



Security Council

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Letter dated 14 September 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to my letter dated 21 May 2020 ([S/2020/429](#)), in which I shared with the Council the Sudan's national plan for the protection of civilians in Darfur, I have the honour to enclose herewith a periodic progress report on the implementation of the plan (see annex). The progress report covers the period from 10 May to 15 August 2020.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Omer Mohamed Ahmed **Siddig**
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 14 September 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

First periodic progress report on the implementation of the national plan for the protection of civilians for the period ending 15 August 2020

Component	Implementation as of 10 August 2020	Challenges
1. Addressing the issues of displaced persons and refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A drive has been launched to recruit 500 officers for the Central Darfur police from among the inhabitants of voluntary return voluntary return villages, with a view to securing those villages. • In South Darfur, 24-hour patrols are being conducted in displaced persons camps in Nyala. • There are plans to recruit 2,000 police officers in South Darfur with a view to reinforcing special units that are tasked with securing displaced persons camps and voluntary return villages. • The opening of 18 family and childcare centres is planned for localities around South Darfur. • As a part of efforts to address issues affecting refugees and put a stop to their suffering and the conflicts that arise between them and local communities over resources and services, the police have taken the necessary precautionary measures where such conflicts have broken out. • In East Darfur, the police have secured all voluntary return villages with a view to maintaining their safety and stability. They are also stepping in to resolve problems between villagers and camp residents as they arise in an amicable fashion and in line with local customs. • In West Darfur, reinforcements have been sent to bolster police checkpoints at Anjaymi, Qukir, Mille, Wad Nyala and Indayka. • In West Darfur, 320 police officers have been recruited in conflict-affected areas. • Commissions of inquiry established to investigate incidents that took place in Karengo, West Darfur, Fato Borno, North Darfur, and Nertiti, West Darfur, have begun their work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which has hampered recruitment and training. • The provision of a sufficient number of vehicles. • The lack of adequate equipment for new departments. • Adequate budgeting to complete the work as required. • Creating an environment conducive to cooperation between individuals in those communities without fear, for example by setting up witness protection mechanisms.

2. The rule of law and human rights

- The Attorney General, accompanied by officials from his office, visited the city of El Geneina.
- The country has launched a process of comprehensive legal reform, beginning with the approval of substantial amendments to the Criminal Code. The historic step has been taken to criminalize female genital mutilation. A 10-year strategy for social change in the period 2020–2030 has also been devised with the aim of encouraging people to voluntarily abandon the practice.
- Under the criminal law reforms, the application of the death penalty to persons under the age of 18 years is severely restricted.
- Under the amendments, children in conflict with the law may only be deprived of their liberty as a last resort.
- Humiliating and degrading punishments have been prohibited, whereby the position of pregnant women and women with children in prisons or in conflict with the law has been addressed with particular thoroughness under the legal reforms.
- Implementing regulations have been drafted for a variety of non-custodial community service measures (corrective or restorative justice) and, in a key step towards reforming the country's criminal justice system, some 838 children have been released from detention centres.
- In North Darfur, new departments have been opened in Kutum, Mellit, Korma, Shuba and Kabkabiyah).
- Community policing committees have been set up inside displaced persons camps to assist the police in maintaining security.
- Educational courses for displaced persons have been set up in cooperation with the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and are supervised by the South Darfur police.
- A family and childcare centre has been opened in Lait, in North Darfur.
- In North Darfur, 10 gender units have been opened in police departments.
- In South Darfur, new departments have been opened in Bulbul, Dalal al-Angara, Graida and Mershing.
- The lack of adequate equipment for new departments.
- The spread of COVID-19, which has prevented the conduct of training courses in the relevant areas.
- Construction of the newly established prosecutors' offices was completed.

