

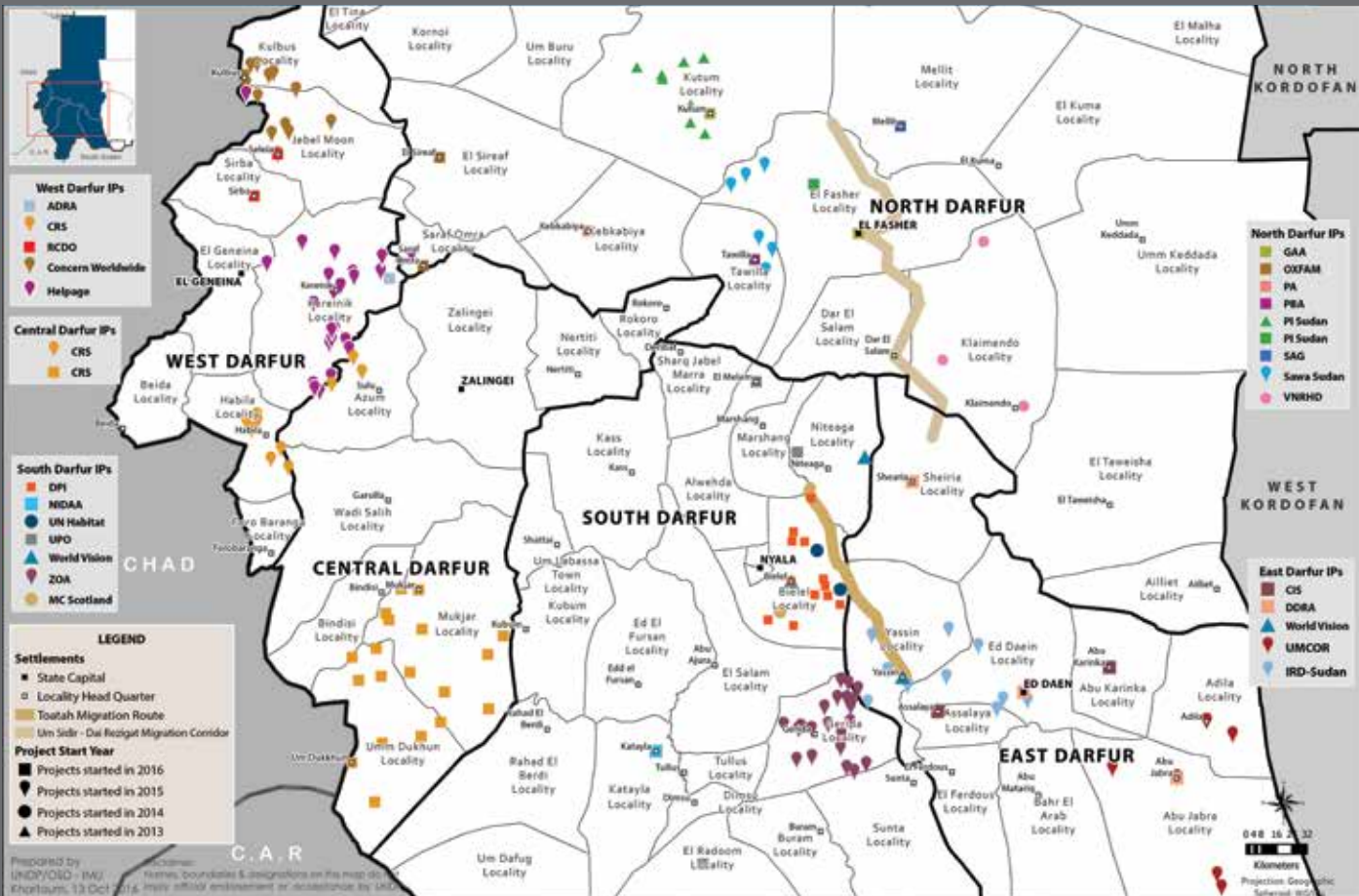


SUPPORTING PEACE IN DARFUR

The Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.





What the Darfurians demanded was the opportunity to sit together with external support but no outside interference, to address and end their differences.

Sudan: Darfur - the quest for peace, justice and reconciliation: Report of the African Union High-Level Panel on Darfur (AUPD)



THE DARFUR COMMUNITY PEACE AND STABILITY FUND

Years of instability have weakened the institutions that rural communities in Darfur rely on to resolve disagreement.

The Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund (DCPSF) supports communities to rebuild and strengthen these time-honored methods of mediation, reconciliation, and peaceful settlement.

The DCPSF also aims to reduce the triggers of community-level conflict, including competition over scarce natural resources and a lack of livelihoods opportunities.

The United Nations multi-donor trust fund, established in 2007, supports UN agencies, International NGOs, and Sudanese NGOs to **work to achieve local level peace and stability in Darfur**, and funds projects that:

- strengthen community-based reconciliation mechanisms (CBRMs), the traditional community groups that resolve disputes;
- provide livelihoods support that brings communities together;
- promote effective natural resource management among communities;
- build and link networks amongst peacebuilding initiatives in Darfur.

