



# **SUDAN PROTECTION SECTOR**

## **2013 – 2014 STRATEGY**

**September 2013**



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*The concept of protection encompasses all activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the relevant bodies of law (i.e., human rights law, international law, refugee law)<sup>1</sup>*

## I. INTRODUCTION

This strategy paper has been drafted in view of the Sudan Protection Sector's responsibility to assist the Government of Sudan (GoS) in addressing existing protection and human rights concerns, including those resulting from the continuous decline in the humanitarian and security situation in the country. Through this document, the Protection Sector aims at redoubling its efforts in protection action through the unified promotion of rights, especially for those touched by the conflict and violence in Sudan. At the same time, it also reaffirms the commitment to further engage with the Sudanese Government to promote a protection environment that attends to life-saving needs and the humanitarian priorities of individuals, families and communities, as well as the consolidation of peace.

The need for a strategy document to guide the work of the Protection Sector was first identified at the end of 2012, following the preparation of the Humanitarian Work Plan. The fact that the last strategic document for Darfur dates back to 2009 adds further impetus to the need of redefining protection priorities to respond to the needs arising as a result of the serious decline in the overall security situation in the country and the significant reduction of protection actors.

The 2013-2014 Protection Sector Strategy focuses on furthering the protection of civilians within a complex, ever-changing environment. It also aims at ensuring greater clarity and focus on key concerns and priority actions to be undertaken in close coordination with the Sudanese Government. It prioritizes a number of priority areas requiring urgent intervention and where synergies with relevant protection actors can be strengthened. These include: 1) enhancing the physical, legal and material security of conflict affected populations; 2) preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence; 3) promoting special protection measures for girls and boys; 4) enhancing access to justice for conflict affected populations; 5) addressing housing, land and property (HLP) rights; 6) reducing the risks of landmines/explosive remnants of war (ERWs); and 7) promoting measures to enhance the protection of South Sudanese populations in Sudan.

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<sup>1</sup> This definition was devised after a series of workshops organized at the end of the 1990s by the ICRC with humanitarian practitioners and academics, and enjoys broad support.



The Strategy was developed by Protection Sector members with a state-level focus and in close cooperation with the Child Protection, Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Mine Action<sup>2</sup> sub-sectors. The process began in January 2013 with a national retreat where a broad range of issues and challenges were tabled, including the need to develop a strategy document. This was followed by a Protection Coordination Training for the sector's state coordinators in March led by the Global Protection Cluster (GPC). A number of field-based consultations also took place on the strategy which concluded with state-level consultations in July and August 2013. The document was consolidated and finalized through a technical and operational review by all sector leads as well as individual agencies and organizations. This note should be regarded as a living document and must respond to the changing realities on the ground. The Protection Sector therefore recommends that the strategy be regularly reviewed, i.e. at least once a year.

## II. OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

The Republic of Sudan has a population of 30,894,000, according to the 2008 census and a total area of 1,886,068 km<sup>2</sup> (population density of 16.4/km<sup>2</sup>). Its current Interim Constitution was drawn up on 9 January 2005 and affirms in its article 17 the respect for international law, Sudan's treaty obligations and the enhancement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. In addition, it includes a Bill of Rights (Part 2, articles 27-48). Sudan is party to key international human rights instruments, notably the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Sudan is also party to the four Geneva Conventions and the two Optional Protocols as well as to the 1954 Hague Convention. Sudan is, however, not a party to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Convention against Torture. Sudan signed the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (Ottawa Treaty), on 4 December 1997 and ratified it on 13 October 2003. On 1 April 2004, it became a member state in the Ottawa Convention on prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction. On the regional front, Sudan has ratified the African Charter on Human and People's Rights the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, but is yet to ratify the Kampala Convention on IDPs.

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<sup>2</sup> As of January 2014, following a sector restructuring process of the Sudan Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), the Mine Action Sector will join the Protection Sector. UNMAS will continue to lead mine/ERWs matters as a sub-sector of the Protection Sector.



The protection environment in Sudan is characterized by a number of interlinking factors which, when taken together, are significantly affecting the way the Protection Sector is able to deliver within the framework of the Cluster Approach and the Transformative Agenda. The most important of these factors are:

- a significant deterioration in the overall humanitarian and security situation in the country, leading to a marked increase in internal displacement;
- decreasing humanitarian space, with serious challenges to physically reach populations in need and to undertake protection activities; and
- a lack of protection front-line actors and insufficient number of operational protection actors on the ground.

The above have resulted in a significant reduction in the protection interventions/ services available in key geographical areas, namely East Sudan, the South/West Kordofan and Blue Nile States, Khartoum, as well as in Darfur, including in many IDP camps and settlements, rural and urban areas and places of new displacement. As such, the Protection Sector is increasingly concerned about its ability to operate and deliver on core protection issues.

International staff access to South/West Kordofan and Blue Nile has been intermittent for the past couple of years, with permit procedures, including for vehicles, often causing significant delays/cancellation of missions. There remain operational difficulties to work outside the capital within government-controlled areas, and SPML-N zones being presently out of reach.

Within Khartoum, where security is not presently an overriding problem, thousands of new IDPs arrived from South/West Kordofan in the second quarter of 2013 in addition to a relatively constant albeit smaller flow of IDPs arriving in the city from other parts of the country. Yet, the international community at large did not have access to the areas where they had settled. Khartoum is also home for the majority of South Sudanese living in Sudan, including about 40,000 living in the so called “open areas”<sup>3</sup>. Access to this vulnerable population is partial and irregular. Around mid-year, during the recent floods, only certain humanitarian actors received permits, with access denied to most international staff, which hindered both monitoring and response.

In Darfur, protection action is largely limited to urban centers with incomplete efforts in IDP camps and settlements. Partners’ access to populations is restricted because of the

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<sup>3</sup> The open areas were initially established as ‘Departure Points’ in October 2010, following an announcement by the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) in Khartoum that South Sudanese wishing to return to South Sudan should congregate in specific open areas for organized voluntary return road movements. Around 116,000 individuals were assisted to return between October 2010 until returns stopped at the beginning of 2011, as resources were diverted due to referendum preparations. Thus, a number of people remained stranded in these areas, devoid of infrastructure and functioning services.



deteriorating security situation with escorts often required to reach populations in need. In addition, the need to secure authorization to travel outside the main cities has led to further access restrictions. These have manifested themselves in repeated cancellations of missions by the local authorities and denial of, or delayed, access in the context of new emergencies, and this despite the fact that protection concerns are often most prevalent in the immediate aftermath of forced displacement. The authorities are also adding new requirements to obtain permission to enter certain IDP camps. The results of these measures may lead to further difficulties for the international community to maintain a meaningful presence and to ascertain the actual protection dynamics affecting the overwhelming majority of the displaced and conflict-affected populations in Sudan.

