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# SUDAN CHILD PROTECTION

GLOBAL THEMATIC REPORT  
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Cover photo: Girl play outside Maimoona Bint-Al-Harith Secondary School for Girl in Khartoum. Sudan.

The school's building, sports, water and hygiene facilities are in dire state. UNICEF has identified this school for rehabilitation and is supporting the Ministry of Education to for repair, maintenance, construction and upgrading the sports, water and sanitation facilities at the school.

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## ACRONYMS

AFC	Alternative Family Care
AUHIP	African Union High-Level Implementation Panel
CBCPNs	Community Based Child Protection Networks
CERF	Consolidated Emergency Relief Fund
CHF	Common Humanitarian Fund
CPAP	Country Programme Action Plan
CPMS	Child Protection Minimum Standards
CTFMR	Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting
DFID	Department for International Cooperation – UK
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
ENMAC	National Mine Action Center
FCPU	Family and Child Protection Unit
FGM/C	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
FTR	Family Tracing and Reunification
GBV	Gender Based Violence
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JEM	Justice and Equality Movement
J4C	Justice for Children
MICS	Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey
MoSD	Ministry of Social Development
MoWSS	Ministry of Welfare and Social Security
MRM	Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism
NCCW	National Council for Child Welfare
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NM-FCPU	National Mechanism for
OR	Other Resources
RSF	Rapid Support Forces
PSS	Psychosocial Support Services
RR	Regular Resources
SAF	Sudanese Armed Forces
SCCW	State Council for Child Welfare
SCI	Save the Children International
SGBV	Sexual Gender Based Violence
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SLA/MM	Sudan Liberation Army/Mini Minawi
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPLM/N	Sudan People Liberation Movement/North
UASC	Unaccompanied and Separated Children
UNAMID	United Nations Mission in Darfur
UNDOC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations' Children Fund
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance

## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The current context in Sudan is one of ongoing protracted and multi-faceted needs, with more than two million internally displaced people and displacement-affected communities, a total of 1.2 million refugees and vulnerable communities including significant numbers of children requiring assistance, combined with underdevelopment and a need to address the root causes of vulnerability, including conflict and climate change. In this context, multiple activities need to run concurrently across the humanitarian-development-peace equation, sometimes in the same geographical areas, to adequately address needs in ways that can achieve a sustainable impact. 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.

In 2018, Sudan also faced an intense economic crisis, characterised by extreme inflation and shortages of basic commodities after administrative austerity measures were adopted in January 2018. Rather than alleviate the crisis, these measures had a paralysing effect on the economy throughout the year, causing a severe shortage of fuel and other commodities such as bread and increasing social tensions. Restrictions on bank withdrawals also caused a liquidity shortage, causing a slowdown in humanitarian and development operations by the government, international and national Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and development partners.

After Sudan fully implemented the *action plan on the protection of children in armed conflict*, the Government of Sudan's commitment to protect children continues. Through the continuation of the high and technical committees that follow-up on increased protection for children in conflict situations. Following the development of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on the release of children from armed forces, security forces started the roll-out and ensured capacity building of officers on this topic. The Government of Sudan, in consultation with affected states, has also finalised the desk review in preparation of the national strategy to prevent grave violations against children.

Capacity building trainings were carried out for law enforcement officials and social workers, in the field of rule of law, child rights, justice for children and child-friendly interviewing practices. More than 500 stakeholders were reached in the different states of Sudan. Accessibility to a child-friendly justice system increased with the construction of additional Family and Child Protection Units, Child Prosecution Offices and Child Courts.

UNICEF contributed to the strategic child protection goal that every child is protected from violence, exploitation, and abuse, specifically to the following outputs and results:

- OUTPUT 1** Strengthened and more effective child protection legislation, policies and budget are integrated across sectors.
- OUTPUT 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.
- OUTPUT 3** More communities have strengthened mechanisms to protect children from violence, abuse, and exploitation including FGM/C and child marriage.

The key results achieved are (amongst others):





- Approximately 628,700 child victims of violence were supported by different government interventions to access [specialised child protection services](#) for legal, social, medical and psychosocial support.
- A total of 31,251 children (8,050 girls and 23,201 boys) at risk of becoming the victim of violence, abuse and exploitation benefited from [preventive and responsive justice services](#).
- With the de-listing of Sudan from the UN Secretary General's Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict and adoption of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the [release of children from armed groups](#) and the complaint mechanism, notable progress was made in strengthening the enabling environment for [support to children in humanitarian settings](#).
- With the influx of South Sudanese refugees and emergencies in different states of Sudan, 194,551 children (94,548 girls, 100,003 boys) benefited from integrated [psychosocial support](#) services through child-friendly (education) spaces.

Despite the achieved results, UNICEF Sudan faced several challenges in programme implementation. The economic crisis adversely impacted UNICEF Sudan's programme delivery. Fuel shortage and increase in overall operation costs caused delays in procurement and service delivery. UNICEF Sudan, particularly its field offices, coped with the lack of fuel and currency through advocacy with government counterparts. The needs of UNICEF's partners were outlined to state line ministries so that they were prioritised within state allocations and measures could be taken to reduce complications arising from lack of fuel.

In addition to inflation and lack of supplies, the restructuring of government ministries and the reorganisation of intrastate boundaries created uncertainty. Ministerial decision-making required for programme implementation was sometimes delayed. There was also a concern that combining different localities could raise tensions as previously separated tribal structures were adjusted to new compositions. The new government structure will become more visible in 2019, as official decisions will be made by state governments. UNICEF Sudan has been mitigating risks by using previously established working relationships with specific line ministries to monitor the situation and strengthen the pre-positioning of life-saving supplies.

As per the Country Programme and Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) 2018-2021, UNICEF's child protection programme will continue to focus on four thematic areas:

- Implement the *action plan on the protection of children in armed conflict*. Re-integrating children associated with armed groups and addressing grave violations through the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM).
- Justice for children (access to child-friendly services).
- Prevent harmful practices against children, with a focus on the prevention of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) and child marriage.
- Prevent and respond to the separation of children.

## II. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

On the political level, the situation in Sudan is characterised by the existence of unresolved internal conflicts and unfulfilled political reform. While the security situation relatively improved, it remained volatile. The comprehensive implementation of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) roadmap to end the armed conflicts in Darfur, Blue Nile, and South Kordofan, and on the National Dialogue remains the basis for efforts to attain sustainable peace required to end long-standing armed conflicts in the country.

The economic situation reached a point of ‘instability and dysfunction’ (according to the World Bank).<sup>1</sup> In September, the Sudanese Government adopted a series of austerity measures, including a major cabinet reshuffle, additional exchange rate devaluation and further restrictions on bank withdrawals. However, these measures were unable to stabilise the situation, and long queues continued at cash machines, fuel stations, and bakeries across Sudan. In December, following public demonstrations and protests, a state of emergency and school closures were imposed in several cities and towns, causing major disruption in children’s access to basic services, especially in education and health care. Economic insecurity was also an important driver in government restructuring and reorganisation of presidential, executive, and national state governance bodies in terms of objectives, ranking, and mandates.

The security situation in Darfur remained relatively stable in 2018. Areas held by opposition groups in Jebel Marra in Darfur, the Nuba mountains in South/West Kordofan, and in some parts in Blue Nile remained inaccessible, but there were some improvements to access hard-to-reach localities closer to the front lines in government held areas. Inter-agency mission assessments conducted in areas such as Mistariha, Otash and Hissahissa camps, Rokero, Thur, East Jebel Marra, and Golo uncovered severe humanitarian needs in health, food/nutrition, education, shelter, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and protection areas. Sporadic fighting during 2018 also meant that the numbers of displaced populations continued to generate vulnerability, mostly among children and women.

