



© UNICEF Sudan/Omer/2019

SUDAN

SOCIAL POLICY

GLOBAL THEMATIC REPORT
JANUARY – DECEMBER 2018

PREPARED BY UNICEF SUDAN
MARCH 2019

Cover photo: Girls discussing how to prevent child marriage in Genina, West Darfur

Contact Address

Nafisa Binte Shafique

Deputy Representative

Tel: + (249) 23013122

Email: nbshafique@unicef.org

UNICEF Sudan

P.O Box 1358, Khartoum, Sudan

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS.....	4
I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	5
II. STRATEGIC CONTEXT.....	6
III. RESULTS.....	7
IV. FINANCIAL ANALYSIS.....	8
V. FUTURE WORK PLAN.....	10
VI. EXPRESSION OF THANKS.....	11
ANNEX 1: VISIBILITY.....	12
ANNEX 2: FEEDBACK FORM.....	14

ACRONYMS

AfDB	African Development Bank
AUHIP	African Union High-Level Implementation Panel
CSSPR	Commission on Social Safety Net and Poverty Reduction
IPC-IG	International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MoSSD	Ministry of Security and Social Development
OR	Other Resources
RR	Regular Resources
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme

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.

In 2018, UNICEF Sudan Country Office used the Global Thematic Funds to support the launch and scale-up of a new Social Policy and Inclusion Programme as part of its four-year Country Programme. The programme has the following outcomes and outputs

- OUTPUT 5** By 2021, more disadvantaged and excluded children are benefiting from an improved policy environment and strengthened social protection system.
- OUTPUT 5.1** National and subnational government partners have strengthened capacities for evidence-informed child-centered policy formulation, planning and budgeting
- OUTPUT 5.2** National and sub-national government partners have strengthened institutional capacities to develop and deliver child-sensitive social protection, particularly to children and families in the most-vulnerable situations.

UNICEF's work during the reporting period focused on three key areas: 1) enhancing partnerships with key actors in social policy; 2) evidence generation on the situation of children and families especially the most vulnerable groups; and 3) capacity building for child and gender-sensitive social protection systems strengthening. Specifically, the Global Thematic Funds contributed to the achievement of the following results:

- New partnership established with the Ministry of Security and Social Development (MoSSD) and the newly created Commission on Social Safety Net and Poverty Reduction (CSSPR), key national actors responsible for coordinating and facilitating social protection service delivery in Sudan.
- Capacity building support provided to staff at the newly established Commission on Social Safety Net and Poverty Reduction (CSSPR) to design, implement and monitor social protection service delivery, particularly in cash transfers.
- Jointly with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Food Programme (WFP), new evidence generated on the situation of

children and families affected by deterioration in the economic conditions that started in January 2018.

In 2019, UNICEF Sudan will continue to scale-up the social policy and inclusion programme, with particular focus on strengthening the government's capacity in designing, implementing and monitoring equitable, and child and gender-sensitive social protection.

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).¹ 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.

In 2018, UNICEF Sudan's social policy and inclusion programme was launched as part of the four-year Country Programme. The overall objective of the programme was to support the development and implementation of policies and programmes that address structural causes of child multi-dimensional poverty and inequities in Sudan, two global goals in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) agenda, i.e. SDG 1 (ending poverty) and SDG 10 (reducing inequality).

The launch of the programme took place at a time when Sudan faced one of the most serious economic crises since 2011. The situation was triggered by a balance-of-payments crisis, which prompted the government to adopt a series of austerity measures, including an exchange rate devaluation, customs tax increases, import bans, and reduction in energy and wheat subsidies. This led to a sharp increase in the cost of living and household purchasing power, with the annual inflation rate reaching almost 70 per cent by August. The situation was aggravated by shortages of fuel, bread, and other essential commodities, causing major disruptions in the delivery of basic services including electricity, education, health, and Water. Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services. Restrictions on bank withdrawals also caused an acute liquidity shortage, causing a significant slowdown in humanitarian and development operations by the government, international and national Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and development partners. The situation marked a major setback for Sudan in terms of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

In response to this deteriorating situation, UNICEF scaled up its work in social policy and social protection, focusing on three key areas: 1) enhancing strategic partnership with key actors in social

¹ Sudan Country Office Annual Report 2018

policy; 2) evidence generation on the situation of children and families especially the most vulnerable groups; and 3) capacity building for child and gender-sensitive social protection systems strengthening.

III. RESULTS

OUTCOME 5 By 2021, more disadvantaged and excluded children are benefiting from an improved policy environment and strengthened social protection system.

OUTPUT 5.1 National and subnational government partners have strengthened capacities for evidence-informed child-centered policy formulation, planning and budgeting.

