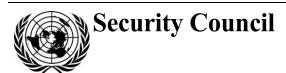
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Letter dated 3 February 2021 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to the letter dated 14 September 2020 (S/2020/901), in which the first periodic progress report on the implementation of the Sudanese National Plan for the Protection of Civilians in Darfur was shared with the Security Council, I have the honour to enclose herewith the second periodic progress report, which covers the period from September 2020 to January 2021 (see annex).

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

(Signed) Mohamed Ibrahim Mohamed **Elbahi** Chargé d'affaires a.i.





Annex to the letter dated 3 February 2021 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Progress report on the protection of civilians in the Darfur States for the period September 2020 to January 2021

Introduction

- 1. The Government, with a view to fulfilling its sovereign and constitutional responsibilities, and in keeping with its belief in and commitment to providing full protection to civilians, has continued to implement various aspects of the National Plan for the Protection of Civilians under the physical protection and protective environment components. During the reporting period, several aspects of the Plan were implemented in accordance with international standards for the protection of civilians, including those set out in international humanitarian law, human rights law and treaties and conventions relating to refugees, displaced persons and civilians. Implementation activities have been carried out in coordination with the relevant United Nations agencies, including, in particular, the United Nations country team and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), with which we have cooperated to hold many workshops, as detailed in the present report.
- Several steps and measures have been taken as part of the physical protection component in anticipation of the implementation of Security Council resolution 2559 (2020), by which the mandate of UNAMID was terminated on 31 December 2020. Those measures reaffirm that the Government is determined and has the capacity to protect civilians, and are intended to provide assurance that the exit of UNAMID will not lead to any decline in field protection. During the reporting period, the 6,000strong Joint Civilian Protection Force was established. As part of the plan to address violence against women, this Force includes 500 female police officers in the city of El Fasher who recently graduated. In addition, some 6,000 members of the armed opposition movements will soon join the Force in accordance with the peace agreement and security arrangements. Training courses on international humanitarian law will be organized for those individuals in coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). They will also participate in joint training courses on laws concerning the protection of women and children organized in cooperation with prosecutors, as well as in joint workshops organized with UNAMID under the arrangements for the transfer of civilian protection duties to the Government, as outlined in the report.
- 3. Under the protective environment component, several projects were implemented, and various measures were taken in order to address the issues of displaced persons and refugees before the signature of the Peace Agreement in Juba on 3 October 2020. The signature of the Peace Agreement and the six other protocols related to the protective environment, including the protocol concerning displaced persons and refugees, serves to complement the general framework of this component. In addition, several amendments relating to rule of law and human rights were adopted and put into effect. The most significant of those are the fundamental changes that were made to the Penal Code, as detailed in the report. Many joint workshops on capacity-raising for judicial institutions were held in cooperation with UNAMID. Several measures relating to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration have been taken, and the National Council for Child Welfare and international partners have worked together to put in place standard operating

procedures designed to stop the recruitment of children. As detailed in the report, several measures have been taken to combat violence against women by the armed forces, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the National Council for Child Welfare. This is in addition to the large-scale field work being carried out by the Unit for Combating Violence against Women of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security. You will also find detailed information on the humanitarian work that has been done as part of the National Plan for the Protection of Civilians, as well as on conflict avoidance and resolution mechanisms, and issues relating to nomads and herders.

Progress report on the protection of civilians in the Darfur States (September 2020 to January 2021)

Component Implementation Challenges

1. Addressing the issues of displaced persons and refugees

- The Office of the Attorney General continues to operate in accordance with a thematic plan and will deploy in all Darfur localities, subject to improved security conditions, in order to facilitate the provision of prosecutorial services to displaced persons.
- A drive is under way to recruit 500 officers for the Central Darfur police from among the inhabitants of 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, South Darfur State.
- 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, Wadi 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 Krinding, West Darfur, Fato Borno, North Darfur, and Nertiti, West Darfur, have begun their work.
- The Attorney General, accompanied by officials from his office, visited the city of El Geneina.

- The challenges are the provision of sufficient funding for offices, housing and transportation, and improving the security conditions in some localities. 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.

