Addressing the Urgent Needs of IDPs and Host Communities to Strengthen the Resilience and Social Stability of Conflict-affected Communities in Sudan

Annual Progress Report



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I. Executive Summary

UNDP Sudan through funding from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) is implementing the "Addressing the Urgent Needs of IDPs and Host Communities to Strengthen the Resilience and Social Stability of Conflict-affected Communities in Sudan" project in Kassala and Gedaref to strengthen the resilience of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities in Sudan by enhancing access to livelihood opportunities and basic services. To achieve this, the project adopts an area-based approach, applying the principles of Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus to empower communities with the highest concentrations of IDPs through livelihood opportunities, restoring essential services through renewable solar energy, and mending IDP-Host community relations.

The project specifically aims to improve the food and livelihood opportunities of displaced populations and other crisis-affected groups to better cope with the shocks and stressors of the ongoing conflict, promote access to basic services among displaced populations alongside host communities through the rehabilitation and construction of water points and peripheral health care facilities, including clinics powered by solar energy, and promote peaceful coexistence in conflict-affected and hosting communities by building local capacities in peacebuilding, conflict resolution, mediation, and reconciliation processes.

The project aims to directly empower 30,820 vulnerable beneficiaries, including IDPs, refugees, and host community members across Gedaref and Kassala states, of whom 60% will be women. It will impact on the lives of approximately 92,460 indirect beneficiaries. Cognizant of the disproportionate impact of conflict on women and girls, of various identity markers, the project systematically incorporates gender and conflict sensitivity by applying the principle of "Do no harm". This translates into detailed beneficiary criteria and close collaboration with Community Management Committees (CMCs) formed by the project. Partnering with CMCs ensures that project activities are executed in a people-centered, respectful, and conflict-sensitive manner, laying the foundation for sustained impact.

This annual progress report is the first submitted to AICS and covers activities implemented in the first year of the project, from December 2024 to December 2025. During this timeframe, the project implemented activities in Gedaref state, in collaboration with its implementing partner Sudanese Organization for Relief and Recovery (SORR), empowered **600 smallholder farmers (224 males and 376 females)** with agricultural inputs and technical support through **4 field farmer schools**, facilitated land access and agricultural productivity through **home-gardening for 300 vulnerable IDP women**, empowered approximately 837 youths (239 men and 598 women) through **32 distributed micro-grants**, established **14 village saving and lending associations (VSLAs)** which bring together 322 women including IDPs and host community members, built the **vocational capacity of 50 youth (60% female)** in diverse income generating skills, completed rehabilitation of 2 water yards restoring critical **water access to an estimated 1300 community members** in Kassala state, distributed critical **non-food items (NFIs) to 300 IDPs**, established and trained **6 CMCs** bringing together 48 members (18 females and 30 males), delivered training-of-trainers (ToT) sessions to 130 committee and sub-committee members on conflict resolution and curated **4 community events** which gathered 910 community members through interactive sport games, participatory theatre plays and entertainment to foster social cohesion and raise awareness on critical social issues such as gender-based violence and hygiene. Altogether, the project has **directly impacted the lives of 4,749 vulnerable households** across Gedaref and Kassala states through short-term, medium, and long-term economic activities in its first year of implementation.

The project maintained a strong focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women and other vulnerable groups under the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle. Through targeted livelihood support, vocational skills development, and micro-grants, 1,621 women were supported enhancing their participation, access to resources, and income opportunities. These interventions helped reduce barriers faced by women, IDPs, and other vulnerable populations, strengthened their resilience to conflict-related shocks, and contributed to narrowing socio-economic disparities within host and displaced communities.

With women representing a significant proportion of project beneficiaries with 38% women representation in CMCs formed, the interventions also supported greater inclusion in community decision-making processes and strengthened their role as agents of recovery, social cohesion, and sustainable development.

During this reporting period, project expenditure amounted to 61% of the total grant amount of EUR 1,000,000.

Key challenges and mitigation measures employed during this reporting period related to high inflation and shifting conflict dynamics which impacted the movement of target groups (IDPs returning to Khartoum and Al Jazeera contrasted by new waves of IDPs from Kordofan and Darfur region). To address these challenges, UNDP adhered to proactive procurement processes ensuring value-for-money and rigorous beneficiary selection criteria to ensure conflict sensitivity.

Based on these lessons learned, key recommendations and the way forward for the upcoming reporting period will be continuous coordination with established CMCs to ensure that development gains achieved by the project are sustained for communities, and new IDPs are integrated to benefit from rehabilitated infrastructure and community structures. Moreover, the upcoming reporting period will cover the implementation of activities in Kassala state, targeting areas densely populated by IDPs and vulnerable host communities.

II.Introduction

Background

The “Addressing the Urgent Needs of IDPs and Host Communities to Strengthen the Resilience and Social Stability of Conflict-affected Communities in Sudan” project is being implemented by UNDP Sudan through funding from AICS in Kassala and Gedaref to strengthen the resilience of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities in Sudan by enhancing access to livelihood opportunities and basic services. The project aims to directly empower 30,820 vulnerable beneficiaries, including IDPs, refugees, and host community members across Gedaref and Kassala states, of whom 60% will be women. It will impact the lives of approximately 92,460 indirect beneficiaries through implemented activities.

Humanitarian Context

The active conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) rages on, recently centering in Darfur and Kordofan states, leading to further displacement of civilians from those areas. Although the reclamation of key urban hubs, such as Khartoum and Al Gazeera, by the SAF in early 2025 has prompted waves of voluntary return, the pressure on host communities in Gedaref and Kassala remains high, as new IDPs and refugees continue to arrive from other active conflict regions.

