

In the Name of Allah, The Merciful, The Compassionate

The Republic of the Sudan  
**The National Council for Child Welfare**  
**- Secretariat General -**

**Sudan's Initial Report on the Implementation of**  
**THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON THE RIGHTS AND**  
**WELFARE OF THE CHILD**

**October 2010**

**Sudan's Initial Report on the Implementation of**  
**THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF**  
**THE CHILD**

**Introduction**  
**(1.2.3.4.5.6,7)**

Preparation of this report has been made in accordance of the guidelines set by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. The report covers the period following the endorsement of the Charter by the Sudan (2005) and the adoption thereof by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (2007). The report is based on a comprehensive view of the child rights according to the standers adopted by the Charter and other international conventions on the rights of the child endorsed by the Republic of the Sudan.

The Sudan has witnessed a number of political developments, chief amongst them was the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 2005 which has ended the longest civil war in Africa, and which has created a momentum conducive to promote the child rights. One of the paramount outcomes of the CPA was the adoption of the National Interim Constitution of the Republic of the Sudan (July 2005) which contained 226 articles dealing with the nature of the state, functions and duties of the official organs and the relationships between them. The constitution has also stipulated all basic liberties and human rights under a separate title called “the Bill of Rights”. The constitution has clearly stated that any liberties or rights not mentioned therein but are contained in any international or regional agreement or convention signed by the Sudan shall be part and parcel of the constitution. The constitution has adopted a federal system of government to ensure equitable share of power and wealth between all parts of the country. It has also ensured the right of southern Sudan to have its own legislative, judicial and executive apparatuses and to have its own constitution in addition to taking part in the government of national unity, both politically and legislatively.

The Darfur Peace Agreement (April 2006) and the East Peace Agreement (October 2006) represent prominent features in the history of modern Sudan; both agreements clearly stipulated that the state should ensure protection of the rights of the child as enshrined in international and regional agreements signed by the Sudan. This has set up the principles for a legislative system that ensures the protection of human rights in general and the rights of the child in particular.

The 1990s has been characterized by the establishment of the national and state mechanisms for the coordination and follow up of all issues of the child, including the National Council for Child Welfare, the state councils for the child welfare and the Advisory Council for the Human Rights. The same period also witnessed an increased role for national and international NGOs working in the field of child issues in the Sudan.

The presence of mass media advocating the rights of the child has also helped in the creation of an environment conducive to the promotion of the child rights.

However, the challenge remains with regards to reinforcement of institutional and organizational structures supporting all institutions working in the field of the child issues in the Sudan. This is a vital element for the reinforcement and ensuring sustainable national efforts for the children within a framework of coordination, cooperation and consultation to secure the rights of the children in the Sudan and to enable them enjoy life, growth, development and protection.

### **Preparation of the Report**

The Secretary General of the NCCW has issued a decree, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2010, forming a technical committee for the preparation of an initial report on the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. The committee comprised various governmental and voluntary agencies working in the field of child headed by the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW) and included the Ministries of Health, Education, Foreign Relations and Defense in addition to the Family and Child Protection within Police, the Advisory Council for Human Rights, the Commission of Refugees, the National Center for Artificial Limbs, DDR Commission, Child Rights Institute, Save the Children Sweden, UNICEF and Plan Sudan. The committee held a number of meetings to deliberate on how to prepare the report. Certain information was collected from stakeholders. The report relied mainly on information and statistics contained in official surveys and studies covering various issues of the child.

On the other hand, the NCCW addressed the Government of Southern Sudan and the governments of all states to contribute to the preparation of this report. All these governments compiled their respective reports and sent them to NCCW as per the guidelines stipulated for the preparation of this report. Two workshops for the inputs of children were organized in Khartoum on 22 June 2010 and in the White Nile state on 28 June 2010. Viewpoints of the children were carefully taken into consideration when preparing this report.

A consultative workshop was organized for all government and NGOs stakeholders during the period 23-24 June 2010 where draft zero was presented by NCCW. Taking part in the workshop were representatives from the Government of Southern Sudan in addition to the governments of four states from northern Sudan (Khartoum, Blue Nile, North Darfur and Red Sea).

### **Structure of the Report**

Article 43 (1) stipulates “Every State Party to the present Charter shall undertake to submit to the Committee through the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, reports on the measures they have adopted which give effect to the provisions of this Charter and on the progress made in the enjoyment of these rights”

The report is made up of two parts; part one deals with northern Sudan covering progress made in the implementation of articles of the Charter, namely the definition of the child, the general principles, civil rights and liberties, family environment and alternative care, health, education, culture, leisure time, special protection procedures and responsibilities of the child. Part two deals with southern Sudan, covering five chapters dealing with civil rights and liberties, family environment and alternative care, health, welfare, education, leisure time, cultural activities and special protection procedures.



