Switzerland's assistance to the people of Sudan

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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

Facts and figures

Context
37.2 mio total population
17 mio living in crisis-affected areas
5.4 mio in need of humanitarian aid
(source: Humanitarian Response Plan 2015)

Switzerland's priority sectors
- Food security and livelihoods
- Basic services (health, water and sanitation)
- Human security (protection)

Support to operational partners

WFP (incl. UNHAS)
- Milk powder and programme contribution
- 2 staff from Swiss Humanitarian Aid

UNICEF
Contribution

UNHCR
Contribution

OCHA
Contribution

ICRC
Contribution

Sudan Humanitarian Fund
Contribution

DCPSF (UNDP)
Contribution to Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund

UNDP Darfur Livelihoods and Recovery Programme
Contribution

UNDP Inter-Agency Early Recovery Advisor
Co-funding of position

Islamic Relief Worldwide
Contribution to Operation Nertiti

WHO Kutum Midwife Training Centre
Contribution

UNHCR and IOM
Contributions to:
- UN Counter-Trafficking Strategy
- Improvement of asylum seekers' conditions

Small Action Projects
Milk powder & various small projects

Beekeeper selling honey in the market which he produced with SDC support in Darfur. ©UNDP Sudan

The humanitarian situation in Sudan remains a challenge. Armed conflict and tribal violence are predominantly driving displacement and humanitarian needs. In many remote regions of Sudan, the security situation is still unpredictable. Fresh fighting in Jebel Marra, Darfur, in early 2016 has led to new and widespread displacement.

Needs are growing while the overall funding of humanitarian operations has decreased. The current Swiss Cooperation Strategy for Sudan covers the period 2013-2017, during which Switzerland is contributing over 45 million Swiss Francs to projects for vulnerable people in Sudan.

The bulk of the Swiss funding comes from the humanitarian budget of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). It is complemented by contributions from Switzerland's Human Security Division, as well as from the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration, which aims to strengthen counter-trafficking strategies and support refugees and asylum seekers.

Broadly aligned with the UN Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), Switzerland's financial support goes to UN agencies, the ICRC and to NGOs that implement projects in the areas of food security and livelihoods, basic services, and protection. Furthermore, the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit seconds experts to strategic functions in partner agencies (currently to WFP).

Pooled funds are crucial to ensure a more predictable and timely financing of emergency activities. Switzerland therefore contributes to the Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF), as well as to the Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund (DCPSF), which combines elements of peace building with a well-defined humanitarian and transitional approach for recovery.

Until recently, the international community in Sudan tended to focus primarily on humanitarian assistance. However, given the protracted nature of the crisis, it has become equally important to support recovery through a better economic (mainly agricultural) output and properly functioning value chains. The Swiss co-funded UNDP Darfur Livelihoods and Recovery Programme addresses these issues at grassroots level in vulnerable areas. At a more strategic level, SDC is co-financing the position of an Inter-Agency Early Recovery Advisor in the UN Resident Coordinator's Office as of April 2016.

Context and humanitarian situation

Conflicts between the Sudanese Armed Forces, armed opposition groups, militias and ethnic groups continue. The conflict in Darfur is now in its thirteenth year, and despite ongoing peace efforts, fighting still continues in parts of Darfur as well as in South Kordofan and Blue Nile.

The Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2015 foresaw the provision of humanitarian assistance to an estimated 5.4 million of the most vulnerable people. The HRP indicated a total number of 3.1 million internally displaced persons (2.2 mio according to the Government of Sudan), of whom 2.5 million in Darfur (2.0 mio according to the Government) and over 550,000 in South and West Kordofan and Blue Nile. In the course of 2015 and early 2016, the IDP figures have increased further due to newly arising emergencies, especially in Darfur. Sudan currently hosts some 400,000 refugees and asylum seekers from neighbouring countries, including the 200,000 persons from South Sudan alone (according to the UN).

While humanitarian needs in Sudan are overwhelmingly generated by armed conflict, they are not limited to it. Food insecurity and malnutrition constitute a crisis across Sudan. About 2 million children below the age of five suffer from wasting (General Acute Malnutrition); of these, 560,000 suffer from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). For many years, Switzerland has been providing milk powder to WFP as well as to NGOs running feeding centres in the country.

Response efforts of the humanitarian community

The Sudan HRP 2015 required 1.03 billion USD. About 13 percent of the Sudanese population needed some form of humanitarian assistance last year.

The HRP's strategic objectives have aimed to: (i) ensure coherence with needs-assessment findings; (ii) emphasise cross-cutting issues, in particular humanitarian protection and resilience; (iii) enhance links between operational and strategic objectives; and (iv) facilitate multi-sector responses.

Switzerland's presence and response in Sudan

Switzerland has been supporting UN agencies, the ICRC and NGOs working in Sudan since 1994. In 2004 SDC opened an office within the Embassy of Switzerland in Khartoum.

Contribution [Swiss Francs]	2015	2016*
WFP (incl. UNHAS)	6,350,000	2,710,000
UNICEF	380,000	1,100,000
UNHCR	2,500,000	1,000,000
OCHA	400,000	470,000
ICRC	1,500,000	
Sudan Humanitarian Fund	1,000,000	
DCPSF	250,000	
UNDP Darfur Livelihoods	150,000	500,000
UNDP Early Recovery Advisor		100,000
Islamic Relief Worldwide	380,000	300,000
WHO Kutum Midwife School		60,000
Milk powder aid to NGOs	100,000	
SDC portfolio	**13,010,000**	**6,240,000**
State Secretariat for Migration	500,000**	50,000
Grand total	**13,510,000**	**6,290,000**

*Confirmed as of 11.04.2016. Projected total 2016: 8.5 mio CHF
**Amount partly disbursed for projects implemented in 2016

The focus of the Swiss Cooperation Strategy 2013-2017 for Sudan is to provide humanitarian assistance in the sectors of food security and livelihood, basic services and human security. Switzerland contributes to humanitarian activities in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile but remains flexible to respond to other crises in any part of the country.

The Swiss State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) has been helping to improve the conditions of asylum seekers and refugees in Sudan since 2012, in particular by supporting victims of trafficking. This includes activities ranging from psychosocial support to 24h care in a safe house. It has also been building the capacities of the Sudanese Government in international refugee and migration law, in collaboration with UNHCR and IOM. Furthermore, SEM supports IGAD in the implementation of its Regional Migration Policy Framework.

Since the 1990s, Switzerland has been actively engaged in the peace process between the then Sudanese Government and the SPLM. It supported the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and provided expertise during the post-secession negotiations. Over the past years, the Swiss Human Security Division (HSD) has continued to support dialogue between the conflict parties, discussions on the constitutional process, as well as local efforts to improve the human rights situation (e.g. capacity building for the Sudanese National Human Rights Commission). The HSD has also supported the Sudan-South Sudan dialogue, which addresses unsettled issues between the two countries.

Further information

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