The overall security situation in the country remains volatile with continued clashes in some parts of North Kordofan, South Kordofan, and Darfur states. The fall of El-Fasher town to the RSF in October 2025 resulted in renewed human rights violations, displacement, and social fracture across the nation, including the declaration of a parallel RSF-led government in Nyala, South Darfur. Other insecurities are related to several drone attacks in the stable states of the River Nile and White Nile, and to earlier attacks in Port Sudan, the capital of the Red Sea state, and the temporary administrative capital of Sudan. As SAF reclaimed major urban hubs like Khartoum and Al Gazeera, the widespread destruction and damage to critical infrastructure continue to create harsh living conditions for returnees and residents. The government has announced the return of key ministries and commercial flights to the capital city, Khartoum, to prompt the return and revival of economic activity in urban areas.

The ongoing conflict in Sudan continues to be the world’s largest internal displacement and hunger crisis, with over 21 million people facing acute hunger, with famine confirmed in El-Fasher in North Darfur and Kadugli in Kordofan. As of December 2025, an estimated 9,139,309 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 3,500,482 returnees were recorded across Sudan. As of February 2026, the total IDP population has decreased by 21%, though famine, disease, and lack of essential services, including access to water, persist.

Project Locations

The project is being implemented in two states, Kassala and Gedaref, covering two localities and twenty-eight (28) communities.

Table

State	Locality	Communities
Gedaref	El Guresha	Guresha town, Wad-Yousif Village, Kakoum, AbuGolood, AlGalla, Shoeib, Tabarakalla, Barbar, KhorZaraf, and Gabal-Gana.
	Galaa Al Nahal	GalAlNahal town, Al-Matna, Al-Kowaishir, AbuRanja, Haffair-AlGeer, Ban, Boloz, Kartot, Al-Areed, Wad-Shos, and Al-Amanara Village.
Kassala	New-Halfa	Asoberi, Village 19, village 12, village 6.
	Girba	Arab 2 Village, Khor Allaban, Dar Alsalam.