## **Chapter One**

### **General Measures of Implementation**

**(ab-9)(abcd-8)**

Ever since the signature by the Sudan of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the NCCW, acting upon the Sudan's commitment to its provisions, has managed, in collaboration with national and international partners, to widely promulgate the Charter and explain all its contents to all stakeholders. Certain procedures have been taken at various levels to ensure compatibility between national legislations and practices and the principles and provisions of the Charter. It is worthwhile mentioning, however, that the Sudan has already taken a number of procedures regarding legislations, policies and programs and activities within the context of the UNCRC and its two optional protocols and other agreements and conventions on the rights of the child signed by the Sudan. This has created a suitable environment and an appropriate framework to accommodate the principles and provisions of the Charter.

#### **Legislative and Legal Procedures:**

Procedures taken to ensure compatibility between national legislations and practices and the principles and provisions of the Charter include:

- The National Interim Constitution of the Republic of the Sudan, 2005:
  - Article 7 (2) deals with the subject of nationality and citizenship and it stipulates “Every person born to a Sudanese mother or father shall have an inalienable right to enjoy Sudanese nationality and citizenship”.
  - Article 14 deals with the rights of children and youth and it stipulates “The State shall adopt policies and provide facilities for child and youth welfare and ensure that they develop morally and physically, and protect them from moral and physical abuse and abandonment”.
  - Article 32 deals with the death penalty and it stipulates “The death penalty shall not be imposed on a person under the age of eighteen or a person who has attained the age of seventy except in cases of retribution or 'Hudud'. No death penalty shall be executed upon pregnant or lactating women, save after two years of lactation”.
  - Article 44 deals with the right for education and it stipulates “Primary education is compulsory and the State shall provide it free”.
- States' Constitutions:
  - All states of the Sudan have adopted constitutions that contained provisions for legislative frameworks for the welfare and protection of the children in accordance with provisions contained in the National Interim Constitution of the Republic of the Sudan, 2005.
- Peace Agreements:

- Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), January 2005
  - The CPA contains a number of protocols that have specific provisions on the protection of the child. The power sharing protocol, signed in May 2004, stipulates in Article 1-6:
 

The Republic of the Sudan, including all levels of Government throughout the country, shall comply fully with its obligations under the international human rights treaties to which it is or becomes a party. These include the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 1-6 under the heading “Rights of the Child” reads:

" Every child shall have, without any discrimination so to race, color, sex, language, religion, national or social origin, property or birth, the right to such measures of protection as are required by his/her status as a minor.

The sixth protocol of the CPA on the ceasefire arrangements considers conscription of children as soldiers is a clear violation of the Agreement.
  
- Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA), April 2006:
  - Article 3 on the Bill of Rights contains the following provisions:
  - “all men and women shall enjoy all the civil and political rights contained in the International Covenant on the Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ...both signed by the Sudan.”
  - “The family is basis that the law shall protect. All men and women shall have the right to marry and form families in accordance with the provisions of the laws regulating marriage and family”.
  - “The state shall fight all customs and traditions that jeopardize the dignity and status of women”.
  - “The state shall provide maternity services, welfare and protection for children, pregnant women, children with special needs and the elderly in accordance with provisions of the regional and international instrument ratified by the Sudan”.
  - “The state shall provide protection for the child in accordance with provisions of the regional and international instrument ratified by the Sudan”.
  - “The state shall provide free access to education without discrimination based on religion, sex, race, ethnicity or disability. Basic education shall be compulsory. The state shall provide free access to health services”.

In addition to the above the Child Protection Act, 2004 has been revised and a draft for the Child Act has been issued in 2006. A number of other laws have been revised and a number of other laws have been passed. This has its positive legislative impact on real life of children in the Sudan. Some of these legislations are contained in Table (1).

- Armed Forces Act, 2007:
  - This Act contains provisions for the protection of children in areas affected by armed conflicts in the Sudan. It has also restricted conscription only to those above 18. The Act also contains provisions on the offences committed by fighters during military operations. Generally speaking this Act has become compatible with international standards on the protection of the child and African Charter on the Protection and Welfare of the Child. The Sudan is committed to the Paris Principles, 2007.
- The Child Act, 2010:
  - This latest legislation on child welfare and protection contains 87 articles dealing with all aspects of life of the child in accordance with the provisions of the National Interim Constitution of the Republic of the Sudan, 2005, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and all other international instruments on the child, including the UNCRC and its two optional protocols. The 12 chapters of the act contain stipulations on the right of the child for protection, alternative care, and health, and education, legal and judicial institutions. It has provided for the best interests of the child should have precedence over any other considerations regarding all decisions and procedures pertinent to childhood, family or environment regardless of the agency taking those decisions issuing such procedures.
- State Legislations:
  - Maternity and childhood issues are amongst the competencies shared by both federal government and state governments according to the National Interim Constitution of the Republic of the Sudan, 2005. Accordingly, some states have passed their own legislations on the child. These include the states of the Red Sea, Kassala, S Kordufan, W Darfur and S Darfur. There are similar bills in the states of Blue Nile, N Darfur and Gezira. There are bills prohibiting circumcision of females in the states of Gadaref and S Kordufan. There are legislations on the abandoned babies in the Red Sea state and similar bills in the Nile state.

