



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands



Sudan

Summary



Multi Annual Country Programme

Partnership for improving prospects for forcibly displaced persons and host communities

Introduction

While the political context in Sudan witnessed a historical shift in 2019, the humanitarian and economic context has been subject to a continuous decline. Owing to decades of economic sanctions and violent conflicts, especially in the Darfur states, Kordofan states and Blue Nile state, support from financial institutions and development funding is limited. Key challenges undermining access to quality and relevant education and skills development, socio-economic opportunities, protection and social inclusion of forcibly displaced persons (FDPs) and vulnerable host community (HC) members include: 1) a significant need to improve the quality and infrastructure of basic and secondary education, including vocational training; 2) a lack of the most basic infrastructure and intermediaries on the labour market that could facilitate transition into employment with dignity and enforce fundamental rights at work; 3) an underfunded response and a limited capacity to respond to the protracted needs of millions of FDPs experiencing incidences of discrimination, abuse, exploitation and child labour, violence and sexual and gender based violence (SGBV).

Global Objective

The PROSPECTS Partnership (UNICEF, UNHCR, ILO, IFC and World Bank) aims to enhance the enabling environment for the socio-economic inclusion of FDPs, to enhance access to education, training and protection for host, displaced children and young people, and to strengthen the resilience of HCs through inclusive socio-economic development that also benefits FDPs. In this context, the partnership aims to develop a new paradigm in responding to forced displacement crises through the meaningful engagement of development actors.



Pillar 1: Education and Learning

Increased number of forcibly displaced and host community members provided with quality education and training



Pillar 2: Employment and Livelihoods

Increased number of (working age) displaced and host community members with enhanced livelihoods and/or employment in decent work



Pillar 3: Protection and Inclusion

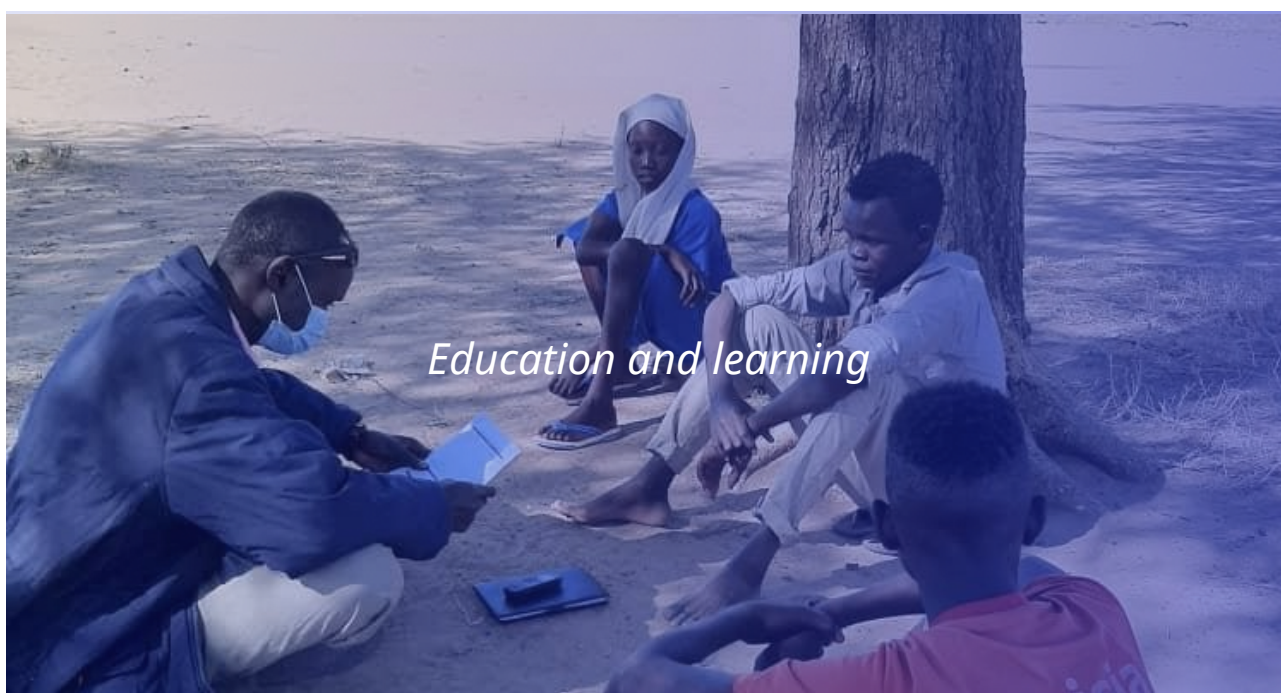
Increased government protection, social protection and inclusion for forcibly displaced and host communities



Pillar 4: New Ways of Working

Transformation in the way partners and other global or regional stakeholders respond to forced displacement crises