Aside from the challenges of physical access, trainings, workshop and other such activities, require government permits, and events have even been halted after having been initiated subsequent to Government approval having been obtained. Furthermore, Government's Directives of February 2013 confirmed that NGOs require Technical Agreements<sup>4</sup> to operate and that INGO Technical Agreements would be signed in conjunction with "partnership agreements"—essentially to function through national institutions and vetted organizations. In this context, however, there are a number of opportunities that would need to be more widely explored. The Ministry of Social Welfare, for example, is carrying out meaningful protection work (family tracing and psychosocial support to victims of SGBV) in the context of the new emergencies and more broadly on behalf of vulnerable populations. Similarly, some national NGOs are increasingly keen to engage, including on the protection front.

This being said, the implementation of protection activities exclusively through local implementing partners may lead to further difficulties for the international community to maintain a meaningful contact with beneficiaries and ascertain the actual protection dynamics affecting the overwhelming majority of the displaced population in the country.

In short, the humanitarian community, and in particular the Protection Sector, is witnessing unprecedented access restrictions to populations in need throughout the country. This is an issue that the Sector will continue to manage through a more engaging, protection-focused relationship with national entities.

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<sup>4</sup> The Government's "Directives for Humanitarian Work for 2013", issued in February 2013, refer to Technical Agreements for NGOs. These are programmatically and financially detailed agreements, which need government approval prior to implementation. They confirm the geographic and operational scope of a given project. Related operational challenges include two to six month processes for signing, limits to activities allowed, staff hiring in concert with government, limits to international staff visas, restrictions to travel outside Khartoum.



### III. BENEFICIARY POPULATIONS

According to August 2013 figures utilized by the Sudan Humanitarian Country Team (HCT)<sup>5</sup>, in Darfur, over two million people have been internally displaced since 2003 as a result of conflict, with over 300,000 Darfuri refugees fleeing to Chad. In South/West Kordofan and Blue Nile, about one and a half million people have been displaced or severely affected by conflict since 2011. The majority remain in Sudan, while some 225,000 fled to South Sudan or Ethiopia. There are also approximately 350,000 South Sudanese in Sudan<sup>6</sup> with the majority living in Khartoum (approximately 200,000 to 220,000), and around 50,000 in Darfur, 30,000 are estimated to live in East Sudan and 3,500 in White Nile State. Landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERWs) continue to pose danger to communities and limits humanitarian access, particularly for IDPs and Returnees in the Border States. Between January 2002 and September 2013, 556 have been killed, with the majority of incidents taking place in South/West Kordofan (209), Blue Nile (135), where new mines/ERWs are also problematic. Regarding the rains and flooding this year, according to the Government, 67,000 homes have been destroyed or damaged and 340,000 people have been directly affected, many in areas already dealing with conflict-related crises.

The population targeted for humanitarian assistance by the UN and its partners is over 4.5 million in Sudan.

**Darfur Region:** IDPs are present in all five Darfur states, living in camps and mixed settlements. The estimated number of IDPs in the states is: 259,094 in North Darfur, 499,266 in West Darfur (including Central Darfur) and 426,457 in South Darfur (including Eastern Darfur) – a total of 1.2 million IDPs in camps/settlements in Darfur<sup>7</sup>. As a result of the relative stability in some parts of Darfur, mainly West Darfur, over 269,000 people have voluntarily returned to their areas of origin in Darfur from January 2011 to June 2013<sup>8</sup>. Notwithstanding, UNHCR along with partners report that newly-displaced IDPs continue to require urgent attention to address their protection concerns, particularly physical security and access to basic services. Also, incidents of violence, including S/GBV, and protection risks against children, are cause for concern, particularly in the absence of effective redress mechanisms.

The overall humanitarian, security and protection context in Darfur has severely deteriorated and is increasingly marked by localized fighting primarily based on land and

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<sup>5</sup> Exact numbers of displaced people are hard to determine as some have been displaced on multiple occasions, some were displaced temporarily while others remained displaced for many years, and some are in camps while others are in host communities or left the area. (*Humanitarian Snapshot, 31 August 2013*)

<sup>6</sup> With no official registration and documentation procedures, these estimates are based on information collected during assessments and focus group discussions that UNHCR and other protection partners conducted in 2011 and 2012. Meanwhile the Government of Sudan indicates that the total population of South Sudanese in Sudan is only 220,000.

<sup>7</sup> Verification figures related to food distribution updates, initiated in late 2010. (*WFP/IOM, data released July 2013*)

<sup>8</sup> 206,000 IDP returnees and 63,000 refugee returnees (*UNHCR, 30 June 2013*)



resources, military clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and rebel movements, as well as tensions between nomadic and pastoralist tribes. Conflict has led to a significant increase in civilian casualties and the displacement of some 300,000 people so far in 2013. Overall safety and security in Darfur, including of UN agency and INGO staff, is also becoming an increasing concern. In early July 2013, the fighting in Nyala, South Darfur resulted in civilian deaths, including children fatally caught in the cross-fire, as well as two INGO staff.

***South/West Kordofan, Blue Nile and Abyei:*** Whilst political solutions are sought, the armed confrontations between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) continue to be major cause for concern. As of 31 August 2013, the Sudan Humanitarian Country Team works with the figure of about one million people having been severely affected by conflict in South/West Kordofan<sup>9</sup>. In Blue Nile, the total estimate is 275,000<sup>10</sup>. For Abyei, of the 105,000 who fled in May 2011, some 45,000 remain displaced. UNHCR figures for refugees who have fled from Blue Nile and/or Blue Nile include 193,000 in South Sudan and 32,000 in Ethiopia. There also exist border populations at-risk of statelessness, who are not accessible and for whom no statistics are available.

Bordering South Sudan, these states are points of confluence for different ethnic groups and have been the frontline of the extended conflict between the North and the South, prior to 2011, which continues to the present day, with the civilian population bearing the brunt of the war. From the 2009-2010 tribal conflict, the 2011 armed confrontation in Kadugli (the capital of South Kordofan State) as well as the current conflict, there have been multiple and large displacements: the population movements within and outside the States are a constant, which has led to an exacerbated humanitarian situation and the highest mine/ERWs incidents in the country. The lack of an adequate reception mechanism since 2011 critically affects Blue Nile and South/West Kordofan, as IDPs are mixed within the host community with no formal recognition. They are largely invisible and very difficult to target for protection and assistance. It has been reported that IDPs return prematurely to areas of origin that are still insecure, after not receiving assistance and finding nowhere else to go. Lastly, any response is made more complex due to access limitations, especially in SPLM-N controlled areas, where there is no way of verifying or responding to any information received on the populations in need.