## **Activities and Programs**

- Family Joining and Reintegration Program:

This is a post-CPA programs that has been designed to developed means to identify children who were separated from their families during conflicts, to find those families, unite the families and reintegrate them in society. Work in the north was initiated by state legislative councils.

Work on the program commenced with support from UNICEF and was confined initially to the protection of separated children. The National Council for Child Welfare , Khartoum state, has played a pioneering role in this activity by coordinating work between Khartoum and other states.

Search for families and reunion work may be associated with some complexities. A network for the program has been formed, comprising NCCW, other government agencies and national and international NGOs with support from UNICEF. Save the Children UK provided technical support and carried out coordination and database management. The network was led and directed by NCCW since 2008. Objectives of the network included:

- Provision of support and coordination of efforts regarding search for families of separated children to seek successful reunion of families.
- Sharing of information to ensure effective and successful operation.
- Ensure reintegration of children and their families in the community after reunion.

NCCW has successfully managed the network and organized its regular and emergency meetings with officials both at the federal level and at level of Southern Sudan Government in close cooperation with UNICEF in 7 states in the south.

NCCW has managed during 2008 to reunite 127 children with respective families in coordination with state legislative councils, 23 of these children are from southern Sudan. Agreement has been reached with the International Red Cross to cooperate in this effort in war affected areas.

▪ **Elimination of FGM Program:**

Within the context of cooperation between NCCW and UNICEF a program for the elimination of FGM was initiated in 2004. This program aimed at coordination of the efforts of various official and civil society organizations and mobilization of support from international community to eliminate this phenomenon. It is an on-going program that will be implemented in different phases. All government strategies will be activated and unified behind this vital issue.

Activities of this program are centered on the national strategy for the elimination of FGM during the period 2008-2018. The program which is being implemented at both federal and state levels comprises elements on health, education, media, law, religion, information and social in partnership between government agencies, CSOs and legislative institutions.

▪ **The National Center for Childhood Information Project:**

Work is currently underway by NCCW to establish National Center for Childhood Information. This will ensure effective networking, sustainability, conduction of surveys and research and documentation to achieve the main four objectives of the center:

- Establishment of childhood database.
- Establishment of the national network for childhood information.
- Establishment of data service system.
- Establishment of IT system

▪ **Newborn Registration Enhancement Project:**

A coordination committee has been formed in 2009 to enhance the process of newborn registration in the Sudan. The committee comprised representatives from the Ministry of the Interior (Civil Rolls), Federal Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Central Census Bureau, National Population Council, Advisory Council for Human Rights, Family and Child Protection Unit (Police), Sudanese Women Union, UNHCR, Plan Sudan and Journalists for Children Organization. The committee is to implement the newborn registration project in four years. Activities of project include:

- Raise awareness of families and communities.
- Revision of legislations on the registration of newborn.
- Issuance of birth certificates free of charge.
- Provision of technical support, upgrading of admin structures and capacity building in federal and state instructions dealing with registration of newborn.

Work on the project commenced in early 2009 in coordination with all agencies concerned and stakeholders.

- Advocacy Campaign for Childhood Issues:
- This campaign has started on 16 June 2007 in Nayala, Southern Darfur state, on the occasion of celebrating the African Child Day. The campaign aims at the protection of children from all kinds of violence, abuse and neglect; comprising ten particular issues, namely child soldiers, abandoned babies, children in conflict with the law, FGM, gender based violence, raising awareness about landmines and unexploded ammunitions, registration of newborn, physical punishment at home and school and trafficking in children.
  - The campaign produces and broadcasts media messages and drama in all states of the Sudan.
  - Production and distribution of lively aids such as T-shirts, caps, cups with messages on them and printing of brochures and pamphlets.
  - Organization of workshops to the press people to enlighten them on the objectives of the campaign. The fruit of this was the signature of a code of ethics protecting children from negative aspects of media.
  - Issuance of a manual containing guidelines for families on how to protect children. A number of other similar publications were issued.