DCPSF Theory of Change





“We have learned and understood that prevention is better than cure, so we tackle the problem before it happens to get big. If there is anything that seems to cause [a] problem, we as seven leaders have to hold a meeting and solve it before it happens. In this meeting today we come as four tribes to discuss the issue of [a] corral [gated area for cattle] so as to avoid conflict between farmers and pastoralists this season.”

– Abdullah Samir, Sheikh in East Gurnei village

“Last week while in the market, a dispute broke out between a mobile phone shop owner and a client who left his mobile to be charged, returned to collect it, and found it missing. The dispute was about to turn into a violent fight. I intervened and started to investigate the case, realized that the shop owner was deceived and the mobile was taken by somebody else, and [negotiated a compensation between the client and shop owner.]”

– Ismael Adam, Gurnei village, part of the CBRM group and participant in mediation skills training



SUPPORTING COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

Communities in Darfur have a long history of resolving dispute through negotiation and mediation. While years of conflict have eroded these community institutions, the foundation for peace is there.

To resolve everyday disputes over crop destruction, water use, and other issues before they can escalate into fighting, DCPSF partners support community led peacebuilding initiatives which address the root causes of conflict. **At the core of all DCPSF supported projects are these Community Based Reconciliation Mechanisms (CBRMs).**

Through trainings and workshops, and by encouraging the participation of a range of community members and representatives from different groups (including nomads and herders, women, and young people), DCPSF partners support and revitalize existing CBRMs, and convene new ones. About 18% of CBRM members are women.

The CBRMs are rooted in *judiya*, where both parties agree on appropriate compensation following an incident.



81% of community members satisfied with CBRM

77% of cases are successfully addressed at the CBRM level

80% of community members state a decrease in communal conflict because of the CBRM

DCPSF Technical Secretariat: average survey results 2012-2015

“Darfurians were adamant that their local conflicts could be settled by dialogue and negotiation. [...] Traditional mechanisms, such as the *judiya* mediation and arbitration system, and recent innovations, notably the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation, were all seen as indispensable parts of this endeavour.”

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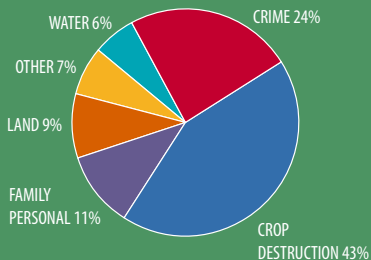


ADDRESSING THE ISSUES THAT TRIGGER CONFLICT

By supporting the community based reconciliation mechanisms, the DCPSF ensures that **community-level conflict resolution and prevention platforms are in place in Darfur.**

Most disputes brought to CBRMs have to do with crop destruction. The CBRMs also mediate disputes over water use, personal disagreements (including among families), and crimes. These conflicts all have the potential to escalate into violence if they are not resolved. Therefore, the more successful the CBRMs are at addressing these concerns, the greater the community cohesion.

Cases brought to community based reconciliation mechanisms



Percentage of cases resolved

2013	2014
50%	88%
2015	2016
78%	83%

Building youth opportunities across community groups

Youth unions in Sala, West Darfur, were divided along ethnic lines. Guma Yagoub, aged 30, convinced the two groups to join forces. "It took me a month, holding several meetings with the two youth groups for them to accept forming one youth group for the village and I was really happy on the day we formed this main youth committee." The union then formed a group savings and lending committee to finance projects including seed purchases.



LIVELIHOODS IN SUPPORT OF PEACE

DCPSF partners work with communities to deliver collaborative livelihoods and income-generating opportunities, including community savings groups, vocational trainings, and market rehabilitation.

As these activities include people from different community groups, they serve a peace-building role as well as building livelihoods.

Through this work, **cooperation between communities is enhanced through shared livelihood assets and income-generating opportunities.**

73% of community members state an increase in economic interactions between diverse communities

DCPSF Technical Secretariat: average survey results 2012-2015



Photo: Helpage

Water committee lessens community tensions

Ishag, a member of the water committee in Bardi, told a DCPSF partner: “Due to the ...dam in Bardi, water availability increased during the dry season.”

“This, as well as the water committee, helped people relax during drought and thus [avoid] moving with their livestock [to seek] water in remote areas.”

BETTER NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND BASIC SERVICES

DCPSF partners work with communities and local authorities to facilitate improved natural resource management and decrease competition over scarce resources – a frequent trigger of conflict.

This includes livestock migratory route demarcation, improved management of water resources through resource management committees, and the creation and management of shared pasture land and seedling nurseries.

Basic service provision, such as the rehabilitation of *hafir* (a hollow for storing rain water) and schools, also contributes to the Fund’s peacebuilding goal.

Through these activities, cooperation between competing communities over management of natural resources and access to basic social services is increased.

