

SUDAN PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT

2017



SUDAN REFERENCE MAP



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The UN Refugee Agency

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- Action on Disability and Development (ADD)
- Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)
- African Humanitarian Action (AHA)
- Organization for Voluntary Humanitarian Assist Program (ASSIST)
- Catholic Agencies For Overseas Development (CAFOD)
- Child Development Foundation (CDF)
- Cooperation for Development Organization (CDO)
- Care International (CIS)
- Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI)
- Commision for Refugees (COR)
- Catholic Relief Service (CRS)
- Fajr Almdi
- Forests National Corporation (FNC)
- Friends of Peace Development Organization (FPDO)
- Global Aid Hand (GAH)
- Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC)
- Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
- Ministry of Education (MoE)
- Ministry of Health (MoH)
- Ministry of Labour Work (MoL)
- Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA)
- Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW)
- Mu Tadinoun
- Plan International
- RIRA
- State Council of Child Welfare (SCCW)
- Sudanese Organization for Development (SOD)
- SIBRO Organization for Development (SIBRO)
- Sub-Saharan International Development Organization (SIDO)
- SOS Sahel Sudan (SOS)
- SPCR
- Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS)
- Trust Development Organization (TDO)
- United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)
- Department of Water, Environment and Sanitation (WES)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Health Organisation (WHO)
- World Vision International (WVI)

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ACRONYMS

AGDM	Age Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming
CAR	Central African Republic
COR	Commission for Refugees
EVI	Extremely Vulnerable Individuals
FTR	Family Tracing and Re-Unification
GFD	General Food Distribution
GOC	Government of Chad
GOS	Government of Sudan
HAI	Human Appeal International
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISWO	Islamic Social Welfare Organization
MFT	Multi-Functional Team
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoSW	Ministry of Social Welfare
NISS	National Intelligence Security Services
POC	Persons of Concern
PTA	Parent-Teacher Associations
PWSN	Persons with Specific Needs
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
RRR	Recovery, Return and Reintegration
SSR	South Sudan Refugees
RSD	Refugee Status Determination
RST	Resettlement
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SOD	Sudan Organization for Development
SORD	Sudanese Organization for Research and Development
SRCS	Sudanese Red Crescent Society
TOD	Talaweit Organization for Development
UASC	Unaccompanied and Separated Children
VOT	Victims of Trafficking
WES	Department of Water, Environment and Sanitation

LIST OF ICONS

	AWARENESS RAISING		LIGHTING		SANITATION
	CAMP		LIVELIHOODS		SECURITY THREATS
	CHILD PROTECTION		MIGRATION		SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE
	CIVIL DOCUMENTATION		MINES / UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE		SHELTER
	COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION		NON-FOOD ITEMS		WATER FACILITIES
	DRUG ABUSE		NUTRITION		
	EDUCATION		OUT-OF-CAMP		
	ENERGY		PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS		
	FOOD		PROTECTION		
	HARASSMENT		REFUGEE STATUS DETERMINATION		
	HEALTH		RELOCATION		
	LEGAL SERVICES		RETURNEES		

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1. SUMMARY

SUMMARY OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS

The 2017 Sudan Participatory Assessment, conducted between October and December 2017, involved 6,009 Persons of Concern to UNHCR engaged through some 385 semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions, individual interviews and participatory observation sessions. This assessment exercise was conducted by UNHCR in collaboration with partners, actively supported by the Government of Sudan, to engage refugees, asylum-seekers and refugee returnees – women, men, girls and boys of different age, gender, nationality and ability – to identify their needs and examine ways to address them.

This report presents the specific protection and assistance concerns raised by these groups of displaced persons, and attempts to analyse their underlying causes. It also provides further details of their capacities, and their proposed solutions. The greatest concerns expressed by all groups interviewed, following a qualitative analysis, may be listed as:

- Child labour, early marriage and pregnancy, lack of child protection case management procedures and insufficient support for children-at-risk and their caregivers;
- High number of children who have dropped out of school and irregular attendance at schools due to lack of school feeding, lack of parents' interest, and the need for child labour to help generate income for families;
- SGBV, particularly domestic violence and sexual exploitation of women and girls, in nearly all displacement locations;
- Lack of self-reliance and livelihood opportunities in all locations adversely impacting the overall protection and well-being of displaced persons of all ages;
- Inadequate medical services as a result of shortage of medicines, medical staff, and equipment, inability of displaced persons to access and afford healthcare;
- Water shortages across all locations, leading to friction with host communities in some areas as well as exposure to SGBV for women and girls as they travelled long distances to water points; and
- Persons with specific needs, particularly unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), persons with disabilities (PWD), the chronically ill and the elderly, were in need of additional non-food items (NFIs) including clothing and blankets, especially in the winter.

The results of the participatory assessment have been shared with all partners in Sudan in order for them and UNHCR to use the data in program design, participation and monitoring. PA is an opportunity for UNHCR and partners to capture the views and perspectives of POCs on the protection and assistance delivery. It also offers an opportunity to jointly analyze the protection risks they face with a view to jointly identify solutions. As such, the findings of the PA define UNHCR and partners' protection priorities and response strategies.

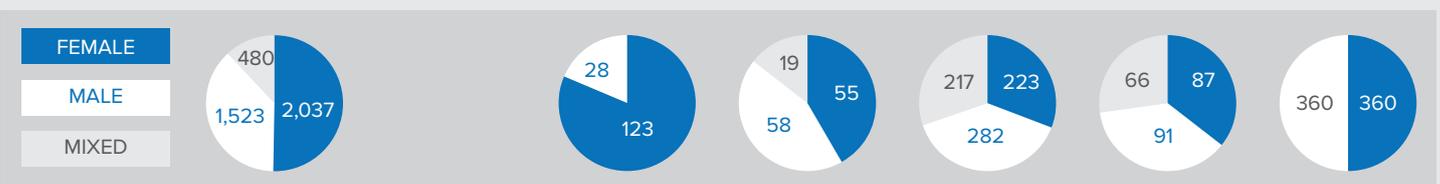
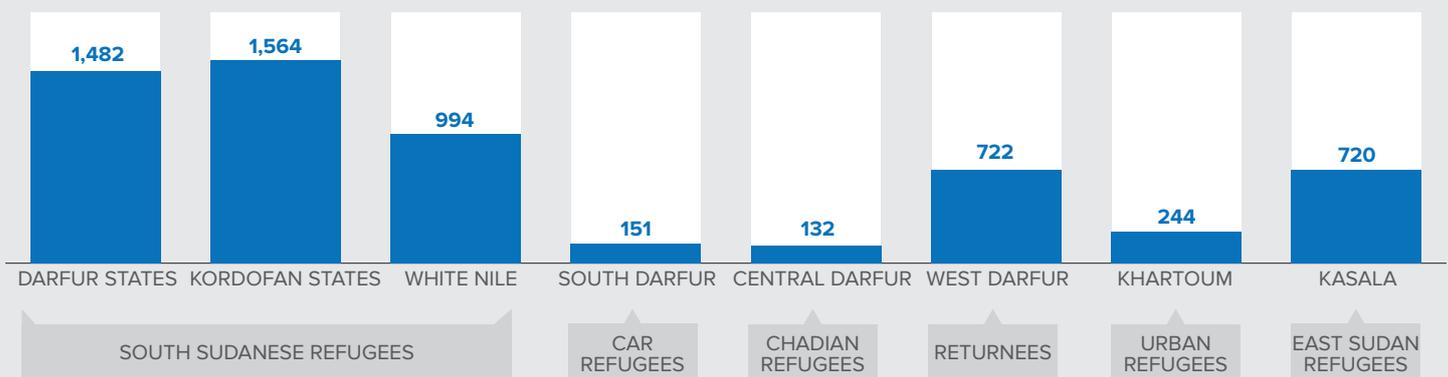
2. METHODOLOGY

The Participatory Assessment (PA) exercise is designed to gather first-hand information on protection concerns of UNHCR Persons of Concern (POC) in the country. The exercise jointly identifies and analyses protection risks with the POC, understanding their capacities, and eliciting their proposed solutions through structured dialogue. This assessment report relates to refugees, asylum seekers, and refugee returnees, residing in camps, collective settlements or dispersed self-settlements in various locations around the country.

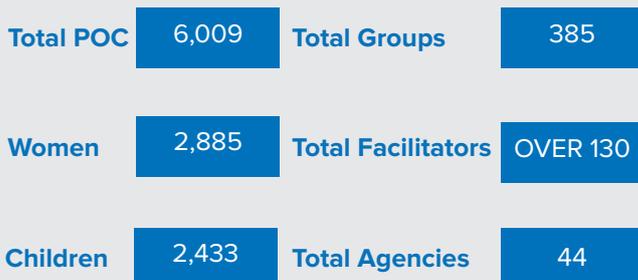
The PA helps to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers are at the centre of decision-making concerning their protection and welfare. This participatory process of dialogue and analysis is disaggregated along lines of age, gender, and diversity. Listening directly to the concerns of refugees and asylum seekers realizes their right to participate in decisions affecting their lives, and reflects deeper engagement with their protection problems, enabling a more effective response.

The PA methodology has been guided by UNHCR's 2006 Tool on Participatory Assessment in Operations¹ which largely includes focus group discussions with POC to gather information and conduct interactive analysis. The PA is one phase of a comprehensive situation analysis for UNHCR operations. The process ensures a meaningful exchange with the POC alongside our partners, through conducting each thematic discussion in multiple fora of disaggregated groups of women, men, girls and boys of various ages and social identities.

INDIVIDUALS CONSULTED BY STATE

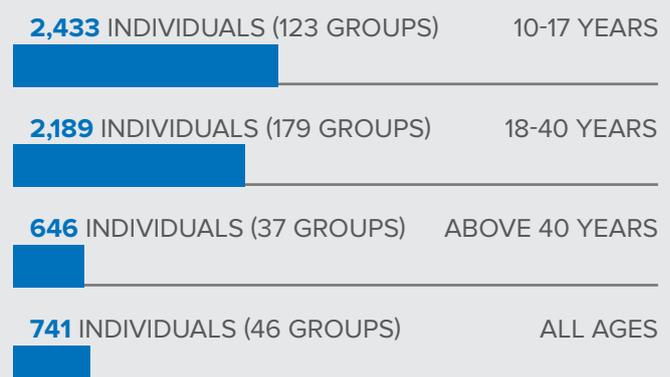


KEY FIGURES FOR PA 2017



Total PWSN groups consulted: 46 (involving more than 600 PWSN)

AGE GROUP BREAKDOWN



¹www.unhcr.org/450e91c14.pdf

METHODOLOGY

The process is operationalized by forming multifunctional teams (MFT) of UNHCR, government, UN and partner NGO staff. Most of the assessments were done through Focus Group Discussions (FGD), and some through semi-structured interviews, individual interviews and participatory observation. FGDs were conducted with women, men, girls and boys, as well as various groups with specific needs (e.g. persons with disability, unaccompanied and separated children and the elderly) of diverse social and geographic backgrounds from within the distinct operational contexts in the country.

Each PA group – designated by the MFT and refugees – first identified and then jointly completed prioritization of risks and concerns, as well as proposed solutions and capacities of the refugees. The findings from the discussions were then systematized and analysed by the MFTs regionally, and later presented in State-level reports with priority recommendations.

Results from 385 such PA groups have helped to create this report. A total of 6,009 POC (2,885 women and 2,433 children) from various population, age, gender and diversity groups participated in the 2017 PA facilitated by UNHCR. Over 130 colleagues representing 44 agencies, including from Government, UN agencies and I/NNGOs were directly involved in conducting the PA exercise.

The methodology ensures that each group is able to identify, express and address the specific challenges and problems they are facing. As part of the PA, the preferred solutions and capacity of the POCs to contribute to the solution is also explored. Each focus group discussion meeting typically lasted beyond two hours; facilitators asked participants' views on thematic points, allowing an initial analysis of protection risks faced by different groups, ensuring the prioritisation of qualitative information, as well as identification of capacities and resources within communities to enhance their protection. It helps to mobilize communities towards their own protection – first through dialogue and then ownership and action – and forms the basis for the implementation of a rights- and community-based approach. The findings presented in this report are those raised by POCs. Verification of the protection and assistance concerns raised through these FGDs and interviews were not conducted as part of this exercise. We note here however that issues that were raised by one group were often repeated by several other groups in more than one location, lending credibility to the stated needs.