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2. The rule of law and human rights

- The Attorney General was asked to investigate the events that occurred recently in El Geneina, and a commission of inquiry has been established to investigate those events.
- Prosecutors have determined the number of staff posted in the Darfur States with a view to redeploying the workforce, so as to achieve broader reach and realize the goals of the protection plan for civilians.
- The committees formed by the Office of the Attorney General to investigate human rights violations in Darfur are continuing their work.
- The Office of the Attorney General has submitted its observations concerning the anti-corruption and transitional justice commissions, as well as the other laws that the Ministry of Justice is seeking to amend or promulgate, including the prohibition of humiliation and degrading punishments. The legal reforms instituted have addressed in a comprehensive manner the situation of women who are imprisoned or in conflict with the law and are pregnant or accompanied by their children.
- 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 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 have been organized for displaced persons in cooperation with UNAMID and under the auspices of 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.
- Construction of the Nyala prison is now being completed. 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 have been conducted in areas inhabited by displaced persons and in voluntary return villages in order 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.

 The challenge is to provide the necessary funding.

- Orders have been issued to establish an additional 18 prosecutors' offices.
- An office for the regional prosecutor was built in Balil and office for the Special Prosecutor for Darfur Crimes was built in El Geneina.
- The Nertiti prosecutors' office in Central Darfur has begun to operate.
- Three prosecutors have been transferred to the Nertiti prosecutors' office.
- 3. Capacitybuilding for members of the regular forces and officials of justice institutions
- We have received thousands of final examination papers for a limited number of prosecutorial posts in the Office of the Attorney General. Some 20 per cent of the jobs have been set aside for the people of Darfur. This will enable the Office of the Attorney General to allocate additional prosecutors for the anticipated deployment in Darfur.
- The Office of the Attorney General is fully prepared to implement the provisions of the Peace Agreement that pertain to it and in which it is stipulated that the Department of the Attorney General in Darfur will be consolidated into a new, unified department. The Office of the Attorney General hopes that this might improve and facilitate the provision of services to civilians.
- The technical requirements for the project to interlink the networks of the general and special prosecutors in Darfur with the head office of the Attorney General in Khartoum have been identified and, in that connection, consultations were held with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which has shown great willingness to assist in completing the project.
- A training plan and curriculum has been developed to train prosecutors deployed in Darfur.
- More than 7,000 members of the armed forces and Rapid Support Forces have received basic training in the rights of the child and protecting children.
- 100 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 7,000 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 steering committee pursuant to the memorandum of understanding concluded between the armed forces and ICRC was established on 9 August 2020 by decision No. 478 issued by the Chief of Staff.

- The challenge is to provide the necessary funding.
- 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.

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Preparations are under way to train 25 officers from the armed forces
to serve as trainers on civilian protection issues. They will train the
joint protection forces in cooperation with UNAMID and the
relevant authorities.

- A training course entitled "Security is everyone's responsibility" was organized for 94 individuals from camps for displaced persons and 4 police officers from the Darfur area.
- Six training courses on early warning and rapid response were held in West Darfur, three for officers and three for non-commissioned officers.
- A training course on protection and sustainable solutions was held in West Darfur State, for 10 officers and 7 non-commissioned officers.
- A training course on the role of police in the community was held for 15 Sudanese police officers in West Darfur State.
- A workshop was held for the police high command in West Darfur State, in which three police lecturers and five police officers participated.
- A workshop on the operationalization of gender-based violence offices in the community was held in West Darfur State for 11 non-commissioned police and 1 police officer.
- A training workshop on investigations was held for police in West Darfur State, in which 20 students, including 3 lecturers from the Sudanese police, participated.
- A train-the-trainer course on protection of civilians was held in Khartoum for 15 individuals.
- A training course on protection of civilians was held Khartoum for Sudanese police force trainers, in which 10 non-commissioned officers from each State participated.
- New training courses on protection of civilians were organized, in which 80 officers non-commissioned officers participated.
- A training course on standard procedures was held in West Darfur State (northern Darfur) for family and child protection units, in which 40 Sudanese police officers and 3 lecturers from the Sudanese police officer corps participated.
- A training workshop was held to assess the needs of the police in Berri.
- A group of 414 police officers, of whom 11 are women, graduated in North Darfur and have been assigned to protection of civilians.
- A fresh batch of police comprising 130 officers, of whom 30 are women, have been deployed in South Darfur State.