The implementation of the March 2016 action plan to protect children from grave violations, signed by the Government and the United Nations, led to the delisting of the Government of Sudan’s security forces from the Secretary-General’s annual report on children and armed conflict. This development led to more protection of children in conflict areas and political commitments from the Government of Sudan to end recruitment and to protect children from the six grave violations.<sup>2</sup>

The impact of the regional geopolitical situation, the conflicts in Syria and Yemen, and the continuous influx of Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees into Sudan’s eastern states continued in 2018. Sudan is a country of origin, transit and destination for children on the move. The country has around one million internally displaced persons and refugees from neighbouring and conflict-affected countries. More frequently, children on the move are unaccompanied or separated from their families and exposed to violence and exploitation. UNICEF – in close partnerships with UNHCR, IOM, UNFPA and UNDOC - developed a joint strategy on migration; within this framework, UNICEF focused on generating evidence, ensuring the protection of migrant children and providing child-friendly services for children on the move at border points and at the localities surrounding the main Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) and refugee camps in the Eastern part of Sudan.

Some of the important developments during 2018 that informed child protection future planning was the enforcement of the multi-sectoral and integrated approaches to achieve child protection results at

<sup>1</sup> Sudan Country Office Annual Report 2018

<sup>2</sup> See: <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/six-grave-violations/>

the household level. UNICEF was able to demonstrate tangible progress in the protection of children through integration of psychosocial support services into schools and child-friendly learning spaces; increasing the rate of birth registration and prompting the Saleema<sup>3</sup> initiatives through the engagement of health personals and the empowerment of adolescents.

Despite the achievements, these are the main challenges encountered in 2018:

- The government contribution and child-friendly budgeting remained limited.
- Newly accessible areas in east Jebel Marra came with the opportunity to develop a child protection system but was challenged by the number of reported violence cases that needed immediate response.
- Slow legal reform process hindered progress for children.
- Out-of-camp refugees were sometimes hard to reach due to security restrictions.
- Donors' interest in the response to migration and trafficking is at times more focused to certain areas in eastern Sudan, while needs are present in many states of Sudan, including but not limited to Northern and River Nile states.
- Civil unrest resulted in negative impacts on children and their right to life, freedom from torture and arrest.

Some key lessons learned are:

- Investing in disaggregated data is necessary to understand the complete picture of the situation of children in Sudan
- Strengthening of the social welfare system can be achieved through the appointment of more social workers while at the same time ensuring their fair distribution at locality level.
- Evidence-based interventions – through studies and researches – supports UNICEF's programmatic planning and response.
- Community engagement and empowerment is necessary to build people's resilience and demand for service.
- Children and adolescents' participation is the key for any desired change, just as building their life skills.

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<sup>3</sup> Saleema Initiative it is strategic approaches to influence positively the social change to abandoned FGM/C





© UNICEF Sudan/Noorani. Young boys learn vocational skills at a UNICEF-supported centre.

### III. RESULTS

#### OUTCOME 4

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

#### OUTPUT 4.1

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

#### OUTPUT 4.2

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.

#### OUTPUT 4.3

More communities have strengthened mechanisms to protect children from violence, abuse, and exploitation including FGM/C and child marriage.

## OUTCOME 4

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

Sudan's Federal Child Act (2010) enshrines the protection of key child rights in domestic law, especially through building institutional capacity at the sub-national level. UNICEF's aim is to reach the most vulnerable children (IDPS, Refugees, returnees etc.) in the most deprived localities.

Considering the protracted nature of conflict in Sudan, UNICEF directed its interventions towards building communities' resilience. Building on lessons learned, UNICEF focused its prevention and response planning on:

- Investing in children as agents of change.
- Investing in generation of evidence.
- Integrating the child protection programme with programming in other sectors, this holistic approach helped to leverage resources and achieve better results for children.
- Supporting the accessibility of services for disadvantaged and vulnerable children (through decentralisation).
- Involving academic institutions and universities.

### Activities and results achieved

- Family and child protection units have been scaled-up to cover all of Sudan's 18 states and 62 localities and annually provide child-friendly justice services to more than 30,000 children in contact with the law.
- Children deprived of parental care have access to an alternative family care policy and a national network for family tracing and reunification.
- Efforts to address female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) have resulted in legislative bans in four states and the collective abandonment of the practice in 1,085 communities. Now less women intend to cut their daughters (from 56% in 2006 to 40.3% in 2017)<sup>4</sup>.
- The effects of armed conflict on children have been mitigated through the implementation of a children's Demobilisation, Disarmament and Reintegration (DDR) programme. Through the DDR programme 2,686 children have been registered and 1,317 children have been reintegrated. Action Plans on *Protection of Children in Armed Conflict* were signed in 2016: both with the Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N). The implementation of the action plan, signed by the Government, led to the delisting of the Government of Sudan's security forces from the Secretary-General's annual report on children and armed conflict in 2018.

### Partnerships

Within the unique complex operational environment, UNICEF continued to support the delivery of tangible results for children in partnership with different actors at national, state and locality levels. UNICEF supported the capacity building of partners, from civil society to government ministries, to improve the quality of service delivery and strengthen the child protection system through development of policies, strategies, child-friendly budgeting and legal reform.

The development of the child protection system requires partnership with key stakeholders mandated through the Child Act (2010). Under the coordination of the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW) and the Ministry of Security and Social Development, these stakeholders include the Family and Child

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<sup>4</sup> Saleema M&E (2017)

Protection Units; prosecution attorneys for children; child courts; and social service offices. The Ministries of Interior and Health have key roles in strengthening the birth registration programming.

To ensure an effective multi-sectoral child protection response, UNICEF will continue to strengthen the coordination of the child protection system through synergising response efforts with bilateral donors, national and international organisations, civil society and other UN agencies (amongst others WHO and UNFPA). This will be done in close collaboration with the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW), its state-level counterparts and in partnership with the Ministries of Social Security and Development, Justice, Interior, Defense, Education, Health, as well as the Disarmament and Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission.

Under the umbrella of the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW), UNICEF closely collaborates with a diverse range of stakeholders to prevent and respond to harmful practices affecting children. These stakeholders include: religious leaders, media professionals, women's organisations, health service providers, and the private sector.

In the humanitarian context, under the coordination of the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW), UNICEF partners with the National DDR Commission, the Sudan Armed Forces, and the Ministry of Security and Social Development to strengthen the care and protection of children. Through the national Child Protection Subsector and State Child Protection Working Groups, UNICEF engages with all partners providing services to affected children and mainstream child protection into related social programmes and policies.

#### OUTPUT 4.1

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

UNICEF works with the ministries to ensure that integrated child protection legislations, policies and budget are in place and the information system strengthened to support the enabling environment for children in development and humanitarian settings.

##### 4.1.1. Policy, advocacy and legal reform

Through joint efforts with the State Council for Child Welfare (SCCW) and the Ministry of Social Development, two state laws criminalising Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) were adopted in the Northerns state and North Kordofan state. This decision by the legislative councils will contribute to reducing the practice of FGM/C and protect girls from violence. Meanwhile UNICEF and partners continued advocating at parliament level to endorse the amendment of the law to include criminalising FGM/C.