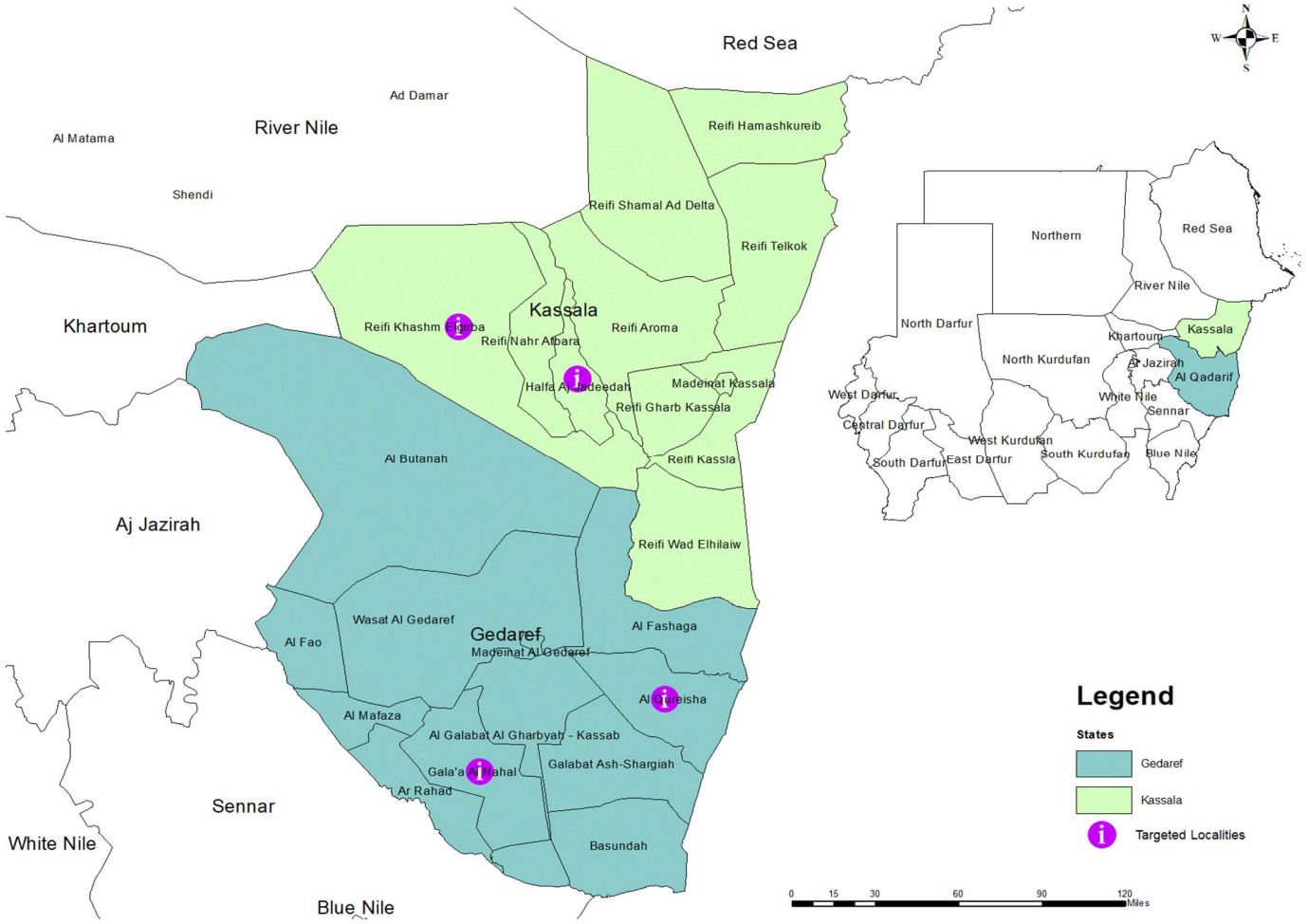
Gedaref

Gedaref state is the second largest state composing the Eastern Sudan region, neighboring Ethiopia and Eritrea, and subsequently hosting large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers from those countries prior to the outbreak of conflict in April 2023. By 2024, the state was the second largest hosting state of IDPs from active conflict regions like Khartoum, Darfur, and Kordofan. As key urban states like Khartoum and Al Gazeera regain stability, IDP numbers in Gedaref have steadily decreased. As of February 2026, an estimated 238,059 IDPs were recorded across 667 locations in 12 localities in Gedaref state, representing a 13% decrease compared to the estimated 274,224 IDPs recorded the previous month. The decrease primarily reflects increased return movements to locations of origin across Khartoum and Al Gazeera states. As violent escalation pushes new waves of IDPs from Kordofan and the Darfur region, Gedaref continues to grapple with limited services to support an estimated 3,460 IDPs from El-Fasher and 2,541 IDPs from locations across the Kordofan region.

Kassala

Kassala state, bordering Eritrea, hosts an estimated 56,875 IDPs as of February 2026, a 1% decrease from the previous month. The slight decrease in IDP numbers is attributed to the revival of key urban centers such as Khartoum and Al Gazeera state. However, compared to other states, Kassala witnessed the lowest decrease in IDP numbers as it remains a hotspot of many fleeing conflict from the Darfur and Kordofan regions. Thus, pressure on resources and essential services remains high. Following the fall of El-Fasher to the RSF in late October 2025, approximately 770 IDPs were displaced from Al Fasher to Kassala, while approximately 90 IDPs were displaced from locations in the Kordofan region to Kassala following increased insecurity. These numbers are expected to increase.

Figure 1: Map of Sudan illustrating project target locations



III. Outcomes Achieved

The “Addressing the Urgent Needs of IDPs and Host Communities to Strengthen the Resilience and Social Stability of Conflict-affected Communities in Sudan” project aims to strengthen the resilience of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities in Sudan by enhancing access to livelihood opportunities and basic services, specifically for communities in Gedaref and Kassala states. By incorporating 3 mutually reinforcing objectives, the project aims to:

- Improve the food and livelihood opportunities of displaced populations and other crisis-affected groups to better cope with the shocks and stressors of ongoing conflict.
- Promote access to basic services among displaced populations alongside host communities through the rehabilitation and construction of water points and peripheral health care facilities, including clinics powered by solar energy.
- Promote social stability and peaceful coexistence in conflict-affected and hosting communities by supporting community capacity in local peacebuilding, conflict resolution, mediation, and reconciliation processes amid ongoing conflict and political and social instability.

This project aims to directly engage 30,820 vulnerable beneficiaries, including IDPs, refugees, and host community members in the Gedaref and Kassala states, of whom 60% will be women. Interventions are expected to impact on the lives of 92,460 indirect beneficiaries through proposed activities. This will be realized through the following expected outcomes:

- Improved income-generation capacity and livelihood opportunities for the women by selling surplus produce and value-added products.
- Improved absorption capacity of host communities through increased access to basic services.
- Strengthened social cohesion and empowerment of women through collective action and peer learning.



Picture 1: Home gardening beneficiaries tending crops in Gala Al Nahal, Gedaref (Photo: UNDP Sudan)

IV. Progress Review (December 2024 – December 2025)

This annual progress report is the first submitted to AICS, covering activities implemented in the first year of the project, from December 2024 to December 2025, when implementation focused on Gedaref state. Altogether, the project has made significant progress in supporting the resilience and recovery of conflict-affected communities through livelihood support, improved economic opportunities, and social cohesion.

During this timeframe, the project impacted the lives of 4,749 community members in Guresha and Gala AlNahal localities in Gedaref state. Vulnerable IDPs and host community members were impacted as follows:

- 600 farmers were empowered to increase agricultural production through agricultural inputs and supported with robust extension services through 4 field farmer schools (FFS),
- 300 vulnerable IDP women launched home gardening activities to provide daily sustenance for their families and to sell surplus yields as a source of income.
- 32 micro-grants empowered approximately 837 young men and women to launch income-generating small-scale businesses,
- 14 village saving and lending associations (VSLAs) were established involving 322 women, including IDPs and host community members,
- 50 youth (60% females) gained vocational skills to launch diverse income-generating activities,
- completed rehabilitation of 2 water yards in Kassala state, restoring critical water access to an estimated 1300 community members in Asboery village, New Halfa locality,
- 300 IDPs received non-food items, improving their access to water, information, and security.
- 6 CMCs, bringing together 48 members (18 females and 30 males), were formed and 130 committee and sub-committee members trained to sustain the project's intervention and foster social cohesion.
- 910 community members were gathered through 4 community events to further bolster social cohesion between IDPs and host communities.

The next section provides a detailed description of the activities implemented by UNDP and its implementing partner, organized by specific outputs.

