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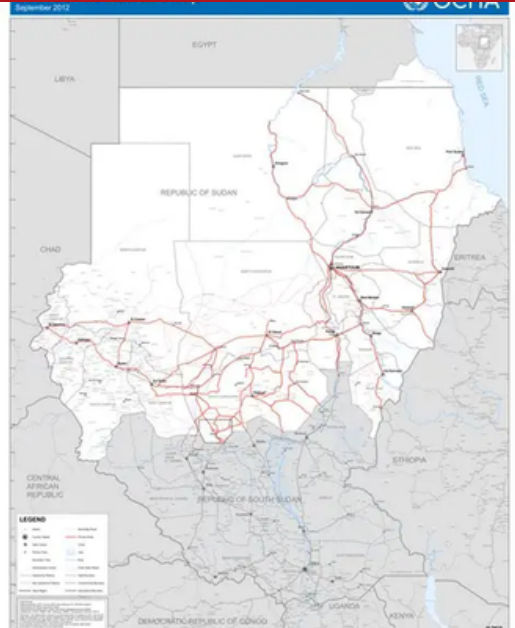
LOCATION

SUDAN, Darfur



Factsheet: DRC's Humanitarian interventions in Darfur funded by the EU

The ongoing conflict in Sudan has driven mass displacement and heightened protection risks across Darfur, particularly for women, girls, children, older persons, and people with disabilities, who face increased exposure to violence, psychosocial distress, and limited access to essential services. With support from the European Union through EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), in partnership with TDO and HOPE, is delivering an integrated protection response in Central Darfur through protection monitoring, case management, gender-based violence (GBV) services, psychosocial support (PSS), and community-based protection, helping vulnerable communities access lifesaving assistance while strengthening local protection systems.



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Humanitarian Organisation in the Area

Darfur remains a core operational focus for DRC. Since establishing its presence in Sudan in 2004, DRC has maintained operations in Central Darfur, with field bases in Golo, Nertiti, and Um Dukhun. This presence enables rapid responses to recurrent displacement crises and surge deployments to neighboring areas, including North Darfur. DRC continues to operate across Darfur with strong community acceptance, extensive local networks, and an established operational footprint. Through a combination of static service delivery points and mobile response mechanisms, DRC provides integrated programming that reaches internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and host communities, ensuring timely and accessible humanitarian assistance in both stable and hard-to-reach locations.



IMPACT FOR THE PROJECT IN DARFUR REGION

With support from the European Union through EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), in partnership with Trust Development Organization (TDO), implemented an integrated protection response in Central Darfur. Through protection monitoring, protection and GBV case management, psychosocial support, individual protection assistance, and community-based protection, the project provided lifesaving support to conflict-affected communities while strengthening local protection systems. Services were delivered through community centres, protection desks, mobile outreach, and Community-Based Protection Networks, helping vulnerable people access assistance safely and with dignity.

With funding from EU/ECHO, DRC delivered lifesaving humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations in Umdukhun, Golo and Nertiti localities including internally displaced persons, returnees, refugees, and host communities.

The project improved access to essential support such as food, protection services, and basic needs assistance in a highly underserved and hard-to-reach area. Community-based initiatives, including local response mechanisms, helped reach thousands of people and strengthened timely service delivery. In particular, food assistance interventions contributed to reducing hunger, lowering the risk of malnutrition, and easing pressure on household resources.

By working closely with local actors and community structures, the project enhanced outreach, built trust, and ensured assistance reached those most in need, while supporting dignity and reducing pressure on already strained local services.



Key figures from project implementation in Central Darfur



14,236

Total M&F people reached



11,583

Female people reached



2,653

Male people reached

SUCCESS STORY: A mother's strength: Surviving conflict and rebuilding hope

Sarro Suliman, a 30-year-old mother of five, was forced to flee El Fasher, North Darfur, after escalating conflict destroyed her home and separated her from her husband, who remains missing. Pregnant and solely responsible for her children, she endured a dangerous 15-day journey to UMD East in Central Darfur, where she sought refuge with relatives.

Upon arrival, Sarro and her family lived in a small shelter made from local materials, without a fence or latrine, exposing them to serious protection risks. To provide for her children, she began making construction bricks as a daily labourer, despite being eight months pregnant.

"My life changed completely because of the conflict," Sarro says. "Now I work very hard, but making bricks is too difficult. It is the first time for me to do this kind of work."

Through the Danish Refugee Council's (DRC) ECHO-funded protection programme in UMD East, Sarro accessed psychosocial support, hygiene kits, and cash assistance through a community centre. The cash assistance enabled her to build a protective fence around her shelter and construct a household latrine, greatly improving her family's safety, privacy, and dignity.

"My house became safer and more comfortable," she explains. "The fence makes me feel safer, and having a latrine inside the house reduced my stress because my children no longer have to use neighbours' latrines or go far away at night."

Beyond the practical support, the psychosocial support sessions helped Sarro regain confidence and emotional strength.

"Every Sunday, I wait to meet the DRC team. We sit together, drink tea and coffee, and share our feelings and concerns," she says. "Now I even try to support other women in my area."

Despite the hardships she continues to face, Sarro remains determined to rebuild her life. She hopes to open a small shop using the business experience she had before displacement, allowing her to support her family and help her children return to school.

"We hope the war will stop, I want my children to live safely and have a better future."



Lessons Learned

- Local partnerships are critical: Working with community groups and volunteers for improved access, speed working with community groups and volunteers to improve access, response swiftly in hard-to-reach areas like umdukhun, Nertiti and Golo and its surrounding administrative units and this is fully aligned with the DRC localization strategies.
- Integrated assistance is essential: Addressing food, protection, WASH, and basic services together proved more effective in responding to overlapping needs.
- Flexibility improves relevance: The ability to adapt quickly to changing conditions was key in a volatile and insecure context.
- Protection must remain central: Vulnerable groups require consistent attention through safe, inclusive, and conflict-sensitive approaches.
- Local ownership strengthens sustainability: Supporting local responders enhances continuity of assistance when access for international actors is limited.



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