Challenges ComponentImplementation

4. Operational deployment of regular forces and military formations

• The Joint Civilian Protection Force was established and is now being trained at the Peace Studies Centre of the armed forces before being deployed to Darfur. The strength of the 6,000-person Force, which consists mostly of police personnel, will be increased to 20,000.

Civilian Protection Force (central reserve)

State	Officers	Non-commissioned officers and soldiers
North Darfur	8	261
Rear Echelon Command (Khartoum)	4	100
South Darfur	8	300
Rear Echelon Command	4	100
East Darfur	1	35
Rear Echelon Command	8	2 squadrons
West Darfur	3	80
Rear Echelon Command	4	100

Note: There are 2 companies attached to the commander of the police force in Khartoum.

- demobilization and reintegration
- 5. Disarmament, A joint force has been established to collect illegal weapons and vehicles. It has been ordered to coordinate its activities with the Civilian Protection Force.
- 6. Combating violence against women and children
- Family and child data for South, East and West Darfur State, the collection of which have been delayed due to economic conditions and price increases, are now being updated. The armed forces, UNICEF and the Children's Council are partnering to update the armed forces' training curriculum on the rights of the child and on protecting children from the six grave violations committed against them in armed conflict.
- Three prosecutors' offices specializing in cases involving children are being built in the States of East, South and West Darfur.
- action
- 7. Humanitarian The Ministry fully supports the comprehensive and sustainable peace process through the mechanisms established for implementing the national plan concerning Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. The Ministry plays a key role in implementing the sixth element (preventing and combating gender-based violence) and the seventh element (humanitarian aid) of the National Plan for the Protection of Civilians, which was endorsed by the Transitional Cabinet and the Security Council.
 - Government agencies will take on the role of protecting civilians following the exit of UNAMID. The Ministry is directly involved with efforts to ensure a decent standard of living and promote dignity. Accordingly, the Ministry, acting through its various units,

Force requirements (materiel and logistical).

- Force training (provision of training material and aids).
- · Identify suitable camps and sites where the force can be stationed.
- The need to plan training for the entire force simultaneously while taking into account health considerations arising from the pandemic.

- The challenge is to provide the necessary funding.
- The need to accelerate the building of the prosecutors' offices.

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has strived to respond to numerous needs, including, in particular, in conflict areas and the Darfur States.

- Access to health services was enhanced by expanding coverage to include 614,318 families in displaced persons camps and returnee villages. Health-care centres have been given support and equipment, and there are now 57 such centres operating in displaced persons villages. In addition, a full-service diagnostic centre has been opened in East Darfur State and a CT scanner and an oxygen generator are now available in West Darfur State. Health insurance services offered in those areas also included eye, heart, children's and women's health-care and childbirth camps. In addition, an early breast cancer screening programme and awareness-raising and health campaigns were carried out in all States.
- As part of the expansion of health-care services in these States, the National Health Insurance Fund, in coordination with the Ministry of Health, has purchased the medical equipment required to operate 107 health-care centres efficiently, with a view to ensuring that beneficiaries receive better services.
- As part of the effort to promote and strengthen social protection, the Savings and Social Development Bank executed the Shamil project. Over the span of that project, the bank provided concessional loans in the amount of 64 562 Sudanese pounds to 5,797 individuals, with a view to increasing production, raising the standard of living and reducing poverty for the greatest possible number of beneficiaries.
- A delegation from the Ministry consisting of the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, the Director of the Unit for Combating Violence against Women, the Director of the Department of International Cooperation and the Deputy Counsel for Partnerships visited North, Central and West Darfur States. During that visit, the delegation held meetings with the Ministries of Social Development of those States in order to assess and identify their needs and the challenges they faced, and to determine how the Federal Ministry could support the State Ministries. The Governors and the State secretariats were made aware of the importance of supporting units for combating violence against women at the State level and enabling them to carry out their work. States that did not have such units should establish them and those that did should strengthen them by providing with competent staff and facilitating their work. The delegation paid a special visit to the Masteri area near El Geneina, the capital of West Darfur State, where the unfortunate events, in which nearly 60 people were killed, occurred last July. Those who had been temporarily displaced were fully covered by the direct cash support programme.
- The Unit to Combat Violence against Women and Children of the Ministry of Labour and Social Development continued to act as a coordinator between the relevant national ministries, the States, civil society organizations and United Nations organizations. In order to follow up on the implementation of the national plan and collect relevant information, consultation meetings aimed at identifying