3. FINDINGS, ANALYSIS AND SUGGESTIONS



3.1 POPULATION: SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES

South Sudanese Refugees (SSR) have taken asylum in six countries in the east African region. The second largest SSR population is now in Sudan as a result of almost 200,000 new refugees arriving in 2017, the majority of them fleeing widespread escalation of fighting and ongoing food insecurity in Unity, Upper Nile and Northern Bahr Ghazal States in South Sudan. The refugees primarily entered Sudan through its White Nile, South Kordofan, South and East Darfur States' borders.

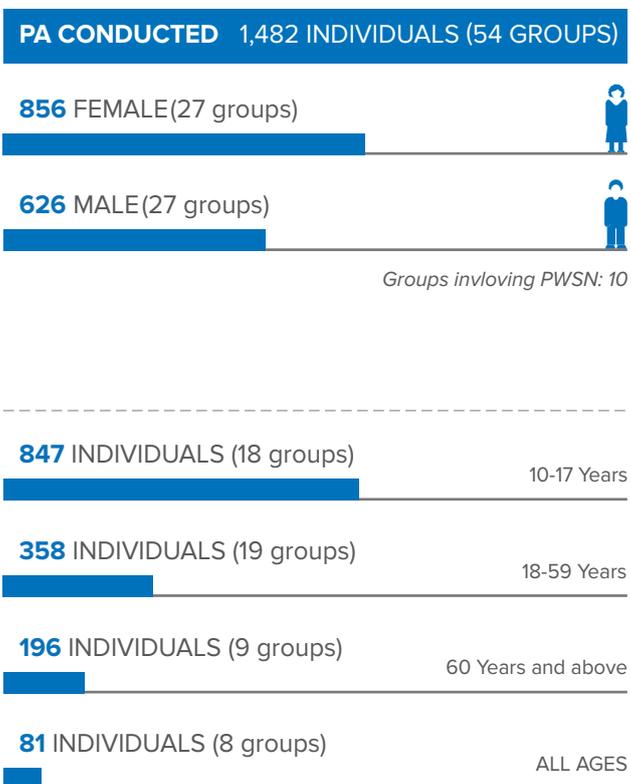
The Government of Sudan has maintained an open border policy during this influx, allowing unrestricted access for persons fleeing South Sudan and application of the Four Freedoms Agreement that would allow them to move, reside, work and own property in Sudan. As a result over 64 per cent of SSR continue to live in out-of-camp settlements alongside host communities, and in urban centres. The generous support from their Sudanese hosts are overstretched due to the scarce resources and economic crisis resulting from hyperinflation and foreign currency shortage, and refugee operations are handicapped by a staggering 80 percent funding gap. The SSR in Sudan are an exceptionally vulnerable population as up to 65 percent of new arrivals are children. Women and children comprise 88 percent¹ of the population.

3.1.1. PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE NEEDS OF THE PERSONS OF CONCERNS

This assessment covered the needs and concerns of SSR residing in camps and out-of-camp settlements in i) Darfur, ii) Kordofan, and iii) White Nile States. SSR living in Khartoum were not covered through this assessment.

3.1.1.1. THE DARFUR STATES

In the Darfur region in southwestern Sudan bordering the Republic of Chad and Central African Republic, South Sudanese refugees who participated in the assessment were hosted in two camps in East Darfur – Al Nimir and Kario – and four settlements – El Ferdous in East Darfur, El Radom and Bielel in South Darfur, and Godat in North Darfur.



¹ UNHCR Sudan, South Sudan Population Dashboard, 31 December 2017

Physical security, legal protection and community participation



In Al Nimir Camp, girls and boys reported a general sense of insecurity –including thefts and other security threats at night time – particularly children of single parents that work outside the camp. Women travelling on their own outside the camp for work also reported experiencing targeted violence. A source of instability and insecurity in the camp involved idle youth who regularly engaged in fighting.

In Kario Camp similar statements were made by women, children and the elderly about night time insecurity. The relationship between the SSR and host community was strained as a result of incidents of violence and harassment experienced by refugee women in Kario Camp when out collecting firewood, and reports by Al Nimir refugees that rations from the General Food Distribution (GFD) were stolen by host community members.

In the out-of-camp settlements, particularly in El Ferdous, women, girls and unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) complained of poor security – they claimed that kidnappings take place and domestic violence is perpetrated due to inadequate lighting in their areas. Children in general reported a fear of adults with ‘guns and masks’ in the settlements. In Godat settlement women of all ages who resorted to local alcohol brewing reported physical violence and detention by authorities, over and above the statutory fine and prison sentence. Other reported risks of violence for women refugees included being chased or beaten by armed personnel while going outside the settlement during the night.

Women and elderly refugees in Kario Camp highlighted their inadequate scope for community participation as they were not involved in decisions concerning life in the camp.

Sexual and gender-based violence



High levels of domestic violence were reported to be prevalent in both camps in East Darfur. Refugee girls living in the camps as well as in the out-of-camp refugee settlement of El Ferdous reported the prevalence of child marriage.

Child protection and special needs



In the two camps in East Darfur child labour was reported as a common factor behind school dropout, particularly for UASC who did not have any family support. In one camp, girls and boys complained about their lack of activities, as the child-friendly spaces (CFS) were ill-equipped or damaged.

Basic services and livelihoods



South Sudanese refugees living in the two camps reported access to healthcare and livelihoods as their priority concerns. Female-headed households in Al Nimir reported the unavailability of health services in the evenings, and complained about the health centre’s preferential treatment towards host community patients over refugees. In Kario Camp, the elderly reported unaffordability of medicine, and persons with disability (PWD) claimed unmet needs due to the absence of medicines, specialised care and mobility equipment.

Among the top three priority concerns in the settlements was healthcare, with SSR in all Darfur States settlements finding medications, medical staff, admission rooms, laboratory services, reproductive health services, and ambulances generally lacking or insufficient. Refugees reported that where services were available, related fees and medication costs were unaffordable. In El Ferdous settlement in East Darfur, the health clinic did not have night or weekend shifts. The PWD among the refugee community were in need of mobility support, particularly for access to services.



Most camp-based refugees – particularly female-headed households, the elderly and PWD – were unable to meet their basic needs, and refugee men in Kario Camp reported being prevented from travelling to El Daein centre to seek employment. All SSR in camps reportedly suffer from exploitative labour practices, including employers not paying agreed wages. Refugee women in the camps further highlighted the problem of inadequate energy and fuel for household needs.



The education situation was reported as critical as there was a high rate of school dropout in the camps. Refugee girls and boys reported that school facilities were poor and services inadequate.

SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES

South Sudanese refugees in the out-of-camp settlements in Darfur reported education as the priority unmet need due to the lack of education facilities close to the settlements. Parents claimed that education was inaccessible due to high fees in the host community schools, instruction in the Arabic language, absence of literacy classes and CFS, as well as lack of learning material and uniforms.



In Kario Camp, refugees deemed shelter material provision to be insufficient and informed that it was sometimes stolen in the night. The elderly, as well as young men, reported the need for separate shelters from their families. PWD informed about their need for facilitated access to services that are distant from their

shelters. Refugee men, women and PWD complained about the poor sanitation situation in the camp, and declared the hygiene kits distribution to be insufficient.



All groups of refugees in the settlements expressed concern about the availability of water, mentioning the supply as insufficient, the quality poor, the distribution points far from their shelters, and the hours of access limited. Refugees also assessed the quality of sanitation in the settlements to be poor.



Men and women in the refugee settlements reported that food was insufficient in all households. The men and the elderly attributed the shortage to the insufficient GFD, while others attributed it to the lack of resources and work opportunities, or the high prices of meat and vegetables. All communities reported lack of livelihood opportunities and resources to meet basic needs.

3.1.1.2. THE KORDOFAN STATES

In South and West Kordofan States, bordering South Sudan in the South, there were 91,439 SSR residing in out-of-camp locations, some in collective, but most in dispersed settlements. The larger settlements were El Leri and Dar Batti in South Kordofan, and Kharasana and El Meiram in West Kordofan.



PA CONDUCTED 1,564 INDIVIDUALS (116 GROUPS)

886 FEMALE (60 groups)



645 MALE (53 groups)



33 MIXED (3 groups)



Groups involving PWSN: 23

430 INDIVIDUALS (35 groups)

10-17 Years

999 INDIVIDUALS (68 groups)

18-59 Years

135 INDIVIDUALS (13 groups)

60 Years and above

Physical security, legal protection and community participation



Newly arrived SSR at the reception centres complained about the lack of adequate basic services. In both these States SSR reported being unable to move freely or access basic services due to not possessing documentation. Refugee children born in Sudan reportedly could not easily obtain birth certificates.

SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES



A number of SSR expressed concern that their own refugee community committees were not representing the interests of marginalized groups, and that they therefore continued to face obstacles when trying to access health and legal services in the host communities. Refugee and host communities reportedly experienced conflicts often and developed a hostile relationship, and refugees were reportedly unaware of the services available to them, as they remained separated from the hosts. Resource competition was another cause for conflict between the communities, and SSR furthermore reported incidents of sexual harassment, abuse, and exploitation from the host community.

Sexual and gender-based violence



Refugees in the larger Kordofan settlements informed of the high risk of physical and sexual assault and harassment of women when collecting firewood or water from distant locations. Both men and women reported the high incidence of child marriage particularly in West Kordofan. Women and girls in both States reported that rape incidents remained unreported and that survivors could not get necessary medical or legal aid support.

Child protection and persons with special needs



Refugees were concerned about the high numbers of unaccompanied children in their communities who were homeless, lived on the streets, and who readily became involved in drug and alcohol abuse. Many of them had witnessed or experienced violent acts, or were separated from their families, placing them at high physical and psychological risk. Refugee women noted that the UASC were not receiving family tracing and reunification (FTR) services, nor any additional security and material support for survival.

A widely reported child protection risk was the prevalence of child labour in all the settlements in South and West Kordofan. Another concern was the school or CFS dropout of children with disability, as no specific activities were available to them in these establishments.



The lack of documentation such as birth certificates and civil registration numbers were constraints that reportedly prevented refugee children from enrolling.



Refugees in Kordofan settlements asserted that PWD did not get support for their specific needs, nor adequate representation in the existing refugee community structures to advocate for their needs. In general, care provided to UASC, persons with specific needs (PWSN), the elderly and chronically ill persons in the settlements was regarded as highly inadequate.

Basic services and livelihoods



Refugees in the Kordofan States settlements reported experiencing challenges with inadequate food rations as they claimed to often receive incomplete food baskets. They faced challenges in meeting their basic needs due to the scarcity of livelihoods and they furthermore faced obstacles in accessing the job market in their host localities. The inaccessibility of land for cultivation was a challenge for SSR who wanted to engage in farming.



Refugee women emphasized that limited livelihoods and job opportunities intensified already existing challenges such as domestic violence, sexual harassment, abuse, and exploitation. These challenges drove some refugees towards the informal markets which in some cases were illegal under Sudanese law (production/brewing of local alcohol/liquor, etc.).

Refugees in both States identified the lack of skills training opportunities and obstacles to job market access, as livelihoods constraints.



Refugees in Kordofan States reported that the water supply in settlements was insufficient and this exposed them to friction with the host communities over its use. The WASH sector in the settlements also had a shortage of sanitation and hygiene facilities which created negative health impacts for refugees.



Refugee men and women in both States highlighted that health services were inaccessible due to the high costs of treatment and medication which they were unable to afford. Refugees insisted that the medicines they were given were ineffective and offered little protection against the risks posed by communicable diseases, insufficient nutrition, poor hygiene and sanitation. Refugees also noted being unable to access secondary healthcare services.

SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES



Refugees reported that the few schools in the vicinity of SSR settlements lacked adequate education infrastructure to accommodate the numbers of refugee children. Older children were unable to access higher education due to the lack of availability of secondary schools, and there were no provisions for special education in schools to respond to the needs of children with disability.



