



Final Report

Provision of Protection and Assistance to Asylum-Seekers and Refugees in East Sudan and Khartoum



September 2015

I. CONTEXT

2014 saw a significant deterioration in the overall protection environment for refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan, with large scale roundups initiated by police and immigration authorities following the 1 April deadline for registration of foreigners. More than 3,200 refugees and asylum-seekers, including women and children, were reported arrested, the majority of which were sentenced to court fines and forcefully relocated to the refugee camps in Eastern Sudan. UNHCR also noted a significant increase in the number of refoulements and deportations reported to the office.

Trafficking, kidnapping and abductions also remained major protection concern in 2014. While the security situation in and around the refugee camps in the East has improved, an increase in the number of kidnapping and trafficking cases, in particular against women and girls, has been noted in Khartoum in 2014.

The continued deterioration of the Sudanese economy in 2014 has also negatively affected refugees and asylum-seekers, who continue to struggle to meet their basic needs and find sustainable livelihoods. New arrivals, and in particular single woman and youth, are particularly vulnerable, as they often lack the community structures and support necessary to ensure their survival.

II. ACTIVITIES

Khartoum

Education

By the end of December 2014, 185 students were supported with tuition fees (including 150 with Italian funds). The initial target was not met due to the increase in school fees. In parallel, 20 selected students were supported with registration/admission fees, uniform, books, material and local transportation allowances through COR (Refugee Counseling Services - RCS).

Age and gender breakdown of the students supported was a follows:

Female age (6-14)	Male Age(6-14)	Female (15-18)	Male (15-18)
84	51	10	5

RCS education staff continued to provide support with documentation and formalities (issuance of formal letters and approaching the ministry of education to solve the students' issues).

As focal point for the education activities within the operation, UNHCR Education Officer provided the necessary guidance and technical support as planned.

Health

UNHCR through community participation and dialogue sessions established a community network from community leaders that represent the refugee communities in Khartoum (Eritrean, Ethiopian, Somali, Syrian and Congolese). In the last Urban Population assessment, health came as number 3 priority issue for refugees after protection and livelihoods. After consultation and discussion about all health issues a Joint Health Committee was established composed of 6 members from the community , 2 staff from UNHCR and 2 staff from COR/RCS to tackle the refugee health issues from all aspects.

During the reporting period, biweekly orientation sessions were provided to community members with UNHCR relevant staff. The community members started the identification of vulnerable families in their respective communities for further support from UNHCR.

By December 2014, 5,972 cases were referred to secondary and tertiary medical care, including 248 camp-based cases from the East. The latter were supported with transportation, accommodation and feeding in the RCS medical guest house. Some 45 per cent of the patients who approached RCS and UNHCR for medical care support were women, 55 per cent men. Half of the cases were above 60 years while 36 per cent were 19-60 years, 14 per cent less than 18 years and only 5.7 per cent were below 5 years. The most important diseases recorded were ophthalmic disease, pneumonia, diabetes, gastroenterology and dental disease.

In the East, a Medical Referral Committee (MRC) composed of four doctors (two from implementing partners Sudanese Red Crescent Society and Human Appeal International, one from COR and one from UNHCR) looks at referral medical cases that have first been seen by state hospital and request the referral to Khartoum because of unavailability of specific medical intervention/s. The MRC verifies each case to confirm the needs of the referral and then send the patient list with their scan medical document to RCS medical coordinators through. For Khartoum cases, a self-referral mechanism is in place through RCS health procedures, where cases are referred to government hospitals, and do their investigations with agreed upon labs (Ultra Lab and advance diagnostic lab). For medication RCS has an agreement with Abu Alwaleed pharmacy where the beneficiaries receive the prescribed drugs. In Khartoum, UNHCR supported medical cases that could not go through RCS government system and direct them to national health.

25 people living with HIV and AIDS financially were supported to ensure good nutrition necessary for integrating the antiviral treatment.

Eastern Sudan

Support to education of the new arrivals

There has been some delay in the construction of additional classrooms due to local partners' capacity and the need for the Commissioner for Refugees (main implementing partner) to reprioritize accordingly. While the Italian Cooperation funds have been entirely disbursed to complete the construction of the learning center and kindergarten, the work was not completed by the end of March 2015. However, the schools were finished in July 2015 on time for the next academic year (which was the initial objective). About 400 (320 primary and 80 pre- primary) school age children are expected to benefit from the school construction.

Procurement for furniture, students' supplies and the language textbooks, and playing tools is completed. However, the IT equipment remains stranded in customs. They are now in Khartoum airport waiting for a release letter from the Ministry of Finance.

Teachers and language instructors were recruited and the English and Arabic language courses were organized in Shagarab camps for new arrivals to equip youth with functional Arabic and English necessary to survive/obtain work in Sudan or elsewhere. The courses are accommodating 400 young people in the age of 7-18 years and the course duration was 3 months. The students reported that language courses will enable them to communicate with others either inside Sudan or outside Sudan, access technology (computer, internet) and will prepare them to join the new arrival learning center. As it was reported by instructors, the demand for language courses was very high among refugees. The intervention has availed job opportunity for 4 language instructors recruited from Shagarab camp refugees; who will be recruited to teach in the new arrival learning center.

International procurement for IT equipment (computers and printer) was completed and the items are expected to be submitted to the school at the beginning of the academic year. The local procurement of solar system was completed and the installation took place in early September 2015, after the completion of the construction works.

Building capacity and raising awareness on human trafficking and smuggling of persons

UNHCR conducted five trainings of two days each in October and December on trafficking and asylum for border officials and judges. The trainings were conducted in

Gedaref (22-23 October) and Gallabat (19-20 October) and 89 participants took part from the local authorities of the above mentioned areas. The three additional trainings were held in Kassala on 1-2 December 2014, Wad Madani on 10-11 December 2014 and New Halfa on 27-28 December 2014. A sixth training was held in Port Sudan in February this year with 40 participants (12 female). This training was expected to occur in December, but the key facilitator was ill. In each of these trainings, experts were hired to deliver sessions on the meaning of international protection, the 2014 Asylum Act and key provisions and the situation of human trafficking in Sudan.

Awareness-raising materials were also distributed in these workshops. Participants included members from the prosecutors' office, judiciary, department of immigration, police and military intelligence.

The UNODC workshop on the new Trafficking Law was held in Khartoum on 3-5 November 2014. UNHCR funded the attendance of six persons from the authorities in the East including COR, Police Intelligence, Criminal Investigations and the Judiciary. This workshop was a follow up to the AU regional conference on trafficking held in October, in that it was a technical discussion on how the new National Committee to Combat Trafficking should prioritize its work and build a strategy for the future. The participation of those from the East was active on what has already been achieved to date as well as implementation issues regarding the new law and capacity.

The foreshadowed Tribal Conference did not go ahead due to a lack of political will to enable UNHCR to convene such a workshop specifically from NISS. While local communities are being engaged through targeted focus group discussions, it has not to date been possible to meet with leaders from the Rashaida tribes in the East who are key to such an activity. The relevant budget (EUR 2,190) was therefore used for similar activities (border trainings).

Permanent steel boards reflecting key messages about smuggling and trafficking risks have been procured and erected at Shagarab camp at the New Arrivals reception centre, COR and NISS offices.

III. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

See enclosed Annex

PHOTOGRAPHS

Port Sudan training



Language courses students



New arrival learning centre



Solar panel