To enhance the work on justice for children and improve the delivery of services, UNICEF in collaboration with the NCCW finalised a *code of conduct* for law enforcement officials. This code will clarify the roles and responsibilities before and during trials.

The National Childhood Strategy (ensuring that all children are enjoying their rights in a protective environment) was finalised. The strategy has seven objectives: survival and life, social and cultural, protection from violence, care, welfare and participation, institutional and administrative capacity in the field of child protection, and the role of media.



#### 4.1.2. Strengthen the social welfare workforce

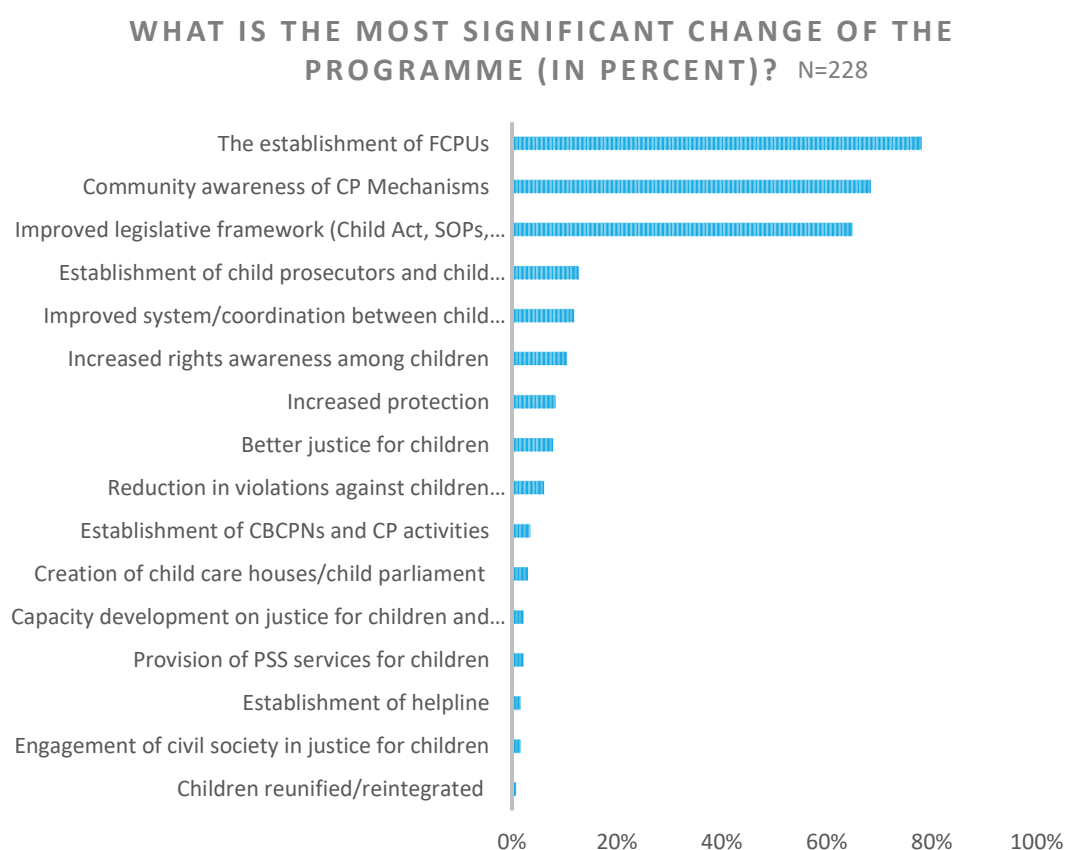
The government significantly invested in strengthening the statutory role of the ministries of social welfare; increasing the number of social workers and their distribution in different localities. This was part of a UNICEF initiative aiming to assess the social service workforce and mapping their distribution (thematic and geographical). The initial results showed an increase in the number of social workers in eleven states: 1,632 compared to 1,240 in 2015.



Graph 1: number of social workers 2015-2018

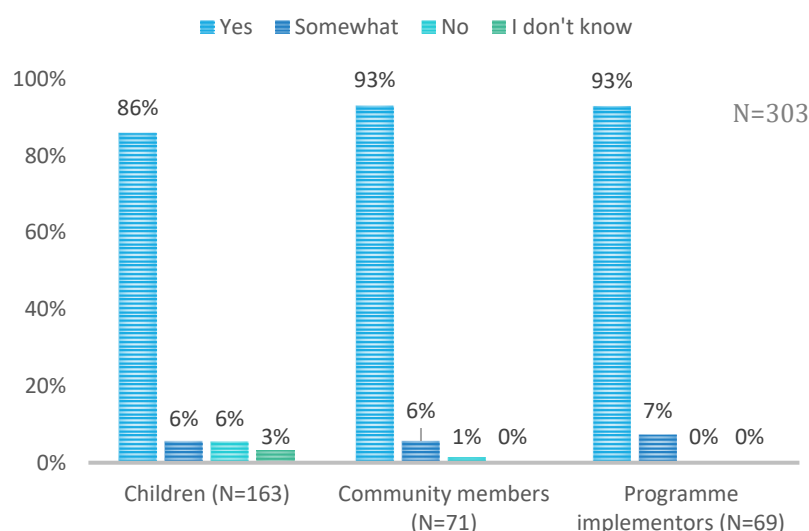
#### 4.1.3. Strengthen data, knowledge management, monitoring and reporting

Through a collaboration with the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW), the family and child protection units, the Ministry of Social Welfare, the Sudan Judiciary, the General Prosecution, and community-based organisations, an evaluation of the child justice system with a focus on family and child protection units revealed some interesting results that will inform future interventions and evidence-based planning for the improvement of the quality of services.



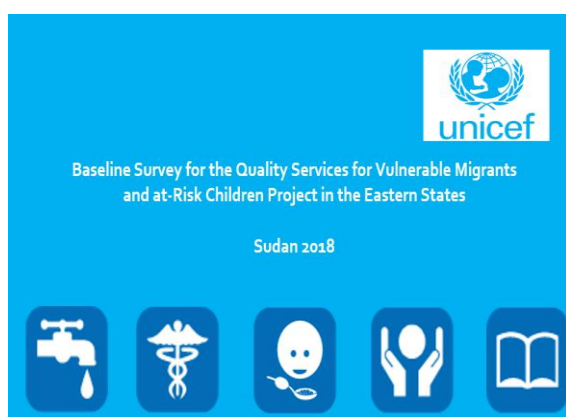
Graph 2: child justice system

### PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS THAT STATED THAT CHILDREN ARE BETTER PROTECTED FROM VIOLENCE THAN TEN YEARS AGO



Graph 3: protection against violence

UNICEF strategised its advocacy and capacity building around legal reform and the enforcement of existing legislation and plans, child-friendly budgeting, and effective coordination to create multi-sector planning mechanisms. With the support of UNICEF, the National Child Protection Information Management System (IMS) was scaled up in all of Sudan's 18 states; it generated evidence on FGM/C, child marriage and gender-based violence.



In 2018, UNICEF finalised the baseline survey on vulnerable migrants and at-risk children in selected states. The survey covers different services including Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), health, nutrition, education and protection. While most respondents indicated that their children do not attend a safe space, most of those who do have access to safe spaces are satisfied with the services provided. Community-based child protection networks are also not widely available, though community members desire to have such networks in their community.

#### 4.1.4. Mainstream child protection into social protection and social sector programmes

UNICEF introduced social protection in its programming. In February 2019, UNICEF signed an action plan on social protection with the Federal Ministry of Welfare and Social Security. Child protection is one of the major components in the action plan.



