



Standard Project Report 2015

World Food Programme in Sudan, Republic of (SD)

Provision of Humanitarian Air Services in Sudan

Reporting period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

Project Information	
Project Number	200774
Project Category	Single Country Special Operation
Overall Planned Beneficiaries	N/A
Planned Beneficiaries in 2015	N/A
Total Beneficiaries in 2015	N/A

Key Project Dates	
Project Approval Date	December 14, 2014
Planned Start Date	January 01, 2015
Actual Start Date	January 01, 2015
Project End Date	December 31, 2016
Financial Closure Date	N/A

Approved budget in USD	
Food and Related Costs	N/A
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	49,456,562
Direct Support Costs	4,746,329
Cash-Based Transfers and Related Costs	N/A
Indirect Support Costs	3,794,202
Total	57,997,093

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Planned Commodities in 2015	0
Actual Commodities 2015	0
Total Approved Commodities	N/A

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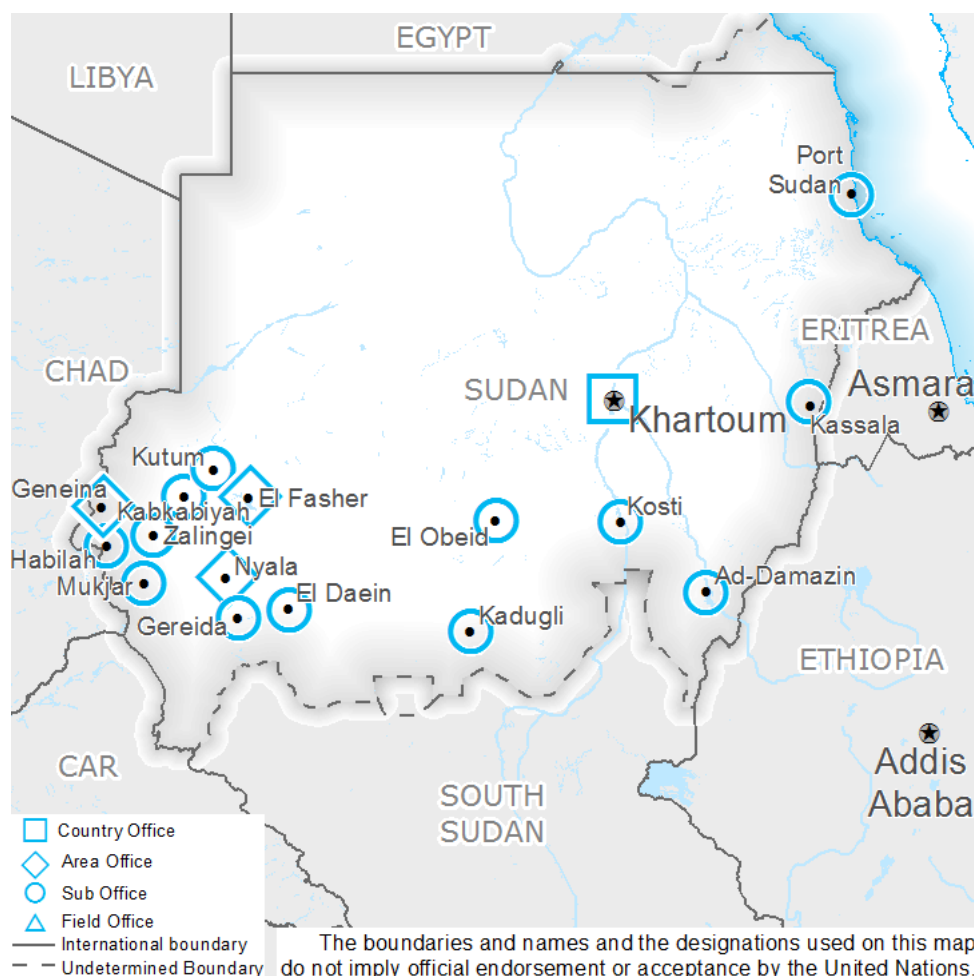
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COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Background

Classified as a least-developed and low-income food-deficit country, Sudan's population stands at 39.3 million people with a poverty rate of 46.5 percent. Sudan remains low in terms of human development ranking 167 out of 188 countries in the 2015 Human Development Index and the 5th most food-insecure country according to the 2014 Global Hunger Index. Sudan scored very high levels of gender discrimination in the 2014 Social Institutions and Gender Index and ranked just 135 of 155 countries in the Gender Inequality Index. Moreover, the economy continues to struggle. Sudan has been unable to fully recover from the 2011 South Sudan secession in which the country lost substantial oil output and fiscal revenue. At present, Sudan's gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate stands at 3.1 percent according to the World Bank.