As for the code of ethics with journalist the NCCW has organized a number of activities in this regard, which are contained in Table (1) below. They included international instruments on the rights and protection of the child, especially the UNCRC and its two optional protocols:

Table (1): Activities at National and State Levels to Promulgate UNCRC and its two Optional Protocols and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

<b>Activity (2005-2009)</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Targeted Group</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organization of workshops on the rights of the child and the status of the child in the concerned state</li> <li>- Discussion of the issues of coordination between all stakeholders</li> <li>- Participation in the state CWC to formulate action plans for child issues in the state</li> </ul>	W Nile, Nile, N Kordufan, B al-Jabal, B Nile, S Darfur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Government agencies and NGOs concerned with child issues</li> <li>- The Wali and his Ministers</li> <li>- Children and mothers</li> <li>- Community leaders</li> </ul>
Workshop on juvenile justice	Khartoum August 2005	Judges, Police, NGOs, Armed Forces, Attorney General's Office, lawyers
Workshop on the proposed amendments to laws for the purpose of compatibility with regional and international agreements	Khartoum, Dec 2005	Legal experts, NGOs, government agencies
Workshop on school violence in Sinnar state	Sinja, Nov 2005	Teachers of basic level schools, political and legislative leaderships
Workshop on the revision of Sudanese legislations on child protection in relation to the two optional protocols of the UNCRC and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child	Kadugli, Dec 2005, Nayala Sept 2005	Government agencies, community leaderships and legal and legislative institutions
Workshop on juvenile justice	Khartoum, Oct 2005	Judges, Attorney General officers and the police
Training of UNMIS child protection officers	Khartoum, 2006	UNMIS personnel
Workshop on violence against women in Darfur, with support from Violence Against Women Unit, WFP, UNMIS Human Rights Office. A plan has been set up with WFP, donors and EU	3 Darfur states, June 2006	Government agencies, justice institutions and NGOs
Training on psycho-social therapy to victims of violence and setting up of plans with NGOs for training of psycho-social workers in the states	Khartoum, Oct 2006	45 community leaders from the 3 Darfur states
TOT to Armed Forces members on the rights of the child in collaboration with the Ministry of Defense and Save the Children Sweden to promulgate the culture of child welfare and the establishment of special protection units with support from UNICEF	Khartoum, July-August 2007	8 different Army Units

Training courses on the rights of the child, in collaboration with Save the Children Sweden and UNICEF	Khartoum, July 2007, January 2008 al-Fashir, Feb 2008 Nayala, Feb 2008	Officers from Military Justice and other units
Awareness workshop on child protection	Awil, March 2007	Top admin leaderships
Workshop on the sexual abuse of children by UN troops in collaboration with UNICEF to set up rules for the protection of children in conflict areas with UN presence	Khartoum, Jan 2007	Justice agencies and national and international NGOs
Workshop on the national strategy for the elimination of FGM, in collaboration with UNICEF	Khartoum, Feb 2007	Government agencies, NGOs, religious leaders and education officers
Workshop on newborn registration, in collaboration with Plan Sudan and UNICEF	Khartoum, March 2007	Ministry of Health, Civil Rolls and midwives
Workshop on best ways to deal IDP children in voluntary return areas, in collaboration with UNICEF. The workshop discussed the concept of child protection and the violations sustained by these IDP children	April 2007	
Meeting to evaluate alternative families for abandoned babies, in collaboration with CWC, Khartoum state	Khartoum, April 2007	
Workshop on how to deal with street children problems	Khartoum, April 2007	Government agencies and NGOs and experts
Workshop on the country report on the optional protocol on trafficking in children	Khartoum, May 2007	
Training to teachers of IDP schools in Karari Locality on the concept of child protection in collaboration with HAC and UNICEF	June, Aug 2007	Teachers in Fateh and Baraka areas
Coordination workshop between NCCW, The Committee for Eradication of the Abduction of Women and Children (CEWAC) and UNICEF with participation of community leaders	Khartoum, June 2007	
Workshop in collaboration with UNICEF and national and international NGOs aiming to analyze the status of children	Khartoum, Aug 2007	Government agencies and national and international NGOs

and mothers in Sudan for 2007		
Workshop on the best methodology to account for and analyze the status of homeless children	Khartoum, Aug 2007	Government agencies and national and international NGOs
Workshop on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> country report on the implementation of the UNCRC in collaboration with UNICEF	Khartoum, Aug 2007	Government agencies and national and international NGOs
Training workshop to journalists on homeless children	Khartoum, Aug 2007	Journalists
Workshop on children in armed conflict areas; discussing national and international legislations, in collaboration with UNICEF	Khartoum, Sep 2007	Legal experts and Armed Forces
Workshop on disabled children in Khartoum and Blue Nile states	Khartoum, April 2008	Disabled children in Khartoum and Blue Nile states
Workshop to discuss the draft country report on the optional protocol on the participation of children in armed conflicts	Khartoum, April 2008	Official and voluntary agencies
Workshop on the contribution of children in the country report on the optional protocol on the participation of children in armed conflicts	Khartoum, April 2008	Children
Meeting with community leaders in Kassala state to discuss reintegration of camel racing boys in the community	Khartoum, June 2008	Kassala state community leaders
Training to journalists on the dealing of the media with child soldiers	Khartoum, June 2008	Journalists
Workshops on the issue of child soldiers	Khartoum, Kassala, Jinaina, Fashir, Nayala and Damazin 2007-2008	400 participants from SAF, SPLA, Darfur movements, Police, journalists and community leaders
Workshops on the use of disarmed child soldiers database	Khartoum, 2008	Social workers and national and international NGOs involved in the DDR program
Child soldiers and gender program	Khartoum, 2008	45 DDR staff, UNICEF, social welfare ministries and national NGOs
Advocacy workshop on African Charter (the roles of government and CSOs in the implementation of the Charter)	Khartoum, Oct 2008	Child protection stakeholders
Management and development of	Khartoum,	35 DDR staff, UNICEF,