#### 4.1.5. Child protection in the humanitarian context

In 2018, the child protection subsector continued its leadership and coordination of humanitarian child protection services in Sudan. A total of sixty-three partners are involved in the coordination mechanisms, out of which twelve directly provided child protection prevention and response services to address the needs of the targeted 680,000 boys and girls.

The child protection subsector and the education sector conducted a workshop for education and child protection humanitarian partners and government actors to review and develop a conceptual framework for integrated child protection and education in humanitarian and development settings. As a result, the participants developed an integrated child protection and education programming guide and results framework that would guide their programming in 2019. The framework prioritises four main actions i) joint assessments ii) prevention and risk mitigation of abuse, exploitation and neglect against children iii) monitoring and reporting of child rights violations including attacks on schools iv) participation and empowerment of learners and teachers.

The sector continued to strengthen community-based child protection systems in areas where the United Nations African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) has closed as part of its ongoing, mandated drawdown. In the last quarter of 2018, the sector worked with the joint protection group and the protection of civilian's unit of UNAMID to develop a joint protection monitoring tool to be used for enhancing continued situation monitoring in hard-to-reach areas where UNAMID had closed. In addition, scaled-up community-based Mine Risk Education addressed the increasing number of deaths and injuries reported in parts of Darfur.

The child protection subsector together with the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW) and sector members completed the revision of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's (IASC) Child Protection Minimum Standards (CPMS). The revision, which began in September 2017, as part of a global collaborative process, reviewed and contextualised six standards namely: Standard nine (sexual violence), Standard 7 (dangers and injuries), Standard 12 (child labour), Standard 14 (justice for children), Standard 18 (excluded children) and Standard 22 (nutrition and child protection). These CPMS must lead to enhanced aspects of disabilities, gender, urban contexts, child participation, youth, refugee/IDP/migrant perspectives, infectious diseases and systems thinking. These standards provide a basis and guidance for quality child protection programmes in Sudan.

UNICEF Sudan applied and was selected to pilot a comprehensive initiative aimed at strengthening coordination support to child and adolescent survivors of sexual abuse in emergency settings. The subsector led a round table discussion aimed at harmonising data related to Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC). Three data systems were audited and synchronised (Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS), UNHCR Progress Data and ICRC data related to UASC), the subsector focused on strengthening information sharing to enhance the efficiency of the case management systems specifically for working with UASC. In 2019, the sector intends to rollout the CPIMS+ in Sudan with assistance from UNICEF.

A field guide to strengthen community-based child protection in humanitarian settings was developed with the support of the Community-Based Child Protection task force (CBCP). The purpose of the field guide was to develop an evidence-based, field-driven and practical guiding document for working with communities in humanitarian settings and is being implemented by the CBCP Task Force of the child protection subsector, co-chaired by the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW) and UNICEF in North Darfur and South Kordofan.

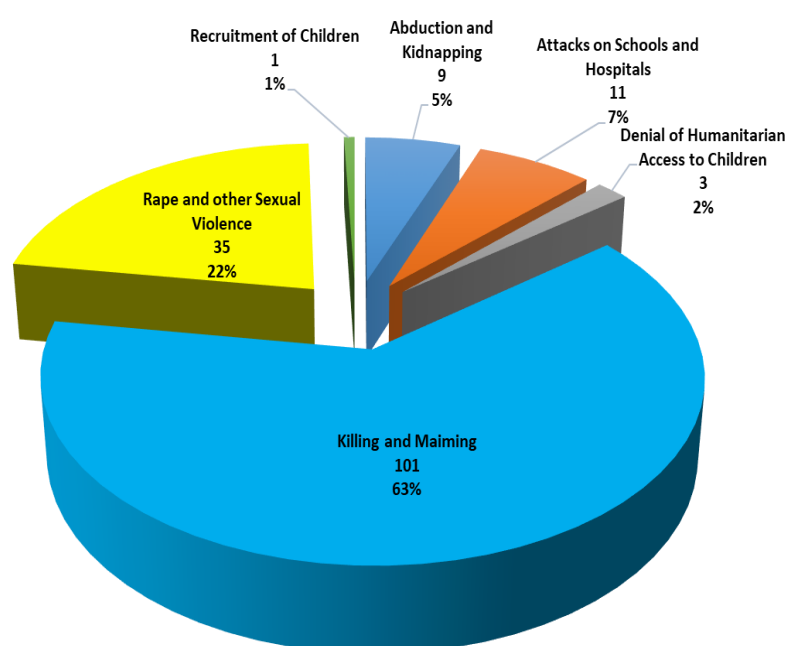
#### 4.1.6. Action plans to prevent child recruitment and other grave violations

The de-listing of Sudan from the UN Secretary General’s Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict and adoption of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the release of children from armed groups, both in 2018, notably strengthened the child protection system. UNICEF and partners have statutory and coordination mechanisms in place, which support the implementation, verification, prevention and response to (grave) child rights violations.

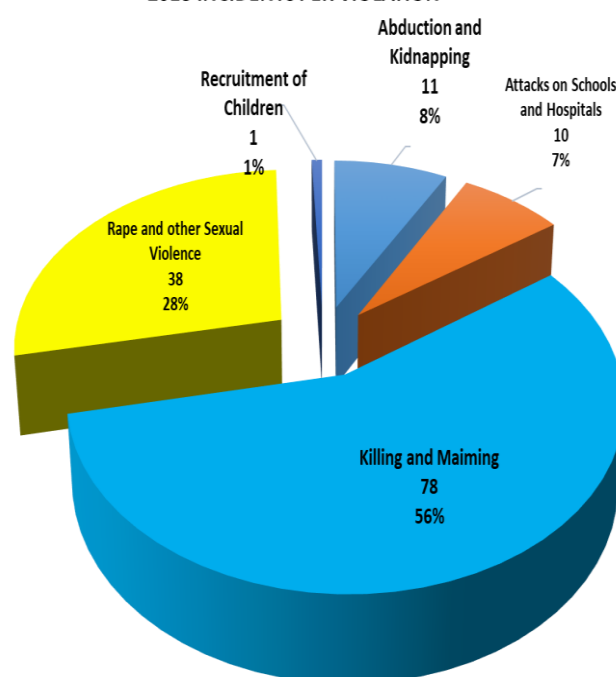
Following the development of the SOPs on the release of children from armed forces, security forces started the roll-out by building the capacity of its officers. In Kordofan, Blue Nile and Abyei, 304 members of the security forces participated in capacity building activities on the protection of children in armed conflict. The Government of Sudan has also finalised the desk review and state level consultation in preparation of the national strategy to prevent grave violations against children in consultation with the affected states.

The documentation of grave violations against children continued and informed all UNICEF intervention. Below the 2017/2018 comparison on documented cases as per the six violations against children.

#### 2017 INCIDENT PER VIOLATION



#### 2018 INCIDENTS PER VIOLATION



Graph 4: violations of children’s rights

Despite all the achievement so far, **challenges** are still encountered:

- Dealing with a diverse range of groups to deal with on the ground.
- Reluctance of some of the groups to fully comply with the signed action plans.
- Lack of access to the affected areas.
- Need of further coordination among the UN agencies on the ground.
- Verification of the age of children.