The Four Pillars



Under Pillar 1, **Education and Learning**, the partners aim to improve the quality of learning and training, to improve access to learning opportunities by integrating targeted groups into education and various capacity-building streams, to coordinate, monitor and control these training sessions, and to support transition to employment. UNICEF, UNHCR and ILO will work collaboratively to enhance the provision of quality education and training programmes aiming to promote the acquisition of relevant skills and knowledge for school, life and the transition to decent work among forcibly displaced and host community children, adolescents and adults, with a special focus on women and girls, and efforts to include people living with disabilities (PLWDs). Interventions will combine

- ▶ **community engagement activities** targeting the social barriers that prevent children, youth and adults from accessing learning opportunities;
- ▶ **improvements to the physical infrastructure** of schools and training institutions, including sanitary facilities;
- ▶ **capacity development initiatives** for education providers, combined with updated training materials and equipment;
- ▶ increasing the availability of demand-oriented, short-term **vocational and informal training programmes**.

All interventions will ensure the promotion of gender-sensitive, disability-sensitive, inclusive, and high-quality learning and skills acquisition for forcibly displaced persons and host communities alike.



Pillar 2, **Employment with Dignity**, will increase the number of working-age employed and self-employed forcibly displaced and host community members with enhanced livelihoods, aiming to maximize opportunities for women and young people and to ensure the inclusion of PLWDs. Strategies to promote the organization and formalization of economic activities, promote value chain development and public and private investment, expand access to finance and business development services, as well as decent working conditions, will be collaboratively pursued by the ILO and IFC. Concrete interventions will combine:

- ▶ gathering **labour market information** to analyse economic opportunities in agriculture and other emerging sectors;
- ▶ strengthening economic and organizational structures and **local labour market governance** as through improved financial, energy, and formality service provision;
- ▶ making employment-intensive **infrastructure investments** to expand access to rain-fed agricultural livelihoods as well as **healthcare provision**;
- ▶ forming **agricultural cooperatives** in key value chains and linking those cooperatives with formal economic actors, that is, buyer networks;
- ▶ facilitating FDP and HC access to **financial and business development** services, including entrepreneurship training.

In doing so, the partners are committed to ensuring conflict sensitivity by taking a Do No Harm approach to its activities. Do No Harm focuses on identifying potential negative impacts of activities on conflict or fragility drivers, together with attempts to mitigate those risks through strategic programme development. Practically speaking, this entails conducting integrity due diligence on potential clients and developing fragility, gender, and/or environmental and social assessments around specific interventions that identify risks and propose concrete programmatic recommendations to mitigate them.



Protection and inclusion



Under Pillar 3, **Protection and Inclusion**, the UNHCR, UNICEF, and ILO will collaborate to increase access or coverage of overall protection and inclusion for FDPs and HCs, while implementing specific strategies to address and respond to the specific needs of women and girls, youth and adolescents, and PLWDs. Major gaps exist in the overall protection environment, including limited access to legal and essential services, discrimination, abuse, exploitation and child labour, violence, SGBV, as well as the limited availability of social protection and safety nets. Moreover, capacity building for protection stakeholders is very much needed to include FDPs in already overstretched national services. Concrete interventions will combine:

- ▶ strengthening the legal, policy and regulatory environment for protection and inclusion;
- ▶ increasing partner-provided protection and social protection services;
- ▶ enhancing the capacity of relevant institutions, organizations and communities to ensure inclusion of FDPs in national systems;
- ▶ ensuring that the most vulnerable are supported and that no one is left behind;
- ▶ improving national data collection and information management systems.

Underlying this, peaceful coexistence projects will aim to strengthen the capacity of local communities to integrate by sharing services and engaging in a variety of cultural, educational, recreational, youth, and community-based activities. Investments in children and adolescents, as well as community-based protection networks, infrastructure, and capacities are also aimed at improving the resilience and awareness of the targeted communities.



Finally, Pillar 4, **New Ways of Working**, outlines a framework to work on collective outcomes and to achieve more effective and efficient programming, strategic learning, and support policy development and implementation, in order to transform the way partners and other stakeholders sustainably respond to forced displacements and protracted crises in Sudan. It builds on opportunities to support and transform the way the Government of Sudan (GoS) responds to forced displacement based on their pledges at the Global Refugee Forum in December 2019, to “gradually integrate refugee education into national education system”, “adopt self-reliance policy for refugee and host communities”, and “facilitate movement and work” for FDPs, in addition to their commitment to pursue strategies that “build capacities of authorities responding to forced displacement” and “support transition from aid to development”. Under Pillar 4, the partners will:

- ▶ share information systematically;
- ▶ conduct joint assessments wherever possible in order to generate knowledge in a cost-effective manner;
- ▶ organize annual learning events;
- ▶ conduct joint advocacy and policy advice towards a greater impact.

Examples of these strategies can be found under each of the other three pillars.

