each year, more than 30,000 children (alleged offenders, victims and witnesses) are supported.

UNICEF's response

Under the umbrella of the broad 'justice for children' programme, efforts have resulted in legal and institutional reforms. The scope and importance of FCPUs has rapidly grown. In 2020 a total of 26,884 children (10,470 girls and 16,414 boys) in 18 states had increased access to justice and benefited from child-friendly legal, social, psychosocial and medical services provided by FCPUs.

The administration of justice improved through the establishment of the whole system including child prosecutors, child judges and social welfare system. These actors are benefiting from training on child-friendly procedures and work together with social workers from the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), under the umbrella of the FCPU, to provide one stop centre (medical, legal, social and psychosocial) services for children in contact with the law (witness – victim – alleged offenders) and children in need of care and protection who are in contact with the FCPUs.

Another component of the programme is to raise awareness of child rights and the justice for children mechanisms among children and adults in the community, which supported the increase in the demand and reporting violence cases.

Other actions taken:

- The inclusion of the Justice for Children system and the establishment of specialised institutions in the Child Act 2004 and 2010. UNICEF also led the harmonisation process of the Criminal Law with the Child Act.
- Advocating for setting the definition of a child as anyone who did not exceed the age of eighteen and increasing the age of criminal responsibility from seven to twelve years of age.
- Fighting for the prohibition of the death penalty and life imprisonment from being inflicted on children.
- Prioritising diversion outside the judicial system and alternative measures to detention at pre-post trials and detention only as a last resort and for the shortest period possible.

- Supporting the establishment of Family and Child Protection Units, which started with one FCPU in Khartoum state and increased to 18 FCPU at state capitals and 77 at locality levels (also called One Stop Centres).
- Establishing the multi-dispensary approach through the establishment of child prosecutors and judges and social services at FCPUs.
- Supporting the establishment of the helpline 9696 (to report cases of violence, exploitation and abuse, and receive legal and social support through specialised well-trained social workers).
- Strengthening the referral system to and from FCPU that includes health and education as well as referral to specialised GBV institutions.
- Establishing an administrative data system that informs all intervention services at the level of the children and communities.
- Conducting an evaluation of the FCPUs to assess the impact, challenges and recommendations on how to improve the system.[6]
- Managing the stigma surrounding the children in contact with the law through finalising a communication strategy and promoting key messages.
- Effective government and civil society organisations partnerships. This was evidenced by the support of the civil society organisations in the provision of free legal aid services in number of states.
- Promotion of changes in attitudes, procedures and laws relating to children in contact with the law.
- Development of justice training manuals for police, prosecutors and judges.
- Development of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for professionals working in the FCPU.
- Establishment of communities to support the diversion outside the judicial system efforts.

Opportunities

- In this current period of political change in Sudan, we see opportunities for child rights to feature more heavily at decision-making levels of the government. We see that the Ministry of Interior could have a more pro-active role in establishing the FCPUs, as well as the possibility for the State Councils for Child Welfare (SCCW) to lead on the coordination of the establishment of the National and State Councils for Child Welfare.
- Enlist the commitment of the Chief of Justice, and for a legal framework to be in place and in line with the international and regional standards (e.g. the Child Act 2010, and judicial circulars).
- We see opporrtunity for the ratification of the CRC and the African Charter on the Rights of Welfare of the Child.

Lessons learned

- We see that although they are classed as offenders of the law, these children are, in the majority of instances, victims.
- Public communication activities cannot fill gaps created by inadequate or poorly functioning services. For a communication intervention to have its planned impact, services must be functioning well enough to meet an initial surge in demand and then to provide effective long-term support to the subsequently larger number of children placed within the justice system.
- Close monitoring of the system is crucial to ensure protection of children who are in contact with the system.
- The role of the community is crucial as a support mechanism for both the children and their re-integration, and to support the formal system in implementing diversion outside the judicial system.