Activities Implemented

Output 1: Improved income-generation capacity and livelihood opportunities for the women by selling surplus produce and value-added products

Activities under output 1 have improved the income generating capacity and livelihood prospects of **2,109 individuals (1,626 females and 483 males)** through distribution of agricultural inputs, home-gardening initiatives, micro-grants, VSLAs and vocational training.

Output 1 Activities

Activity 1.1: Distribute agricultural inputs (seeds, tools, solar water pumps, fertilizers, etc.) to 1,200 households.

During this reporting period, representing the first year of implementation, **600 households (224 males and 376 females)** in Gedaref, across the Gala AlNahal and Guresha localities, received improved seeds to improve agricultural productivity, reviving their livelihoods and economic

prospects. The distribution was completed in late July 2025, and each household received 8.3 kg of groundnuts, 10 kg of sesame, and 10 kg of sorghum. Additionally, each farmer received three agricultural tools. Cumulatively, the project distributed 6 metric tons of sorghum, 6 metric tons of sesame, and 5 metric tons of groundnuts to the 600 households. In all, more than 2,000 hectares were put under cultivation using improved seeds and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). Support for farmers is expected to significantly improve their productivity and incomes. An additional 600 farmers will be supported in Kassala during the next reporting period.



Picture 2: Distribution of agricultural inputs in Guresha locality, Gedaref state (Photo: UNDP Sudan)

Activity 1.2: Implement 4 agricultural trainings for 1,200 households using 4 Farmer Field School Sites. (1training course in each of the 4 sites)

The project provided Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) training to the farmers through the Farmer Field Schools approach. Four (4) Farmer Field Schools (FFS) were organized, benefiting 600 farmers who received agricultural inputs. During a UNDP monitoring visit, trained farmers indicated that their area under cultivation increased from an average of 2.5 feddans to over 5 feddans, whilst some farmers expanded their farms from 5 feddans to as high as 25 feddans. Supported farmers also indicated that they expect their yield to increase by at least 90%.

The majority attributes the expected increase in yield to improved access to seeds and tools, adoption of new and improved agricultural technologies, and the training they received through the FFS sessions. Farmers also indicated that although rainfall was poor during the year, this did not adversely affect production due to the increase in cultivated areas. In conjunction with the planned distribution of agricultural inputs, similar FFS will be conducted in Kassala state in 2026.



Picture 3: Farmers attending the Field Farmer Session in Guresha locality, Gedaref (Photo: UNDP Sudan)

Activity 1.3: Initiate home gardening for 600 households involving displaced women and the host community

To support vulnerable IDPs and landless groups who cannot participate in large-scale agriculture, **300 households (100% females)**, including displaced women and host community members, received vegetable seeds and gardening tools to start home gardens. 150 women were supported per locality, Gala Alnahal and AlGuresha. Home gardening enabled these vulnerable groups to obtain immediate dietary sustenance for their households and to engage in small-scale vending of surplus yields.

During a recent UNDP monitoring visit, home gardening beneficiaries estimated an **increase in the average area under cultivation per household from 1 feddan to 2.5 feddan,** due to improved access to seeds and tools from the project.



Picture 4: Female beneficiary of home gardening activities showcasing her yield, Gala AlNahal locality, Gedaref state (Photo: UNDP Sudan)

Activity 1.4: Provide 60 micro-grants to vulnerable groups and associations (including IDPs and host community members) targeting 3,000 individuals.

In Gedaref state, a total of **837 individuals (239 males and 598 females), representing 32 groups**, have benefited from micro-grants distributed through this activity. The distributed in-kind grants are expected to enhance youth livelihoods, create employment opportunities, stimulate the local economy, and contribute to social and economic stability in the locality. Micro-grant projects were selected through a rigorous application process, attracting 86 applications from Al-Guresha locality and 76 from Gala Al Nahal. 16 in each locality were selected based on the project's economic viability, commitment of grantees to develop the business, and maximum horizontal benefit of the proposed small business.

Each group ranged from 21 to 30 members and collectively covered a diverse range of income-generating activities, from small-scale grocery shops and stationery shops to seeds and grinding machines. A woman from the host community in AlMatna Village, Gala AlNahl locality, shared, *"We participated in this project due to the urgent needs of the area, families, and the community for food supplies on a daily basis. This is the grant we have received, and it will certainly benefit families greatly by meeting their essential basic needs."*

During the next reporting period, the remaining 28 grants will be distributed to selected groups in Kassala state.



Picture 5: Young female micro-grant recipients of in-kind support to start small-scale businesses, Guresha locality, Gedaref (Photo: UNDP Sudan)

Activity 1.5: Support 16 Local Savings and Lending Associations for IDPs and host communities to enhance self-help and income generation, targeting 320 individuals.

14 Local Village Savings and Lending Associations (VSLAs), comprising 322 members (161 in Guresha and 161 in Gala AlNahal locality) were established across Gedaref state. The VSLAs were trained and supported to engage in income-generating activities. Each VSLA received training on group work, the livelihoods approach, savings and loans, financial management, record-keeping, business development, investment and consumption control, and the importance of women's roles, empowerment, and participation in recovery projects. Each VSLA received: 1 record book, 1 calculator, 1 fingerprint, 1 savings box, 3 Plastic mats, 3 locks with keys, 1 ruler, 2 correction pens, and one sharing dish.

During a UNDP monitoring visit, established VSLAs demonstrated significant progress and commitment to joint savings. Engaged VSLA members mentioned that, **apart from financial benefits, the VSLA has brought together women from different tribes**, thereby improving their social interactions and peace. All the VLSAs shared ambitions to implement joint projects, acquire oil-processing and grinding machines, and purchase commodities to sell collectively, forming a stable, income-generating joint venture.