Some of the SSR in Kordofan States in dispersed settlements found themselves exposed to homelessness as it was difficult for them to get land to build shelters or they otherwise did not have the financial means to buy or rent in the host community. In many cases, multiple households lived in one shelter in conditions of severe overcrowding. The low quality of shelters left them at risk of break-in and theft, which was even greater for women-headed households.

3.1.1.3. WHITE NILE STATE



PA CONDUCTED 994 INDIVIDUALS (44 GROUPS)

295 FEMALE (13 groups)



252 MALE (14 groups)



447 MIXED (17 groups)



Groups involving PWSN: 1

589 INDIVIDUALS (25 groups)

10-17 Years

232 INDIVIDUALS (12 groups)

18-59 Years

148 INDIVIDUALS (6 groups)

60 Years and above

25 INDIVIDUALS (1 group)

ALL AGES

Physical security, legal protection and community participation



The SSR living in the eight refugee camps in White Nile State experienced a challenging protection environment and reported that their primary difficulty was the host community and local authorities' lack of awareness on refugee rights leading to competition for resources with the host community and frequent disputes, in addition to restrictions imposed on market access in Jouri Camp. The main security concern of SSR in the camps was incidents of robbery after sunset. The SSR elderly expressed concern about the protection risk of migration or 'onward movement' of the youth due to the challenging local context.

Sexual and gender-based violence

None of the FGD participants raised concerns regarding SGBV in the camps.

Child protection and specific needs



Refugees noted that those with specific needs, chronic illnesses, the elderly and UASC did not receive adequate care for dignified survival. In Khor Al Waral, Um Sangour and Al Redis 2 camps, a well-functioning complaint and referral mechanism for refugees' problems was noted to be absent.

Basic services and livelihoods



South Sudanese refugees in the camps in White Nile State expressed extensive needs and immediate concerns in all the camps. Health and nutrition needs were given primary importance in all camps except Jouri, where food insecurity was prioritised.

Refugees in the camps complained about inadequate availability of health services and facilities, including the dearth of laboratories, gender-segregated patient rooms, ambulances, proper storage and adequate supply of medicines, and noted the low capacity of health staff and lack of specialist presence among the health providers' team.



They demanded a nutrition assessment towards the resumption of supplementary feeding programme (SFP) activities, as well as urgent expansion and diversification of the food ration.



In the WASH sector, the priority concerns included insufficient water points and latrines in community infrastructure – such as schools, clinics and CFS – along with lack of maintenance, community mobilization, and the limited operating days of the water stations. The need for hygiene promotion in the camps was strongly emphasised, particularly for the management of latrines, including the distribution of dignity kits and mosquito nets for malaria prevention.



Camp-based refugees in White Nile called for better education services and facilities that included construction of new schools and expansion of existing ones along with better furniture and equipment, securing of playgrounds, establishment of latrines and handwashing facilities, hygiene campaigns and regular cleaning of facilities, capacity building of teachers, integration of sports and extra-curricular activities into curricula to encourage attendance, and enhanced enrolment through campaigns and expanded age access to schools.



All SSR groups in the camps claimed that food rations were insufficient. They underscored that quantities as well as diversity should be increased, in addition to cash allowances provided for complementary foods, resumption of SFP, and introduction of grain milling vouchers.

Additionally SSR presented the need for longer-term interventions such as access to skills/vocational training. Refugee men and women both requested access to land for cultivation, access to micro-enterprise opportunities and access to local markets.



Energy needs were described as unmet by men and women in all the camps. Refugees requested alternative access to safe fuel sources like ethanol, kerosene, in addition to the promotion of forestry activities to promote peaceful coexistence with host communities and installation of solar street lights in the camps.

3.1.2. ANALYSIS OF THE PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE NEEDS



The conflict in South Sudan has a wide geographical coverage and the South Sudanese refugees are therefore from different ethnic and tribal groups. Groups that may not generally reside together have in some places become scattered and interspersed with other groups in the country of asylum, and some of the challenges in the camps and settlements arise from their present differences. SSR mainly belong to the tribes of Nuer, Nuer (Gawaar), Nuer (Lou), Nuer (Ikany), Shilluk, Dhocolo, Fulani, Fullah, Fur, Forok, Dinka, and Nuba, and the corresponding clustering of the tribal groups in the camps in Sudan is evident. This population did not receive refugee status until 2016 and continued to have a high level of unmet needs at the time of this assessment.

3.1.1.1. Physical security and legal protection

In the Darfur camps, night time security was identified as a concern of refugees due to poor lighting, low level of police presence and lack of adequate security measures in the camps. The recurring instability in the form of idle youth picking fights was mainly due to the influence of alcohol that was smuggled into the camps. The weak protection environment that refugees identified and the strained relationship with the host communities that they suffered from, was in large part due to refugee women being harassed by members of the host community when outside the camps, and claims about host community pilferage of the food ration.

SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES

In the out-of-camp settlements in North Darfur, women reported undertaking risky livelihoods due to economic hardships. They resorted to the illegal business of brewing local alcohol/liquor for sale, for which they were liable to pay a hefty fine of 5,000 SDG or serve 3 months' imprisonment if apprehended, in addition to extrajudicial beating. Refugee women in the settlements experienced further violence in the form of beatings from armed personnel when they went out of the settlements to defecate after dark, due to inadequate sanitation facilities in the camps. Women and elderly refugees in Darfur experienced discrimination as they were not sufficiently involved in decisions regarding community life in the settlements. The elderly were excluded due to their lack of mobility, while women experienced barriers to participation as the result of traditional and cultural practices.

In the Kordofan States, the protection environment in the refugee settlements was challenged by the scarcity of resources. The modestly-equipped border reception centres remained in need of expanded support in all the sectors of WASH, health, food, shelter and psychosocial counselling, however SSR had an additional need for language interpretation which made their access to scarce services that much more difficult. Due to the existing acute needs in West Kordofan State, the arrival of refugees has destabilized host communities to a significant extent and the host communities have demanded to receive equal assistance and services as refugees who were perceived to be privileged. Another physical restriction that refugees experienced was lack of mobility due to their lack of documentation – without proper identity documents, refugees faced obstacles in accessing food and NFI distributions that occurred in designated areas, they were barred from services and could not enrol their children in school or move outside of their locality to look for work. Limited access to livelihood opportunities and education services caused instability as it obstructed refugees' integration with the host community and their ability to claim their refugee rights where they were hosted. In South Kordofan State, local authorities explicitly requested the refugee settlements to be moved away from their locations, citing the additional burden of SSRs on existing services. Refugees' claim of poor representation of women, PWSN, UASCs and smaller ethnic groups in the settlement and community structures indicated the lack of cohesiveness between the different ethnic groups in the camps and the fragmented social hierarchy within.

In the White Nile State camps, SSR expressed the need for improved security due to the risk of robberies. Refugee men and women both children and adults, noted the host communities' lack of awareness of refugee rights and there was widespread intolerance of, and discrimination against, refugees. Peaceful co-existence between refugees and host communities was at risk of being disrupted due to the lack of constructive engagement and exchange between the communities.

3.1.2.2. Sexual and gender-based violence

High risk of SGBV in the camps in East Darfur State was characterized by child marriage as a measure to improve financial solvency of refugee families. Child marriages were common due to parents' and communities' lack of awareness, lack of income, and inadequate resources in the family. SGBV also included high levels of domestic violence caused by the heightened stress of small living spaces, constrained by the large number of unmet needs in essential services, and lack of livelihoods for adults.

Refugee women in Kordofan States experienced a high risk of sexual assault and harassment as SGBV prevention and response mechanisms lacked support. Without protection partners on the ground to respond to cases of violations, refugee SGBV survivors and their families did not have recourse to legal aid, referral pathways, and psychosocial support.

3.1.2.3. Child protection and education

Child protection was a priority concern in the Darfur camps with widespread school dropouts and self-dependence of child-headed families. The situation was exacerbated by the lack of adequate facilities for children – both schools and CFSs – and exposure of girls and boys to child labour. In Kario camp, school dropouts in many instances were linked to child marriage which were directly the result of poverty and lack of resources. In some cases lack of attendance was the result of instruction only in the Arabic language.

In the Kordofan States, there were no standard measures in place to identify UASC, conduct FTR, and provide them with security and material support as the large numbers of UASC outstripped the capacity of the community and the Child Protection community-based networks (CPCBN) that were present in some areas. Many of the UASC engaged in drug or alcohol abuse as a negative coping mechanism as a result of having no income or material support or having to work under exploitative conditions. Child labour that was adopted as a response to inadequate livelihoods for adults in the household, was a child protection risk that subjected all its victims, especially UASC, to the risk of abuse and exploitation. Families' inability to support their children additionally exposed them to child marriage as well. School dropout was challenge in the Kordofan States due to the use of Arabic language for instruction, differences in the curricular system, and lack of awareness

SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES

among the mostly-uneducated parents and children themselves on the importance of education. Refugee PWD in the Kordofan States also lacked access and remained unserved as a result of not being represented in refugee committees and having no voice in decision-making regarding community life.

3.1.2.4. Basic services and livelihoods

In the East Darfur State camps, most SSR were unable to afford items of basic need – and therefore lived in abject poverty – in the absence of an income or livelihoods. The absence of work opportunities for adults in the household was the main cause of child labour everywhere, and in Kario Camp, refugee women linked the lack of livelihoods to domestic violence. Without an income refugees had many unfulfilled basic needs – household needs like energy and fuel were insurmountable challenges as they were either banned from collecting firewood or faced harassment while doing so. Lack of healthcare was a concern due to the limited hours of operation of the camp clinics. Education of refugee children in camps was hampered by school dropouts caused by the lack of school feeding, absence of parents' interest and awareness, and the indispensability of child labour to help generate income for the entire family.

In the Darfur refugee settlements, unmet education needs remained the greatest concern in the absence of nearby host community schools that had adequate teachers, facilities and learning materials, compounded by the high fees refugees would have to pay, as well as the Arabic language of instruction that most refugees were not socialised with. In North Darfur, economic drivers like child labour and early/forced marriage caused school dropout. Food insecurity remained a concern for refugees in settlements as they found livelihood opportunities extremely difficult to find and where they existed, the host community was exploitative, often not paying agreed wages for labour after completion of the work (East Darfur). There was a general dearth of productive options for refugee youth everywhere, and a particular lack of access to agricultural land, seeds, machines and equipment for refugee men and women in self-settlements in South Darfur.

In the Kordofan States settlements, inadequate food was a priority challenge as food distributions were irregular and the food basket incomplete or insufficient for all the needs of families. The continuous shortage of food in the households might also have been the lag time of new refugees to get their distribution. The procedure for inclusion in the WFP food ration list allowed only those refugees who were fully biometrically registered, and not those who had general household level registration. During this period they depended on their family and kin for support. Other basic needs of refugees in Kordofan were not met due to the lack of income as many lacked productive skills outside of agricultural farming and fishing, and here too they experienced exploitative practices of employers, remaining unpaid even after completing the work. Economic hardship drove refugees towards informal markets for income, and refugee women suffered exploitation and abuse when they undertook illegal income-generating activities like brewing of local alcohol in the Kordofan states that further entailed negative health consequences for the community.

Water supply was a concern for refugees over which, friction with the host community was frequent. In many areas the rate of consumption remained below the minimum emergency standard, and SSR either bought water from vendors at high prices or collected from contaminated sources. Health care was often unavailable for SSR due to scarcity of medical supplies and limited range of services (e.g. laboratories, medicines, health staff, etc.); language barriers prevented SSRs from communicating with healthcare practitioners. The lack of secondary referral system and emergency transportation – ambulances – and the limited capacity of government health facilities contributed to the prevalence of long-term diseases and infection within the refugee communities in Kordofan States.

Refugee children in the settlements were not enrolled in schools as there was either no land available for new schools, or it was difficult to find trained teachers for expanding capacity in the existing schools, often due to low remuneration. Many refugee children were out of school as families could not afford the cost of school fees, uniform and materials. For older SSR children, there was a latent demand for agricultural vocational trainings, capacity building on entrepreneurship skills and support with establishing market linkages. Housing needs of SSR were unmet because COR-UNHCR had not yet reached an agreement to establish formal settlements in some locations in these States, so many refugee families were squatting on private land. There were additional shelter challenges because no support was provided to enable SSR to buy shelter materials when they lacked the logistical or financial means to do so. Many households also shared their resources with others, as an insufficient amount of NFIs was distributed upon arrival.