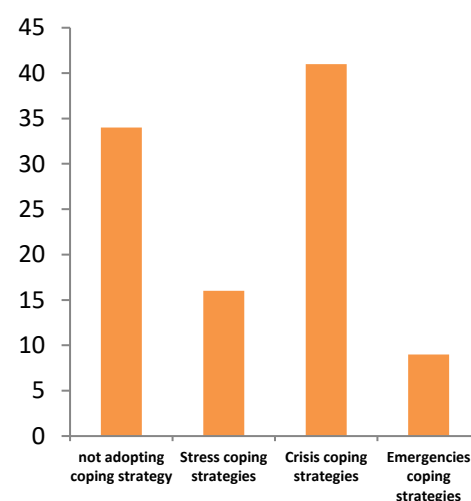
OUTPUT 5.2 National and sub-national government partners have strengthened institutional capacities to develop and deliver child-sensitive social protection, particularly to children and families in the most-vulnerable situations.

The Global Thematic Funds were used to support the launch and scale-up of the new social inclusion programme. Specifically, the funds contributed to the achievement of the following results:

- New partnership being established with the Ministry of Security and Social Development (MoSSD) as well as the newly created Commission on Social Safety Net and Poverty Reduction (CSSPR), an inter-ministerial body responsible for coordinating and facilitating social protection service delivery in Sudan. A *rolling work plan* was developed and signed between UNICEF and the MoSSD. Partnerships with other key actors in social protection, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Bank (WB) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) were also enhanced.
- In the area of evidence generation, UNICEF partnered with the UNDP, WFP and the AfDB in June 2018 to undertake a rapid assessment of the impact of the economic situation on the urban population, with a view to generate evidence to inform policy advice, interventions and resource mobilisation efforts. The analysis provided an empirical investigation into the channels of transmission of the economic crisis, households' coping mechanisms, and welfare impacts of the crisis on the population, especially the vulnerable groups. The assessment was undertaken under the leadership of the CSSPR and is led by a team of national consultants and surveyors recruited with support from UNDP and UNICEF.

In July, the CSSPR convened, with support from UNICEF and UNDP, an inception workshop in Khartoum to review and agree on the methodology and tools for a survey, in addition to identifying the geographical focus of the survey. The workshop had a very wide participation, with approximately 80 participants representing federal and state ministries, development partners, civil society, and non-governmental organisations. A validation workshop was conducted in January 2019, with more than 100 participants.

% of adopters of Livelihood Coping Strategies



Graph 1. Livelihood coping strategies

Results from the assessment indicate that the economic situation is driving many families and children into poverty and deprivation. Evidence further suggests that families are adopting negative coping mechanisms with adverse consequences for children, such as skipping meals and pulling them out of school. The assessment provided an excellent platform for the Government-UN partnership as well as for UN collaboration.

- UNICEF supported State Ministries of Finance in Kassala and White Nile States to produce the Economic and Social Profiles. The project sought to strengthen the capacity of States in generating data and information on key areas such as education, health care, and government expenditures, which are to be used to inform planning and prioritisation at state level. The profiles contained time series data from 2012 and 2017, providing a snapshot of progress of states' economic and social situations over the period.
- In the area of capacity building support for scaling up social protection, UNICEF partnered with the World Bank to support the participation of staff members from the CSSPR to attend a meeting of the *Community of Practice on Cash Transfers* in Africa held in Kampala, Uganda. In addition, UNICEF, with support from UNICEF's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Regional Office, engaged expertise from the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG), a think tank affiliated with the Government of Brazil and UNDP, to undertake an analysis of the impact of the current economic situation on children and families in Sudan, as well as to develop possible options and scenarios for scaling-up social impact mitigation measures. The IPC-IG conducted an inception mission in October and, with facilitation of the MoSSD, met with key national and international partners involved in social protection provision in Sudan. The mission provided an excellent opportunity for south-south cooperation.

The flexibility of the received funds was important in the delivery of the results outlined above, especially in ensuring that the programme interventions responded to the needs of the population within a rapidly evolving economic context.

IV. FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

TABLE 1: PLANNED BUDGET BY OUTCOME AREA (IN USD) [GRANT SC189908](#)

Intermediate Results	Funding Type	Planned Budget
Output 5.1 Evidence Based Policy and Planning	RR	500,000
	ORR	1,813,500
	Total	2,313,500
Output 5.2: Social Protection	RR	89,000
	ORR	440,588
	Total	529,588
Total Budget	RR	589,000
	ORR	2,254,088
	Total	2,843,088

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

Donors	Grant Number	Contribution Amount	Programmable Amount
--------	--------------	---------------------	---------------------

SIDA - Sweden	SC1899080008	496,360	461,615
Total		496,360	461,615

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

Organizational Targets	Expenditure Amount			
	Other Resources-Emergency	Other Resources-Regular	Regular Resources	All Programme Amounts
25-02 Social Protection	10,846	49,057	2,732	62,635
Grand Total	10,846	49,057	2,732	62,635

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

	Grants	Expenses amount
Other Resources - Regular		
25-02 Social Protection	SC149907	49,194
Grand Total		49,194