Picture 6: Women from Wad Yousif Village VSLA demonstrating their savings amount, Guresha locality, Gedaref (Photo: UNDP Sudan)



Picture 7: Set of items distributed to all formed VSLAs (Photo: UNDP Sudan)

Activity 1.6: Conduct 4 vocational and skills training on income-generating activities for 100 youths, targeting four trade courses

In October 2025, **50 youth (60% females, 22% IDPs, and 6% living with disabilities) out of the target 100 received vocational** training in Gedaref state. The training was delivered in two gender segregated groups, bringing together youth from diverse villages in each target locality. One group of youth from Guresha locality consisted of 25 members (15 female & 10 male). They represent three villages: Guresha, WadYousif, and Kakoum.

Another group was formed in Gala AlNahal with 25 members (15 female & 10 male) representing Gala AlNahal, AlMatar, AbuRanja, and AlKowisher. The training was delivered in collaboration with the Gadarif Vocational Training and Apprenticeship Center, covering five skill areas: Electricity, Solar Technology, Mobile Phone Repair, Makeup, and Henna design. This training was based on their expressed preferences, which emerged during pre-training consultations. Female participants received training in makeup and Henna design, while male counterparts received training in the other areas accompanied by start-up kits.



Picture 8: Vocational trainees showcasing their certificates from the Gedarif Vocational Training and Apprenticeship Center (Photo: UNDP Sudan)

Output 2: Improved absorption capacity of host communities through increased access to basic services.

Activities under output 2 have improved the absorption capacity of **1,600 community members**, through restored essential water access including 300 vulnerable IDP women who received crucial NFIs.

Activity 2.1: Rehabilitate four clinics, four schools, and four water yards, including the chlorinating water points, to benefit 20,000 people.

The project has completed rehabilitation of two water yards in Kassala: Asobery and Abu Guloud. Asobery water yard in Asobery village, New Halfa in Kassala state, **serves an estimated 1,300**

individuals. Rehabilitation works included the installation of a solar power system to power the facility, the renovation of the elevated water tank with a total storage capacity of 45m^3, and the construction of perimeter fencing for the water yard with a total length of 160 linear meters. The water yard was rehabilitated after 5 years of deterioration, during which the Asobery community suffered limited access to affordable, reliable water due to unstable electricity to operate the system.

The Asobery water yard is not connected to the general water network of New Halfa town, as the village is located approximately 17 km away from the town center. Thus, this rehabilitated water yard serves the village of Asobery and the neighboring villages of Naiema and Gafala, which also have limited access to water. After completing rehabilitation works at Abu Guloud, the pump experienced a fault. UNDP engineers are examining the matter in conjunction with contractors to restore water access for communities in Abu Guloud.

Remaining rehabilitation works of two schools, one in Gurisha (15% progress) and one in Gala AlNahal are ongoing. Additional rehabilitation of two community health centers in ElMatna and Tabarakalla have been initiated. Other rehabilitation works have been technically assessed and are in the procurement process.



Picture 9: View of rehabilitated water yard in Absoery village, New Halfa, providing critical water access to 1,300 community members, including IDPs, Kassala (Photo: UNDP Sudan)



Picture 10: Women beneficiaries testing water distribution points of newly rehabilitated water yard in Asboery village, New Halfa, Kassala (Photo: UNDP Sudan)

Activity 2.2: Establish 4 water user associations (WUA) and a cost recovery system to maintain and sustain the basic services delivered.

As the rehabilitation of water yards progresses, UNDP is engaging with community leaders and state level authorities to identify existing water user associations (WUAs) for refresher training and formalization, rather than imposing new committees. This approach ensures that local structures are not duplicated but rather empowered, fostering genuine ownership of development outcomes and sustainability. In this reporting period, UNDP has identified two existing but non-functional WUAs that will be reactivated. A training session will be organized in Q2 2026 to ensure an effective cost-recovery system is established to maintain repaired water yards.

Activity 2.3: Procure and distribute Non-Food Items (NFIs), such as water Jerry cans, tents, and Solar NFIs, to 600 IDPs and vulnerable households in host communities

Thus far, UNDP has distributed **300 jerricans and 90 solar boxes** equipped with a radio and a torchlight to IDPs and host communities in Gedaref state. The distribution was conducted across 7 sites hosting dense concentrations of IDPs in Gedaref, to 300 vulnerable households. These tools will increase IDPs' access to information and energy and provide improved security, reducing exposure to gender-based violence.



Picture 11: Woman receiving solar box as part of NFI distribution for vulnerable IDPs in Gedaref state (Photo: UNDP Sudan)

Table 1: Locations of Solar Box Distribution

Locations of Solar Box Distribution			Vulnerable HHs
Locality	Area/Village	Site	
Rural Wasat Al Gedaref	Um Golja village	Um Golja Settlement 1	3
		Um Golja Settlement 2	3
		Um Golja Camp	3
Western Gallabat	Jenan village	Jenan boys primary school	11
Western Gallabat	Wad Alsnosi village	Wad Alsnosi Primary Mixed School	36
Western Gallabat	Wad Daief village	Wad Daeif Settlement	17
Western Gallabat	Zeriga	Zeriga school	15
Wasat Gedaref	Alsaraf	Alsarafa	2
		Total	**90**

Table 2: Locations of Jerry-can Distribution

Locations of Jerry-can Distribution			
Locality	Area/Village	Site	No of Households
Western Gallabat	Jenan village	Jenan boys primary school	25
Western Gallabat	Wad Alsnosi village	Wad Alsnosi Primary Mixed School	112
Western Gallabat	Wad Daief village	Wad Daeif Settlement	52

Western Gallabat	Zeriga	Zeriga school	89
Wasat Gedaref	Alsaraf	Alsarafa	22
		Total	**300**

Activity 2.4: Procure and install 30 Solar Street lights in IDP Gathering Areas and host communities to enhance safety and security.