In White Nile State, the nutrition situation was precarious and impacted the health services, which was the reason behind refugees' request for resumption of supplementary feeding. The shortage of water was due to congestion in the camps as well as inadequate infrastructure and constrained fuel supply. Camp-based SSR had outstanding need for fuel due to the distant and difficult-to-access sources of cooking fuel – wood, gas, charcoal – and due to reliance on conventional stoves that were not fuel efficient.

3.1.3. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES



To overcome the difficulties faced with their host communities in West Kordofan, South Kordofan and White Nile States, communities proposed the facilitation of training for officials at the camp level on refugee protection and refugee obligations as well as regular opportunities for dialogue with the host communities. In two camps, refugees demanded the establishment of a participatory decision-making process regarding access to services, and a coordination platform that linked refugees to service providing organizations in the camps. Open and fair elections of members were considered the precursor to inclusive refugee committees, and refugees strongly advocated for this need.

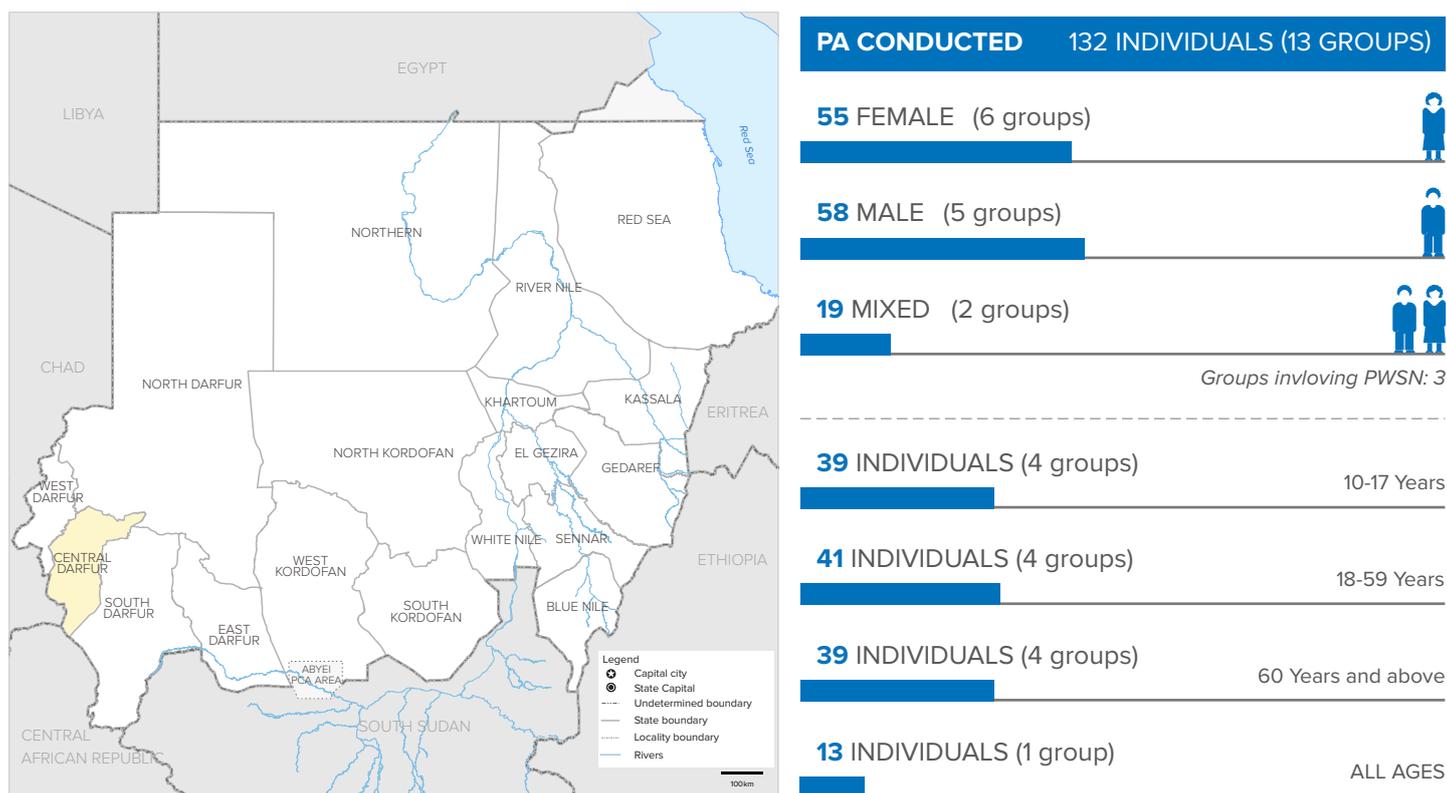
To enhance refugee protection in White Nile State, better identification and service provision to PWSN and UASC was deemed imperative. Service providers and partner NGOs should enhance their service delivery and the provision of targeted assistance to these populations. In some cases, the assistance may have to be delivered directly to the households of the elderly, infirm and the PWSN to ensure their access to life-saving services.

To improve the security of women and other vulnerable refugees in the camps at night time, use of solar lights was recommended for energy conservation. A mitigating measure for the limited days of water station operation would be the distribution of more jerry cans for water storage and a much needed response to health risks in the camp would be better vector control to prevent malaria. The dire economic condition of camp-based refugees had caused the standards of living to drop to critical levels; emergency assistance for refugees needed to be supplemented with access to livelihoods activities for income generation.

3.2 POPULATION: CHADIAN REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

Sudan hosts some 8,500 Chadian refugees who have received protection and assistance in two refugee camps, Um Shalaya and Mukjar, in Central Darfur in southwestern Sudan, since the outbreak of violence in Chad between 2005 and 2007. Since the start of the voluntary repatriation operation¹ in December 2017, 944 Chadian refugees have left Sudan and some 4,000 persons were expected to have repatriated by mid-2018. Nearly half the number of Chadian refugees have expressed willingness to return to their country.

3.2.1. NEEDS AND CONCERNS OF CHADIAN REFUGEES IN THE CAMPS



Protection environment, legal process and documentation



The main concerns raised by refugees, especially women and girls, were abduction, looting, and harassment by local nomadic camel herders when they were outside the camps to collect grass or to cultivate their allotted land. Refugees also reported discrimination by having to pay illegitimate and arbitrary 'fines' to authorities for animal husbandry.

Sexual and gender-based violence



Refugee women in the camps reported domestic violence as a priority concern, as well as sexual harassment by camel herders when they ventured outside the camp.

Basic Needs and Essential Services



Most Chadian refugees reported food insecurity as a result of not having sufficient agricultural land. A critical challenge faced by women-headed households and PWSN was inadequate nutrition as GFD and WFP school feeding were reduced and delays had been registered in the distribution.

¹ This voluntary repatriation follows the tri-partite agreement signed in May 2017 between the Governments of Sudan and Chad, and UNHCR outlining key parameters for repatriation.

CHADIAN REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS



Refugees reported difficulty in accessing health services due to shortage of facilities like laboratories and ambulances, the high cost of medicines, delayed referral of complex cases and competition with host community members and nomads.



Chadian refugees in Central Darfur reported problems in water supply – noting challenges in access, insufficient number of water points, inadequate water treatment, and long distances to water sources – in both the camps.



Refugees reported that sanitation in the camps was characterized by poor hygiene conditions, inadequate soap supply, lack of hygiene awareness and promotion, and unmet need for sanitary materials and hygiene kits.



Chadian refugees stated that education access for children was challenging because of the expensive cost of community schools, inadequate classroom space as well as insufficient provision of uniforms, school books and other education, sports and recreation materials. Refugees noted the scarcity of qualified teachers in both camps while some admitted not sending children to school for lack of school feeding programmes. Some refugees needed support to attend university.



Chadian refugees in camps also complained about insufficient space for accommodation. Women added that going out to collect shelter materials for the repair or extension of their houses meant exposing themselves to SGBV risks. The community reported that PWSN and UASC needed shelter materials and additional support with non-food items like clothing and blankets in winter.

Durable Solutions



Some refugees expressed the intent to return to Chad claiming the absence of rule of law, the reduction in food and material assistance, and lack of land for cultivation.

3.2.2. ANALYSIS OF THE PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE NEEDS



Chadian refugees who took part in the assessment have resided in the camps for more than 10 years. The area where the camps are located is remote from the majority of services and only a limited number of organizations are operational, and enforcement of rule of law is difficult.

3.2.2.1. PROTECTION ENVIRONMENT, LEGAL PROCESS AND DOCUMENTATION

Abductions reported outside the camps by women and girls have also taken place from inside, in addition to refugees' crop destruction by hostile host community members. The protection environment was tenuous due to the poor security situation, and refugees have noted that no actions were taken even where abductions for ransom were made by known perpetrators.

3.2.2.2. SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Domestic violence was a priority concern for many women that requires greater community awareness-raising. Harassment experienced, even from female nomads, and risk of rape for refugees by unknown armed men, have resulted in refugee boys going out for collection of firewood and grass instead of female family members.

3.2.2.3. BASIC SERVICES AND LIVELIHOODS

Refugee women believed that the community suffers from food insecurity due to not being allowed to cultivate – renting land is expensive and often exploitative. Deliberate crop destruction also occurred as a hostile practice from the hosts, and pest infestation and market changes additionally affected the proceeds of Chadian refugee farmers. The challenge of food security and nutrition were heightened by the lack of access to livelihoods by Chadian refugees. The shelter space for refugees was insufficient due to the natural extension of families over the past 10 years.

3.2.2.4. DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Many refugees felt that repatriation to Chad may be their only remaining recourse as with improved security, they could have access to their own land for farming. Local integration in Sudan has been preferred by a number of refugees, while youth were requesting UNHCR for resettlement in third countries citing the unpredictable security situation in both Sudan and Chad.

3.2.3. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE CHADIAN REFUGEES

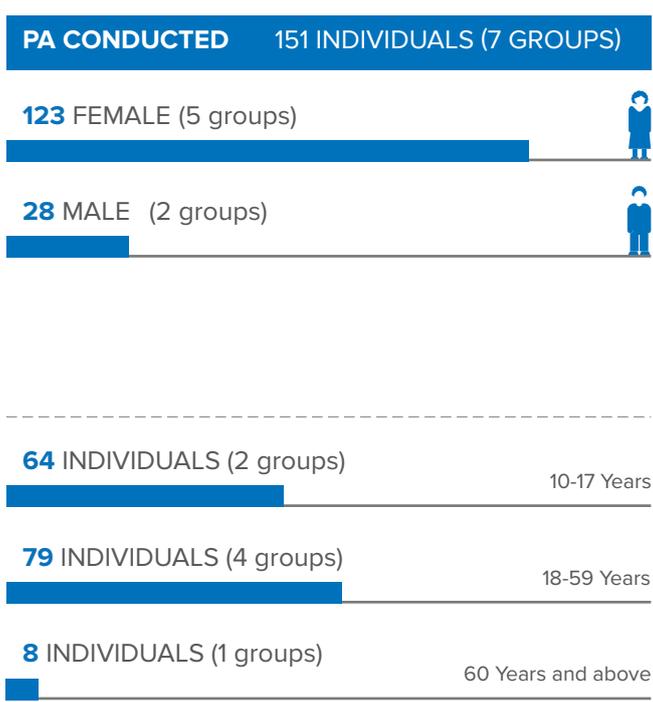


The most important actions needed for the camps in Central Darfur are the enhancement of the security situation by timely reporting of incidents and through police deployment. Access to land for cultivation is also vital for refugees in order to ensure food security, nutrition and additional support for essential items. UNHCR and partners must collaborate to provide better water, health and sanitation services, in addition to shelter support to the expanded population in the camps.