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

Interventions	Expense
25-02-01 Cash Transfers: Technical support to government cash transfer system development and expansion (design, targeting, beneficiary selection, grievance mechanism, cash delivery mechanisms like banking, mobiles, community distribution)	11,126
25-02-09 Shock responsive social protection - Strengthening social protection system for humanitarian response (preparedness)	31,815
26-01-01 Country programme process (including UNDAF planning and CCA)	14
26-01-02 Programme reviews (Annual, UNDAF, MTR, etc.)	10,848
26-02-02 MICS - General	15
26-02-04 Stimulating demand for and capacity to use data	2,469
26-02-06 Analysis of data	3,384
26-02-07 Data dissemination	4
26-02-08 Programme monitoring	24
26-02-09 Field monitoring	1,556
26-03-07 Strengthening C4D in Government systems including preparedness for humanitarian action	7
26-03-99 Technical assistance - Cross - sectoral communication for development	44
26-05-06 Building global / regional / national stakeholder evaluation capacity	93
26-05-11 Building global / regional / national stakeholder research capacity	537
26-06-04 Leading advocate	20
26-06-05 Leading voice	4
26-06-06 Supporter engagement	578
26-06-07 Leading brand	

26-07-01 Operations support to programme delivery	472
27-01-06 HQ and RO technical support to multiple Goal Areas	-16
27-01-15 CO programme coordination	22
28-07-04 Management and Operations support at CO	-381
Grand Total	62,635

TABLE 6: PLANNED BUDGET FOR 2019 (IN USD)

Intermediate Result	Funding Type	Planned Budget	Funded Budget	Shortfall
Output 5.1 Evidence Based Policy and Planning	RR	500,000	86,673	-413,327
	ORR	1,813,500	1,117,392	-696,108
	Total	2,313,500	1,204,064	-1,109,436
Output 5.2 Social Protection	RR	89,000	81,673	-7,327
	ORR	440,588	301,371	-139,217
	Total	529,588	383,043	-146,544
Grand TOTAL	RR	589,000	168,346	-420,655
	ORR	2,254,088	1,418,762	-835,325
	TOTAL	2,843,088	1,587,108	-1,255,980

V. FUTURE WORK PLAN

UNICEF Sudan will continue to scale-up the social policy and inclusion programme in the coming year, with particular focus on strengthening the government's capacity in designing, implementing and monitoring equitable, and child and gender-sensitive social protection. Other activities being implemented with the support of the thematic funds include the following:

Supporting the CSSPR in developing a social protection sector strategy, a first such strategy for Sudan. The absence of a clear social protection policy has been a key impediment to the enhancement of the social protection system in Sudan. UNICEF and CSSPR are currently discussing the recruitment of a national consultant to facilitate the process of strategy development.

Continued capacity building support to the CSSPR and other partners. UNICEF will continue to provide capacity building support to the CSSPR and other departments within the MoSSD, in collaboration with international and national experts in social protection, including the UNICEF Regional Office and the IPC-IG team in Brazil. The second mission by the IPC-IG team is planned in April. The Country Office's technical and human resource capacity in social policy and social protection will also be increased to allow increased support to the CSSPR, MoSSD, and the UNICEF Country Office.

VI. EXPRESSION OF THANKS

UNICEF Sudan would like to thank the Spanish and Swedish Governments for the crucial funds received in support of the Social Policy and Inclusion Programme in Sudan. The support is greatly appreciated by all the children, women and vulnerable communities throughout the country. 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 the social protection programming in non-emergency situations. This allows UNICEF Sudan to continue strengthening national systems that aim to provide an enabling environment for all children in Sudan.

ANNEX 1: VISIBILITY

UNICEF signs its first work-plan with Sudan's Ministry of Security & Social Development



UNICEF Sudan [Follow](#)
Feb 10 - 2 min read

Today UNICEF signed its first Workplan with the Ministry of Security and Social Development. The Workplan is a key management tool to achieve development results outlined in the 2018–2021 UNICEF Sudan Country Programme Document.

The overall objective of the programme is to support the development and implementation of policies and programmes that address structural causes of child multi-dimensional poverty and inequities. The programme will support Government's efforts and mobilize strategic partnerships with key social protection actors to develop an integrated and child-sensitive social protection system in Sudan.

For every child, social protection



See the [link for more visibility](#)



UNICEF Sudan

@UNICEFSudan

Follow

UNICEF signs its first work-plan with Sudan's Ministry of Security & Social Development.
#ForEveryChild, Social Protection



UNICEF signs its first work-plan with Sudan's Ministry of Security & Social D...

Today UNICEF signed its first Workplan with the Ministry of Security and Social Development. The Workplan is a key management tool to...

link.medium.com

1:14 PM - 10 Feb 2019

2 Retweets 5 Likes



2



5

ANNEX 2: 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](#).

Thank you!



**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

© United Nations Children's Fund