disarmed child soldiers	2009	Social Welfare Ministries and national NGOs
Workshop on the advancement of newborn registration	Khartoum, July 2009	7 states of W Nile, B Nile, 3 Darfur states, N Kordufan and Kassala
Coordination meeting of child welfare councils secretary generals	Khartoum, July 2009	Secretary generals of child welfare councils in the states, speakers of state legislative councils and directors of welfare offices and the directors of family and child protection unit offices
Advocacy workshop to pass the Child Act, 2009	Khartoum, Sept 2009	Legal experts and other stakeholders
Workshop on alternatives to physical punishment	Khartoum, Oct 2009	School teachers
Workshop on the role of the media in the campaign against FGM	Khartoum, Oct 2009	Media
Training course for higher studies students	Khartoum, Nov 2009	5 students from the dept of applied psychology, university of Khartoum
Training course on statistics	Khartoum, Nov 2009	3 staff of the NCCW

### **Child Protection Mechanisms in Sudan**

- **The National Assembly:** This is a national mechanism that oversees the performance of the executive apparatus of the state. It has specialized committees on family and child affairs, social affairs, human rights, health, population ...etc. It has an overseeing and legislative role in child issues at the national level.
- **The State Legislative Councils:** legislative and overseeing mechanisms at the state level. They have specialized committees similar to those of the National Assembly. States have their own respective legislations that do not contradict with national legislations.
- **The National Council for Child Welfare:** is primarily responsible for planning and policies on child protection in coordination with the National Council for Strategic Planning. The composition and membership of NCCW comprise a number of policy makers as it is headed by the President of the Republic with participation of all Ministers involved in the provision of services to children and the Walis (Governors) of states. Membership also includes five NGO stakeholders. The NCCW coordinate the efforts of all these agencies to formulate cohesive integrated policies. The Council meets once a year to adopt plans and programs developed by the secretariat general. NCCW has specialized committees comprising government agencies and

other stakeholders (legislations, newborn registration, child abuse ...etc. committees).

- **State Councils for Child Welfare:** these are headed by the Wali (Governor) with membership of competent ministers. Their competencies are confined to their respective states with close coordination with NCCW and state partners. They meet once a year to coordinate activities, technical support and training and annual reports.
- **The Advisory Council for Human Rights:** this council was established by a Presidential Decree in 1994. In 2007 it has established a department specializing in regional and international agreements on the child issues and to follow up application of national legislations on the issues of the child and to promulgate awareness about human rights and the international humanitarian law.
- **The National Committee for International and Humanitarian Law:** this committee was established by the Presidential Decree No 48 for 2003. It is headed by the Minister of Justice and its reporter is head of the human rights department with representatives for all agencies concerned with the application of the international humanitarian law and the protection of civilians and children in armed conflict areas. The committee is the official spokesperson in the field of the application of the international humanitarian law.
- **The Committee for Eradication of the Abduction of Women and Children:** this committee was established in fulfillment of the Sudan's government commitments arising from the decision adopted by the UN Human Rights Committee for the Sudan in April 1999. Such commitments included verification of reports alleging abduction of women and children, assertion of causes of such cases and demanding reunion of those kidnapped with their respective families. The committee was re-formed by the Presidential Decree No 14 for 2002. The Decree provided more resources and powers to the committee and was attached to the Presidency of the Republic.
- **The Child Rights Unit of the Armed Forces:** this is most recent child protection mechanism. It was established in 2008 as an initiative by the Ministry of Defense (Military Judiciary), NCCW and UNICEF. The unit aims to provide protection for children in armed conflict areas in accordance with provisions of the Armed Forces Act, 2007 and international criteria for the protection of children against conscription and the protection of children affected by armed conflicts. It also aims at the promulgation of the culture of child protection during armed conflicts, training of officers and soldiers on the rights of the child and to oversee activities of child protection during armed conflicts.
- **UN- Government Coordination Mechanism for Children and Armed Conflict in Sudan:** this initiative aims to encourage dialogue and to follow on the UNSG reports on children and armed conflicts. Its membership include the NCCW, the Ministry of Foreign Relations, the Advisory Council for Human Rights, DDR Commission (North), the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of the Interior, Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), the National Committee

for the Application of the International Humanitarian Law in addition to UNICEF, UNMIS and UNAMID. This means that the mechanism helps and improves sharing of information and coordination of appropriate responses with regards to children affected by armed conflicts.