During this reporting period, UNDP has made significant progress in installing solar streetlights. **16 solar streetlights have been procured, and the installation sites (in Khashm Al-Girba and New Halfa localities) have been identified** and shared with the supplier for installation. Site identification was a thorough process conducted in collaboration with technical counterparts at state authorities and sister UN agencies, to ensure densely populated IDP sites benefited from the interventions. Sites close to other UNDP interventions, such as rehabilitated health centers and water yards, were prioritized to ensure a holistic provision of services to vulnerable communities.

Output 3: Strengthened social cohesion and empowerment of women through collective action and peer learning.

Activities under output 3 have directly strengthened social cohesion among **1,040 community members** through trained CMC members and sub-committees in peacebuilding and community events across Guresha and Gala AlNahal localities in Gedaref state.

Activity 3.1: Establish 4 Community Management Committees (CMCs) of 20 members each and 8 Subcommittees to ensure the supervision of project activities, particularly for identifying and maintaining water points to be rehabilitated in schools and primary health centers.

A total of **6 community management committees (CMCs)** were formed, 3 CMCs per target locality in Gedaref state, bringing together 48 members (18 females and 30 males), representing 17 villages across both localities. In Guresha, each CMC consists of 8 members, and the total is 24 members (8 female & 16 male) from the 10 targeted villages. In Gala AlNahal, each CMC also consists of 8 members, and brings together 24 members, 10 females and 14 males from 7 target villages.

State	Locality	CMC	Villages Represented
Gedaref	Guresha	1st	• Shoaieb Village • Al-Gallah Villag • Abu Goloud Village
Gedaref	Guresha	2nd	• Al-Guresha town • Wad-Yousif village • Kakoum Village
Gedaref	Guresha	3rd	• Tabarakallah Village • Barbar Village • Gabal Gana Village • KhorZaraf Village
Gedaref	Gala AlNahal	1st	• Gala AlNahal City • AbuRanja Village • HafirAlGeer Village
Gedaref	Gala AlNahal	2nd	• Kartot Village

			• Ban Village • Grain Village
Gedaref	Gala AlNahal	3rd	• AlKwasher Village • Al-Amara Village • AlMatna Village



Picture 12: CMC representatives in Gala AlNahal town, during UNDP monitoring visit in Gala Nahal locality, Gedaref, November 2025 (Photo: UNDP Sudan)

Within the formed CMCs, UNDP **established 4 sub-committees on peace and social cohesion**. Each sub-committee consists of 36 members. In Guresha, this committee brings together 17 females and 19 males. In Gala AlNahal, the sub-committee comprises of 16 females and 20 males. Representatives of these sub-committees participated in the training-of-trainers (ToT) organized under Activity 3.3 and played a crucial role in facilitating the community events conducted under Activity 3.4 to promote social cohesion.

Activity 3.2: Launch 4 social Peace and Social cohesion committees - with at least 50% female representation -tasked with promoting peaceful coexistence and facilitating peacebuilding within communities.

Six (6) peace and social cohesion committees were formed. Each committee has 12 members, for a total of 72 (32 females and 40 males). These subcommittees will operate within the CMC to address issues of conflict, social tension, and instability in the community. The Peace and Social Cohesion Committees will ensure that all members of the community have access to the infrastructure rehabilitated by the project in a peaceful manner, and that cost-recovery mechanisms are established for the maintenance and sustenance of restored essential services.

Activity 3.3: Conduct four (4) Training of Trainers (ToT) courses for 80 CMC members to train local mediators to facilitate dialogue and reconciliation processes between displaced persons and host communities

In September 2025, the Training of Trainers (ToT) program on Dialogue Management and Peaceful Coexistence was successfully conducted, marking a significant milestone in the effort to strengthen community cohesion and promote sustainable peace. The curriculum was facilitated by the University of Gadaref's Peace Center and Development Studies. The University's involvement was instrumental, providing the academic framework and expert facilitation required for effective high-level training. This academic partnership was complemented by strong grassroots support; local authorities and community members actively collaborated with the project team to manage logistics and secure dedicated land for practical demonstration activities.

A total of **6 CMCs, representing 130 community members, received TOT training**. 58 community members (29 in Guresha, 15 females and 14 males; 29 in Gala AlNahal, 14 females and 15 males) from the CMCs were trained as local mediators, equipping them with advanced competencies in conflict resolution, dialogue facilitation, and promoting peaceful coexistence. From the peace and social cohesion committees formed, 36 members from each locality received training. A total of 72 members (In Guresha, 13 females and 23 males, and in Gala AlNahal, 19 females and 17 males) received ToT training on similar topics.

