

Darfur Development Review

Concept Note

1. Executive Summary

Levels of conflict in Darfur are at a relatively low level. The UNAMID peacekeeping force in Darfur is being systematically drawn down. This creates a need for both international and Government resources to be mobilised to ensure that current level of stability in Darfur is maintained and the situation does not relapse into violent conflict. Despite existing political and development frameworks, limited progress has been made on achieving a sustainable peace, or long-term development. The majority of international assistance into Darfur continues to be dominated by humanitarian approaches; development assistance remains limited and is poorly coordinated and does not align with or support the Darfur Development Strategy. There is an urgent need for the international community – working in partnership with the Government of Sudan and other partners to the peace process – to review all elements of the peace and development architecture in Darfur.

The Darfur Development Review is therefore intended to be relatively light-touch – building on the existing DDS 2013-2019 and other frameworks for the political, economic, and social development in Darfur. It is anticipated that the Review process will be concluded in a six-month period starting November 2018.

The main deliverable of the Review process will be a comprehensive revised Darfur Development Strategy covering the period 2020-2025. The Strategy will set out how the international community, the Government of Sudan, and other partners, can engage over the next six years to improve development outcomes for poor people in Darfur ensuring that development assistance tackles root causes of conflict while ensuring that it does not inadvertently contribute to increased tension and inequitable distribution of resources as well as respect the basic principles of a rights-based approach. The Revised Strategy will sequence, prioritise, and cost development interventions that will systematically address the root causes of conflict and under-development in Darfur. The Report will position Darfur's development within the broader Sustainable Development Goals framework; Sudan's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper process; the Collective Outcomes for Sudan; and Sudan's emerging Mutual Accountability Framework with the international community.

2. Introduction

Levels of conflict in Darfur are at the lowest level for over a decade. The Government of Sudan has implemented a new political dispensation following a Referendum in 2016 that establishes five states as the basic administrative structure in Darfur. The international community, which has traditionally focused attention on providing humanitarian assistance to communities affected by the conflict, is increasingly focused on a more holistic development approach in line with Grand Bargain / New Way of Working commitments. However, the situation in Darfur remains fragile. There is a need to consolidate peace, address the root causes of conflict, and achieve development.

The UNAMID peacekeeping force will be systematically drawn down. This creates a need for both international and Government resources to be mobilised to ensure that stability in Darfur is maintained. The macro-economic situation in Sudan continues to present challenges to economic growth and development. A number of armed groups remain outside the peace agreement and political settlement – creating a potential for both military and political disruption that could undermine development efforts in Darfur.

Shifts in the international community's approach towards Sudan – including the lifting of US economic sanctions - creates an opportunity for progress to be made in moving from humanitarian support to development assistance.

There is an agreed framework to guide development efforts in Darfur. This framework includes: support for the UNAMID peacekeeping efforts; support for the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur

(DDPD) and its associated Darfur Development Strategy (DDS); the Implementation Follow-up Committee (which last met in March 2017); AUHIP-led peace process; and the financing structure for development in Darfur provided by the United Nations managed Fund for Recovery, Reconstruction and Development in Darfur (UNDF).

Despite this framework, limited progress has been made on achieving a sustainable peace, or long-term development. The majority of international assistance into Darfur continues to be dominated by humanitarian approaches; development assistance remains limited and is poorly coordinated and does not align with or support the Darfur Development Strategy; the DDPD has only been partially implemented and critical elements of the approach (including the six Commissions established to address some of the structural drivers of protracted crisis in Darfur) have not progressed. Few of the objectives of the Darfur Development Strategy have been achieved, and few in the international community have allocated development resources in support of the DDS through the established Multi Partner Trust Fund (UN Darfur Fund). Only a fraction of the \$7.2 billion costing of the current strategy has been allocated through DDS, while some donors have contributed resources outside the framework but could be aligned to the DDS three Pillars – the revised document will need to prioritise and sequence limited available resources. The AUHIP peace process so far failed to deliver a sustainable peace agreement – with the risk of renewed conflict.

There is an urgent need for the international community – working in partnership with the Government of Sudan and other partners to the peace process – to review all elements of the peace and development architecture in Darfur. This Review should determine the utility of the existing structures in delivering sustained peace and development; make recommendations to the international community and Government on proposed changes to the structures to improve their effectiveness; and encourage renewed commitments through a revised architecture in support of sustainable peace and development in Darfur.

3. Theory of Change and Objectives

IF the existing Darfur Development Strategy 2013-2019 and the peace and development coordination mechanisms and architecture in Darfur are comprehensively reviewed, and a new reprioritised and sequenced strategy 2020-2025 were developed in a consultative and inclusive manner;

THEN the international community and the government will be encouraged to renew their commitment and engagement for a period of six years in support of sustainable peace and development in Darfur.

The **objective** of the Darfur Development Strategy Review will be a comprehensive review of all elements of the peace and development architecture in Darfur.

4. Outputs

- i. Determine the utility of the existing structures in delivering sustained peace and development; make recommendations to the international community and Government on proposed changes to the structures to improve their effectiveness;
- ii. Encourage renewed commitments through a revised reprioritised and sequenced strategy, architecture and interventions in support of sustainable peace and development in Darfur.