In 2015, the country re-elected incumbent President Omar al-Bashir who came to power in 1989. The country witnessed an increase in fighting between Sudanese Armed Forces and opposition forces in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile states during the dry season, as well as an escalation in inter-tribal fighting and criminality, marring security and humanitarian conditions. This resulted in additional displacement of over 104,000 people requiring critical humanitarian assistance. Access to populations in rebel held areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile remains a major challenge despite continued advocacy efforts for regular and unimpeded access for the humanitarian community.

Despite a general national improvement in food security conditions as a result of the bumper 2014 - 2015 harvest, a large proportion of the protracted conflict affected or displaced populations remain food insecure, with 1.3 million people facing crisis levels of acute food insecurity. Furthermore, results from the 2013 national nutrition survey

confirmed that Sudan's global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate is 16.3 percent, higher than the WHO emergency threshold of 15 percent, with wasting in boys under 5 at 16.9 percent and wasting in girls under 5 at 15.7 percent, measured by Simple Spatial Surveying Method (S3M). Chronic malnutrition rates among children under 5, as measured by stunting, still remains a concerning public health issue, with rates above 38 percent across the country.

This year marks a milestone with the end of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) period; however, Sudan struggles to meet the MDG hunger target as it continues to be affected by multiple shocks. Despite this, the country has taken several steps in the right direction to strengthen food security and nutrition, such as the establishment of the Higher Council for Food Security and Nutrition, which will be critical for improving coordination between the policies and strategies of the different ministries involved in the fight against undernutrition. Sudan became the 56th country to officially join the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement. Still, Sudan is not a party to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women. Furthermore, the country has signed but not ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

WFP has been active in Sudan since the early 1960s, and responding to the needs of hundreds of thousands of the most vulnerable and food insecure people affected by conflicts and natural disasters, making Sudan one of the organization's largest and most complex operations.

Summary Of WFP Assistance

The Emergency Operation (EMOP 200597) targeted 3.7 million people from January to June 2015, providing life-saving humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees and vulnerable households through general food distribution (GFD); school feeding to address short term hunger and stabilize enrolment which includes take-home entitlements to increase girls' attendance in school; prevention of acute malnutrition; treatment of moderate acute malnutrition; and food-assistance-for-assets (FFA) and food-assistance-for-training (FFT).

In July 2015, WFP Sudan launched a two year Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO 200808), valued at USD 693 million which aimed to reach 5.2 million people (by the end of the project), of which 70 percent are in Darfur. Following long standing efforts to bring improved food security to vulnerable communities in Sudan facing complex emergencies under EMOPs, the new PRRO supported a gradual shift from relief operations to recovery and resilience activities. While providing a mix of relief and recovery activities, PRRO maintained a robust relief component for new and protracted displaced populations facing continued food insecurity and malnutrition, complemented by an early recovery portfolio.

Between July and December 2015, WFP aimed to reach nearly 3.5 million beneficiaries. For new and longstanding IDPs, WFP implemented GFD using in-kind and cash-based transfers, FFA/FFT activities using in-kind assistance, moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment and prevention programmes for malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and school feeding assistance for school-age children in food-insecure areas. Refugees were provided general food and nutrition assistance. Vulnerable residents received GFD in the form of seasonal support, nutrition assistance, food and cash-based transfers through their participation in FFA/FFT activities and school feeding assistance which includes take-home entitlements to support girls' continued education. Additional activities implemented through trust funds include the Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) in Darfur, the Joint Resilience Programme with FAO and UNICEF in Kassala state and the micronutrient powder (MNP) home fortification and stunting reduction pilot in Red Sea State and North Darfur.

WFP promoted South-South Cooperation by facilitating the exchange of knowledge and best practices on agricultural development, particularly on the integration of school feeding and family farming, between the Sudanese and Brazilian governments in collaboration with the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil.

Both the EMOP and the PRRO supported MDG 1 through 5 while the PRRO further supported the pillars 1, 2 and 4 of the Zero Hunger Challenge, and contributed to the new Sustainable Development Goal 2.