72%

of community members confirm communal consensus around the restoration of migratory routes, pasture, fodder, and communal forests

76%

of people state an increase in the number of interactions between diverse communities through basic services

DCPSF Technical Secretariat: average survey results 2012-2015



FROM CONFLICT TO COOPERATION IN BELIEL, SOUTH DARFUR

Abgaj Rajel, Beliel locality, South Darfur: In 2013, deep resentments between different communities over land use were resurfacing. Conflict resolution platforms had been derailed as families fled their homes. The community felt nervous about the security situation, and the local market was mostly empty.

One DCPSF project aimed to address these challenges by supporting community based reconciliation mechanisms and by improving the demarcation of animal migration routes.

Zalata Murhal migratory route had been closed since 2004. Following intense effort by the Local Migratory Route Committee formed by the partner, the nomad commission, and community leaders, the route is now better demarcated and open to migrating livestock. During 2015, an estimated 60,000 animals used the Murhal.

Zalata Murhal has become a model for cooperation and positive engagement between diverse groups of farmers and animal herders.

One pasture committee leader reflected,

“This season our communities have shown unprecedented restraint as almost all farmers... abided by the agreement facilitated by the pasture committee not to plant close to the newly demarcated livestock migratory route. It was also quite an achievement to see animal herders honoring their part of the deal by keeping their animals strictly within the demarcated route.”

Moreover, adds another committee member, “[community members] are now resorting to the community arbitration mechanism to settle disputes.”



Community groups gathered in Kereinik locality in November 2015 for an intercommunity conference organized with the support of DCPSF partner HelpAge. Local and state leadership were also in attendance to work with communities toward solutions.

Locality citizens developed 26 recommendations over the course of the day, based around the following themes:

1. Peaceful coexistence. The proliferation of guns and small arms make the situation in communities more volatile.
2. Need for development and basic services throughout the locality.
3. Need to improve migratory route management, and control animals, to lessen conflict.
4. Need to improve cooperation and cohesion among tribes in general.
5. Committee that met at the Conference should continue to follow up on all the recommendations.

BUILDING NETWORKS

The DCPSF supports the creation of networks among CBRMs and among projects doing similar community-centered work in Darfur.

The DCPSF builds linkages among organizations doing community cohesion work in Darfur by facilitating **Peace Building Working Groups in each state**, where lessons learned are shared.

Civil society organizations build their capacity in project design and implementation, conflict analysis, programme management, and strengthen their peacebuilding networks.

DCPSF partners bring together CBRMs from different communities so that they can resolve issues which involve multiple communities, develop early warning systems, and share experiences in reconciliation.

DCPSF partners bring communities, local authorities, and state leadership together to identify key drivers behind communal violence, and what can be done to prevent it.

Through this, **a network of effective collaborative peacebuilding initiatives is created and feeding into wider peace fora and Darfur agendas.**

HOW THE FUND WORKS



The DCPSF issues a call for proposals based on a recent conflict analysis of communal conflict triggers and potential geographic hot-spots in Darfur. A call for proposals takes place about every 18 months, but timings vary.

Proposals to the DCPSF are **evaluated by an independent appraisal committee** before they are recommended for funding. The DCPSF **Steering Committee** makes a final recommendation on projects to be funded.

The **UNDP Fund Management Unit (FMU)** serves as Managing Agent for NGO allocations from the Fund. With sound financial management, effective risk mitigation, and capacity support as the key objectives, the underlying tasks are performing capacity assessments, entering into project partnership agreements, managing disbursements, and ensuring that financial expenditures are in compliance with the project work plan.

Funding is allocated based on conflict analysis and an independent review of project proposals.





Climate Action



All countries are experiencing the effects of climate change and Sudan is no exception.

Desertification, land degradation due to overgrazing, deforestation, and declining rainfall are driving competition, and sometimes conflict, among communities.

By supporting communities to work together and manage scarce natural resources peacefully, the DCPSF plays a part in helping Darfur adapt to climate change.

Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions



Violence and insecurity have a destructive impact on the development of countries and communities. They disrupt economic growth and can result in grievances that last for generations. The SDG's aim is to "significantly reduce all forms of violence, and work with governments and communities to find lasting solutions to conflict and insecurity."

DCPSF partners work with communities, local authorities, and Darfur's academic and civil society institutions to support community capacity to resolve and manage disagreements and address the root causes of conflict.

IN SUPPORT OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Gender Equality



Ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls is not only a basic human right, but crucial to accelerating sustainable development.

DCPSF partners work toward this goal while remaining sensitive to the community context.

Most of the participants in DCPSF livelihoods and income-generating projects are women. These activities bring together women from different communities toward common economic goals, and aim to improve not only their collective livelihoods but also their interactions and relations with one another.

Women are also part of the community based conflict resolution mechanisms. Depending on the norms of each individual community they may be part of the main group, or may meet in parallel to resolve disagreements.



How to contribute to the fund

Contact the fund at:
Dcpsf.sd@undp.org or
via (+249) 1 87120000

How to apply for DCPSF funding

Call for the proposals are usually annually, but are not on a set schedule. Visit the DCPSF website to see if a new call for proposals is in progress.
<http://bit.ly/DCPSF>

Photos: UNDP/Kuhnel
and DCPSF/Paton



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