3.3 POPULATION: CAR REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

In December 2013, hundreds of thousands of people were forced to flee their homes as violence spread in the Central African Republic (CAR), with armed groups controlling parts of the country. CAR continues to experience sporadic surges of violence, and the continued turmoil has triggered new levels of displacement in the country. Since May 2017, new fierce clashes between armed groups have wrought increasing destruction of property, human suffering and deaths, and led to refugees fleeing to Sudan with some 2,300 CAR refugees living in South Darfur by the end of 2017, settled in and around Nyala in South Darfur. This exercise was conducted among both the new and old caseloads in the urban setting of Nyala town. New arrivals in other areas of South Darfur were not included in the assessment.

3.3.1. NEEDS AND CONCERNS OF CAR REFUGEES IN URBAN SETTING



Basic Needs and Essential Services



Refugees from CAR living in the Nyala urban environment expressed their most acute challenges as food insecurity, and being unable to meet the cost of essentials like medicines and shelter, in addition to school fees, school uniforms, transport costs and learning materials for their children, mainly due to the lack of access to livelihoods.

3.3.2. ANALYSIS OF THE PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE NEEDS



Urban refugees from CAR had no reported problems of mobility and they preferred to continue living in their present context, with modest support from UNHCR for essential services.

3.3.2.1. BASIC SERVICES AND LIVELIHOODS

CAR refugees living in the urban setting in Nyala had to provide their own basic needs which was particularly challenging due to the high inflation rate of Sudan that had caused rental costs to escalate greatly. Refugees did not formally have access to land to build their own shelters which necessitated them to rent. Lack of income and resources left refugees unable to afford medical and other essential services and resulted in a poor standard of living.

3.3.3. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE CAR REFUGEES

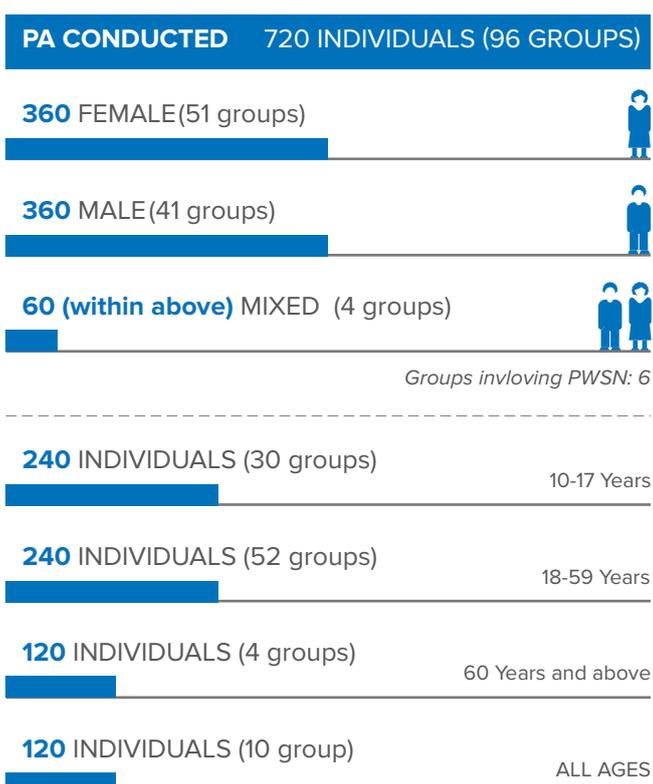


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3.4. POPULATION: REFUGEES AND ASYLUM- SEEKERS IN EASTERN SUDAN

There were more than 107,000 Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees in eastern Sudan by the end of 2017 with some 89,000 in nine camps spread out over three States – Kassala, Gedaref and El Gezira – while the remaining 18,000 were living in urban settings in Kassala, Girba, Gedaref and Port Sudan. The majority were Eritreans who fled to Sudan during Eritrea’s war of independence in the 1970s and 1980s, alongside a smaller number from Ethiopia and less than 250 from Somalia. New arrivals of refugees in the East in 2017 numbered 970 individuals per month on average. The majority of the new arrivals sought to move onwards from Sudan including through human smuggling, thereby exposing themselves to extortion, abuse, torture and other violations.

3.4.1. NEEDS AND CONCERNS OF REFUGEES



Protection environment, legal process and documentation

A general sense of insecurity prevailed in the camps and refugees expressed concern about male intruders who entered refugee houses at night to ‘steal sleeping children’, unknown cars that entered the camp with male passengers trying to lure children into the vehicles, and a strong conviction about assailants and kidnappers present around the camps with the intention of abducting children for ransom, human trafficking, slavery or organ harvesting. High levels of insecurity and theft were reported by refugees specifically in the Shagarab I Camp reception centre, in addition to frequent skirmishes between refugees and new arrival asylum-seekers over water and other services.

Refugee men and women in two camps expressed difficulties faced by new arrivals in the registration process. Some refugees complained of a lack of adequate interpretation services for their language, during the refugee status determination (RSD) process. All groups of refugees in the camps in eastern Sudan reported the unaffordability of obtaining and maintaining official refugee documentation due to high annual renewal fees payable. Refugees were therefore without valid identity documentation in many instances. Many refugees were unclear about the value of the Foreigner Card and did not apply for it.

One major protection risk identified by Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees was the susceptibility of the younger generation to smuggling and trafficking – in an attempt to reach a European country – a phenomenon that older refugees characterized as the ‘culture of migration’.

Sexual and gender-based violence



Domestic violence against women was reported as a common occurrence in the camps, and women reported being further victimized and abused at home if they experienced sexual harassment when outside, as it was construed as their own fault. Refugee girls reported that they were 'physically disciplined' by male family members to perform household chores. Child marriage in the camps was identified as the second highest protection priority by men and women.

Sexual harassment was a priority issue raised by protracted refugees as well as new asylum-seekers. Women complained about feeling unsafe to move about the camp at night and about the lack of privacy. Young women in Shagarab and Um Gargour Camps reported frequent sexual harassment and assault on their way to school and even in the camp reception centre. Sexual exploitation and transactional sex was also prevalent in the camps. Female genital mutilation (FGM) was a priority issue persisting in some camps; women were reportedly 'returned' from their in-laws, if they were found to not be properly circumcised.

Child protection and education



Refugee men and women of Eritrean, Ethiopian and Somali nationalities in the Eastern Sudan camps stated that children frequently dropped out of schools as a result of high education costs, low family incomes and inadequate school infrastructure. Children also noted the absence of sports and cultural activities, lack of CFSs, inadequate sanitation facilities and long distances to schools in some camps as barriers to school attendance.

Basic Needs and Essential Services



Refugee men who were long-term camp dwellers complained about the absence of paid work claiming that employment opportunities were primarily open to nationals, or refugees could not satisfy the qualifications and certifications required. Refugees complained that livelihoods were further limited by the lack of access to microfinance services. Self-employment opportunities were scarce because the previously-available limited loan ceiling under the village savings and loan (VSL) scheme had also been suspended in the camps due to repayment rate dropping below the 95 per cent stipulated by the UNHCR global livelihood minimum standards.



Refugees also expressed grave concern related to energy supply as they had to resort to stressful methods for collecting fencing, and cow dung for cooking fuel. Refugees noted the absence of street lights for visibility and night time security.



Regarding the health situation, refugees identified physical health, disability and mental health issues as the top risks in the camps for which there existed very little assistance apart from community support mechanisms. Poor health was moreover linked to poor sanitation, overcrowding in the new-arrival reception areas and provision of an inadequate number of jerry cans upon arrival.



Water supply was a persistent issue in the camps and water was in limited supply in public infrastructures like schools and community areas. The sanitation situation was reported to be extremely challenging with latrine coverage being inadequate and no disability-friendly design being available. In some camps housing problems and limitation of shelter space was a priority concern due to acute overcrowding.

Community Participation



There was unanimous agreement by refugee men and women above 40 years of age, about corruption, non-transparency, misrepresentation and lack of attention to service delivery by the refugee committees in the camps, which were perceived to be biased or dysfunctional, or to have been constituted without proper elections, or not to be representative of women's concerns. In the majority of the camps, refugee women expressed that women's roles, participation and leadership were very low compared to men and that their opinions were regularly undermined.

3.4.2. ANALYSIS OF THE PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE NEEDS



3.4.2.1. PROTECTION ENVIRONMENT, LEGAL PROCESS AND DOCUMENTATION

The sense of insecurity harboured by refugees in the East rose out of unresolved reports of kidnapping of children from the camps. Stories were further fuelled by the lack of follow-up from an incident in July 2017 when armed smugglers entered a

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN EASTERN SUDAN

camp and abducted new arrivals. Security incidents took place in the refugee community as the food assistance provided was not enough and since refugees were not authorized to work, some resorted to petty criminality to sustain their families. The periodic arrival of heterogeneous groups of asylum-seekers prevented the necessary interaction between the groups to resolve such conflicts and establish accountability.

The cost of documentation was unaffordable for refugees because of the high annual renewal fees of the official refugee ID card, compounded by logistical challenges and complexity in the issuance and renewal process, as well as additional fines for every month of delay in renewal after expiry. This was a significant protection concern as it hampered critical mobility and access to services. Many refugees were unaware of the difference between the temporary IDs and the refugee IDs, causing further confusion. The high cost of the official Foreigner Card plus its associated burdensome logistics and travel expenses were also not affordable for them, so they avoided getting it although it was mandatory for every family member that had an ongoing resettlement (RST) process underway. Refugees also reported that the costs of renewal varied from camp to camp. RSD for asylum seekers who spoke the languages Oromo, Somali, Sahoo and Amhara was challenging due to the unavailability of interpreters, and also some POC reported being uncomfortable with interpreters of particular groups with whom they felt they could not express themselves freely.

Older refugees were anxious about the hazardous 'culture of migration' and believed that it was propelled by lack of education and employment opportunities, essential services for dignified survival, insecurity and limited access to documentation and nationality, as well as failed resettlement (RST) referrals. The youth, despite being aware of the grave risks of irregular onward movement, still desired to leave, as that was their only shot at a different future and a durable solution. The community was resigned as they felt there was no way to change the minds of those who decided to depart, although some community members thought that improving living conditions in the camps, increasing employment and education opportunities, in addition to granting Sudanese citizenship would prevent people from onward movement. This observation was strongly opposed by other participants who claimed resettlement to third countries was the only safe solution.

3.4.2.2. SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Domestic violence against women was reported in the camps in eastern Sudan. Some participants said this was as a result of purported 'inappropriate' behaviour mostly related to women's mobility, as permission of male relatives needed to be sought first. Another security issue precipitated by limited sanitation facilities was that women needed to go outside the camps to defecate in the open at night, which put them at great risk of harassment and assault. In the camps, sexual harassment of women was directly attributed to the marginalization of women, the lack of employment for men, and lack of consequences for perpetrators. Transactional sex was reportedly prevalent in the camps as single women and women-headed households experiencing extreme hardships and had no other means to meet their household and children's needs. FGM continues to be an issue in the East despite awareness-raising.

Closely related to the domestic violence and sexual harassment phenomena, was the incidence of child marriage as that was reported to be a pre-emptive measure by fathers to avoid sexual harassment of girls. However the problem of child marriage was also linked to cultural norms and lack of secondary education opportunities for girls due to its high costs.

3.4.2.3. CHILD PROTECTION AND EDUCATION

The reported lack of education and CFS facilities in the East were a real concern and was exacerbated by the funding situation of refugee operations. The reports of abduction of children were raised repeatedly and refugees demanded a community mechanism and a security response to address it.

High education costs of school and exam fees, school uniforms, stationary, textbooks and school meals, coupled with low family income due to lack of livelihoods of parents has led to school dropouts among the Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees in the East. The discontinuation and reduction of household food rations was cited as a recent contributor to the issue. In some camps, inadequate pre-primary and secondary education infrastructure as well as mixed-sex classrooms were cited by parents as concerns that led them to withdraw their children. Lack of secondary education was mainly due to the shortage of accessible schools, more so for girls than boys, as parents were willing to invest more in the latter's education. Aside from the risk of school dropout, quality of education was affected by shortage of textbooks, use of corporal punishment, unsafe animals loitering in school yards, unavailability of drinking water, language barriers for newcomers, and lack of disability access.