3. Capacity-building for members of the regular forces and officials of justice institutions

- Work on the new Nyala prison is proceeding at pace. Its completion will make it possible to absorb inmates from prisons in the other States of Darfur and thereby improve prison conditions and ease overcrowding.
 - In East Darfur, activities to raise awareness of the dangers of the COVID-19 pandemic and related preventive measures and of issues such as gender-based violence, the rights of women and of the child, early marriage, and domestic violence have been conducted in areas inhabited by displaced persons and in voluntary return villages.
 - Orders have been issued to establish 18 prosecutors' offices.
 - A local prosecutors' office and the Office of the Attorney General for Darfur Crimes have been built in Bileil and El Geneina, respectively.
 - The Nertiti prosecutors' office in Central Darfur has begun to operate.
 - Three prosecutors have been transferred to the Nertiti prosecutors' office.
 - A UNAMID-funded training-the-trainer course on the protection of civilians for 10 officers from the States of Darfur was scheduled for mid-August 2020.
 - A UNAMID-funded course on the protection of civilians for 80 officers and non-commissioned officers from the States of Darfur was scheduled for September 2020.
 - More than 5,000 members of the armed forces and Rapid Support Forces have received basic training in the rights of the child and protecting children.
 - Eighty officers have received advanced training in instructing military trainers on the rights of the child and protecting children.
 - Training has been provided, with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), to 6,000 individuals on international humanitarian law as it applies to armed conflicts.
 - A memorandum of understanding between the armed forces and ICRC was renewed for three years from 23 January 2020. Its aim is to train personnel in and disseminate the provisions of international humanitarian law, to help draft rules of engagement, and to design, update and disseminate a multi-level approach to the teaching of and training in international humanitarian law in military academies.
- The spread of COVID-19.
 - Difficulties arising from the global spread of COVID-19 in terms of the ongoing provision of training for large numbers of personnel.
 - The ongoing provision of training while observing social distancing and adopting other measures to combat COVID-19.
 - Adequate budgeting to complete the work as required.

4. Operational deployment of regular forces and military formations

- Three training workshops were organized for prosecutors in the area of children and the law and the referral system.
- On 13 and 14 August, the Government of Sudan and UNAMID held a joint workshop on the national plan for the protection of civilians, in the course of which a road map was developed for coordinating the transfer of tasks in that regard.
- Joint patrols involving 150 vehicles are being conducted by the police and members of the armed forces and Rapid Support Forces in the southern and western regions of South Darfur.
- Joint units made up of members of the police, armed forces and Rapid Support Forces have been sent to patrol and protect the following voluntary return villages: Sirba, Kulbus, Kuraynik, Bayda, Jebel Moon, For Baranga and Habila.
- Joint forces are conducting routine patrols in the voluntary return areas in Aysh Bara.
- Work is under way to establish and assemble a joint force for the protection of civilians. The 6,000-strong force, mostly police officers, will be trained in concert with UNAMID before its deployment to Darfur.

5. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

- Standard operating procedures have been devised to deal with unaccompanied and separated minors. A special refresher workshop on the operating standards and a meeting to sign off on them have been held.
- By the end of June 2020, 934 community child protection networks had been set up, including in the States of Darfur.
- Also, by the end of June 2020, 47 children linked to armed groups had been demobilized and reintegrated.
- The National Council for Children's Affairs has developed a national mass media campaign on the protection of children involved in armed conflicts. The intended beneficiaries and means of running the campaign have been determined and field visits to child recruitment sites have been conducted to ensure that they are shut down.
- The campaign design, based on change theory, has been finalized and partners have agreed on its basic components.

- Poor roads.
- The lack of vehicles.
- Force training (provision of training material and aids).
- The need to plan training for the entire force simultaneously while taking into account health considerations arising from the pandemic.

6. Combating violence against women and children

- Work with partners to develop a national strategy to end child recruitment is ongoing and an analysis of the current situation has been completed.
- The National Council for Child Welfare and its partners have activated the standard operating procedures to stop the recruitment of children and assigned tasks, for instance with regard to the demobilization of child recruits and their reintegration in line with the relevant approved guidelines.
- On the Sudanese-Libyan border, the Rapid Support Forces thwarted the recruitment of 40 children who had been recruited by illegal agents to fight as mercenaries in Libya. The recruits were returned to and reintegrated into their communities.
- Some 288,000 children in areas affected by armed conflict have benefited from psychological and social support services in 2020.
- A joint force has been established to collect weapons and unregistered vehicles.

- Some 150 women have been recruited in North Darfur.
- Some 50 women have been recruited in South Darfur.
- Some 80 women from conflict-affected areas in West Darfur have been recruited to assist in resolving issues relating to gender, family and children.
- Partnerships have been created between the armed forces, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the National Council for Children's Affairs to update the armed forces training manual on the rights of the child and on protecting children against the six grave violations to which they are subjected in conflict-affected areas.
- Preparations are under way for a joint workshop in August to authorize the draft before it is submitted for approval.
- Three prosecutors' offices specializing in cases involving children are being built in the States of East, South and West Darfur.

- The spread of COVID-19, which has hampered training.
- The need to accelerate the building of the prosecutors' offices.