The EMOP and PRRO were complemented by the WFP-managed United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) Special Operation (SO 200774), which provided air transport to more than 100 humanitarian organizations flying to 40 destinations across Sudan.

Along with the government and other United Nations entities, WFP is highly engaged in the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) cycle, to commence in 2017, and is leading one thematic group (natural resource management, climate change mitigation and adaption, and resilience).

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	231,624	264,713	496,337
Children (5-18 years)	595,604	628,693	1,224,297
Adults (18 years plus)	727,960	860,315	1,588,275
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	1,555,188	1,753,721	3,308,909

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Single Country EMOP	71,484	1,762	1,824	5,408	616	81,093
Single Country PRRO	74,839	1,655	6,564	2,055	572	85,686
Total Food Distributed in 2015	146,323	3,417	8,388	7,463	1,188	166,779

OPERATIONAL SPR

Operational Objectives and Relevance

This Special Operation 200774 was established to provide safe, efficient and effective air transport services to the humanitarian community in Sudan. Although nearly 20 percent of Sudan's population is in need of humanitarian assistance, access to beneficiaries is severely limited. This is in large part due to ongoing insecurity, vast distances and poor transportation networks within the country. The security situation in-country was very volatile and continues to hamper humanitarian operations, particularly in the Darfur, Abyei, South Kordofan and Blue Nile states. The number of abductions, armed attacks and carjackings during road travel has further increased. For the period from January to September 2015, OCHA reported a total of 131 security incidents affecting humanitarian workers. Poor infrastructure, immense distances and related logistical constraints render access to beneficiary sites very difficult. Since 2004, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) has been the primary means through which non-governmental organisations (NGOs), United Nations agencies and the donor community travel to implement and monitor humanitarian projects. Accordingly, the continued provision of this service in 2015 was deemed imperative.

The objectives of this operation were i) to provide safe, effective and efficient access to beneficiaries and project implementation sites for NGOs, United Nations agencies and donor organizations, ii) to transport light cargo such as medical supplies, high energy food and information and communications technology (ICT) equipment, and iii) to provide timely medical and security evacuations when necessary for the humanitarian community in Sudan. The objectives were linked to WFP's Strategic Results Framework and Strategic Objective 1.

Results

Outputs

UNHAS Sudan operated a fleet of six aircraft, two fixed-wing aircraft based in Khartoum and four helicopters that were strategically based in WFP's main Darfur hubs, in Nyala, El Fasher and El Geneina. The UNHAS operation played a crucial role in the overall humanitarian effort. Despite challenges such as insecurity and frequent disruption of the aviation fuel supply chain, UNHAS Sudan maintained uninterrupted air access to humanitarian workers responding to affected populations.

The service was provided to 119 organizations and agencies, more than planned since some agencies maintain multiple separate accounts, transporting 40,557 passengers (slightly less than planned figures) and moved 166 mt of light cargo including medical supplies, high energy food and ICT equipment. Of the total passengers transported, 49 percent were from United Nations agencies, 45 percent were from NGOs, 4 percent were government officials, while the remaining 2 percent were donors and diplomats. The operation further facilitated 24 security relocations and medical evacuations.

As passengers represent the core function, non-food items (NFIs) were only moved when space was available. In 2015, more stringent requirements for shipment of cargo into El Fasher were introduced by the Government of Sudan which negatively impacted the amounts shipped. Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) Belgium regularly requested support through special flights to transport medicine to their centres.

Furthermore, during 2015, UNHAS streamlined the shipment of excess personal luggage, which in previous years had been shipped as unaccompanied cargo. This change in procedures facilitated excess luggage to be taken by passengers as accompanied luggage and led to a reduction in cargo moved.