- **Family and Child Protection Units:** the unit was established by an initiative from NCCW, the Ministry of the Interior and UNICEF in addition to other partners in the states (Ministers of Social Affairs, UN agencies and NGOs). The unit provides a package of services to children victims, juveniles and witnesses. It is run by police officers and social workers who provide psych-social support to children during all legal procedures. Offices for the unit were opened in 15 states, including the 3 states of Darfur.
- **Establishment of Courts and General Prosecution Offices for Children:** courts were opened in Khartoum (3), Gezira state and W Nile state. The Chief Justice has ordered that the most senior judge in the state should be responsible for cases of children. The Minister of Justice has issued orders establishing Prosecutor General Offices for children in 15 states (N Sudan) for the provision of friendly procedures for children involved in juvenile cases, victims or witnesses, including in cases of gender based violence. Courts were fitted with TV closed circuits to ensure confidentiality and privacy for children and to enable them avoid fear and anxiety during court procedures.
- **The National DDR Council:** the function of this council is to coordinate all DDR activities. It is attached to the Presidency of the Republic and is responsible for preparation of the DDR strategy, formulation of policies and overseeing the DDR program. It has two commissions; one in the north and the other in the south. A special unit for children has been established to oversee children DDR activities. A database on children has been established and a training manual for dealing with children soldiers has been produced. Offices for child soldiers were established at state level supervised by the DDR Commissions (north and south).
- **Unit for Combating Violence against women and Children ( Ministry of Justice):** ever since the escalation of hostilities in Darfur the Presidency of the Republic directed the formation of a higher committee, made up of all concerned government agencies, to deal with all aspects of the protection of women and children to be headed by the Vice President. Within this context a unit was established at the Ministry of Justice to deal with combating violence against women. An agreement has been reached with the UN for the establishment of state committees for combating violence against women in Darfur in collaboration with NGOs and UN agencies stakeholders. This was particularly important for the IDP camps in Darfur. The unit coordinate its efforts with those of the Ministry of Health and the WFP for the production of manuals to train doctors and medical workers on how to deal with rape cases for the purpose of documentation of GBV (August 2006) in addition to the provision of medications free of charge to all GBV victims (2006-2008). The numbers of women police officers were increased in the IDP camps and, special training was provided to them, including training on international law, human rights, protection of civilians, especially women and investigation to

encourage women to demand their rightful legal procedures. This program was funded by the Swiss government.

## Chapter Two

### Definition of the Child

#### (10)(Article 2)

Definition of the child has witnessed a prolonged controversy<sup>1</sup> until it was finally settled when the Child Act, 2010 was passed and issued. Article 4 of the Act reads “a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years”. This definition is identical to the definition contained in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

The Child Act, 2010 contains a number of other child definitions, depending on the circumstances in which a child lives. These are listed in Table (2) below:

**Table (2): Definition of Child**

Description	Definition
Child soldier	Means a child below eighteen years of age who is appointed, accepted or forced to join a military or paramilitary, regular or irregular force.
Child laborer	Means a child, between fourteen and eighteen, who is doing labor.
Homeless child	Means a child who is subjected to danger because of his presence in the street to the extent that endangers his moral, psychological, physical or educational integrity.
Delinquent child	Means a child who has completed twelve years but below eighteen who committed an act contravening the law.
Likely to be delinquent child	Means a child has completed seven years of age but below twelve who has been found in an environment that endangers his moral, psychological, physical or educational integrity.

Article (8) of the Criminal Act, 1991 defines the responsible child as the major sane natural person. Major means a person on whom signs of puberty have been proven and who has completed fifteen years of age. A person who has completed eighteen years of age is considered major even if signs of puberty did not appear on them. Article (9) of the same stipulates that “a minor who has completed seven years of age who commits an act contravening the law may not be considered committing an offence, but he may be subjected to procedures of reform and care as stipulated herein”. There might be a difference between the Criminal Act and the Child Act, 2010 with regards to the definition of the child. However, this might be bypassed through the application of the Interpretation of Legal Texts Act, 1974. Article 6 (3) (4) of this Act reads: “provisions of a later law prevail over provisions of an earlier law to the extent that removes contradictions between them”. It is worthwhile mentioning that Article 3 of the Child

<sup>1</sup> Definition of a child in the Child Act, 2004 which was annulled by the issuance of the Child Act, 2010 was similar to the definition contained in Article (1) of the UNCRC which reads “a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier”.