#### 4.1.7. Support Innovation on child protection and enhance visibility of the results for children

UNICEF worked closely with the government and civil society organisations to establish effective adolescent participation mechanisms. UNICEF also provided adolescents with information on their health and development in order to positively influence their attitudes and build their resilience. Through UPSHIFT - an initiative to power youth and build their skills through social innovation and entrepreneurship - and strong partnership with community-based organisations, 1,200 adolescents (50% children on the move, 50% from host communities) were trained and provided with cash-based assistance. UNICEF adolescent programming was shaped through an integrated approach with the education section. As of August 2018, 9,159 adolescents (51.8% girls) had been equipped with knowledge and life skills to reduce vulnerability and protect them from violence. Adolescents' newly acquired knowledge skills helped them to navigate difficult and risky situations as they grow to adulthood.



©UNICEF/Sudan: skills training

UNICEF supported community engagement using communication for development (C4D) strategies. The information and discussions delivered through dialogues, peer-to-peer knowledge-sharing, life skills development, and service provision led to a reduction in the practice of female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C) and child marriage. Community participation and mobilisation fostered changing perceptions on violence, exploitation and abuse and reinforced collective decision-making to change harmful practices. Traditional and religious leaders also engaged in these dialogues.

#### OUTPUT 4.2

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.

Children at risk or victims of violence in humanitarian and development settings in Sudan (including children in contact with the law, unaccompanied and separated children, children on the move, and children associated with armed groups and armed forces) accessed child protection services.

#### 4.2.1. Strengthen the alternative care system, promote de-institutionalisation and prevent separation of children



©UNICEF/Sudan: alternative family care

UNICEF, in partnership with government institutions and community-based organisations, initiated a social change campaign to support alternative family care and de-institutionalise children without parental care. The campaign resulted in 408 abandoned children (20 girls and 388 boys) being included into family-based alternative care *kafala* (Islamic adoption). This campaign helped in leveraging resources, conveying a single message, and ensuring complementarity of roles. The campaign was politically supported by the Khartoum Minister of Social Development as well as the Secretary General of the National Council for Child Welfare.

The table below summarises the results achieved through the social change campaign conducted in 2018 through its different components:

No.	Activity	Number of beneficiaries
1.	Number of children place with families (Kafala)	408
2.	Children reunified with their biological mothers	25
3.	Children in institutional care	665
4.	Follow-up and monitoring visits to children in Kafala	30
5.	Monitoring visits to institutions with children	7
6.	Number of individuals reached with key alternative care messages	15,577

#### 4.2.2. 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. 2,767 of 6,618 child offenders (42%) were diverted outside the judicial system thanks to UNICEF's three years of work in strengthening alternative measures to detention.

UNICEF contributed to an enhanced integrated package of justice, social, legal and medical services for children in contact with the law as offenders, victims or witnesses, including trafficked children in all 18 states and 62 localities. A total of 32,928 children at risk of or victims of violence, abuse and exploitation (8,435 girls and 24,493 boys) benefited from preventative and responsive justice services. In 2018, seven one-stop centers in eastern Sudan and five Family and Child Protection Units were rehabilitated in addition to five courts being refurbished. Child-friendly games and toys were distributed in 18 states to support psychosocial support in Family and Child Protection Units.

#### 4.2.3. Address migration and trafficking (children on the move) through integrated social service packages

A total of 1,200 adolescents (50% children on the move, 50% host community children) received skills training and were provided with cash-based assistance. In 2018, 9,159 adolescents (51.8% girls) were equipped with knowledge and life skills to reduce their vulnerability and protect them from violence.

The protection of children on the move was a priority for UNICEF in 2018. Encouraged by the national outlawing of the detention of migrant children, UNICEF supported 3,443 children (2,758 boys and 685

girls) through the provision of child protection services in safe places, psychosocial support and legal aid. A total of 88 children on the move were registered as unaccompanied and separated children, and they received re-integration services. Best interest assessments and best interest determinations were carried out by trained professionals.

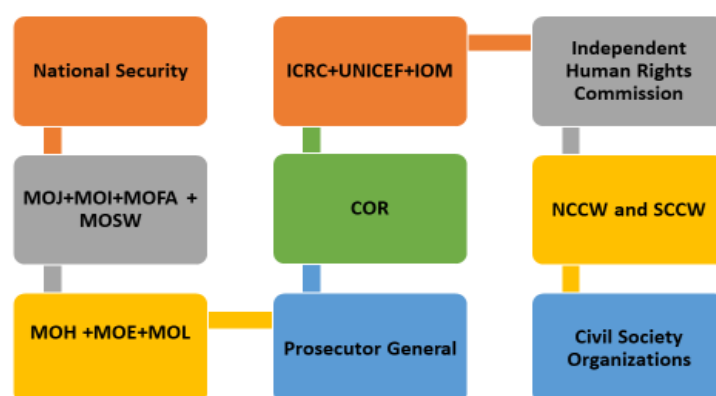
Through strong partnerships with the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW), National Mechanism for Family and Child Protection Units (FCPU) and others, the system for the protection of child victims of trafficking and children on the move was improved through the finalisation and roll-out of the system in three affected states in East Sudan.

A task force headed by the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW) was set up to strengthen protection of children on the move. Below you can find the composition of the committee:

### National Coordination Committee on the prevention and combating Trafficking of Children

#### Opportunities in:

1. **Mandate:** Coordination on cross-boarder FTR, legal reform, draft, review and adopt SOPs; support research and studies, establishing data system.
2. **Composition:**



Graph 5: prevention and combating of trafficking of children

#### 4.2.4. Provision of integrated humanitarian services

194,551 children (94,548 girls and 100,003 boys) benefited from integrated psychosocial support through child-friendly education settings. UNICEF had a specific focus on girls affected by emergencies. UNICEF's supported 41 per cent of unaccompanied and separated girls from a total of 6,351 children (2,607 girls and 3,744 boys), reunifying them with their families or placing them in alternative family care system.





©UNICEF/Sudan: reintegration of children associated with armed conflict.

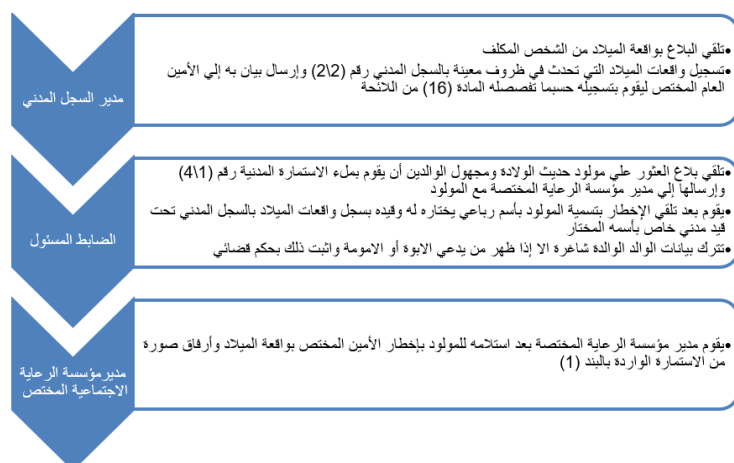
#### 4.2.5. Reintegration of children associated with armed conflict

Four boys associated with armed forces were reunified with their families after a well-structured psychosocial support and reintegration package of well-designed activities and coordination among different actors including, NCCW, DDR, FCPU, MOSW and SCCW at the federal and state levels.