***Khartoum:*** As the country's capital and the largest city in Sudan, Khartoum has received waves of IDPs resulting from conflicts throughout the country. Since the onset of the North-South divide and the beginning of the Darfur conflict through to the current displacements, Khartoum has been the largest single reception area for IDPs. However, following the official "closure" of IDP camps without any durable solutions process and the continued influx of

<sup>9</sup> For South/West Kordofan, 375,000 in GoS-controlled areas and 700,000 in SPLM-N areas. (*Humanitarian Snapshot, 31 August 2013*)

For Blue Nile, 185,000 in GoS-controlled areas and 90,000 in SPLM-N areas. (*Humanitarian Snapshot, 31 August 2013*)



new IDPs, there has no structured humanitarian assistance strategy for Khartoum. In fact, there are no statistics, official or unofficial, utilized or included in the 2013 Humanitarian Work Plan, beyond estimates for those of South Sudanese origin. In May 2013, there were an estimated 12,000 IDPs of the 90,000 IDPs from Abu Karshola, South/West Kordofan in Khartoum who were discouraged by officials to settle collectively. Beyond this, only initial emergency assistance was provided by the state government, but no access was permitted by the international community. Given that return to Abu Karshola is still insecure and few have returned, according to unconfirmed sources, by September 2013, reports are that the majority moved on, and others remain with extended families. Others indicate that the IDPs simply faded into the Khartoum backdrop.

Also in Khartoum there is a lack of appropriate reception and assistance mechanisms made available to IDPs displaced since 2011 and who are left without official recognition and support contrary to the National IDP Policy. As a result, IDPs are subject to socio-economic discrimination, evictions, inequitable access to services and no humanitarian attention or special protection environment. In addition, urban development lacks the incorporation of durable solutions strategies to aid in the rebuilding of the lives of IDPs, both the protracted IDP populations, as well as the latest groups arriving since 2011, primarily from South/West Kordofan and Blue Nile.

***South Sudanese in Sudan:*** In the context of the independence of South Sudan in July 2011, the Southern Sudanese Legislative Assembly adopted a Nationality Act in June 2011, which provides for automatic acquisition of nationality by birth for any individual belonging to an indigenous group from South Sudan and those with a link to South Sudan through birth of ancestors or long residence on the territory. Under the law, persons of South Sudanese origin living in the Republic of Sudan automatically acquire South Sudanese nationality.<sup>[1]</sup> In August 2011, the Sudanese government amended its own nationality laws, providing that those recognized as citizens under the new law of South Sudan would automatically lose their Sudanese nationality<sup>[2]</sup>. The consequences for South Sudanese who had been living for years in Sudan were the loss of all related rights and entitlement. Along with the risk of statelessness for some groups (i.e. those of mixed origin, border communities), protection risks linked to their loss of status include loss of livelihood, eviction, threat of expulsion, lack of documentation and access to basic rights. Moreover, people who lose their Sudanese nationality and wish to remain in Sudan lack information on how to regularize their stay as lawful residents since, at present, there is no clear procedure for their regularization.

These new nationality arrangements affect an estimated population of approximately 350,000 people of South Sudanese origin living in Sudan. Amongst these communities, an estimated 40,000 individuals are living in the open, in camp like situations, in Khartoum State and approximately 3,500 are stranded at the railway station in Kosti (White Nile State) awaiting transportation to South Sudan. In terms of durable solutions, South Sudanese in



Sudan currently face an unclear legal status due to their loss of nationality, and they live in a limbo situation with limited rights and entitlements; there have also been no viable options for return since early 2012, due to border insecurity and closure of the border crossing points. It is however hoped that the Cooperation Agreement of 27 September 2013, and especially the Framework Agreement on the Status of Nationals of each State, if implemented, will provide a framework for the provision of legal status to South Sudanese in Sudan, thereby mitigating the risk of statelessness and addressing some of the protection concerns that are affecting the South Sudanese population in Sudan, including lack of legal status in Sudan and the implications that this has on the daily lives of South Sudanese. Specifically, the Framework Agreement provides a key principle, which is the Four Freedoms of residence, movement, undertaking economic activity and the right to acquire and dispose of property, and foresees the provision on documentation, including residency and work permits.<sup>[3]</sup> However, the implementation of this Agreement still has to translate into tangible results for the population.

#### **IV. PROTECTION OVERVIEW & STRATEGIC ACTIONS**

In light of the significant challenges to delivering protection in Sudan, this Strategy aims at establishing a starting point for the revitalization of the Sector and at setting forth the key priorities identified by protection partners in Sudan across the country with the view to enabling a focused and targeted response to the most urgent protection needs.

##### **Priority 1 - Enhancing the physical, legal and material security of conflict-affected populations**

Enhancing the physical, legal and material security of IDPs in camps, settlements or living amongst host communities as well as of conflict affected populations remains a priority for the international community. Years of continued insecurity and the growing climate of impunity has led to an increase in the number and level of abuses committed against civilian populations by a multitude of actors. The spread of small arms and limited presence of law enforcement has also led to increased criminality with hardly any action being taken against perpetrators.

Newly displaced populations face even greater insecurity with temporary IDP settlements having increasingly become the target of deliberate attacks. The lack of appropriate reception structures in urban centers to which IDPs are increasingly fleeing to seek safety and support further exacerbates the situation, leaving IDPs with no direction or guidance, as they search for safety and assistance. They are disproportionately vulnerable and subject to discrimination, especially if perceived to be a burden on the community at large. In some areas, movement restrictions are in place, without contemplating humanitarian and



protection needs. Forced or coerced returns are increasingly prevalent, lacking adherence to principles of voluntariness, safety and dignity, and with IDPs often not participating sufficiently in the decision, leading to premature returns which often result in secondary displacements. Humanitarian assistance and services often do not always reach these vulnerable populations, due to lack of access, insufficient community and/or government engagement, thereby leading to increased frailty and further marginalization.

In this environment, girls, boys, women, the disabled, the elderly and minorities are at heightened risk of being victims of violence and abuse. Lack of livelihood opportunities and the inadequate provision of services and has led to increased poverty and vulnerability and in the collapse of social support structures. This rather dramatic situation has heightened tensions amongst families and communities and increased significantly the incidence of domestic violence and criminality, as well as new exposures to exploitation and abuse. The ability of conflict affected communities to rebound becomes more and more limited. Families divide and scatter as a survival measure, which further limits their ability to attend to the most vulnerable members of their families. Children are increasingly pressured to search for ways to contribute to the household income or to not be a burden, leading to school dropouts and more working or living in the streets, with the increased possibility of forced recruitment.