Act, 2010 reads: “the provisions of this act prevail over any other act to the extent that fulfils the best interest of the child”.

We can safely say that the Child Act, 2010 has adopted the age factor in its definition of the child. This is an important legislative development in the field of rights of the child.

## **Chapter Three**

### **General Principles**

#### **Articles (3), (26), (4), (5), (7) (12) of the Charter**

The Sudan has sought, through legislative frameworks, to support rights of the child, fulfill the best interests of the child, including his right to live, grow and develop, and respect opinions of the child and his participation in issues pertinent to children. This has been reflected in the plans and programs of the Child Welfare 5 Year Plan (2007-2011).

A number of provisions in the constitution, peace agreements and the Child Act, 2010 (mentioned earlier) have ensured and secured the rights of the child enshrined in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in Articles (3), (26), (4), (5), (7) and (12) therein. We shall comment on these Articles hereunder:

#### **A. Non-discrimination**

- All Sudanese legislations have reiterated the principle of non-discrimination as one of the basic rights to access all services rendered to children, including health, education, protection and social welfare. This has been stipulated in the national constitution, the constitution of southern Sudan and all state constitutions in addition to the Child Act, 2010.

The National Interim Constitution of the Republic of Sudan, 2005:

- Article 7 stipulates “Citizenship shall be the basis for equal rights and duties for all Sudanese”. And “Every person born to a Sudanese mother or father shall have an inalienable right to enjoy Sudanese nationality and citizenship”.
- Article 27 (3) stipulates “All rights and freedoms enshrined in international human rights treaties, covenants and instruments ratified by the Republic of the Sudan shall be an integral part of this Bill (of Rights).
- Article 32 (5) reads The State shall protect the rights of the child as provided in the international and regional conventions ratified by the Sudan.
- Articles 13 (1) (a) and 44 (2) stipulate that basic education is free of charge and compulsory.
- Article 45 reads “The elderly shall have the right to the respect of their dignity. The State shall provide them with the necessary care and medical services as shall be regulated by law”.
- Articles 32 (4) and 46 stipulate that primary health care and emergency services should be provided free of charge to all citizens.
- Article 47 reads “Ethnic and cultural communities shall have the right to freely enjoy and develop their particular cultures; members of such communities shall have the right to practice their beliefs, use their languages, observe their religions and raise their children within the framework of their respective cultures and customs”.
- Article 48 stipulates “Subject to Article 211 herein, no derogation from the rights and freedoms enshrined in this Bill shall be made. The Bill of Rights shall be

upheld, protected and applied by the Constitutional Court and other competent courts; the Human Rights Commission shall monitor its application in the State pursuant to Article 142 herein”.

- An Act has issued dealing with persons affected by HIV/AIDS provided for the treatment and protection of these persons and their families.

#### The Child Act, 2010:

- The Child Act, 2010 adopted the principle of non-discrimination as Article 5-2-c stipulates “the child has the right for protection against all forms of discrimination”. Article 83-2 reads “judicial institutions shall ensure that children who are victims of offences contained in Articles 45 and 46 herein receive, without any discrimination, damages and indemnities from persons responsible for those offences”.
- The Act considered violation of the rights of the child a public right offence as stipulated by Article 84-1.
- An important study was conducted in 2004 to gauge trends and attitudes regarding the education of girls in a number of selected states. The Authorities have adopted the recommendations of that study to bridge the gap between boys and girls in education. Special departments for the education of girls were established at the Federal Ministry of Education and at state ministries.
- Many procedures were taken to protect children born outside marriage. A number of awareness programs and alternative care programs have been implemented. A child born outside marriage is registered in the civil rolls and is awarded a family card and a national number.

#### **B. The Best Interest of the Child:**

- Article 5-2-d stipulates “the best interests of the child should have precedence over any other considerations regarding all decisions and procedures pertinent to childhood, family or environment regardless of the agency taking those decisions issuing such procedures”.
- The same notion was echoed in the Labor Act, 1997 which means that the best interest of the child is considered top priority.
- The best interest of the child was also highlighted in the Penal Code of 1991.
- All activities pertinent to child protection implemented by the NCCW with different partners have also stressed the importance of the best interests of the child.
- The Artistic Intellectual Property Code also highlighted the importance of the best interests of the child when it prohibited subjecting the child to any information that is not appropriate to his age or might jeopardize his moral principles.

#### **C. The Right to Life, Survival and Development:**

- All these rights contained in the Charter and other agreements ratified by the Sudan are included in the National Interim Constitution of the Republic of the Sudan, 2005 as part and parcel of its provisions.