7. Humanitarian action

- Since the overthrow of the regime of 30 June 1989, the Humanitarian Aid Commission has been working actively on amendments to remove obstacles to the free flow of humanitarian aid. They can be summarized as follows:

- Transit permits, which had to be signed by various agencies besides the Commission, including the security forces and intelligence services, have been replaced by a straightforward notification.
- Travel restrictions have been relaxed and humanitarian workers and trucks carrying humanitarian aid are being allowed to enter all areas, including those controlled by movements of armed struggle.
- The obligation to apply for a permit to hold workshops or training workshops, or to drive from one State to another, has been lifted.
- A ruling has been issued to facilitate the work of humanitarian organizations and the free movement of humanitarian workers and to provide them with protection in order to ensure the timely delivery of food to the intended beneficiaries in displaced persons camps and voluntary return villages.
- Displaced persons in camps in Darfur have been involved in the ongoing peace negotiations and consulted on how to achieve peaceful coexistence and protect civilians by forming community oversight committees to ensure that peace and protection are sustainable.
- Programmes designed to achieve sustainable solutions for displaced persons have been supported by the profiling project with a view to providing data that can help with decision-making, in accordance with the country's regional and international obligations. The project also facilitates coordination with partners in monitoring the movement of displaced persons and returnees.
- The Commission has made clear that it is committed to upholding the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and its Optional Protocol. Attacks on such personnel are prohibited and the perpetrators of violations of those instruments will be held to account. Copies of the Convention and the Optional Protocol have been reissued and the commitment to uphold them has been reaffirmed in all State offices of the Commission.
- The Voluntary Humanitarian Action Act and regulations governing humanitarian work are being reviewed for further reform and to harmonize them with the spirit of change in the Sudan and its commitments in that regard.

- For the first time since the transitional Government was established, the National Health Insurance Fund has issued integrated package health-care cards to cover 450,000 families in camps for displaced persons and voluntary return villages in all five States of Darfur.
- Medical equipment has been fitted out, made operational and delivered to 57 clinics in displaced persons camps in Darfur. Specialized mobile medical camps in fields such as ophthalmology have also been deployed in the region, reaching 9,787 beneficiaries. Some 1,150 surgical operations have been performed, 3,170 people have been treated at four mobile ear, nose and throat camps and 534 people have had their tonsils removed.

8. Conflict avoidance and resolution mechanisms

South Darfur The State has been especially hard hit by breakdowns in security owing to inter-tribal conflicts arising from acts of lawlessness and land and farm disputes, most of which have been addressed in reconciliation processes as follows:

1. A general reconciliation has been brought about between local groups in Mershing.
2. The head of the native administration in Joghana has succeeded in reconciling the Mararit and Rizeigat tribes.
3. Reconciliation between the Fallata and Rizeigat tribes was effectively achieved as of 5 June 2020. A final signing ceremony was held on 3 August 2020 and a mechanism was put in place to implement the provisions of the reconciliation.
4. An agreement to end hostilities between the Fallata and Ta'a'ishah tribes has been signed in a joint declaration between their chiefs.

North Darfur As part of efforts to achieve peace and peaceful coexistence in the State, a meeting was held to resolve the dispute over the Kawqli area in Tawilah district between the Shatiyah, a branch of the Rizeigat tribe, and Fur groups and other tribes living among them. The two sides agreed:

- Agreed that farmers would be allowed to farm at their respective current locations this year, provided that a decision on ownership of the land is reached before the beginning of next year's farming season.

- The establishment of early warning mechanisms at the central and state levels.
- Providing support to the security services, so that they can fulfil their responsibility to maintain security and stability in conflict-affected areas.
- The drafting of laws on governance and local administration to address problematic issues.
- The need to address issues of overlap with regard to land usage and ownership (hakura system).
- Regulating competition for resources.

- Underscored the importance of holding a meeting, to be led by the Fur and Shatiyah chiefs under the supervision of the State of North Darfur, with a view to achieving peaceful coexistence between the various groups in the area and to restoring social cohesion.

A meeting was held to resolve an issue regarding the town of Shangil Tobaya, in the Dar al-Salam district, between the community of displaced persons and the town's residents. The two parties agreed that:

- Farming disputes should continue to be resolved on an individual basis by those concerned in accordance with established norms and traditions.
- A meeting would be convened at a time that suits all parties concerned.
- Once convened, the meeting would be attended by all parties.

The State Governor would set up a preparatory committee to pave the way for a broad peace conference covering the southern region of El Fasher, including Tawilah, Dar al-Salam and Kalmando, to be held in early September 2020.

West Darfur The State has been working to end the hostilities between various groups of the Masalit tribe and Arab tribes, which have been marked by incidents in Krinding, Masteri and the Al-Jabal neighbourhoods of El Geneina.