5. Key Activities

- i. Inclusive and participatory consultation process with all partners, stakeholders and conflict affected communities organised in all 5 Darfur states and at Federal level
- ii. A reprioritised and sequenced Darfur Development Strategy 2020-2025 developed and validated by relevant stakeholders

6. Planned Actions

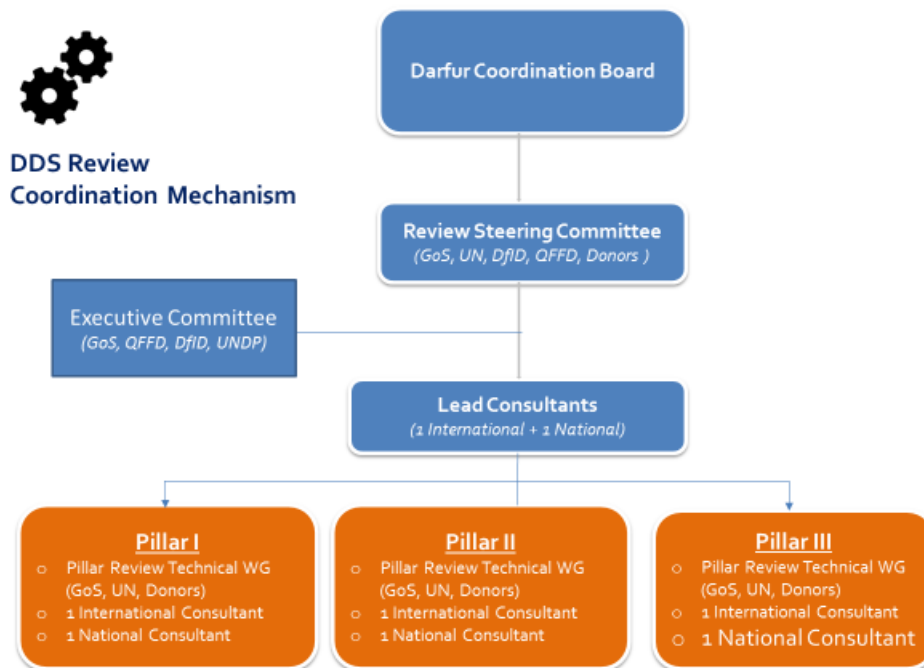
- i. Recruit 1 international and 1 national Lead Consultants
- ii. Recruit 6 (3 national and 3 international) Pillar Consultants (2 consultants per Pillar)
- iii. Organise launch consultation workshop in Khartoum
- iv. Prepare detailed workshops reports
- v. Organise in-depth consultations with all stakeholders and partners in 5 Darfur state and with counterparts at national levels
- vi. Prepare comprehensive technical reports aligned to the current DDS Pillars
- vii. A mapping of current and recent donor interventions against the existing and recommended revised Darfur Development Strategy
- viii. Organise final consultation and validation workshop in Darfur
- ix. Prepare final report with revised Darfur Development Strategy 2020-2025
- x. Graphic design and printing of a final DDS document 2020-2025

7. Partnership and Coordination Structure

The DDS Review process will be fully coordinated by the government, UN, DFID, Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and the international community working on peace and development in Darfur. The following is the proposed governance and coordination structure and mechanism for implementation of the review process.

- i. ***Darfur Development Review Consultative Workshop***

The process of revising and restructuring the approach to development in Darfur will be initiated by a Consultative Workshop with engagement from all stakeholders involved in seeking peace and development in Darfur. The Consultative Workshop will agree the work streams for the Review; terms of reference (including scope and mandate) for the work-streams; their financing and sequencing. The primary focus of the Darfur Development Review will be on refreshing the Darfur Development Strategy. It may be necessary to consider changes to other elements of the peace and development framework to ensure progress on shared development objectives.



ii. **Darfur Development Review Steering Committee**

The Darfur Development Review Consultative Workshop will establish a Steering Committee with overall responsibility for guiding the Darfur Development Review process. The Steering Committee will include representation from Government of Sudan, UN, international partners in the peace and development process, and other concerned parties. The Steering Committee will authorise an Executive Committee (UN; State of Qatar; Government of Sudan; UK Government) to drive the process and assume day-to-day responsibility for the achievement of the objectives of the Darfur Development Review process.

iii. **Darfur Development Review Technical Working Groups**

The Consultative Workshop will establish a number of Technical Working Groups to take forward specific engagement in each of the identified work-streams. The Technical Working Groups will comprise a lead donor (with responsibility for delivering a final report against agreed Terms of Reference); UN, a Government of Sudan counter-part (with responsibility for representing the Government's perspective); and other concerned parties. The Government of Sudan will ensure that there is representation from Darfur state government and other concerned constituencies.

8. Management Arrangements

The project will be managed by UNDP and the resources will be pooled through UN Darfur Fund (UNDF) under the Multi Donor Trust Fund (MPTF) in New York. Some donors will have their own separate arrangements in allocation and management of committed resources but will ensure close coordination with members of the Steering Committee.

UNDP will be responsible of the monthly progress and financial reporting to the donors. A final report will be submitted to the donors by the end of the Review process. UNDF Technical Secretariat will perform the responsibility of a Project manager.

Monthly Steering Committee meetings will be organised to follow up on the overall progress, provide guidance and oversight to the project.