3.4.2.4. BASIC SERVICES AND LIVELIHOODS

Almost half of camp-based refugees lived in poverty. The challenges protracted refugees faced — similar to the host community — stemmed from harsh environmental conditions and limited opportunities to establish meaningful self-reliance. Limited water supply in the camps was due to the dearth of water points and the high demand for human consumption and livestock. The congestion of the shelters had resulted from the natural expansion of families over decades, and essential services such as health were extremely limited, while the sanitation situation was precarious due to inadequate latrines, stagnant water during the wet season, dead animals around the camps, high prevalence of mosquitoes, poor nutrition and food shortage, and the continued practice of open defecation. Health issues were further complicated by – PWD not having adequate support services, compromised mental health condition of refugees and asylum-seekers due to the stress of camp life, inadequate care for ill or disabled relatives, and past trauma, among others.

3.4.2.5. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Refugee women complained about exclusion from the election of the refugee committee and exclusion, or at the very least, marginalization in terms of the committee's activities. The committees allegedly serve only camp residents with good connections, rather than the most vulnerable. There was lack of representation, and transparency in the refugee committees, leading to challenges in self-management as refugee groups did not feel represented. Women in general raised issues of marginalization, being consulted only regarding family affairs (marriage) where the final decision-makers are men.

3.4.3. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE PERSONS OF CONCERN



The importance of documentation as was a priority challenge identified throughout this exercise. Refugees requested a waiver on the fees for documentation so that all persons may be equally documented regardless of economic ability. In some cases, refugees suggested access to documentation could be further improved by simplifying the renewal process by extending the working hours of COR. Challenges in the RSD process such as problems of interpretation could be addressed through contracting interpreters for the relevant languages and providing training and monitoring to them. To

address the protection challenges in the camps, some community members proposed improving living conditions in the camps, increasing employment and education opportunities, in addition to granting Sudanese citizenship to prevent the young generation from making the hazardous decision to move onward towards countries in Europe and beyond, through smuggling and risky routes. These views were however opposed strongly by others in the camps. Resettlement was considered an important solution by the majority of refugees.

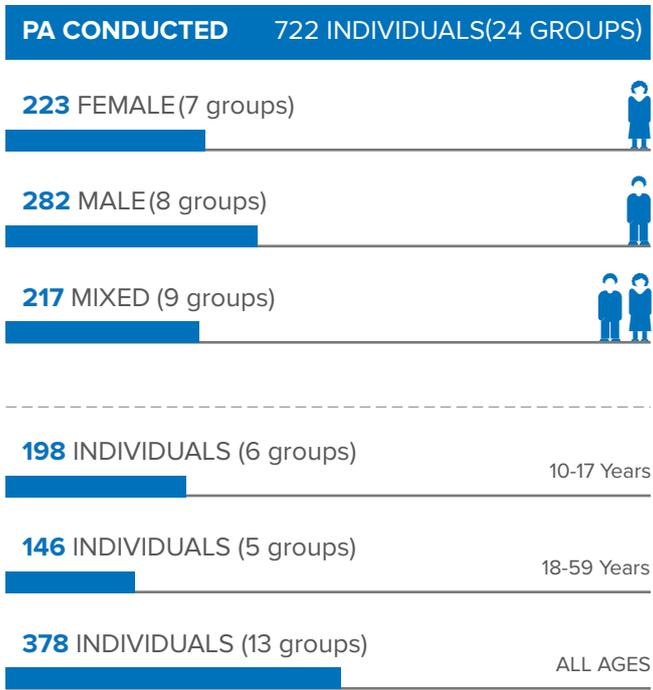
To enhance measures against SGBV, Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees in one PA groups suggested the timely and diligent reporting of all cases of sexual harassment and assault to UNHCR, and for the intervention of authorities with religious leaders to instruct men and boys during sermons in mosques to change their behaviour towards women and girls.

As a community recourse to the risk of abduction in the East, refugees proposed escorting children to school, not letting them leave the house alone, teaching them not to talk to strangers and forming watch groups to patrol the camp at night and to swiftly report incidents to the police. Male refugees suggested a security assessment of the camp following which a reporting and follow-up mechanism would be established for security incidents, some of which could be night time patrols, solar lights, and better facilities at the reception centres. The refugee community proposed greater investment in school supplies, and improved awareness of families on education to address school dropout in the East, especially for girls. Introduction of school feeding was indicated as an essential intervention for education as well as to improve nutrition outcomes.

To address the rate of poverty among the camp refugees, agencies were suggested to expand livelihoods opportunities and microfinance services such as restarting microloans and savings schemes, and to further facilitate the travel permits issued by authorities to help refugees benefit more from the work permit. Additionally, immediate installation of more water storage tanks and hand washing facilities were recommended. Refugee committee members expressed willingness to contribute in the sanitation works with partial support from aid agencies, since latrine construction and rehabilitation was expensive. To ensure safe access to energy for cooking, refugees suggested to expand the coverage of provision of liquid petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders to all households and establish gas refilling centres in the camps.

3.5 POPULATION: SUDANESE REFUGEE RETURNEES IN WEST DARFUR STATE

This part of the PA exercise was conducted with groups of Sudanese refugees from Chad and internally displaced persons (IDP) who had spontaneously returned to their places of origin in West Darfur in recent months. The Sudanese refugee returnees had been in asylum for 12 years in villages across the border in Chad, and the IDPs had been settled in camps and settlements in other parts of the greater Darfur area. The PA took place in El Geneina, and in Angime and Um Sibayga return villages.



3.5.1. NEEDS AND CONCERNS OF RETURNEES



Sudanese refugee and IDP returnees who had spontaneously returned to El Geneina locality reported inadequate security in their villages, intercommunal conflict with pastoralists over resources such as land and water, inadequate basic services including water supply, health clinics, education facilities and poor housing conditions. Returnees in all locations noted the challenge of lack of livelihoods, particularly due to continued land occupation.



A grave challenge to children’s physical safety was the exposure to unexploded ordinance (UXO) while grazing animals around the village.

3.5.2. ANALYSIS OF THE PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE NEEDS



Sudanese refugee returnees were assessed in three return areas. Barriers to their safety, dignity and sustainable repatriation remained due to the inadequate security and stability in the community, due to factors like risk of SGBV and periodic inter-communal conflict between returnees and pastoralists over resources such as land and water. During the PA, refugee returnees identified gaps in health services and water supply as the most important, followed by education and shelter needs. In their areas of return, basic services were inadequate, housing conditions were poor and households continued to face livelihoods challenges partially due to continued land occupation.

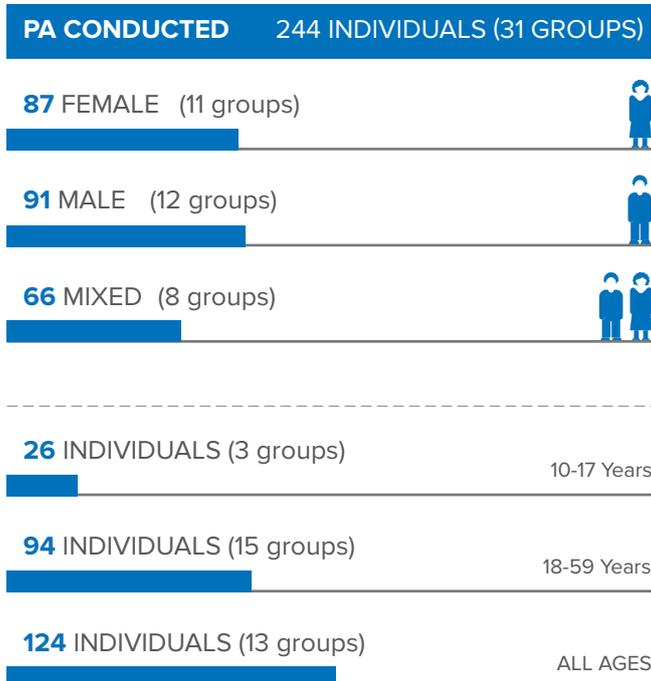
3.5.3. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE PERSONS OF CONCERN



UNHCR and its partners were recommended to support the reactivation of the peaceful co-existence committees so that they may intervene during land disputes. Community leaders wanted the local government to reinforce police presence in the return areas. Refugees requested the agencies to enhance basic services in the villages, including through the construction of health clinics, additional water points and provision of education support. They also highlighted the need to provide shelter and livelihood assistance, particularly for PWSN.

3.6 POPULATION: URBAN REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN KHARTOUM

The PA activities in Khartoum State were conducted through FGDs with 244 randomly selected refugees and asylum-seekers of Eritrean, Ethiopian, Yemeni, Congolese, Syrian and Somali origin, from the UNHCR proGres refugee database. Khartoum State had almost 324,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, the majority of them South Sudanese, however this group was not assessed as they were not registered by COR and UNHCR at the end of 2017 and access continued to be a problem.



3.6.1. NEEDS AND CONCERNS OF REFUGEES

Protection environment, legal process and documentation



Ethiopian, Eritrean and Congolese nationals presented their main concern to be the limited access to asylum procedures and the lack of proper documentation. These refugees and asylum-seekers complained that travel permits from the camps in the East were difficult to obtain and therefore they were unable to travel freely. For them detention by authorities in Khartoum was a point of concern, notably at the Aliens' Detention centre, where Eritreans reported suffering poor treatment and experienced language barriers with the detention

authorities. They also claimed being denied legitimate access to family members during detention. Syrian and Yemeni asylum-seekers, on the other hand, noted that they were not required to present refugee ID cards and did not experience police harassment. Yemeni nationals, unlike Syrians, were not registered and assisted by COR/Refugee Counselling Services (RCS), which they expressed concern about. One priority security concern of Eritrean and Ethiopian nationals involved the risk of kidnapping, smuggling and trafficking in persons.



PA participants of all nationalities, gender and age groups (except Yemenis), reported facing discrimination in general, with physical security concerns reported by males of all nationalities. Nationality and religion-based discrimination was reported by Ethiopians and Eritreans who reported being openly demeaned as 'Habesha' and reportedly targeted for robbery on the streets. Households of Ethiopians and Eritreans were reportedly profiled for roundups by police during which they suffered abuse, detention or even arrest. Women complained

of arbitrary rent hikes, and being subjected to subsequent police-assisted eviction following their inability to pay. Somali refugees noted that they did not face any challenges with documentation or police harassment but required support in accessing durable solutions.

URBAN REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN KHARTOUM

Child protection and education



Refugee children of Eritrean origin, particularly UASC living in foster care, complained about discriminatory treatment by the foster families. The Eritrean community identified the risk of SGBV against refugee children, and large number of child-headed families in their community. Physical safety of children, bullying and ethnic discrimination in the urban context, were also concerns among the Yemeni, Syrian and Ethiopian communities.



Refugees and asylum-seekers from various nationalities and age groups reported that school fees were high, that their respective community schools were overcrowded, while Syrian refugees complained that the service quality in education was poor. Ethiopian youth reported that for tertiary schooling, refugee students were expected to pay in dollars like foreign students.

The Eritrean community expressed concern about the high rates of school dropout among children, and Congolese refugees also complained about lack of access to education due to high costs and language barriers.

Sexual and gender-based violence



Congolese and Ethiopian nationals of both genders, as well as Eritrean and Syrian women in Khartoum, identified SGBV as their priority concern. Ethiopians, Eritreans and Syrians reported sexual harassment and assault of girls on the streets. Women refugees and asylum-seekers below 40 years reported a high level of sexual abuse of Ethiopian men and women by host community members in public. Ethiopian women working in Sudanese households experienced this most acutely. Refugees and asylum-seekers claimed to not report these violations categorically as the police generally ignored their cases or simply released the suspects soon after.



Young women from the Yemeni community reported child marriage as a prevalent issue in their community, affecting girls as young as 14 years, due to cultural practices and low community awareness on SGBV. Yemeni and Syrian women experienced domestic violence and attributed that to male aggressiveness triggered by their socioeconomic situation.

Basic Needs and Essential Services



Health and nutrition services were declared inadequate or overly expensive by Ethiopian, Eritrean and Syrian nationals and they stated that access to quality healthcare was hindered by unclear delivery systems, lengthy referral processes, lack of adequate facilities and equipment in public hospitals, ethnic discrimination against Eritreans, inadequate facilities for persons with disability and denial of services to refugee ID card holders if they did not hold medical insurance.