Due to the existing restrictive operational environment, specific conditions have only been partially identified, and the Protection Sector will be undertaking a rapid review to determine priority responses to the most dramatic of situations.

**Strategic Actions**<sup>11</sup>: 1) Prevent/mitigate the effects of conflict/violence through advocacy and awareness on conflict induced protection issues and the promotion of civilians' rights, utilizing information from protection monitoring and early warning mechanisms. 2) Identify and respond to the protection/assistance needs of extremely vulnerable individuals and persons with special needs, employing Age-Gender-Diversity Mainstreaming (AGDM) in humanitarian action. 3) Build emergency response capacity within the sector and humanitarian community together with the Government and host communities. 4) Prioritize community resilience to improve self-protection capacities and support to extremely vulnerable individuals and persons with special needs, by stepping up community-based protection networks (CBPNs). 5) Support response mechanisms and safe service delivery to survivors of violence and those at-risk, including psychosocial, legal aid and medical and physical safety. 6) In the context of durable solutions, advocate and ensure safe and secure conditions through monitoring and tracking, in line with the principles of

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<sup>11</sup> The Protection Sector confirms key partnerships, including with UNAMID in Darfur, providing one of the few opportunities to improve an already tenuous situation, despite its challenges. In terms of its PoC Strategy, UNAMID facilitates open humanitarian access and deters and investigate attacks, including those sexually violent in nature. The international humanitarian community must continue to coordinate with UNAMID to make full use of its resources to ensure fulfillment of its mandate.



voluntariness, safety and dignity. 7) Support IDPs and host communities' active participation in durable solutions processes, to ensure IDPs make an informed choice about their right to local integration, return or relocation. 8) Ensure protection mainstreaming within the humanitarian community and with national counterparts, in order to ensure that IDPs and extremely vulnerable individuals and persons with special needs have safe access to services and assistance, in all phases and aspects of humanitarian intervention. This includes assessment, monitoring and mapping of key services to identify priority areas to improve safe and equitable humanitarian intervention.

### **Priority 2 - Preventing and responding to Incidents of Gender-Based Violence (GBV)**

Sexual and gender-based violence continues to be a major concern throughout the country affecting women boys and girls in all phases of displacement. In most areas of the country, protection actors consider it the number one priority. Despite improvements in the Government's openness to addressing gender-based violence, women and girls and boys, especially from IDP communities, continue to be at heightened risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). With indicative incidents reported, many survivors still suffer in silence, with very limited or no access to medical, legal recourse and psychosocial support. A recurring problem in Darfur and elsewhere are the attacks suffered by women and girls in undertaking household tasks, such as firewood and water collections. Sexual violence is also contributing to destabilizing social structures in a context where women are often representing a large segment of the overall population. Survivors, who often live within an already hostile environment, suffer as a result of the violence they have experienced and, in addition to the loss of family and community support, they are often re-victimized and stigmatized. This, coupled with extremely limited medical and psychological support, has serious repercussions for survivors, often leading to a dangerous cycle of violence and marginalization (i.e., physical insecurity, (child) labor/exploitation, criminality, forced marriage, domestic violence).

**Strategic Actions:** 1) Improve security for IDPs, focused on preventative measures for women and girls (i.e., building synergies with actors such as UNAMID regarding firewood patrols, community based action through CBPNs, focused on improved communication between communities and protection partners. 2) Support to GBV survivors through the reinvigoration of referral pathways and respective services, enhancing psychosocial support. 3) Protection mainstreaming to ensure that GBV survivors are provided support with specific opportunities, i.e., livelihoods and targeted assistance. 4) Advocate and support the implementation of the existing legal framework and Zero Tolerance Policy, while aiding in necessary legal reform and awareness-raising including with the local authorities on all forms of GBV.



### Priority 3 - Promoting special protection measures for girls and boys

In areas affected by conflict and violence, children's rights have been seriously impacted. Their psychosocial well-being is compromised by the trauma of war and disruption of their lives due to displacement. More than 1,400 children are currently registered as separated or unaccompanied in the database of the National Council of Child Welfare, mainly as a result of conflict and displacement. Grave violations of children's rights are perpetrated by at least seven parties to conflict in Sudan, according to the latest report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict. These violations have been recorded in the Three Areas as well as Darfur, and include recruitment and use of children; grave sexual violence; killing and maiming; abduction; attacks on schools and hospitals; and denial of humanitarian access. Recent conflict has also contributed to the legacy of landmine contamination and unexploded ordnances that place children at particular risk of death or disability. . Child labor and children living/working in the street are growing worries expressed by a number of stakeholders, due to the worsening situation of IDP families and communities, with children carrying the socio-economic burden.

**Strategic Actions:** 1) Strengthen Government capacity to protect children in situations of armed conflict in line with national legislation and international humanitarian and human rights law. 2) Focus on child protection mechanisms in affected states, particularly regarding psychosocial support to children disrupted by emergencies and displacement. 3) Extend the reach of Family and Child Protection Units (FCPUs) to provide services to children who are victims of violence and abuse, or are accused of offences. 4) Ensure Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) networks are in place and effectively respond to separated and unaccompanied children. 5) Support community based protection networks (CBPNs) to prevent and respond to child protection concerns at community level. 6) Support community reintegration of children affected by armed conflict, including children released from armed groups and forces. 7) Support sustainable mine-risk education in schools and communities, while deploying emergency teams in areas affected by recent contamination.

### Priority 4 - Enhancing access to justice for conflict affected populations

The legal system in Sudan is based on English common law and Islamic sharia, with Islamic law implementation as of September 1983<sup>12</sup>, which applies to all residents of the Sudan regardless of their religion, with traditional/customary law also functioning in tandem in a number of areas. The national legal framework is notably strong with a Constitution that includes respect for ratified international treaties and conventions, as well as a Bill of Rights (articles 27 to 48). Important national instruments include the Penal Code of 1991, with chapter 18 added in 2008, introducing for the first time reference to violations to IHL with provisions for strong safeguards and protection to populations affected by armed conflicts, including IDPs. There is also the Armed Forces Act of 2007, which prohibits causing the

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<sup>12</sup> Implementation was for the then-north of Sudan, which is now currently Sudan.



displacement of populations and speaks to the protection of populations affected by armed conflict, as well as the 2009 National IDP Policy<sup>13</sup> and the Human Rights Commission Act of the same year. In addition, the Child Act was passed in 2010. This Act defines the child as any person under the age of 18, criminalizes child exploitation and abuse, and outlines a comprehensive child justice system and refers to rights and freedoms enshrined in international and regional conventions. Then, the Doha Document on Peace in Darfur (DDPD) of 2012 includes specific reference to return and compensation of IDPs and refugees. With respect to East Sudan, there is also the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement of 2006.