#### 4.2.6. Scale-up of child protection interventions in the health system

There was a notable breakthrough on integrating child protection into the health and education sectors. In close collaboration with the Ministry of Health/ (EPI) system and engagement of the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW), States Councils for Child Welfare and the Civil Registry, birth registration rates increased in Blue Nile from 37 per cent to 82 per cent, in White Nile from 70 per cent to 84 per cent, in South Darfur from 44 per cent to 62 per cent, and in South Kordofan from 17 per cent to 42 per cent.

##### إجراءات تسجيل واقعات الميلاد في ظروف معينة<sup>9</sup>:



UNICEF continued its support to the National Birth Registration Taskforce as well as supporting SCCWs, the Ministry of Health, and the Civil Registry Department at state level to increase birth registration. For South Darfur the total number of registered children increased from 13,586 to 142,571 in 2018. In Blue Nile the number increased from 15,000 to 78,492. In Kassala 175,392 children were registered and in East Darfur 41,687 children.

To scale-up the birth registration for the 1-15 years' age-group, UNICEF in collaboration with the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW) and the civil registry launched a media campaign to ensure more children are registered.

One of the challenges in relation to birth registration is registering children born out of wedlock. To overcome this challenge UNICEF, through the Birth Registration Task Force, developed and adopted Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on birth registration with a focus on the registration of children without parental care.

After three years of continuous advocacy, UNICEF finally had a breakthrough with the government and launched the standard spatial survey (S3M): an innovative sub locality-level multisector survey to

generate evidence in different sectors (nutrition, health, WASH, education, and protection). The data will be used for multisector policies and plans and will holistically address women and children's critical health and nutrition needs. UNICEF also supported a comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care assessment, a qualitative study on barriers to immunisation in low-performing localities.

### OUTPUT 4.3

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

UNICEF's programmes aimed to foster a shift in social norms upholding harmful traditional practices including FGM/C and child marriage. Further, UNICEF supported localised responses to children affected by violence, abuse and exploitation (including reducing vulnerability of adolescents).

#### 4.3.1. Prevent and address Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C)

With UNICEF's technical and financial support, and in partnership with the State Council for Child Welfare (SCCWs) and the Ministry of Security and Social Development, two state laws criminalising female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) were adopted. This is considered as a major achievement that will contribute to reducing the harmful practice and protect girls from violence. Community dialogues continued and resulted in 1,085 community declarations to abandon female genital mutilation and cutting.

Data showed a reduction in mother's intentions to cut their daughters (from 56% in 2006 to 40.9% in 2014). Positive changes in social norms were seen, for example through an increase in the documented number of people participating in education, communication discussions, and social mobilisation platforms on FGM/C supported by UNICEF. In 2018, 53,570 (24,015 girls and 18,646 boys) participated in FGM/C abandonment discussions.

More than 8,383 community dialogues continued in Gezira, Gadarif, Khartoum and North Kordofan states during the first quarter of 2018. Besides, the engagement of adolescents was scaled-up through the establishment of 124 girls' clubs and 250 trained teachers, reaching 62,700 girls in 124 schools in Gezira.

In 2018, the celebration of the ten-year anniversary of the 2008-2018 National Strategy for FGM/C Abandonment showed high political commitment, during which the Minister of Security and Social Development confirmed that girls' rights was one of the national government priorities and that operationalising the Childhood Strategy and the FGM/C abandonment law were of high importance to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5 relating to gender equality and empowerment, elimination of all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres.

#### 4.3.2. Prevent and address child marriage

In partnership with NCCW, the Ministry of Security and Social Development, University of Khartoum and University of Sudan, UNICEF also finalised the analysis of the status of child marriage in Sudan, which was approved by the National Task Force. A compilation of judicial precedents related to child marriage showed the increased trend of judges to stop the marriage at the judicial level.



©UNICEF/Sudan: child marriage prevention.

According to the 2015 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 38 per cent of women aged 20 to 49 were married before the age of 18, while 12 per cent were married before their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. This encouraged UNICEF and partners to double efforts in combating child marriage through community engagement aimed at behavioral change. In 2018, 64,861 girls (aged 10 to 19) actively participated in UNICEF-supported interventions that addressed child marriage.

With UNICEF's support, a Sudanese alliance to end child marriage was formed. The alliance is composed of 39 international and national NGOs, academic institutions and relevant government institutions. The alliance undertook a rigorous analysis of the causes and impact of child marriage on children, families and society. In partnership with NCCW, the Ministry of Security and Social Development, the University of Khartoum and the University of Sudan.

#### 4.3.3. Develop and implement parent education programme to prevent and respond to violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect

UNICEF and partners worked together to encourage positive parenting and protect children from violence, with a special focus on children in alternative family setting.



©UNICEF Sudan. Training for alternative mothers under Kafala system.

During the reporting period, 225 'host' mothers in the Kafala system in Khartoum State received information on behavioral problems in vulnerable children as well as on different methodologies of positive parenting. The process included intensive training sessions conducted by the University of Khartoum. In the coming months, a checklist will be developed to track behavioral change of the mothers in the Kafala system and assess the effectiveness of the training.

#### 4.3.4. Technical support and guidance, monitoring results and follow up of the programme

UNICEF supported the annual consultation meeting of the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW) and SCCWs to review, reflect and strategise intervention for children. As follow-up, UNICEF conducted 43 field monitoring visits to all 18 states in 2018.

## IV. FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

TABLE 1: PLANNED BUDGET BY OUTCOME AREA (IN USD) 2018

Intermediate Result	Funding Type	Planned Budget
Output 4.1. Strengthened and more effective child protection legislation	RR	132,050
	OR	1,172,265
	Total	1,304,315
Output 4.2. Service providers have strengthened capacities and deliver quality specialised child-protection services	RR	330,125
	ORR	2,930,663
	Total	3,260,788
Output 4.3. Communities have strengthened mechanisms to protect children from violence, abuse, and exploitation including FGM/C and child marriage	RR	198,075
	OR	1,758,398
	Total	1,956,473
Total	RR	660,250
	OR	5,861,325
	Total	6,521,575

TABLE 2: COUNTRY-LEVEL THEMATIC CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED IN 2018 (IN USD)

Donors	Grant Number	Contribution Amount	Programmable Amount
SIDA Sweden	SC 1899050032	2,733,734	2,542,373
SIDA Sweden	SC1899050040	1,091,992	1,015,553
SIDA Sweden	SC1499060091	10,639,183	9,894,440
<b>Total</b>		<b>14,464,909</b>	<b>13,452,365</b>

TABLE 3: EXPENDITURES BY KEY-RESULTS AREAS (IN USD)

Organizational Targets	Expenditure Amount			
	Other Resources-Emergency	Other Resources-Regular	Regular Resources	All Programme Amounts
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	2,685,547	4,263,156	1,128,829	8,077,532
23-02 Harmful practices	-5,831	1,416,426	67,308	1,477,903
23-03 Access to justice	841,975	1,470,946	49,252	2,362,173
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3,521,691</b>	<b>7,150,528</b>	<b>1,245,389</b>	<b>11,917,608</b>

**TABLE 4: THEMATIC EXPENSES BY PROGRAMME AREA (IN USD)**

	Grants	Expenses amount
Other Resources - Regular		
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	SC149906	2,399,487
	SC189905	6,612
	Total	2,406,098
23-02 Harmful practices	SC149906	110,726
	Total	110,726
23-03 Access to justice	SC149906	809,998
	SC189905	1,894
	Total	811,893
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>3,217,991</b>