Most refugees were surviving on petty trade and could not engage in significant entrepreneurship. Refugees and asylum-seekers of all nationalities reported that incomes were insufficient compared to living costs and documentation expenses, and that they were unable to withstand inflation shocks.

3.6.2. ANALYSIS OF THE PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE NEEDS



Refugees in Khartoum who were assessed were a small but diverse group, with varying durations of asylum, and different status of registration. While most FGD groups' formation followed the age, gender and diversity disaggregation approach, some group discussions involved both male and female participants.

3.6.2.1. PROTECTION ENVIRONMENT, LEGAL PROCESS AND DOCUMENTATION

The protection environment for refugees in Khartoum was difficult. Police regularly conducted roundups particularly in areas where Ethiopians and Eritreans resided, and this exposed them to harassment, due to the lack of proper ID or birth certificates. Lack of documentation exposed these refugees to multiple forms of discrimination. The limited application of asylum procedures and difficulty in obtaining documentation and their subsequent expiry, placed significant limits on the freedom of movement of these urban POC, who also had a low awareness about UNHCR and COR services on asylum procedures and legal aid. The range of ID cards issued by different government entities was confusing and burdensome to the asylum-seekers and in some cases the COR-issued documentation that they held was not respected by the police.

Muslim refugees from Syria and Yemen were considered 'brothers and sisters' in Sudan and were accordingly less subjected to legal and immigration scrutiny. Yemenis were however required to possess resident permits which were costly to obtain.

3.6.2.2. SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Urban refugees and asylum-seekers reporting SGBV on the streets or at work had no recourse due to lack of alternate livelihoods. Survivors claimed to not report incidents due to fear of discrimination, stigmatisation and serious repercussions from the perpetrators and also the authorities. There was furthermore a serious lack of legal protection and medical response for Ethiopian survivors of SGBV including rape. Refugees of other nationalities who suffered SGBV did not report incidents for fear of social stigma; the majority of women resorted to private or traditional coping mechanisms.

These women reported maintaining a low profile by dressing like their Sudanese hosts and did their best to conform to laws and rules to avoid being profiled, arrested or detained.

3.6.2.3. CHILD PROTECTION AND EDUCATION

Child protection was a concern due to the large number of children from different age groups and nationalities in urban areas that dropped out of school due to high school fees and limited education facilities. As a result of the high cost of schooling, younger children were taught at home while youth resorted to working and did not pursue higher education.

The current hyperinflation and dire economic situation in Khartoum presented a challenge to all refugees and asylum seekers who had limited access to livelihoods opportunities and therefore also limited access to essential services. The high costs of urban education, precipitates school dropout – younger children are then home-schooled, while youth take-up work.

3.6.2.4. BASIC SERVICES AND LIVELIHOODS

In terms of health services, refugees appeared to not have sufficient awareness of UNHCR's health assistance. All the challenges of asylum in urban context was heightened by the lack of livelihoods; micro-enterprise was difficult due to lack of start-up capital and also complex licensing regulations. Employment opportunities were limited, and internal migration efforts for job hunting was thwarted by the difficulty in obtaining travel permits for some nationalities, thus most refugees survived marginally on petty trade. Access to services was further challenged for registered persons when the three-month duration of the asylum-seeker ID card expired, and renewal process was lengthy and expensive.

The groups proposed the refugee community's direct involvement with community schools' administration, to increase the student intake into community schools, and requested support to establish refugee schools run by refugee teachers. They requested more scholarships for refugee youth. In regards to healthcare, refugees requested health insurance, clear procedures regarding service delivery and referral pathways, and support for critical medical costs.

All refugees and asylum-seekers needed awareness on livelihood opportunities, and critical support to PWSN for maintaining livelihoods. The validity period of the COR ID card should be increased, and renewal periods shortened.

3.6.3. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE PERSONS OF CONCERN



Refugees proposed to enhance advocacy with authorities on the issuance and timely renewal of relevant documents, including refugee ID cards, work and travel permits, birth and marriage certificates. There needed to be awareness-raising sessions with the police and other government entities on the documents issued by the COR to refugees and asylum-seekers, to develop familiarity regarding their application. It was deemed imperative to undertake capacity building of police and other law enforcement officials on international protection for refugees. This would be aimed at improving the

protection environment for POCs and reducing incidents of arrest, detention and deportation. It was important to raise awareness among the POCs about the dangers of engaging the services of smugglers for onward movement.

Syrian refugees advocated for reduced residence permit fees and support in obtaining these documents, which they required to defer national military service as well as to facilitate their family members' travel to join them in Sudan. UNHCR was furthermore requested to advocate with the authorities to cancel the requirement of having to apply for residence permits for those who were considered to be 'brothers and sisters'. Refugees requested that COR advocate with Syrian authorities to recognise Sudanese visas issued to POCs, in lieu of the requirement of residence permits, for national service deferral and FTR purposes. Eritrean asylum-seekers urgently requested the provision of interpretation services in detention.

Refugees and asylum-seekers also requested advocacy with COR to increase their access to asylum procedures and documentation in eastern Sudan, including victims of trafficking who were dropped off in Khartoum. Agencies should advocate with authorities to include family visits as valid criteria for issuing travel permits (which would reduce the number of POCs travelling without proper documents) and for the extension of the validity of travel permits. UNHCR was also requested to analyse the various cards that POCs are required to obtain from the authorities and propose a streamlined course of action.

Refugees and asylum-seekers requested urgent intervention from agencies to better respond to SGBV, working with communities and police. They emphasised religious leaders' need for better awareness and ability to respond, combined with proactive engagement with the community at mosques and churches. To ensure child protection of UASC, the community proposed establishing a safe shelter. To protect extremely vulnerable individuals (EVI) from harassment and abuse by the host community or law enforcement, they requested financial support for these households to rent in safer neighbourhoods.

To increase enrolment, headmasters and parent-teacher associations needed to raise awareness about the UNHCR Education assistance schemes. Community awareness campaigns were essential, and teachers needed to be trained to enhance their capacities. Advocacy was needed undertaken with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research for refugees to pay university fees in local currency and not in foreign currency.

Refugees should be provided with recognized medical ID cards, and registered in medical insurance schemes. RCS/COR needed to build trust with POC through improved communication, clear procedures for medical care and timely reimbursement for medical expenses.

There was an added suggestion of promoting peaceful co-existence between POC and the host community so that members of the host community could contribute to the community-based protection of POC. In parallel, agencies needed to enhance host and refugee community outreach to raise awareness of services, registration and documentation, and refugee rights.

4. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF NEEDS AND POPULATIONS

4.1. PROTECTION CONCERNS: SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES

4.1.1. CAMPS VS. OUT-OF-CAMP-SETTLEMENTS

Analysis of the needs expressed by SSR living in camps and by those living in out-of-camp settlements, was aligned in most aspects and divergent in some. South Sudanese refugees based in these two types of environment expressed their need for similar services and protection and only differed in the manner that they ranked them.

Camp-based refugees prioritised lack of access to livelihoods as their most pressing concern, followed by inadequate NFIs, food and water supply, and challenges in access to energy sources. Settlement-based refugees prioritised their main concerns to be the lack of access to livelihoods, followed by the high cost of education, prevalence of child labour, lack of disease prevention and awareness services, and lack of access to health facilities.

CAMPS

-  Livelihoods
-  Non-food items (NFIs)
-  Food
-  Water
-  Energy source

OUT-OF-CAMP-SETTLEMENTS

-  Livelihoods
-  Education
-  Child Labour
-  Awareness services
-  Access to health facilities

4.1.2. CONCERNS OF MEN AND WOMEN

The priority needs expressed by SSR of each gender were remarkably harmonized – men and women in each type of location, whether in the camps or in out-of-camp settlements, placed repeated emphasis on the lack of access to livelihoods, followed by lack of disease prevention and awareness services, the inadequate distribution of NFIs and food, high cost of education for their children and inadequate shelter support in the locations where they were hosted. Additionally, SSR women prioritised concerns over the incidence of child labour in their communities as well as inadequate identification services and support to UASC.

MEN AND WOMEN

-  Livelihoods
-  Disease prevention
-  Awareness services
-  Non-food items (NFIs)
-  Education
-  Shelter

WOMEN

-  Child Labour
-  Services for UASC

4.2. PROTECTION CONCERNS: REFUGEE AND ASYLUM-SEEKER CHILDREN

 More than half of the refugees in Sudan (51 per cent) were children. This assessment confirmed inadequate or lack of specific support programmes or appropriate care arrangements for UASC and their caregivers in the Kordofan States and White Nile State. In the Kordofan States, UASC were alarmingly reported to be wandering the streets struggling for food and livelihoods, and were thus at direct risk of exploitation and abuse.

 Education remained inaccessible to most refugee youth, and idle young people were indulging in negative coping mechanisms such as drug abuse in the Kordofans and alcohol consumption in East Darfur, leading to instability in those communities.

 Children were at higher risk of abuse, neglect, violence, exploitation, trafficking, and forced recruitment by armed groups than other refugees. Identification of children-at-risk was inadequate in all locations and for all population groups due to the absence or inadequacy of a functional case management system associated referral pathways. This resulted in the widespread prevalence of child rights violations like child labour, early marriage and pregnancy, school dropouts, lack of psychosocial support for victims of exploitation and abuse, and inadequate CFS facilities in camps and settlements. Children also lacked safe spaces to play. In the case of the SSR, some new arrival children may also have witnessed or experienced violent acts, gotten lost or become separated from family members, leaving them traumatized and vulnerable.

 The lack of livelihood opportunities for adults resulted in the prevalence of child labour in all the refugee, asylum-seeker and refugee returnee communities, which led to school dropout, SGBV, and a range of other exploitation and harm to children. Security threats for Eritrean children included abduction and trafficking with limited access to justice. Refugee girls in all communities were vulnerable to child marriage which was primarily related to high levels of poverty, and lack of income and awareness in the families. Girls in the SSR community were additionally vulnerable to abuse and violence. Lack of documentation was a crucial factor preventing refugee children from enrolling in school.

 The absence of adequate lighting in the camps and settlements of Darfur and Kordofan States was a fear factor for SSR children at night.

4.3. PROTECTION CONCERNS: SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

 SGBV was a concern of men and women of all POC groups, and manifested in all locations. Domestic violence was cited by women of all ages – and some young boys – in the out-of-camp settlements by South Sudanese, Yemeni, Syrian, and Chadian refugees, as well as Sudanese refugee returnees. PA participants in Khartoum noted that domestic violence was generally not reported due to social stigma.

 Early marriage and pregnancy were also widely reported, mostly due to lack of security for young women, and deteriorated financial ability of families to respond to their education and other needs.

Incidents of SGBV during water collection, and harassment of women and adolescent girls walking alone near the camps or settlements were reported to occur in Central and Western Darfur states. Allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation from host communities during water and firewood collection were reported in Kordofan States. Lack of robust, functional mechanisms to identify SGBV cases and case management procedures and referral pathways, and absence of protection partners on the ground impacted the response to SGBV incidents all over Sudan.

 Survivors of violence, particularly SGBV, did not have smooth access to justice or legal aid services, and remained at high risk afterwards. Due to critical cultural beliefs, related sensitivities and unwillingness of law enforcement authorities, SGBV survivors faced challenges in accessing justice, received very limited legal aid, and were poorly served by the weak security measures in the settlements and camps.

Analysis of the two largest refugee populations in camps in Sudan – South Sudanese and Eritrean – indicated that refugee women of both nationalities were deeply concerned about the prevalence of SGBV in their community, and the limited availability of legal and medical recourse. Eritrean women complained about child marriage in their community, while South Sudanese women highlighted the problem of domestic violence and incidence of rape. They were both concerned about lack of documentation that curtailed freedom of movement and access to livelihoods, and they noted that the absence of adequate services for PWSN and UASC in their communities resulted in an additional burden of responsibility for them.

4.4. PROTECTION CONCERNS: SECURITY AND LEGAL



The most common security concern for SSR in Darfur camps and settlements was the poor lighting at night time which confined women and children to their shelters for fear of assault. Abductions for ransom were also reported inside the Chadian camps in Central Darfur. For SSR in the settlements in South and West Kordofan, there was a high risk of physical and sexual assault and harassment when collecting firewood or water from distant locations.