Despite important progress made towards achieving durable solutions for IDPs and returnees in Darfur in 2012, in particular with the signing of the DDPD, there has been a deterioration in the overall humanitarian and security situation in Sudan leading to a marked increase in internal displacement and secondary movements of populations, as well as an overall and significant reduction in the number of individuals returning to their places of origin. Darfur's gold rush has escalated new waves of violence whose dynamics and dimensions are still to be clearly understood.

With these important legal advances having been made in the past five years, the overriding concern is with respect to the application of justice in areas of conflict and for those victims and survivors throughout the country, which is limited by factors related to the conflict as well as government capacity. It is also at times hindered by contradictions or the application of traditional beliefs and practices. In addition, while laws do exist, there remain legal contradictions and inconsistencies that require reforms to take place to ensure appropriate application and interpretation (e.g. GBV definitions and application of the GBV policy, particularly for rape survivors; lack of consistency between Child Act and other national legislation with regards to the definition of the child). There are widespread and ongoing violations/abuses in areas of conflict and during all phases of displacement, with notable lack of access to justice and the low capacity of law enforcement and judicial bodies to ensure implementation of the national laws and to attend to the volume of cases in areas of violence. As a result, the re-victimization for the survivors of violence and impunity for perpetrators (i.e., GBV, land/property) is an ongoing concern. Reports indicate that IDPs, and PSNs, as well as South Sudanese, have difficulties in obtaining legal remedies and thus become even more vulnerable to attacks and criminality. Communities also attempt to design their own local system of justice, which has been proven useful in the absence of formal structures, but is also subject to misuse, especially in relation to the most vulnerable

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<sup>13</sup> The Kampala Convention has not yet been ratified by Sudan: the *African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa* is a treaty of the African Union that addresses internal displacement caused by armed conflict, natural disasters and large-scale development projects in Africa. The Convention was adopted in October 2009. As of June 2013, it had been signed by 39 and ratified by 17 of the 54 member states of the African Union. The Convention entered into force on 6 December 2012, 30 days after its ratification by 15 states.



and powerless within the communities. In terms of durable solutions, one of the principle obstacles to a sustainable return is the absence of rule of law (ROL).

**Strategic Actions:** 1) Raise awareness on/advocate for the application of the national legal framework for IDPs. 2) Maintain updated review and analysis of the legal frameworks for priority concerns regarding IDPs, women-GBV, and children, also utilizing incidents reported. 3) Build capacity and direct support to relevant governmental institutions, judicial bodies and other national partners. 4) Support for legal aid, particularly for IDPs, PSNs, survivors of violence and South Sudanese. 5) Support advances in legal reform and policy development, particularly related to GBV (i.e, Zero Tolerance Policy) and HLP issues as well as ratification of the Kampala Convention. 6) Monitor implementation of key laws and policies, with established baseline to evaluate situation of IDPs (and other PSNs). 7) Support the Human Rights Commission in the delivery of its duties, raise awareness regarding its mandate, responsibilities and procedures. 8) Increase conflict affected communities' awareness and utilization of national legal framework to better understand their rights and state responsibilities to them including through CBPNs. 9) Acknowledge and reinforce positive traditional practices as well as the influence role of the religious leaders to advance human rights issues, i.e. IFTA Chamber

#### **Priority 5 - Addressing housing, land and property (HLP) rights**

Understood as one of the root causes of conflict, violence and resulting displacement, ongoing as well as new land/property disputes are adding to and often fuelling existing tensions. With the lack of effective remedies to resolve these issues, new HLP conflicts erupt in violence, due to the proliferation of weapons, growing number of armed elements and weakened law enforcement bodies. Delays in accessing land and housing threaten IDPs' abilities to secure safety and livelihood for their families, thereby exposing them to greater protection risks, including GBV and leading to family separation. Lacking alternative means, IDPs often settle on private land and suffer insecurity and, in some instances, become displaced again, thereby losing critical household access to humanitarian aid, particularly food, shelter and livelihood opportunities. Loss or lack of land/property documentation can limit their ability to secure their rightful possession and makes access to compensation impossible. In the context of durable solutions, unresolved land/property issues and land occupations become an impediment to a peaceful return or local integration process, as well as a reason for renewed conflict. For local integration, in Darfur where many IDP camps/settlements are urban or peri-urban, housing rights within urban development plans are a priority.

**Strategic Actions:** 1) Establish an early-warning mechanisms and scale up protection monitoring to allow for better information on land/property issues, disputes and emerging crises. 2) Regarding conflict/violence related to disputes, support the improved capacity of law enforcement bodies and liaise with UNAMID to increase patrols in priority areas. 3)



Support peaceful reconciliation / peace-building mechanisms that address land/property disputes, particularly the Land Reform Commission, and other such bodies. 4) Contribute to the improvement of Rule of Law (ROL), including access to documentation and access to justice regarding compensation measures for IDPs and other conflict-affected individuals. 5) Ensure an Age-Gender-Diversity approach to mechanisms related land/property, given that many women and children are left defenseless in the absence of the male property owner. 6) In the context of durable solutions, undertake protection mainstreaming activities with government officials to advocate for development plans to incorporate durable solution strategy.

#### **Priority 6 - Reducing the risks of landmines/explosive remnants of war (ERWs)<sup>14</sup>**

A number of conflicts have contaminated Sudan with landmines and other explosive remnants of war (ERWs) beginning with the Second World War. Despite the tireless clearance efforts since 2002, Sudan still remains in the list of medium contaminated (with 10 – 100 Sqm mine contaminated land) among the Mines and ERW contaminated states around the globe. As of today in total 250 locations (32 Square Kilometers area) are contaminated with mines and ERW located mainly in Kassala, Gadaref, Red Sea, Blue Nile, South/West Kordofan and Darfur. Mines and ERW is seriously affecting the livelihood of local population, being one of the major obstacles in the way of aid deliveries in areas requires emergency support and prevents development activities in stable states. Also, in areas, including East Sudan, mine/ERWs affect return actions, humanitarian response to IDPs and refugees, as well as road travel and infrastructure development, hampering economic and social development, as well as limiting livelihood opportunities (i.e., agricultural) and have been major obstacles for post-conflict reconstruction. With an original deadline of April 2014, Sudan submitted request in March 2013 for an extension (five years) for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5 of the Ottawa Convention. Thus Sudan has committed to fulfill its obligation within the extended timeframe by April 2019.