More assessment flights were carried out in support of humanitarian missions undertaking assessments of new refugee or IDP movement in Darfur than in previous years.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO1: Special Operation (Air Ops)				
Average no. of passengers transported monthly by air	individual	1,900	1,843	97.0

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Average tonnage of food or non-food items transported	Mt	20	14	69.0
Number of agencies and organizations using humanitarian air services	agency/organization	100	119	119.0
Number of locations served	site	40	44	110.0
Number of needs assessments carried out	assessment	4	10	250.0
Number of passengers transported monthly against planned (passenger segments)	individual	3,500	3,380	96.6
Percentage of passenger bookings served	%	95	99	104.2
Percentage response to medical and security evacuation	%	100	100	100.0

Outcomes

Under this operation, the humanitarian community was able to reach and serve vulnerable and affected populations across Sudan. UNHAS maintained its readiness to perform medical and security evacuations, which remained critical for humanitarian staff deployed to insecure and remote locations in Darfur. The service continued to maintain a semi-scheduled air service in Sudan, and particularly in Darfur, linking major towns across the country by using fixed-wing aircraft and where required, helicopters, to serve remote locations without facilities to accommodate fixed-wing aircraft.

The lack of domestic air carriers which met minimum standards required for contracting by the United Nations, necessitated the continuation of UNHAS to support humanitarian operations. The security situation in-country was very volatile and continues to hamper humanitarian operations, particularly in the Darfur, Abyei, South Kordofan and Blue Nile states. The number of abductions, armed attacks and carjackings during road travel has further increased. For the period from January to September 2015, OCHA reported a total of 131 security incidents affecting humanitarian workers. Poor infrastructure, immense distances and related logistical constraints render access to beneficiary sites very difficult. An example of this is the two and a half hour flight from Khartoum to West Darfur which would take two weeks by road, and accentuates the critical need for air transport in support of ongoing humanitarian interventions.

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

The funding situation has been stable and the operation is expected to continue for the next 12 months and beyond. Handing over the UNHAS Special Operations is challenging and UNHAS continues to rely on guidance from the User Group Committee (UGC) and the Steering Committee on when an exit strategy would be timely. This is mainly based on the availability of safe, reliable and approved commercial operators on routes serviced by UNHAS. UNHAS Sudan has adopted joint training with Sudan Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) as a lead towards capacity building.

Management

Partnerships

Inter-agency collaboration ensured effective utilisation of all air assets. The UNHAS steering committee, consisting of representatives from the donor community, United Nations agencies and international NGOs, met quarterly for consultations pertaining to fund mobilisation and policy issues. In addition, the UGC set up in the three Darfur states provided valuable feedback on the needs and quality of services. UNHAS worked closely with the United Nations African Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) to coordinate air services and security, and on the rehabilitation of landing strips as and when required. Close collaboration with the CAA and other organs of the government ensured, among

other things, UNHAS aviation safety and security. Joint training was conducted with the CAA on emergency response preparedness.

On behalf of ICRC, UNHAS undertook nine flights over a period of two days to support the collection of captives who had been held by rebels in the Jebel Marra mountains in Darfur. In total, twenty-three people were successfully rescued and brought to safety.

UNHAS partnered with 19 national NGOs, 67 international NGOs, 19 United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and the ICRC.

Lessons Learned

Notwithstanding the complex security situation across much of the Darfur region and Central, Eastern and Three Areas (CETA), UNHAS managed to operate with minimal disruptions to its flight schedule. In the wake of continued restrictions on movement and constrained humanitarian space, UNHAS was the backbone of most humanitarian operations, ensuring safe and rapid access on behalf of actors into some of the most difficult locations in the country.

UNHAS Sudan services are still required by humanitarian workers to ensure their safety as they deliver life saving humanitarian services to the most affected populations. To continue enhancing its efficiency, the UNHAS fleet will reduce weekly flight schedules for 2016, revising them to reflect passenger numbers in 2015. It is anticipated that this action will reduce budgetary costs by at least 10 percent.

Humanitarian needs remain compelling in Sudan and humanitarian action will be required into 2016 and beyond. As demand for the service remains high, a budget revision to extend Special Operation 200774 'Provision of Humanitarian Air Service in Sudan' by a further 12 months, until the end of 2016, was approved in December 2015. Although the operation succeeded in ensuring uninterrupted service provision, it is imperative to continuously rationalize both the fleet and service offered as efficiency gains are sought in operations. Regular fuel supply in Darfur remains a challenge and to counter its negative effect, UNHAS maintains bulk fuel reserves with a supplier of sufficient quantity to cover six weeks of operations and within which timeframe the supplier could be expected to source additional supply. Furthermore, donors requested UNHAS to rethink the service strategy and present a reduced budget for 2016. This led to the rationalization of both the fleet and service for 2016, as efficiency gains were sought in the operations. Timely contributions from donors will be key to allow UNHAS continue to provide an undisrupted service in 2016.