The main concern of SSR in the camps in White Nile State was incidents of robbery in the camps after sunset for which better security presence was needed. Women were afraid of being detained and subjected to arbitrary physical punishment for alcohol brewing, distribution, and consumption in East Darfur and Kordofan States.

Security concerns for POC in Eastern Sudan camps stemmed from fears of abduction and kidnapping. There were reports of groups of human traffickers and other miscreants, coupled with lax law enforcement in the area, gave a heightened sense of insecurity to camp residents.



In the Kordofan States, local authorities demanded relocation of SSR settlements to other areas as some of the sites had not been officially sanctioned. Contentions between POC and host communities arose over resource utilization, and host communities demanded similar assistance as refugees, which threatened peaceful coexistence.



The lack of documentation led to restrictions in movement, limited access to livelihoods, education services and general displacement and instability for all refugees to some extent. Many refugees worked in informal sectors which were illegal under Sudanese law, for instance alcohol production in settlements in the Kordofan States and North Darfur, and commercial sex in the Kordofan States, putting themselves at risk of arrest.

4.5. PROTECTION CONCERNS: EDUCATION



High numbers of school-age children remained out of school in all areas. Lack of enrolment, school dropouts and irregular attendance occurred due to reasons including insufficient schools or long distances from the settlements, absence of school feeding, lack of parental interest, unaffordability of books and materials and the need for child labour to help generate income.

Low enrolment of refugees in secondary education was also prevalent in all locations, mainly due to the insufficient number of schools, lack of adequate educational infrastructure and trained teachers, and the lack of capacity of the existing facilities to respond to the increasing numbers of refugee children. Land availability for new schools was a problem for the refugee settlements in the Kordofan States. Language barriers and curricular differences were challenges for refugees in Darfur and White Nile State where there were only Arabic-language schools while refugees came from an English background.

4.6. PROTECTION CONCERNS: LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY



The absence of livelihood opportunities was reported as a top priority issue by the greatest number of PA groups in all locations. In the urban area of Khartoum, refugees of nationalities other than Somalis were unable to move freely or work due to lacking civil documentation. POC of all nationalities in Khartoum experienced challenges compounded by the lack of livelihoods – incomes were insufficient compared to living costs and refugees without incomes were severely affected by inflation shocks. In the absence of formal employment, micro-enterprise was preferred but was difficult to engage in, due to scarcity of start-up capital and excessive licensing regulations. Relocation efforts for job hunting were thwarted by the difficulty in obtaining travel permits thus most POC survived marginally on petty trade.

In the other locations, refugees were compelled to engage in informal sectors, or hazardous and exploitative work for poor wages. Typically, if work was at all available, it was physically demanding and poorly paid. In the Kordofan States, SSR were exploited by the host community through non-payment of wages even after work was complete. Due to the low level of economic activity, refugees commonly engaged in informal sectors such as the illegal production and sale of local alcohol that had negative health impacts and compromised the security of the refugee community.



Food insecurity was a steep challenge among refugees; food rations were insufficient to meet nutrition needs, and complementary food items (i.e. meat, vegetables) were unaffordable due to lack of income in Kordofan, White Nile and Darfur States. Refugees requested access to agricultural land, seeds, and equipment (e.g. milling machines) and fishing equipment (boats, fishing nets, etc.) in White Nile State.

4.7. PROTECTION CONCERNS: WASH AND HEALTH

 Water points located long distances away from settlements, and scarce availability of water, gave rise to SGBV risks for women in Darfur and the Kordofan States. Water supply there was inadequate to meet the demands of the host community, POC and their livestock. Competition for water resources created friction with the host community in **Kordofan States**.

 Poor water quality and sanitation increased the prevalence of water-borne diseases in South Darfur. Shortage of hygiene and sanitation facilities, in households and in CFSs, and insufficient sanitary and hygiene materials for women and girls were reported in White Nile State.

 Water supply was a persistent issue in the eastern Sudan camps due to the dearth of water points, and the demand for human consumption and livestock. More water storage tanks and hand-washing facilities were needed and water quality needed to be improved in some camps. Open defecation was a problem as the latrine coverage was inadequate and there was no disability-friendly design.

 Health services were inadequate or where present, unaffordable, in all locations for all POC. Refugees in the Kordofan States referred to the low quality of service and medication, which they characterised as ineffective in the context of high disease prevalence, inadequate food, poor hygiene and sanitation.

In the refugee camps in Darfur, no major healthcare complaint was raised, however inadequate healthcare was among the top priority concerns for out-of-camp SSR in Darfur as medication, medical staff, admission rooms, laboratory services, reproductive health services, and ambulances were all generally lacking or insufficient. Many SSR PWD also needed mobility support, particularly for access to services. In North Darfur, latrines and hygiene promotion were key health needs.

Cases of death among women during labour were reported as there were no trained midwives in some South Kordofan settlements. Lack of secondary referral system and emergency transportation, limited capacity of government health facilities and existing discrimination against refugees were other barriers in accessing health services in the Kordofan States. In White Nile State, nutrition assessments were needed to reinstate the suspended SFP, provision of mobility aids to PWD, and distribution of mosquito nets for malaria prevention to the entire community were priority needs.

4.8. PROTECTION CONCERNS: CAMP-BASED REFUGEE POPULATIONS

 The largest concentration of camp-based refugee populations were in eastern Sudan (Eritreans and Ethiopians) and White Nile State (South Sudanese). Their needs were divergent, with the exception of absence of livelihoods, which was identified as the highest priority in both locations.

4.8.1. ERITREAN VS. SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES

SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES

-  Livelihoods
-  Energy source
-  Non-food items (NFIs)
-  Food
-  Water
-  Shelter
-  Nutrition
-  Education

ERITREAN REFUGEES

-  Livelihoods
-  Documentation
-  Child marriage
-  Education
-  Kidnapping and trafficking
-  Energy source
-  Water
-  Services for PWSN

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF NEEDS AND POPULATIONS

South Sudanese refugees in White Nile reported that in addition to livelihoods needs, their challenges included difficulties in accessing energy sources, inadequate distribution of NFIs and food, insufficient water supply, overcrowding and scarce shelter support, challenges in household nutrition and lack of access to education for their children.

Eritrean refugees in the East followed up their priority concern (lack of livelihoods), with the problems encountered due to the lack of access to documentation, prevalence of child marriage, high costs of education, fear of kidnapping and trafficking, difficulties in accessing energy sources and water, and low level of services for PWSN.

5. CONCLUSION

Recommendations to address the protection concerns laid out in Section 3 of this report were jointly identified and prioritised by refugees and MFT members. While some of the recommendations need additional allocation of personnel and resources, many of the capacities already exist within the refugee communities and should be further mobilized.

The main findings of the Sudan Participatory Assessment exercise highlighted a large number of protection concerns and unmet needs for basic services. A few of the issues mentioned repeatedly are listed below:

5.1. PROTECTION

Physical security, legal protection and community participation



Lack of established mechanisms to identify SGBV cases, case management procedures and referral pathways obstructed the effective prevention and response to SGBV incidents. SGBV survivors did not have access to justice or receive legal aid, and remained at high risk due to the weak security measures in their locations. In addition to structural gaps, SGBV survivors in many cases remained unassisted due to critical cultural beliefs and sensitivities.



Early marriage and pregnancy amongst girls were reported in all locations;



Women and children felt insecure in the camps at night due to lack of lighting which heightened the risk of theft or other security threats especially in the Darfur States. Abductions for ransom reportedly took place in the Central Darfur camps



SGBV, particularly domestic violence, incidents of harassment of women and adolescent girls walking alone in close proximity to camps and settlements were reported in Kordofan and Central Darfur States.

Access to asylum and documentation



Lack of documentation for refugees and asylum-seekers led to restrictions of movement, limited access to livelihood opportunities, education services and general risks related to forced displacement;



Many refugees worked in informal sectors due to lack of documentation, and earned their living through illegal commerce such as alcohol production in the Kordofan and North Darfur States, and commercial sex in the Kordofans, placing themselves at perpetual risk of arrest, in addition to arbitrary, sometimes physical, punishment



In some locations, local authorities demanded the relocation of refugee settlements to further remote areas. Reported contentions between refugee and host communities over the utilization of natural resources, and host communities demanding humanitarian assistance equal to refugees indicated a rising threat to peaceful coexistence.

Access to asylum and documentation



In all locations an effective mechanism to identify children-at-risk was lacking, in the absence of an established case management system and associated referral pathways. Moreover, child labour, child marriage, early pregnancy, school dropouts, lack of psychosocial support and recreational activities were the main risks for children, a significant number of whom were UASC. The PA confirmed that there had been an ongoing lack of specific support and appropriate care arrangements for UASC and their caregivers;



Lack of documentation, such as birth certificates and civil registration numbers, was a compounding factor preventing refugee children from enrolling in school



Child labour existed in most locations due to the lack of livelihood opportunities for adults. Some UASC were homeless and lived on the streets in Kordofan and struggled to find food

CONCLUSION



Idle youth indulged in negative coping mechanisms, including drug abuse, in the Kordofans and alcohol consumption in East Darfur



Girls and boys complained that they had no safe spaces to play and that the CFSs were damaged or not equipped.

Community participation



Refugee women, PWSN and the elderly reported poor representation of age and diversity in the leadership of community structures and committees in the Kordofan, Darfur and White Nile States.

5.2. BASIC SERVICES

Livelihoods



Lack of livelihood opportunities was identified as the greatest challenge faced by displaced persons in all locations. Refugees were compelled to engage in informal sectors such as housemaids and day labour, as well as in hazardous and exploitative work for low wages, to meet their basic needs.

Food and NFI distribution



Refugees and asylum-seekers suffered from insufficient and irregular food distributions, and were unable to buy additional food items due to lack of income in the Kordofan and Darfur States. The existing process of inclusion of new refugees in the food ration distribution system lacked flexibility and did not provide rations to refugees who had received household registration but were awaiting individual registration and verification. Food insecurity was a widespread concern as rations were insufficient to meet needs, and complementary food items (i.e. meat and vegetables) were expensive. Access to sufficient food was difficult due to the lack of access to land for cultivation, seeds, and tools in several locations



Large families complained that their shelters were overcrowded and needed to be expanded to enhance privacy, particularly for older girl children. Collection of building materials for constant rehabilitation exposed refugees to risk of SGBV and other protection issues. Men reported that shelter materials provided were not sufficient and some materials were stolen by unknown persons during the night



Persons with disabilities reported difficulty in reaching services because of the distance of the delivery points from their accommodation. Persons with specific needs, particularly UASC, orphans and elderly, were in need of additional NFIs, including clothing and blankets, especially in the winter.

Education



High numbers of refugee children remained out of school. School dropout and irregular attendance was due to lack of school feeding, lack of parental interest, and the prevalence of child labour to help generate income for families. Low enrolment of refugees in secondary education was reported in all locations

Challenges in this sector included the low number of schools with adequate educational infrastructure and trained teachers to respond to the ever-increasing numbers of refugee children. Language barriers were also a challenge for refugee students in South Darfur and the Kordofan States, for which no additional support was provided.

Health



Refugees expressed concerns about inadequate access to healthcare due to inaccessible and unaffordable medical facilities, low quality and high cost of prescribed medicines that were ineffective in the context of high prevalence of diseases, inadequate food, poor hygiene and sanitation. Facilities for refugees, especially in the Darfur and Kordofan States offered inadequate medical services (due to shortage of medicines, medical staff, and equipment) and were often inaccessible and unaffordable

There was an almost complete unavailability of secondary referral system and emergency transportation, due to the limited capacity of government health facilities and existing discrimination against refugees as barriers to accessing health services.

CONCLUSION

WASH



Refugees noted water shortages across all locations, and these were the cause of friction with the host community, particularly in the Kordofan States

Refugees in most locations had to access water from sources located far from their settlement, and the available quantity was in most cases insufficient or of poor quality to meet the needs of the host community, refugees and their livestock. Water points far from settlements resulted in protection risks for women in Darfur and the Kordofan States



Refugees experienced a shortage of hygiene and sanitation facilities such as showers, hand-washing amenities and latrines in most locations. The supply of sanitary and hygiene materials for women and girls was also very limited.