Activity 3.4: Organize 8 community events to promote social cohesion and raise awareness on issues

In December 2025, **4 community events were organized in Guresha and Gala AlNahal** localities in Gedaref state, bringing together 910 community members (51% women, 26% IDPs, and 2% nomads). Each event was organized in two sessions. The morning session was attended by representatives from UNDP, SORR, local authorities, and other community stakeholders. During this session, participants delivered speeches emphasizing the importance of social cohesion, inclusion, gender-based violence (GBV) awareness, and community-based risk reduction. Micro-grant items were also distributed to targeted youths and women's groups during this ceremony. The evening session focused on community engagement activities and included a football match, which encouraged participation, interaction, and peaceful coexistence among community members.

An evening football match was organized between two emerging youth teams. The match ended in a draw, followed by penalty kicks and a draw process, after which the winning team was announced. Prizes were awarded to the winning team and to outstanding players from both teams. The activity created a lively and engaging atmosphere and encouraged positive youth interaction and community participation. One 48-year-old male host community member from Tabarakallah, Guresha locality shared,

"These activities have strengthened unity among community members and restored hope, especially among youth and vulnerable families."



Picture 13: Youth celebrate winning a football match organized as part of the evening session of the community event in Guresha locality, Gedaref (Photo: UNDP Sudan)



Picture 14: Women attendees, grantees, and project beneficiaries attending a community event in Gala AlNahal locality, Gedaref (Photo: UNDP Sudan)

V. Communication & Visibility

During this reporting period, UNDP published 12 distinct social media posts across its LinkedIn, X, and Facebook accounts, highlighting key project achievements. Published content garnered 18,100 impressions, 1,020 engagements (likes and reactions), and 13 reshares. A detailed report, along with associated links, can be found in Annex 1.

VI. Monitoring and Evaluation

During this reporting period, UNDP conducted a monitoring visit to Gedaref state, visiting both Guresha and Gala AlNahal localities with the implementing partner (IP), SORR. The monitoring visit conducted an in-depth review with the IP to understand current achievements, challenges, and any relevant changes in context, as activities in Gedaref conclude. The monitoring visit conducted a series of focus group discussions (FGDs) with a sample of beneficiaries from the following groups:

- Home gardening beneficiaries – UNDP met with women groups from 6 communities, which received agricultural inputs to launch home gardens.
- Agricultural input beneficiaries – UNDP met with 4 farmer associations, which received seeds, tools, and extension services. All associations indicated that their area of production increased from an average of 2.5 feddans to over 5 feddans, whilst some farmers expanded their farms from 5 feddans to as high as 25 feddans.
- VSLA beneficiaries – UNDP conducted discussions with 6 VSLA groups to assess their current progress, commitment of members, and savings capacity of each group.
- CMC members – UNDP conducted FGD with members of CMCs to understand their meeting frequency, participation in resolving community conflicts, and integration in ongoing activities.
- Vocational trainees – UNDP conducted an FGD with a sample of youth who received vocational training.

The monitoring visit successfully facilitated collaboration with the IP to ensure high-quality implementation and engaged various beneficiaries to ensure diverse community voices informed UNDP's M&E systems.

VII. Key Challenges, Lessons Learned, and Recommendations

Despite its achievements, the project faced some challenges during this reporting period, representing its first year of implementation, including a delayed project start, bureaucratic government processes, and social tensions between IDPs and host communities. The delayed project start significantly shortened the timeframe for community mobilization, limiting engagement and awareness activities among target communities. This delay coincided with the rainy season, which made access to remote areas difficult due to muddy off-road conditions, which also complicated the transport of seeds and tools. This was effectively mitigated through active engagement with community leaders and the formation of CMCs.

Other challenges included time-consuming bureaucratic government processes for obtaining travel authorization and transport permissions for seeds and staff, which delayed implementation. This was effectively mitigated by the IP proactively following up with state authorities. Additionally, some social tensions between host communities and IDPs emerged during seed distribution activities. Host communities expressed grievances, arguing that IDPs had previously received aid without reciprocal support to host communities, leading to resistance when seeds were distributed to IDPs. This was effectively mitigated through detailed beneficiary selection criteria and conflict sensitivity during distribution activities.

VIII. Update on risks and mitigation measures

During the reporting period from December 2024 to December 2025, threats related to previously identified risks (detailed in Annex II) remained prominent, with a notable increase in risks associated with inflation and rising project input prices. Inflation rates continue to soar in Sudan

as the gap between official and parallel markets for foreign currency widens. As a result, procurement of inputs and rehabilitation works required for project activities has been expedited through proactive procurement processes to avert potential financial losses.

IX. Partnerships and Sustainability

During this reporting period, UNDP has secured additional funding of approximately $2,000,000 USD from the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) as a contribution to the "Strengthening the Resilience of IDPs, Refugees and Vulnerable Host Communities in East Sudan (STRIDES) initiative, which strengthens the resilience of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities in Sudan by enhancing access to livelihood opportunities and basic services. This will support the recovery and independence of conflict-affected IDPs, returnees, and host communities similar to the impeccable contribution of AICS.

X. Financial Summary

This is a financial report for the grant agreement UNDP/RR/24/140 – AID 13055/01/0. The first installment received was Euro 1,000,000; the table below reflects expenditure and commitments against it.