**TABLE 5: EXPENSES BY SPECIFIC INTERVENTION CODES (IN USD)**

Interventions	Expense
23-01-01 Legal and policy framework related to violence, exploitation and abuse	51,871
23-01-02 Services to prevent or respond to violence, exploitation and abuse	2,202,961
23-01-03 Services to prevent or respond to gender-based violence in emergencies	1,172,710
23-01-04 Psycho-social support in emergencies	881,120
23-01-05 Social welfare workforce systems strengthening (accreditation, staffing and supervision)	143,362
23-01-06 Public finance management for child protection	71,530
23-01-07 Administrative data and Information Management System (IMS)including CPIMS+, GBVIMS+, MRMIMS+	121,528
23-01-10 Children associated with armed forces and armed groups - prevention and response	248,545
23-01-11 Landmines and explosive weapons - prevention and assistance	258
23-01-12 MRM - Child protection monitoring and reporting of grave violations in armed conflict (Security Council Resolutions 1612, 1882, 1888 and 1960)	135,046
23-01-16 Parent/caregiver education and programmes on violence, exploitation and abuse - 8 to 18 years	60,850
23-01-18 Child protection focused on care and support for children with disabilities	10,243
23-01-19 Violence, exploitation, and abuse - surveys (e.g. KAP, VACS), data analysis/research/evaluation evidence generation, synthesis, and use	34,601
23-01-20 Protective services for children on the move	954,780
23-01-23 Child Protection humanitarian AoR/humanitarian sector coordination	19,716
23-01-99 Technical assistance - Prevention and response services for violence against children	654,961
23-02-02 Legal and policy framework related to child marriage	54,772
23-02-04 Child marriage - surveys (e.g. KAP, VACS), data analysis/research/evaluation evidence generation, synthesis, and use	2,070
23-02-06 Harmful practices - planning, co-ordination and programme monitoring	37,622
23-02-09 Social and behaviour change communication related to FGM/C	1,146,818
23-02-10 FGM/C - surveys (e.g. KAP, VACS), data analysis/research/evaluation evidence generation, synthesis, and use	1,917
23-02-99 Technical assistance - FGM/C	104,653



23-03-01 Promoting diversion and alternatives to deprivation of liberty	371,169
23-03-03 Access to child-friendly police and justice sector services	700,581
23-03-04 Birth Registration/Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems	138,573
23-03-05 Alternative care reform and service provision	748,295
23-03-06 Justice, birth registration/CRVS, and alternative care - surveys (e.g. KAP, VACS), data analysis/research/evaluation evidence generation, synthesis, and use	19,762
23-03-07 Justice, birth registration/CRVS, and alternative care - planning, co-ordination and programme monitoring	57,139
26-01-01 Country programme process (including UNDAF planning and CCA)	7,329
26-01-02 Programme reviews (Annual, UNDAF, MTR, etc.)	8,413
26-02-02 MICS - General	5,090
26-02-04 Stimulating demand for and capacity to use data	12,350
26-02-05 Administrative data, registers and non-MICS household surveys and censuses	29,137
26-02-06 Analysis of data	1,093
26-02-07 Data dissemination	1,379
26-02-08 Programme monitoring	66,127
26-02-09 Field monitoring	4,731
26-03-03 Children, adolescent and youth engagement and participation	4,039
26-03-07 Strengthening C4D in Government systems including preparedness for humanitarian action	2,205
26-03-99 Technical assistance - Cross - sectoral communication for development	23,809
26-05-06 Building global / regional / national stakeholder evaluation capacity	121
26-05-11 Building global / regional / national stakeholder research capacity	522
26-06-04 Leading advocate	11,017
26-06-05 Leading voice	1,224
26-06-06 Supporter engagement	354,377
26-06-07 Leading brand	119
26-07-01 Operations support to programme delivery	1,210,891
27-01-06 HQ and RO technical support to multiple Goal Areas	33,925
27-01-15 CO programme coordination	67,274
27-01-16 CO advocacy and communication	14,328
28-07-04 Management and Operations support at CO	-89,360
Unknown	15
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>11,917,608</b>

TABLE 6: PLANNED BUDGET FOR 2019 (IN USD)

Intermediate Results	Funding Type	Planned Budget	Funded Budget	Shortfall
06-01 Data and Child Protection	RR	50,000	0	-50,000
	ORE	697,500	280,000	-417,500
	ORR	381,300	250,000	-131,300
06-02 Child Protection systems	RR	50,000	0	-50,000
	ORE	418,500	110,167	-308,333
	ORR	1,264,349	1,150,000	-114,349
06-03 Violence, exploitation and abuse	RR	100,000	50,000	-50,000
	ORE	744,000	800,000	56,000

	ORR	1,579,140	350,000	-1,229,140
06-04	RR	130,125	0	-130,125
Justice for children	ORE	232,500	250,000	17,500
	ORR	1,015,181	980,000	-35,181
06-05	RR	100,000	0	-100,000
Birth registration	ORE	186,000	200,000	14,000
	ORR	186,000	200,000	14,000
06-06	RR	100,000	0	-100,000
Child Protection and emergencies	ORE	2,976,000	2,557,689	-418,311
	ORR	648,636	523,575	-125,061
06-07	RR	100,000	0	-100,000
Child Protection # strengthen families and communities	ORE	1,395,000	600,000	-795,000
	ORR	3,626,180	3,098,786	-527,394
06-08	RR	98,075	0	-98,075
Child Protection # General	ORE	562,807	571,516	8,709
	ORR	76,260	50,000	-26,260
Sub - Total RR		728,200	50,000	-678,200
Sub - Total ORE		7,212,307	5,369,372	-1,842,935
Sub - Total ORR		8,777,045	6,602,361	-2,174,684
<b>Total Budget</b>		<b>16,717,552</b>	<b>12,021,733</b>	<b>-4,695,819</b>

## V. FUTURE WORK PLAN

As per the Country Programme Action Plan 2018-2021, UNICEF's child protection programme will focus on four key child areas:

- Implementation of the *action plan on the protection of children in armed conflict*. Re-integrating children associated with armed groups and addressing grave violations through the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM).
- Justice for children (access to child-friendly services).
- Prevent harmful practices against children, with a focus on the prevention of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) and child marriage.
- Preventing and responding to the separation of children.

Using the four main thematic areas as entry points, UNICEF will work on enablement through social policy, generating evidence and legal reform paving the way for a protective environment across the development-emergency-peace nexus and ensure proper preventive and responsive measures to children subjected or at risk of all types of violence.

In 2019, UNICEF will form its programmes around the 'whole child' approach and deliver an integrated package of services, specifically for children on the move. UNICEF will continue to will continue to support the Government of Sudan to fulfil its commitments to the Convention on the Right of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Children as well as commitments to other international and regional treaties including but not limited to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women. Following-up on the implementation of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council is a priority for UNICEF across the child protection programme.

UNICEF's child protection programme will geographically target the most vulnerable women and children in Sudan, prioritising access to justice for children, addressing grave violations, and prevention of and response to separation in five states (East and Central Darfur, West and South Kordofan and Blue Nile).

UNICEF will continue to co-lead the child protection sub-sector to coordinate humanitarian child protection responses. The programme will continue to manage and convene partnerships and joint programmes promoting collaborative work among UN agencies and partners.

Building and strengthening child protection, justice and social welfare systems, continues to be a priority. The evaluations on the *justice for children system* and the *social service workforce* will shape future intervention in these two areas as per the results and recommendations of the two reports.