priorities were held with women from Darfur who represent diverse groups, including displaced persons, refugees and community leaders. As a result, top priorities relating to protection of women and children were identified. In several of those meetings and workshops, agreement was reached with UNAMID to coordinate efforts to strengthen government intervention and further develop existing resources and data. Joint mechanisms were established to ensure a smooth transition and provide support to the government sector.

- In keeping with our belief in both decentralized and national action, a 16-day campaign to combat violence against women was officially launched at the national level in El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur, at the conference of the Darfur Women's Forum. At the conference, which was organized by the executive of committee of the Forum with the support of the Gender Advisory Unit of UNAMID, members discussed the Forum's role in executing the national plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the National Plan for the Protection of Civilians, as well as Forum's role in the formation of national and state committees. The conference was attended by high-level female representatives from the five Darfur States, including women from displaced persons camps, the State governments, academic institutions, specialized centres and civil society. The slogan of this year's campaign is "Let us commit to the responsibility of providing sustainable protection to women and girls". The press conference was broadcast on national television and on local and national radio. The very strong message conveyed by the slogan addresses many of the roots causes of the problems that give rise to conflict. It also serves as the basis for a broad discussion of how to operationalize protection mechanisms and highlights the commitment of the State to protecting women and girls, particularly in conflict zones. The Unit for Combating Violence against Women, in full cooperation with the heads of the community protection mechanisms in the Darfur camps and in coordination with the Darfur Women's Forum, is training members of the protection mechanisms and striving to enhance their roles and build confidence between them and the Government, with a view to operationalizing community early warning systems.
- A consultation session on how to enhance protection was held by the Unit and police leadership. The participants in that meeting developed some very important recommendations on how to operationalize the 50 women's protection offices in the police stations of Darfur. Those recommendations, which were submitted to the Chief of Police, include special administrative measures to improve protection and enforce the law on combating violence against women once it has been enacted.
- We are supporting implementation of the Framework of Cooperation of the Sudan and the United Nations on the Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence in Conflict that was signed in March 2020 in New York. This agreement is a major breakthrough. Laying the foundation for the implementation of the agreement would be a positive and effective step towards providing protection for women

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and girls and would raise confidence greatly in civilian protection mechanisms and their effectiveness and the commitment of the State thereto. In that connection, the Minister of Labour and Social Development met with the Minister of Defence, the Commander of the Rapid Response Force and the First Deputy of the President of the Transitional Council with a view to ensuring that there is an institutional commitment to establishing special units for gender issues and for combating gender-based violence, including, in particular, sexual violence.

- A decision was taken to establish a ministerial committee chaired by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development. The membership of this committee consists of the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Justice, the Chief of Police, the Department of Human Rights, Women and Children of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Family and Child Protection Police Department and the Secretary-General of the Children and Motherhood Council. The Unit to Combat Violence against Women and Children will serve as the committee's rapporteur. The committee's first meeting will be devoted to developing a plan for the implementation of the framework agreement.
- In order to promote the role of the media in effecting societal change and raising public awareness of the protection of women and girls, 30 dramatists, writers, screenwriters and graphic designers were trained in combating gender-based violence and on how to create messages aimed at raising awareness. In addition, 25 journalists, including social media influencers, radio and television hosts and editors, received training. Over the course of 16 days of activities on combating violence against women, 25 novelists were trained in the cognitive bases of gender-based violence and the foundations of combating gender-based violence, with a particular focus on women and girls. All this is part of an ongoing media campaign to create a sense of social responsibility, ensure that women and girls are protected and raise community awareness.
- The Unit to Combat Violence against Women and Children, in collaboration with UNAMID and the Disarmament and Reintegration Commission, held a round table to discuss the foundations of disarmament and gender-sensitive integration and its direct relationship to protection and prevention of sexual violence and all forms of gender-based violence. The round-table discussion was attended by a representative of the Minister of Defence, the Adviser of the Prime Minister for Peace, civil society organizations, armed opposition movements, the police, academics and community activists.
- The Unit, in its capacity as the technical body charged with developing the legal bases for protecting against and preventing gender-based violence, recently completed drafting a bill on combatting gender-based violence. This is the first national law that is specifically devoted to that issue and it is on course to be adopted. The adoption of this law will be a meaningful demonstration of the commitment of the State to protecting women and girls and preventing gender-based violence.