[6] The purpose of this evaluation was to assess the extent to which the Justice for Children system reform in Sudan, during the period 2007-2017, has contributed to: 1) Protection of children in contact with the law as victims, witnesses and alleged offenders, 2) Reduction in the deprivation of liberty for children in conflict with the law, 3) Increase in the use of diversion from the judicial process, 4) Enhanced national legislation, regulations and procedures, as well as the enhanced application of relevant legal standards for children, 5) Increased awareness of children and communities of child rights and related legislation, 6) sustainability of services for children in contact with the law.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

UNICEF Sudan would extend its heartfelt appreciation to all our donors who continued to support us or even scaled-up their support during the remarkable year 2020. UNICEF and partners reached millions of girls and boys with often lifesaving interventions, which would not have been possible without the generous funding received. Thanks to the support from our donors, UNICEF can continue its mission to meeting the needs and fulfilling the rights of the most vulnerable children, their families and communities.

Flexible and unearmarked funding for UNICEF's child protection interventions is crucial as it provides us with greater flexibility to ensure all parts of our programme and a timely response. These types of funds allow us to have a bigger and more effective impact on the lives of vulnerable and marginalised populations in a highly volatile, complex and dynamically evolving context like Sudan.

FEEDBACK FORM

UNICEF is working to improve the quality of our reports and would highly appreciate your feedback. The form is available on line at this link: English version or French version.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

TABLE ONE: Planned budget for 2020 (in US dollars)

Intermediate result	Funding type	Planned budget
Output 1.1. Strengthened and more effective child protection legislation	RR	132,050
	ORR	1,872,266
	ORE	1,316,249
	Total	**3,320,565**
Output 1.2. Service providers have strengthened capacities and deliver quality specialised child-protection services	RR	330,125
	ORR	4,680,663
	ORE	10,000,000
	Total	**15,010,788**
Output 1.3. Communities have strengthened mechanisms to protect children from violence, abuse, and exploitation including FGM/C and child marriage	RR	198,075
	ORR	2,808,396
	ORE	1,316,249
	Total	**4,322,720**
	RR	660,250
	ORR	9,361,325
	ORE	12,632,498
	Total	**22,654,073**

TABLE TWO: Thematic contributions received for child protection in 2020 (in US dollar)

Donors	Grant number	Contribution amount	Programmable amount
SIDA Sweden	SC 18990500	1,482,543.67	1,296,365.70
	SC18990900	320,970.16	234,028.43
Total		**1,803,513.83**	**1,530,384.13**

TABLE THREE: Thematic expenses for child protection in 2020 (in US dollars)

Row Labels	Expense
Other Resources - Emergency	**10,103**
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	9,471
23-02 Harmful practices (FGM/C and child marriage)	230
23-03 Access to justice	402
Other Resources - Regular	**3,038,676**
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	2,079,755
23-02 Harmful practices (FGM/C and child marriage)	606,984
23-03 Access to justice	351,937
Grand Total	**3,048,779**

TABLE FOUR: Expenses for child protection in 2020 (in US dollars)

Row Labels	Expense
Other Resources - Emergency	**3,742,534**
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	3,049,062
23-02 Harmful practices (FGM/C and child marriage)	160,824
23-03 Access to justice	532,647
Other Resources - Regular	**10,763,682**
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	7,824,004
23-02 Harmful practices (FGM/C and child marriage)	1,195,552
23-03 Access to justice	1,744,125
Regular Resources	**1,120,268**
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	958,604
23-02 Harmful practices (FGM/C and child marriage)	24,114
23-03 Access to justice	137,549
Grand Total	**15,626,483**

TABLE FIVE: Expenses by specific intervention codes in 2020 (in US dollars)