Financial Report for the period December 2024 to December 2025[1]									
Output	**Budget**	**Year 1 Budget**	**Year 2 Budget**	**Year 3 Budget**	**Actual Expenditure Years 1 & 2**	**Commitment Years 1 & 2**	**Total Utilization Years 1 & 2**	**Budget Balance**	**Delivery Rate**
Output 1: The food and livelihood opportunities of crisis- affected households (including displaced groups and host communities) improved.	344,379.83	163,236.00	97,941.60	31,644.40	$148,573.15		148,573.15	195,806.68	43%
Output 2: Affected IDP and host community households have access to critical services.	429,626.68	203,643.00	122,185.80	72,000.00	227,829.39	16,184.17	244,013.56	185,613.12	57%
Output 3: Social stability is promoted through community- led peacebuilding, conflict resolution, mediation, reconciliation efforts, and social cohesion events.	25,316	12,000.00	7,200.00	1,600.00	14,895.04		14,895.04	10,421.42	59%
Subtotal (outputs 1+2+3)	**799,322.97**	**378,879.00**	**227,327.40**	**105,244.40**	**391,297.58**	**16,184.17**	**407,481.75**	**391,841.22**	51%
HR	151,486.75	71,804.71	43,082.82	28,721.88	166,635.43		166,635.43	(15,148.68)	110%
Operational Support	16,234.94	7,695.36	4,617.32	3,078.14	17,858.43	0.00	17,858.43	(1,623.49)	110%
TOTAL PROGRAMME COST	**967,044.67**	**458,379.07**	**275,027.54**	**137,044.42**	**575,791.44**	**16,184.17**	**591,975.61**	**375,069.05**	61%
GMS (8%)	77,363.57	36,670.33	22,002.20	10,963.55	46,063.32	1,294.73	47,358.05	30,005.52	61%
Total Budget	**1,044,408**	**495,049**	**297,030**	**148,008**	**621,855**	**17,479**	**639,334**	**405,075**	61%

[1] Data contained in this report is an extract from UNDP financial records. All financial information provided above is provisional.

Annex I: Progress Review: detailed matrix of activities and results

Output	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Achievement	Comments
Output 1: Improved income-generation capacity and livelihood opportunities for the women by selling surplus produce and value-added products	1.1: Number of smallholder farmers assisted with inputs	0	1,200	600	600 farmers received agricultural input in Gedaref across Guresha and Gala AlNahal localities. An additional 600 farmers are targeted in Kassala during the next reporting period.
	1.2: Number of households assisted to do home gardening	0	600	300	300 vulnerable women in Gedaref have been provided with agricultural inputs and extension services to launch home gardens for personal sustenance and commercial vending of surplus. An additional 300 vulnerable households are targeted in Kassala state in the next reporting period.
	1.3: Number of groups assisted with micro-grants	0	60	32	32 micro-grants have been distributed to women, men, and youth groups in Gedaref state. The micro-grants have facilitated income-generating activities for a total of 837 individuals (239 males and 598 females).
	1.4: Number of local savings and lending schemes established up and running	0	16	14	14 VSLAs have been established in Gedaref state, bringing together 322 women in Gurseha and Gala AlNahal.
	1.5: Number of youth who receive vocational skills training	0	100	50	50 young men and women (30 females and 20 males) received vocational training in Gedaref state. Youth received technical training in solar, electrical, and mobile maintenance, as well as make-up and henna design according to their preferences. An additional 150 youth will be trained in Kassala state during the next reporting period.
Output 2: Improved absorption capacity of host communities through increased access to basic services.	2.1: Number of basic services rehabilitated up and functional	0	12	2	2 water yards in Gedaraf have been rehabilitated: Abu Goloud and Asobery. Rehabilitation of schools, health centers, and remaining water yards is in progress.
	2.2: Number of households who receive NFI support.	0	600	300	300 vulnerable households received non-food items such as jerrycans, and 90 solar box sets were distributed in Gedaref. The remaining 300 will be distributed in Kassala during the next reporting period.
	2.3: Number of households who benefit from protection due to solar streetlight assistance.	0	6,000	0	16 solar streetlights have been procured, and installation is planned for Q1 2026.

Output	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Achievement	Comments
Output 3: Strengthened social cohesion and empowerment of women through collective action and peer learning.	3.1: Number of local community structures established and members trained.	0	12	6	6 CMCs have been established in Gedaref states, 3 in Guresha, and 3 in Gala AlNahal localities. These CMCs bring together 48 community members, of whom 18 are females and 30 are males.
	3.2: Number of community members who receive ToTs and are able to replicate the same.	0	80	130	6 CMCs represented by 130 individuals received ToT training. 58 CMC members received ToT training, and an additional 72 peace and social cohesion committee members received training on conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and dialogue. Additional CMC members were included to ensure representation of diverse ethnic groups and the many villages covered by the project, which are geographically dispersed, thereby strengthening conflict sensitivity and inclusive decision-making.
	3.3: Number of social cohesion events organized.	0	8	4	4 social cohesion events were conducted in Gedaref, bringing together 910 community members. Events were executed as morning and evening sessions on the same day, one in each locality. The morning sessions involved speeches, plays, and representatives of UNDP and local authorities. Evening sessions involved engaged sports events to promote social cohesion.

Annex II: Updated Risk Log

Risks	Mitigation Measures
Inflation and a rise in the price of project inputs.	• Monitor market trends. • Engage in long-term agreements with vendors. • Sensitize beneficiaries to changes. • Explore local sourcing.
Political stalemate is impacting activities.	• Monitor political trends. • Follow UNDSS guidance and updates • Train CMCs to implement activities if UN staff faces challenges accessing communities due to political events. • Engage third-party onboard for monitoring activities
Increased cost of operations due to high goods and services costs.	• Pre-position supplies. • Efficient procurement and bulk purchasing. • Prioritize local sourcing.
Reduced capacity of local government institutions.	• Provide capacity support to key institutions. • Utilize community-based extension mechanisms. • Foster partnerships to supplement capacity.