9. Issues relating to nomads and herders

South Darfur A meeting was held in Mershing with a view to restoring social cohesion and removing causes of friction by opening nomadic livestock routes and rest stops. Held under the slogan of "peace, stability and development", the meeting was attended by local security committees from Mershing, Netaiga, Wahdah and East Jebel Marra). Local officials at various levels, dignitaries and elders attended the meeting, along with representatives of free speech groups and resistance committees, community and leaders from various districts north of Nyala.

- The committees for opening livestock routes have ordered the opening of various livestock routes and the removal of barriers placed along them, including farm land and open-air pens. Rest stops have been opened in:
 1. Bulbul (Tawtah rest stop) and all along the way from Graidia, Dar al-Salam, Bileil and Netaiga to Mukharif and the northern rest stops in the district of Netaiga, Mershing and the vicinity.

- Encroachment by mechanized and traditional farming and practices such as the use of open-air pens, agricultural burning and the eradication of grass cover, which have had a serious impact on vegetation.
- Encroachment by mechanized and traditional farming onto livestock routes, exacerbating frictions between herders and farmers.
- The provision and focusing of services along the livestock routes.
- Laws to regulate crop farming and animal husbandry.

2. The northbound route from Dar al-Salam to Mershing in the districts of Qardud and Hajar al-Na'am has been opened and projects recently launched there have been dismantled. The transgressors have publicly pledged not to return.

3. Rest stops have been opened in Sunta, Buram, Joghana al-Zarqa', Graidia and Bileil, enabling nomads to move north safely and unhindered.

4. The westbound route via the town of Nyala from Tulus, Dar al-Salam and northern Nyala to Mershing, Wahdah and East Jebel Marra has been opened.

- The Governor has issued an emergency order that provides for the necessary penalties for persons who breach it and in line with which the committees are now working.
- The High Committee for the Opening of Livestock Routes is implementing an urgent order issued by Edd al-Fursan district concerning the removal of barriers in Umm Janah, Shuwayb and Rahad al-Nabaq.
- Broadcast seeding has been carried out over an area of 500 *faddans* of pasture.
- With the assistance of World Vision and the Federal Government, 110 *faddans* of land have been sown using seed propagation.

North Darfur Of the State's three livestock routes (the eastern, central and western routes), some have been opened and the remainder is under review.

- Given that all the livestock routes suffer from a lack of water, there is a plan to provide them with water sources.
- The main rest stops are in:
 - (a) Ba'ashim, Dar al-Fallata
 - (b) Umm Sidrah, Dar al-Rizeigat
 - (c) Tubus and Kalkal, Dar al-Rizeigat
 - (d) Khazan Kalkal, Dar al-Rizeigat
- Broadcast seeding has been carried out over an area of 756 *faddans* of pasture in Mellit, Kuma and the El Fasher countryside.

West Darfur A 40-km stretch of the Girgira livestock route in the Wadi Adar basin has been made usable with the installation of 140 concrete posts, which was carried out with the assistance of International Aid Services.

- A total of 1,617 *faddans* have been planted with 6.05 tonnes of natural pasture plant seeds, including species such as *Galium aparine*, *Sporobolus spicatus*, *Dactyloctenium aegyptium*, *Cyamopsis tetragonoloba* (guar or cluster bean) and *Blepharis linariifolia*, in partnership with Catholic Relief Services, World Relief and International Aid Services. The following areas have been sown:
- Kharuba, Masmaji, Ayur, Sampla and Dal Manqah, in the district of Habila.
- Siniyah ben Jadid, the eastern area of Jadid, and Adar, in the district of El Geneina.
- Sirba, in the Nayrah area.
- Jebel Moon, in the Qoz Meno district, and Maka.
- Catholic Relief Services has delivered 600 kg of seeds (*Dactyloctenium aegyptium*, *Galium aparine*, *Cyamopsis tetragonoloba* and *Blepharis linariifolia*) to the Khawrbranga area but the process of planting them has not yet been coordinated with the office for pasture management.

- The closure of livestock routes and the presence of farms on or alongside them, making them unpassable owing to farming.
- The presence of natural obstacles, such as valleys.
- The seizure of resting spots and the establishment of shelters or farms in their place.
- Urban expansion at the expense of livestock routes and grazing areas, or their total closure. In some areas, the community opposes opening the routes.
- The scarcity of pasture seed.
- Broadcast seeding over vast areas of pasture.

10. Reconstruction, development and basic services

This component will be launched when the implementation phase of the peace agreement begins.