The Blue Nile and South/West Kordofan have the highest level of contamination in Sudan yet, mine clearance activities has been restricted due to lack of humanitarian access. In August 2013, the SPLM-North group signed the “Geneva Call” Deed of Commitment for adherence to a total ban on Anti-Personnel Mines. In signing the deed of commitment, SPLM-N agrees to cooperate with the humanitarian MA activities in the specified states.

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14 The Mine Action (MA) Sector, which will join the Protection Sector as of January 2014, has ensured information management with mine-risk maps/tools that have allowed humanitarian actors to raise awareness on the scope of the problem and the dangers posed, with the government and communities and to reduce the impact and risk of mines and ERWs. Beyond the work on landmines removal from the ground, the concerns are based on those people and communities at risk and the lack of adequate services for victims and their communities to address their emergency needs and move toward a more stability environment. With respect to MA coordination, in Darfur and Abyei, key partnerships include UNAMID and UNISFA. Also, UNMAS has advanced positively with the National Mine Action Center (NMAC) to ensure national capacity.



Mines/ERWs continue to kill, injure individuals and block the delivery of humanitarian relief to areas currently suffering from open conflict and violence. Thus far, a total of 1,906 mine/ERW victims have been registered by the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA). In the year 2012, the highest number of accidents ever registered has recorded. The number of victims due to mines and ERW in 2012-2013 was 130, with 92 injured and 31 killed. Presently, school-based mine-risk education has recently been officially adopted as part of the national curriculum, and is being rolled-out in the worst affected States. Yet, emergency and follow-up services for victims are inadequate or nonexistent and community support is also limited, particularly in rural and remote locations.

**Strategic Actions:** 1) Advocate against use of mines, monitor compliance and new mine/ERWs contamination and ensure the dissemination of information on risks to IDPs, returnees and host communities. 2) Advocate against use of mines and support for mine clearance, especially humanitarian response and with no environmental impact—enabling progress of national MA multi-year work-plan to meet Ottawa Convention obligations under extended period of article-5 deadline. 3) Support sustainable mine-risk education in schools and communities, while deploying emergency teams in areas affected by recent contamination. 4) Reduce the risk and impact of landmines and support safe and equitable access to services for mine victims, ensuring AGDM focus, facilitating social and economical reintegration of landmine Victims/ERW and PWDs.

### **Priority 7 - Promoting measure to enhance the protection of South Sudanese**

For South Sudanese in Sudan, in September 2012, the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan signed a much-anticipated Cooperation Agreement with a framework that provided for the creation of a Four Freedoms Agreement, entitling nationals of the other state to the right to work, reside, own property and move freely in and between the two states. Meanwhile, return options remain extremely limited, the protection environment is unstable and there is a limited access to basic services. The risk of statelessness for particular groups is present. Furthermore, forced evictions and insecurity, particularly for women, continue to exist across the country.

In this context, the objective is to work with both Governments to ensure that, following the secession of South Sudan, comprehensive, fair, transparent and workable arrangements on nationality and prevention of statelessness are in place and that durable solutions are available for populations at risk of statelessness in Sudan, including former IDPs.

**Priority Actions:** 1) Advocate with the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan for the inclusion of legal safeguards on the prevention of statelessness in their legal framework and for the establishment of joint mechanisms to ensure that statelessness does not arise as a consequence of the secession of South Sudan. 2) Monitor and improve identification of at



risk of statelessness populations and improve the protection environment of South Sudanese in Sudan. 3) Advocate and provide services to respond to protection incidents, including through building the capacity of government actors and local organizations. 4) Promote access to documentation, including nationality documents and civil registration, particularly through direct assistance to vulnerable individuals and provision of technical and practical support to both the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan. 5) Improve access to durable solutions for South Sudanese, whether they choose to stay in Sudan or move to South Sudan.

## V. HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION IN SUDAN

### ***2013 Humanitarian Work Plan Objectives***

- 1. Contribute to timely and effective humanitarian response throughout Sudan.*
- 2. Promote and facilitate durable solutions, empowering people by reducing aid dependence.*
- 3. Build capacity of national actors to address humanitarian needs in Sudan.*

### ***2013 Protection Sector Objectives***

- 1. Enhance protection of civilians and the promotion of their rights, particularly for those at-risk, to strengthen a timely and effective, protection-focused humanitarian response.*
- 2. Contribute to a protective environment in communities, building their capacity to protect their most vulnerable and achieve appropriate durable solutions and advance early recovery processes.*
- 3. Strengthen the preparedness and the capacity of national actors to fulfill their protection obligations within the overall humanitarian response.*

### **a. Humanitarian Coordination Structure<sup>15</sup>**

***Government/UN and Partners Humanitarian Coordination Meeting:*** This is the main forum for humanitarian coordination between the Government of Sudan, the United Nations, humanitarian partners and donors. The forum covers the whole of Sudan and was set up in May 2012 to meet monthly. Meetings are chaired by the Commissioner General of the Government's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC). The forum includes members of the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS), Military Intelligence and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA). For the UN and humanitarian organizations, the forum includes the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator

<sup>15</sup> See link: <http://www.unocha.org/sudan/coordination/humanitarian-coordination-structure>



(RC/HC), OCHA, a UN agency representative (rotating), donors, the INGO Steering Committee, the Sudanese Red Crescent Society and the Sudan Council of Voluntary Agencies.

**The UN Humanitarian Coordinator:** Working with national and local authorities ensures that international humanitarian response efforts are inclusive and well-coordinated. The HC leads the HCT and is supported by OCHA.

**The Humanitarian Country Team:** This comprises the heads of UN humanitarian agencies, international humanitarian organizations, international NGOs and donor representatives. ICRC, IFRC, MSF and UNAMID have a standing invitation to participate. The HCT provides strategic direction for humanitarian operations carried out by the UN and its partners in Sudan. It ensures, where appropriate, links with recovery and development planning.

**The International Non-Governmental Organization (INGO) Forum:** Facilitates communication, information-sharing and action among humanitarian and development INGOs based in Sudan. The INGO Forum has a membership of 70 INGOs operating in Sudan and is represented by a nine-member Steering Committee elected every six months. The INGO Forum fosters coordination with a range of stakeholders, including the United Nations, the Government of Sudan and donors, to allow for more effective delivery of relief, recovery and development assistance.