> • In order to execute the National Plan for the Protection of Civilians, it was decided to incorporate a dedicated civilian component into the mechanisms for developing a protective environment, including with respect to the rights of women and children. It was also decided to reach out to communities, in order to raise confidence, and to early warning and community mechanisms, so as to enhance the efficiency with which the joint forces respond, provide real protection against any form of violence before it occurs, resolve conflicts before they escalate and address the root causes of problems.

8. Conflict avoidance and resolution mechanisms

- Society will be rehabilitated based on reconciliation, coexistence and Addressing acceptance of the other.
- Steps will be taken to combat incitement and hatred.

- problems through the native administration.
- The need to address issues of overlap with regard to land usage and ownership (hakura system).
- Regulating competition for resources.

9. Issues relating Central Darfur State to nomads and herders

- Nomadic routes and rest areas will be opened for herders.
- · Herd vaccination.
- Construction and equipping of clinics, and holding awarenessraising workshops and training camps for herders in all localities.
- Inauguration of the firebreak network.
- Delineating livestock routes and paths.
- Steps will be taken to combat incitement and hatred.
- Society will be rehabilitated based on reconciliation, coexistence and acceptance of the other.

East Darfur State

- Livestock routes and rest areas will be secured for the movement of herders during the harvest season.
- Provision of protection at conflict sites and agricultural projects for farmers and herders.
- Delineating livestock routes and paths.
- Separation of herders and farmers in order to avoid conflicts.
- Protecting vegetation from indiscriminate cutting.

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- Awareness-raising for herders and farmers
- Establishment of camps to provide care for herders.

South Darfur State

- A field survey of problematic routes was conducted, in particular at the following points:
 - The Balil route (25 km)
 - The northern Kas route (15 km)
 - The southern Kas route (15 km)
- Local committees have been operationalized and field visits to livestock routes have been conducted (Edd al-Fursan, Mershing and Natiqah).

North Darfur State

- Opening of livestock routes.
- Inauguration of firebreaks, preservation of pastures and sowing seeds high in nutritional value.
- Improving and establishing water services near pastures and livestock routes.
- Providing veterinary, education and health-care services.
- Holding training workshops for nomadic herders in order to inform them of rights and obligations.
- Provision of protection during the agricultural season by having herders and farmers working to keep routes open and prevent friction in areas where they are in contact.
- 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, Dactylotenium 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.

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- Siniyat Ban Jadid, the eastern area of Jadid and Adar, in the district of El Geneina.
- Sirba, in the Navrah area.
- Jebel Moon, in the Qoz Meno district, and Maka.
- Some 600 kg of seeds (Sporobolus spicatus, Galium aparine, tetragonoloba (guar or cluster bean) and Blepharis linariifolia) have been transferred to the Khawrbranga area by the office of Catholic Relief Services. However, the sowing of those seeds not yet been coordinated with the pasture management unit.

10. Health-care and medical services in the city of El Geneina

- The wounded and injured have been admitted free of charge at El Geneina Hospital, the Armed Forces Hospital and the private Naseem Clinic.
- 14 critically injured persons were transferred to Khartoum State.
- Additional doctors and volunteers were sent to the city of El Geneina, as well as 8 tons of medical equipment and medicines to support the team.
- A Federal medical team consisting of general surgeons and orthopaedic consultants was dispatched to provide support.
- The Federal government provided emergency support and the World Health Organization provided surgical assistance.
- Several operations were performed in three hospitals: the Armed Forces Hospital, Naseem Hospital (private) and El Geneina Hospital.
- 30 injured persons were transferred to Khartoum for treatment in Tamayuz Hospital, East Nile Hospital and the Armed Forces Hospital.

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