## VI. EXPRESSION OF THANKS

UNICEF Sudan would like to thank the Swedish Government for the crucial funds received in support of the child protection programme in Sudan. The support is greatly appreciated by all the children, women and vulnerable communities throughout the country. UNICEF Sudan would also like to thank the Luxembourg National Committee for UNICEF, Netherlands National Committee for UNICEF, the Governments of Germany, Italy, the United States of America and the United Kingdom. The results achieved for the girls and boys in Sudan could not have been possible without your support.

UNICEF Sudan appreciates the flexibility of the funding received that enabled child protection programming in non-emergency situations. This allows UNICEF Sudan to continue strengthening national systems that aim to provide a protective environment for all children. In Sudan.

## ANNEX 1: HUMAN INTEREST STORY

**Reem Mohammed Ali, the confident 12-year old advocating against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and child marriage**

Reem Mohammed Ali is a 12-year old girl from Al Gezira state in Sudan, who unwittingly commands attention with enough confidence that fills an entire room. As we sat down together during a UNICEF Sudan field mission to Rufaa in Al Gezira, it was clear that this young lady had enough authority and self-assuredness to claim her place in society. Our conversation then, began to get even more interesting.

‘In university I want to study heart and internal medicine because I want to become a doctor. I want to’ learn to help people and education has no age limit,’ said Reem ‘No one

can stop me from learning because I have the right to education, I have the right to work when I grow-up and I have rights in my country.’

Our encounter took place on the sidelines of the graduation ceremony marking the end of a workshop on FGM and child marriage in East Gezira. Saleema (which means ‘as God created her’), is led by the National Council for Child Welfare and supported by UNICEF, with aid from the UK Department for International Development. The objective is to change the negative connotations associated with girls who are not cut.

Reem, is part of the Girls Club, a programme which falls under Saleema, and is open to youngsters between the 1st and 7th grades. Girls are taught about their rights and how they can create positive change. They also engage in creative activities including drawing, writing and design.

‘I joined the Girls Club this year. The first thing I learned about was FGM and child marriage and the negative impact on us. We also learned about handicraft, and this is what I liked the most’, said Reem. In 2018 alone, UNICEF Sudan supported the establishment of 323 Girls Clubs in Gezira state, and at least 623 teachers were trained.

Reem has one younger sister who is nine years old, and a member of the Girls Club. Reem proudly told us about how her community is now FGM-free. ‘In our community, we don’t practice FGM. And I thank God, I am Saleema,’ she said. ‘I told my mom and dad about FGM and child marriage and whenever I learn a new thing I share it with them. My mom was interested, and she came to our school to participate and to tell us about the harmful things that FGM causes.’

Through the Girls Club, Reem and her sister were also equipped with knowledge of the physical dangers of FGM and how, in many cases, it can be the root cause of diseases such as tetanus and can lead to difficult child birth. According to the state Ministry of Health, Sudan has one of the highest rates of women’s mortality during child birth; FGM is a major factor.

‘I will not cut my daughters because I believe that by then, FGM will be abandoned everywhere in Sudan’, said Reem. When it comes to child marriage, the young advocate explained that if someone in her community wants to marry, the local religious leader will ask first about her age to ensure the

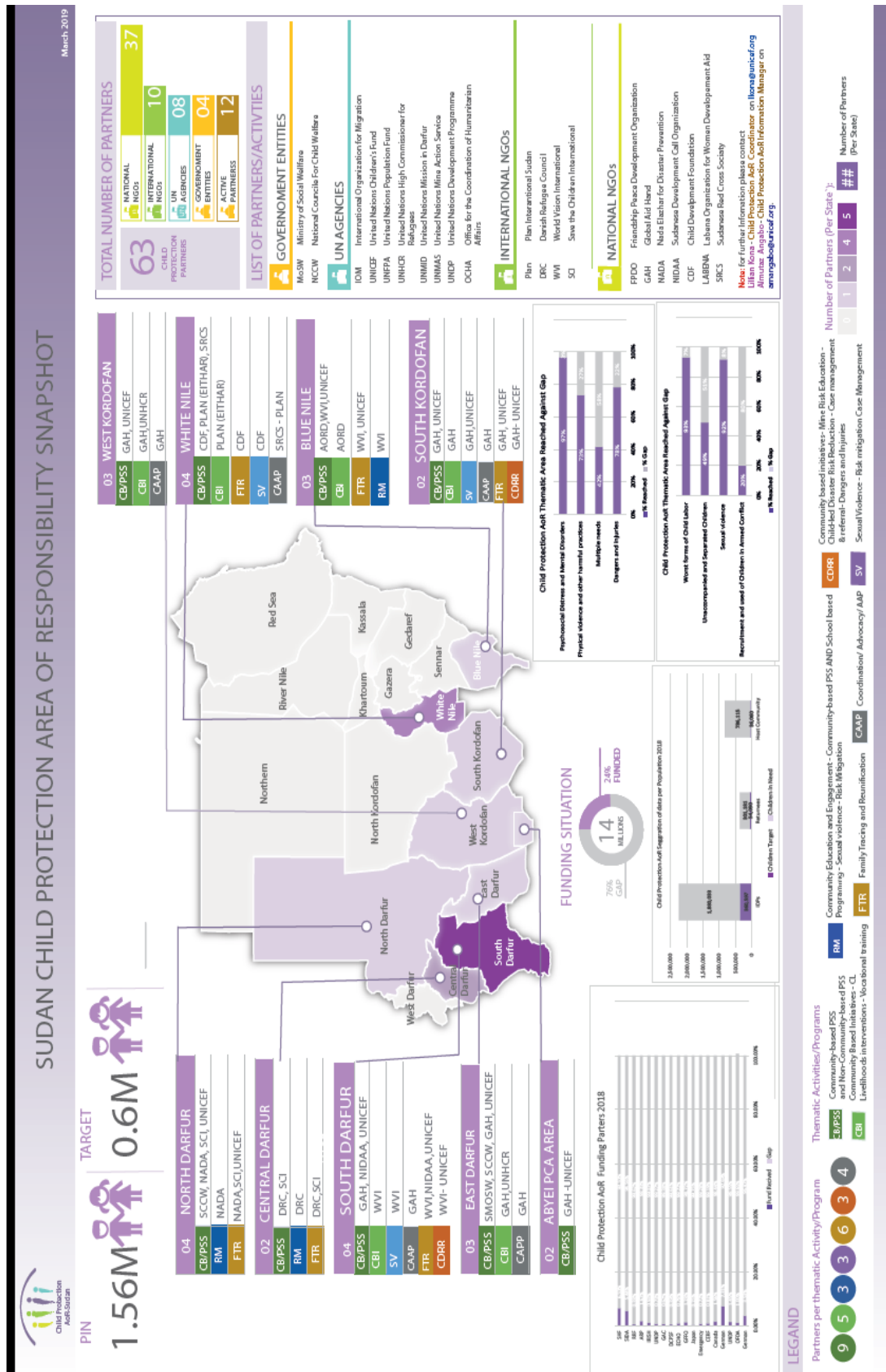


woman is not a child. 'Early marriage is a bad habit because a little girl cannot take the responsibility of a home and kids. I will tell people to stop it as much as I can', said Reem.

Through the UNICEF-supported Saleema campaign, boys are not forgotten either. UNICEF and partners, engaged in advocacy efforts to ensure young boys are not married before the age of 18, and are included in the conversation about child marriage. They too are interested in learning how they can best protect female family and community members.

#For Every Child, Protection and Equality #Saleema

## ANNEX 2: CHILD PROTECTION SUBCLUSTER



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Thank you!

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