

Mitigating Risks and Enhancing the Response to GBV, including CRSV, in Conflict-Affected States in Sudan

April 2024 to March 2025

Implementors: UNFPA, UNHCR



Donors: Japan



OVERVIEW

In April 2023, the violent resurgence of the conflict in Sudan displaced over 6.5 million people, with women and girls facing heightened risks of sexual violence. **UN Action's project responded to this crisis by restoring facilities and improving living conditions for the most affected women and girls.** The project focused on addressing immediate protection risks for displaced women and girls, while also enhancing access to sexual and reproductive health services. Key objectives included capacity building and awareness campaigns, especially in **West and Central Darfur.**

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Creation of a **Safe Space for Women and Girls in Geneina.**

Alongside the rehabilitation of a confidential corner, the Safe Space was created to provide comprehensive health and protection services for survivors of GBV and CRSV and served as a vital refuge, ensuring physical and emotional safety, reducing exposure to further harm, and fostering a sense of dignity and trust. Income generating and vocational training activities have been initiated, too, as a priority by women and girls.

1. It serves as a hub for community-based protection network trainings, community mobilization and awareness raising often focused on GBV risk mitigation and response. The Centre also empowers local groups to organize and lead initiatives that address community needs.

Establishment and operation of the **Multi-Purpose Community Centre in Zalingei.**

2. Launched large-scale community awareness campaigns on GBV prevention with vital information on GBV risks and response strategies.

Community Awareness Campaigns on GBV Risk Mitigation.

3. Strengthened life-saving services through the provision of multisectoral support at hospitals in Geneina and Zalingei. This includes training for social workers, counselors, and legal advisors in the clinical management of rape and supporting the overall capacity of healthcare providers. Emphasis was placed on delivering quality, safe, and survivor-centered services aligned with global standards and strengthened accountability.

Enhancement of Specialized GBV/CRSV Services.

4. Reinforced protection mechanisms for women and girls by delivering targeted training to staff and community-based protection network members (including teachers, midwives, housewives, and adolescents, both men and women) on GBV/CRSV prevention and response strategies.

Empowerment and Training for Protection Mechanisms.

5. Empowered and trained for Protection Mechanisms.



Photo / UNFPA



NUMBERS



Awareness-raising campaigns reached over **13,000 women, men, and girls**.



Capacity-building activities engaged a total of **441 aid providers and frontline responders**.



The Safe Spaces for Women and Girls have so far served **8,360 women and girls**.



44 women received vocational training in small business management and perfume production. Start-up kits and seed funding enabled participants to launch **income-generating activities**.

SRSG/UN ACTION VISIT TO PORT SUDAN {13-17 April 2025}

With the support and presence of **UN Action**, the SRSG-SVC undertook a mission to Port Sudan that resulted in the signing of a **renewed Framework of Cooperation (FoC)** with Sudanese authorities, marking a significant step forward in addressing CRSV.

The updated FoC ([English/Arabic](#)) includes key additions on children born of rape and women's inclusion in peace and justice processes. **Constructive dialogue with high-level officials**, including the Vice President and ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Interior, reflected a shift from previous denial to engagement.

SRSG Patten also met with UN entities, civil society, and survivors, highlighting structural challenges such as limited access to services and social stigma. The mission emphasized the need for legislative reform, operational follow-through, and alignment with international standards.



SRSG and Fareen Walji (UN Action) with local women-led NGOs representatives in Port Sudan.

NEXT STEPS

Expanding the project's geographical reach is a critical next step to addressing the CRSV and broader GBV-related needs of displaced and conflict-affected populations in Sudan. Gaps are particularly severe in areas where governance structures, justice sector institutions and public sector service provision have been most degraded by the direct impacts of conflict. **Acknowledging this, UN Action proposes continuing the interventions in West and Central Darfur while also expanding coverage to South and East Darfur.** This will enable further sustained support to GBV service providers, survivors and communities to restore access to services, mitigate GBV risks and facilitate recovery. **Realizing this potential will depend on the continued commitment of the donor community to drive meaningful, scalable change.**



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