**The Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG):** This group is for the UN and its partners. It consists of sector lead agencies and focal points for cross-cutting issues. The humanitarian operation in Sudan is composed of thirteen sectors<sup>16</sup>. ISGC focuses on the operational implementation of policies and strategies that are agreed by the HCT.

## **b. Protection Sector Structure**

With the IDP Center of the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) as the respective line ministry, the Protection Sector is led by UNHCR, with two Sub-Sectors: Child Protection (CP) under UNICEF<sup>17</sup> and Gender Based Violence (GBV) under UNFPA. Also, in line with the global set-up and with sector priorities, the Protection Sector is in the process of establishing a Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Technical Group, to be led by UNHABITAT. As of 1 January 2014, the Mine Action Sector under UNMAS<sup>18</sup> will integrate with the

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<sup>16</sup> As of 2013, the thirteen sectors are as follows: comprises the following 13 sectors: Coordination and Common Services (CCS); Education; Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL); Governance, Infrastructure and Economic Recovery (GIER); Health; Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications (LET); Mine Action (MA); Non-Food Items and Emergency Shelter (NFI/ES); Nutrition; Protection; Refugee Multi-Sector (RMS); Returns and Early Reintegration (RER); and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).

<sup>17</sup> Supported by a INGO Deputy Chair on a rotating basis.

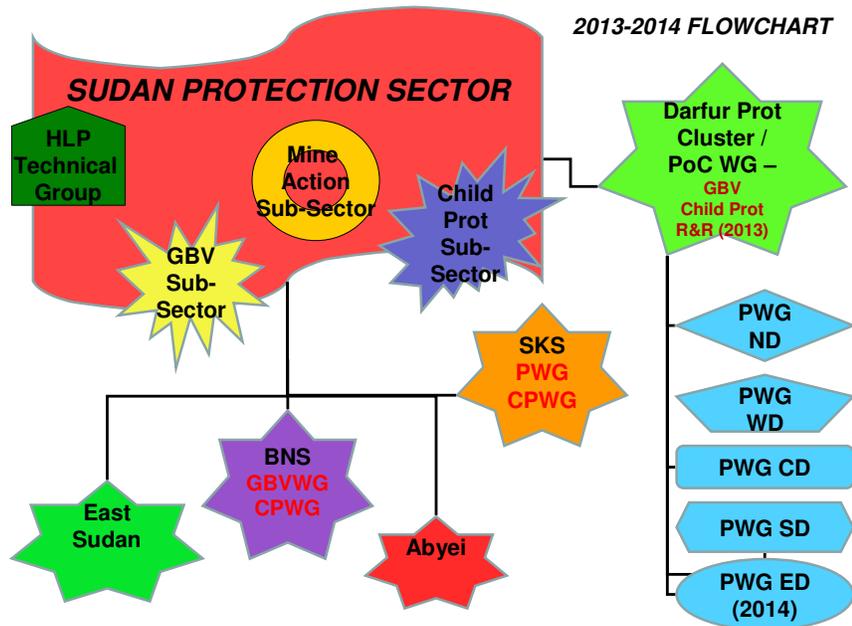
<sup>18</sup> UNMAS – United Nations Mine Action in Sudan, which undertakes its responsibilities in close collaboration with the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC).



Protection Sector and establish a third Sub-Sector, with 2013 coordination focus on the construction of the 2014 Humanitarian Work Plan.<sup>19</sup>

The Protection Sector focuses on its field coordination capacity, within Darfur and in Blue Nile, South (West) Kordofan, and Khartoum. Protection Working Groups as well as CP and GBV Working Groups function at the state-level. Specifically, in Darfur, the Darfur Protection Cluster (DPC) is led by UNHCR with the CP and GBV Sub-Sectors' active participation and with close coordination with UNAMID through Protection of Civilians Working Group and the Joint Protection Group. The Sector has in the process of reinforcing its Field Coordination structure to include a back-up system, to ensure that Working Groups functions regardless of lack of presence or capacity of principal agencies.

The Protection Sector actively participates in the NFI/ES and GIER Sectors, as a part of its Protection Mainstreaming strategy and to ensure coordination on Durable Solutions issues



**c. Key Partnerships**

The Protection Sector will seek to strengthen its partnership and coordination with relevant stakeholders. It is imperative to further develop key partnership to expand the protection architecture in Sudan, to address the multiple concerns and priorities within the existing operational environment. There is also a particular need to seek out actors (Governmental and nongovernmental) at local, regional and national levels. A key activity will be begin setting up forums at various levels with key government partners, to come together

<sup>19</sup> Within Protection Sector, ensure effective mine action in support of development and humanitarian priorities through promoting social stability, community security and economic development.



strategically on protection matters and to further support existing operational relationships between sector partners and government entities. Networking with fundamental stakeholders within Sudan civil society will be enhanced, including with academic institutions and human rights groups. At the same time, continued efforts are being made to confirm synergies with international actors positively affecting the protection environment in Sudan, i.e., ICRC, MSF, UNAMID, UNISFA. At the same time, it is important to note that an improved collaboration with early recovery actors is essential.

In order to achieve this, the Protection Sector may seek support from the Global Protection Cluster (GPC), the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and others. The sector partners are guided in their work by the principles of partnership as outlined in the Global Humanitarian Platform, as well as key human rights and humanitarian principles and professional protection standards and codes of conduct.

***Protection Forum with Government of Sudan:*** The Protection Sector will consolidate a plan of action to establish a regular space with key government counterparts to increase protection will and response capacity and to expand humanitarian space for protection action. This will also be a means to explore options for activities that will strengthen the government's direct engagement in the promotion and protection of human rights, as per the national legal frameworks in Sudan.

## **VI. PROTECTION SECTOR OPERATIONAL COORDINATION**

Given the complicated operational environment and the gravity of the protection concerns, the Protection Sector Strategy for 2013-2014 includes a focus on the internal support to its protection partners, national and international, to seek viable, creative avenues to continue the much-needed protection work in the field. Related to this, the Protection Sector looks to support inter-sector response toward a stronger protection and AGDM focus, in order to maximize humanitarian efforts.

### **a. Responsibilities: Strategic Direction & Coordination**

***Strategic Direction:*** The present strategy covers 2013-2014 with a serious review required in 2014, given the context of increasing protection concerns and in view of operation complexities. Also, due to the fact that this is the first national strategy, it is understood that the strategy may need to further refine priorities, based on changing field realities and partner capacity. The Sudan Protection Sector will ensure that its priorities are reflected in the work of its sub-sectors and its state-level working groups, not least of all given that this



paper has been constructed based on a field concerns and priorities and with the technical review of all sub-sectors and national partners.