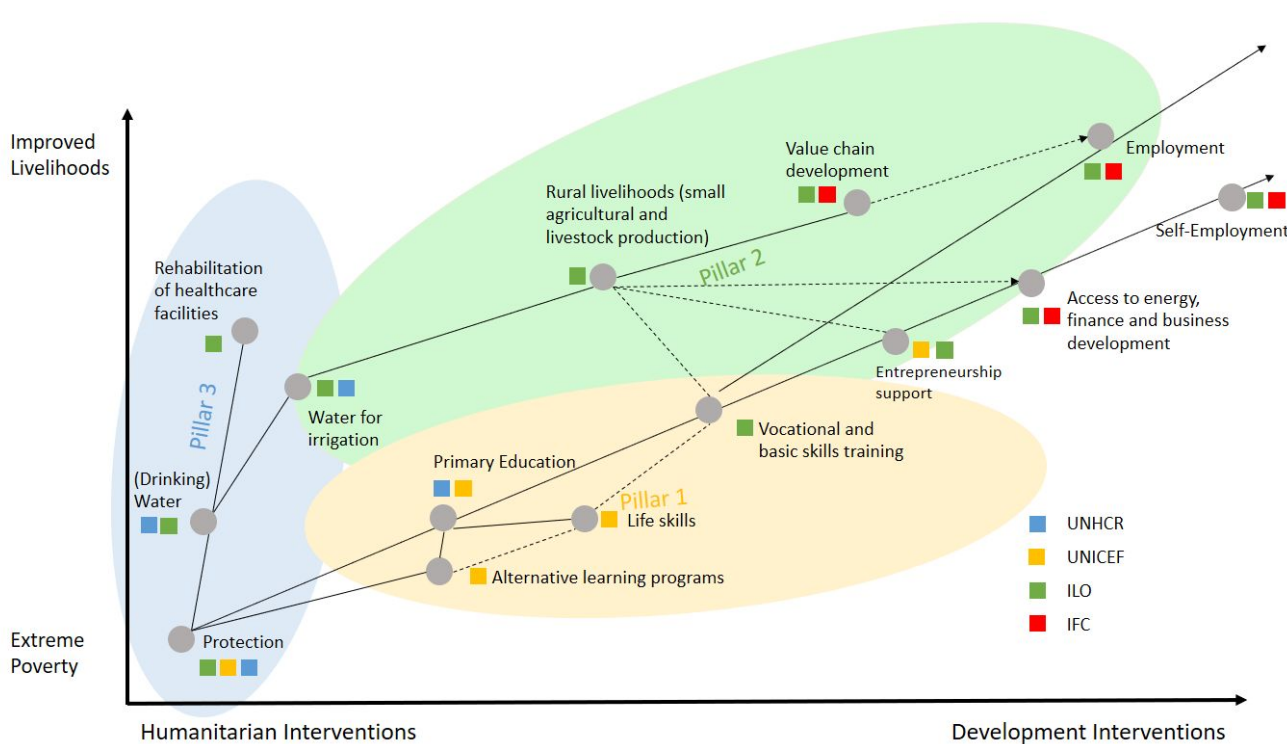
The Graduation Approach

The Graduation Approach¹ is a conceptual framework, designed to highlight the pillared focus areas of the various streams of partner assistance along the humanitarian and development nexus. It is a conceptual framework that captures partner engagement by pillar, and highlights complementarities as well as joint implementation at activity level. Furthermore, it allowed the partners to formulate concrete learning questions pertaining to the success and challenges of joint implementation.

¹ The Graduation Approach is limited in several notable aspects. Firstly, it does not show the geographical location of planned activities. Further, it does not show which activities focus on the forcibly displaced, which ones target host communities, and which ones address both communities simultaneously. Most notably, owing to the limited timeframe of the partnership and the systemic nature of much of the partners' work, the model does not show the transition of households or individuals through several sequenced interventions.

The framework locates programming and activities along the humanitarian-development-peace-nexus (HDP) (x-axis) and their contribution towards improving community livelihoods (y-axis). Across these four pillars, the partners will collaboratively implement the strategies shown below through the adoption of a Graduation Approach, to leverage the comparative advantage, expertise, and capacities of partners to promote resilience of targeted communities (see Figure below).

Figure. PROSPECTS pillar framework within the graduation approach.



Government engagement

The success of PROSPECTS Sudan’s approach towards sustainability and exit will depend on successful stakeholder engagement, partnership and close collaboration with the GoS at the decision-making and technical levels. To this end, the partnership will build on the solid foundation it developed in 2019–2020 through the consultative meetings held and scoping missions conducted with relevant ministries and government agencies in Khartoum, as well as in the targeted states of East Darfur and West Kordofan. Moreover, the partnership will also be aligned with the UNCT’s vision to operationalize the HDP nexus approach by working on collective outcomes. As the PROSPECTS approach is to align with national systems and priorities, consultation with federal ministries to develop and validate the way forward has been, and will continue to be, key. The GoS, in its General Framework for the Programme of the Transitional Government, has reaffirmed its commitment to engaging with the international community and specifically expects “UN to play a major role in supporting the transition process and priorities”. This openness, and the alignment of the MACP with recently announced priorities, present strategically important opportunities to work closely with the GoS to transform Sudan’s response to forced displacement.



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► Partnership for improving prospects for forcibly displaced persons and host communities