Row Labels	Expense
23-01-01 Legal and policy framework related to violence, exploitation and abuse	151,331
23-01-02 Services to prevent or respond to violence, exploitation and abuse	3,022,171
23-01-03 Services to prevent or respond to gender-based violence in emergencies	3,004,584
23-01-04 Psycho-social support in emergencies	73,315
23-01-05 Social welfare workforce systems strengthening (accreditation, staffing and supervision)	158,873
23-01-06 Public finance management for child protection	124,999
23-01-07 Administrative data and Information Management System (IMS)including CPIMS+, GBVIMS+, MRMIMS+	267,745
23-01-08 Family reunification in emergencies - prevention and response	104,478
23-01-10 Children associated with armed forces and armed groups - prevention and response	518,298
23-01-16 Parent/caregiver education and programmes on violence, exploitation and abuse - 8 to 18 years	187,895
23-01-19 Violence, exploitation, and abuse - surveys (e.g. KAP, VACS), data analysis/research/evaluation evidence generation, synthesis, and use	72,238
23-01-20 Protective services for children on the move	1,234,637
23-01-23 Child Protection humanitarian AoR/humanitarian sector coordination	32,573
23-01-99 Technical assistance - Prevention and response services for violence against children	808,262
23-02-02 Legal and policy framework related to child marriage	60,052
23-02-06 Harmful practices - planning, co-ordination and programme monitoring	224,718
23-02-09 Social and behaviour change communication related to FGM/C	841,723
23-02-99 Technical assistance - FGM/C	30,432
23-03-01 Promoting diversion and alternatives to deprivation of liberty	879,426
23-03-03 Access to child-friendly police and justice sector services	80,194
23-03-05 Alternative care reform and service provision	354,040
23-03-07 Justice, birth registration/CRVS, and alternative care - planning, co-ordination and programme monitoring	712,512
26-01-02 Programme reviews (Annual, UNDAF, MTR, etc.)	14,216
26-02-01 Situation Analysis or Update on women and children	21,592
26-02-02 MICS - General	-76
26-02-04 Stimulating demand for and capacity to use data	4
26-02-06 Analysis of data	6,716
26-02-08 Programme monitoring	7,049
26-02-09 Field monitoring	40,564
26-03-03 Children, adolescent and youth engagement and participation	3,980
26-03-04 Community engagement, participation and accountability	26,607
26-03-07 Strengthening C4D in Government systems including preparedness for humanitarian action	56,812
26-03-99 Technical assistance - Cross - sectoral communication for development	134,280
26-05-06 Building global / regional / national stakeholder evaluation capacity	4,152
26-05-11 Building global / regional / national stakeholder research capacity	9,746
26-06-04 Leading advocate	273,056
26-06-06 Supporter engagement	122,716

26-07-01 Operations support to programme delivery	1,726,190
27-01-06 HQ and RO technical support to multiple Goal Areas	5,333
27-01-15 CO programme coordination	110,612
27-01-16 CO advocacy and communication	50,044
28-07-04 Management and Operations support at CO	68,391
Grand Total	**15,626,483**

TABLE SIX: Planned budget for 2021 (in US dollars) [7]

Intermediate results	Funding Type	Planned Budget	Funded Budget	Shortfall
06-01 Data and Child Protection	RR	44,017	0	44,017
	ORE	666,666	300,000	366,666
	ORR	438,208	324,817	113,391
06-02 Child Protection systems	RR	132,050	132,050	0
	ORE	1,316,250	152,172	1,164,078
	ORR	2,000,000	591,892	1,408,108
06-03 Violence, exploitation and abuse	RR	642,491	0	642,491
	ORE	477,428	267,230	210,198
	ORR	1,000,000	596,400	403,600
06-04 Justice for children	RR	132,050	132,050	0
	ORE	1,316,250	552,172	764,078
	ORR	2,000,000	591,892	1,408,108
06-05 Birth registration	RR	132,050	132,050	0
	ORE	1,316,250	552,172	764,078
	ORR	2,000,000	591,892	1,408,108
06-06 Child Protection and emergencies	RR	132,050	0	132,050
	ORE	1,591,225	239,896	1,351,329
	ORR	508,000	61,369	446,631
06-07 Child Protection - strengthen families and communities	RR	198,075	198,075	0
	ORE	809,144	0	809,144
	ORR	879,200	210,383	668,817
06-08 Child Protection - General	RR	200,000	0	877,428

[7] In addition, UNICEF Sudan needs USD 11,770,000 child protection funds to respond to emergencies in 2019.

	ORE	877,428	826,000	51,428
	ORR	1,495,728	727,778	767,950
Total Budget		**20,304,560**	**7,180,290**	**13,124,270**

All expenses are provisional and subject to change.

Contact Address
Saja Abdullah
Deputy Representative a.i.

Email: sabdullah@unicef.org

UNICEF Sudan
P.O Box 1358, Khartoum, Sudan

United Nations Children's Fund
Sudan Country Office

PO Box 1358
Gerief west [Manshiya],
First District H, Plot 6/3
Telephone: +249 (0) 156 553 670
Facsimile: +249 (0) 183 587 741

www.unicef.org/sudan
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