**Field Support:** The Protection Sector is focused on supporting partners in the field, primarily through the enhancement of state-level working groups, as well as the Darfur Protection Cluster (DPC). Based on locally-identified priorities, i.e., emergency protection response, GBV prevention and response, the Protection Sector will support working groups in the development of action plans and will provide operational and technical feedback, through field coordinators and sub-sector leads.

**Sector Leadership,** including Mine Action (MA) and Housing, Property and Land (HPL): There will be ongoing effort to ensure quality leadership with respect to protection coordination undertaken by UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNMAS and UNHABITAT. Concerted efforts will be made to fill the gaps related to field coordination, particularly with respect to GBV. In addition, the Protection Sector will support UNMAS to increase coordination with UNAMID and UNISFA to ensure common strategic purpose. This is particularly important given UNMAS strong national capacity-building work with Sudan's National Mine Action Center (NMAC). For HPL, the Protection Sector will determine a TORs and a plan of action for the HLP Technical Group, as per technical and strategic priorities.

**Humanitarian Access/Space:** Due to the reality of limited humanitarian access/space, a significant aspect of the protection response is to support existing protection actors, particularly in priority areas to maintain and expand monitoring/response capacities and to identify additional sector partners. The Protection Sector will also report regularly on access challenges and opportunities to further support HC/HCT advocacy efforts with the government to expand humanitarian space, including with respect to trainings, workshop and other events that are an essential part of the protection strategy

**Needs Assessments, Protection Monitoring & Information Management:** Evidence-based programming is essential. With the need for regular quantitative and qualitative protection data, improving protection-focused assessments is a top priority. The Protection Sector will assist state-level working groups in monitoring/ assessment and analysis capacities, along with tools and methodological guidance. The Protection Sector will also be actively involved in inter-sector assessment strategies, to ensure rights-based approach and the inclusion of Age, Gender, Diversity Mainstreaming (AGDM), as well as effective community participation.

Protection monitoring, returnee monitoring and population movement tracking are key activities that are being enhanced in 2013, based on global tools modified to fit the local context. The Protection Sector will also liaise with the GPC and IDMC to develop an IDP profiling project and will engage with other humanitarian partners to ensure protection oversight with regard to activities undertaken in other sectors. With the support of UNDP (CRMA project), the Protection Sector will also roll-out a new partner mapping tool. Overall,



there will be a (regular) review of existing information management systems (i.e. protection monitoring, early-warning mechanisms, FTR, mapping of protection services), to determine priorities in this area.

**Standard Setting & Protection Mainstreaming (Do No Harm):** The Protection Sector's main objective is to contribute to an effective and timely humanitarian response, focusing on the following actions:

- *Policy Development:* Focus will be given to address two areas of policy development for 2013 and 2014: the National IDP policy for Sudan and the review of the national legal framework supporting the Protection of Civilians, particularly related to GBV and the Child Right Act of 2010. Support will also be given to land and property issues.
- *Updating the Durable Solutions Strategy:* In support of on-going IDP and refugee return and reintegration in Darfur, the Protection Sector will update and operationalize the existing strategic paper, under the leadership of UNHCR to ensure respect for the principles of voluntariness, security and dignity with respect to return, local integration or relocation.
- *Protection Mainstreaming with HCT sectors and other key stakeholders:* GPC Protection Mainstreaming tools have been provided to State-Level Working Groups with further training to follow, as well as translations into Arabic language for engagement with key players on the ground. Particular efforts will be made with GIER (Early Recovery & Durable Solutions), FSL (Livelihoods for PSNs) and NFI/ES (emergency response & targeted assistance).

**Capacity Development:** A key gap for the Protection Sector has been the lack of a common understanding regarding a range of protection actions and approaches (i.e., emergency response, durable solutions and community-based protection). In line with responsibilities regarding standard setting and policy development, the Protection Sector will therefore, initiate the consolidation and harmonization of training tools and work on training plans for the sector partners. The Protection Sector will also support OCHA in streamlining assessment tools and processes.

**Advocacy & Promotion:** With a focus on field driven advocacy, the Protection Sector will also be developing an advocacy tools to support protection forums with government entities. It will provide guidance and support to working groups to identify key advocacy issues for local, regional and national action. The advocacy strategy also relates to coordination with HCT/HC with respect to ensure informed decision making at the HCT on key protection issues. The Protection Sector will also continue to advocate with the wider international community, in relation to key protection actions and related funding issues.



## **b. Responsibilities: Monitoring & Evaluation**

The sector lead agency, UNHCR, is accountable to the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) for ensuring that protection issues are identified, brought to the attention of responsible institutions and adequately addressed. The Protection Sector will thus be working closely with HCT, HC and responsible agencies to uphold their role in promoting respect for human rights and humanitarian law; advocating with the national authorities and other actors on humanitarian principles, including unimpeded access to affected populations; in promoting gender mainstreaming and women's rights at the policy, planning and implementation levels; and in mobilizing resources for the humanitarian response. This strategic document will serve as the basis for the sector's monitoring and evaluation activities, as well as the annual Humanitarian Work Plan. In practical terms, the yearly work plans developed by respective working groups and the DPC, monitoring and evaluation activities will be incorporated. These in turn will form part of the national work plan, together with the CERF/CHF monitoring responsibilities and in line with partner mapping objectives.

## **VII. KEY IMPACTS EXPECTED OF THE SUDAN PROTECTION SECTOR**

- Early warning and emergency response capacity regarding protection of civilian concerns and new displacements will improve protection action for their prevention and mitigation of the risks and affects of conflict and violence.
- Strengthened state-level protection working groups will enable more timely and effective coordination of responses to address priority humanitarian needs, particularly with respect to the newly displaced, those suffering prolonged displacement and IDPs in search of durable solutions.
- Enhanced capacity of the Sudan Protection Sector to carry out its responsibilities under the humanitarian reform process, particularly in view of the under on-going developments of the Transformative Agenda.
- Effective and efficient policy, advocacy, programme and funding interventions will be undertaken at a national level, especially through the consolidation of a common protection vision, the building of protection capacity within the sector and protection mainstreaming across sectors.
- An engaged HCT and HC will facilitate intensified advocacy and collaborative interventions for the protection of civilian populations and will enable expansion of humanitarian space in Sudan.
- Key protection issues in Sudan are elevated and addressed by the Protection Sector, within various forums for the enhanced understanding of key partners, particularly the Government of Sudan.