- Articles (14), (27) and (36) of the Constitution provide for the protection and welfare of the child. Constitution of Southern Sudan and state constitutions have all similar provisions.
- All these rights are reiterated in the Child Act, 2010, the Health Act, 2008, the Education Planning, 2001, the Civil Rolls Act, 2001, the Sudanese Citizenship Act, 1993 as amended in 2005.
- In addition to the right to life, survival and development Article 5-e of the Child Act, 2010 covered other rights such the right of the child to a name and nationality and his right to education and other rights stipulated in Article 19 of the Charter on the entitlement of the child to the enjoyment of parental care and protection with regards to the provision of shelter and clothing.

#### **D. Communication and Freedom of Expression for Children**

- The Child Act, 2010 contained provisions to enact Articles 4, 7 and 12 of the Charter. Article 5-2-e of the Act provided for the right of the child to freely express his opinions and wishes and to taking part in judicial, admin, social and educational procedures relevant to his age and degree of maturity.
- The NCCW is very keen to regularly organize a number of programs and activities where children of all age groups and children with special needs take part. It also supports their participation in regional and international functions and occasions. The Council is also keen on their participation in the preparation of country reports on the implementation of child instruments demanded by regional and international agreements and by the UNSG on violence against women and by UNICEF on various issues.
- A number of forums were organized at national and state levels in collaboration with partners that have produced children parliaments in Khartoum and other states.
- Children of the Sudan take part annually in Arab, African and international carnivals and activities at invitations from sponsors. Such participations are coordinated by competent authorities.
- **Prominent Activities inside and outside Sudan include:**
- Turkey International Child Festival (April); Sudan has achieved advanced ranking in this festival.
- Arab Child Forum in Sharja (March); Sudanese children achieved the first place for 8 consecutive years in the Holy Quran competitions.
- International Day for Broadcasting (December); children use broadcasting stations to broadcast messages to children all over the world. Celebrations are also organized in parks.
- African Child Day (16 June); Sudan celebrates this day annually in different states by rotation. Programs include competitions, workshops, music and radio and TV programs.
- Arab Child Day (1 October); celebrations are organized internally while inviting some sisterly countries.
- International Day of the Child (20 December); mixed celebrations.

- There are other non-regular activities in which Sudanese children take part such as the Boys Forum held in Sharja 2008.

## Chapter Four

### Civil Rights and Freedoms

#### Articles (6), (7), (8), (9), (10) and (16) of the Charter

##### A. The to Name, Nationality, Citizenship and Registration at Birth:

- In the Bill of Rights, enshrined in the National Interim Constitution of the Republic of the Sudan, 2005, all rights and civil liberties are ensured in Articles 33,34,35,36,37,38,39 (29) (28),41,42,43,44 (30) (31) (32) . There is a clear stipulation that “Every person born to a Sudanese mother or father shall have an inalienable right to enjoy Sudanese nationality and citizenship”. Accordingly, the Nationality Act was amended whereby children can obtain Sudanese nationality if they are born to a Sudanese mother even if their father is not Sudanese.
- Article 5-2-g of the Child Act, 2010 stipulates that a child born outside marriage has the right of registration at birth lined to parent/parents who admit parenthood or in any other name if no admission was made. The same Article stipulates that such a child has the right to have a birth certificate prepared on the standard form free of charge.
- Article 28 of the Civil Rolls Act, 2001 provides for the legal guarantees for immediate registration at birth. Article 29 of the same act makes reporting of the incidence of birth a legal duty and specified the persons responsible for such reporting. Article 42 listed penalties for contravening such obligations. The Act detailed agencies responsible for the duty of registration.
- The Civil Rolls Regulations stipulated certain procedures to ensure registration of children in remote areas and in areas where medical services are meager or non-existent. Persons from such areas are carefully selected and appointed to carry out registration at birth. Procedures were also laid out for children born in aircraft and ships, abandoned children, children born abroad and children of aliens.
- Following the issuance of Civil Registration Act, 2001 and its regulations new forms for registration of newborn were designed to include all basic information of the child. The Regulations laid out the controls for issuance of citizenship to abandoned babies according to certain procedures. Such babies have the right for family cards and national numbers.
- Arrangements have been taken by the government to advance the registration of the newborn at national and state levels. Plans are underway to annul or reduce the fees for issuance of birth certificates. Plans are also underway to deliver registration services to remote communities within the 5 year plan 2007-2011.
- In addition to Article 5-2-e of the Child Act, 2010 there are other provisions that ensure maintenance of cultural and religious identity of the child. Article 5-2-g stipulates that a child belonging to a certain ethnic,

religious or linguistic minority has the right, along with his family, to enjoy pronouncement of his culture, religion or language and practice rituals in his own language.

- The Civil Rolls Act, 2001 stipulates that heads of families have an obligation to have a family card as a document that has a legal power to prove all information listed in it. There are strict controls to prevent any illegal manipulation of the identities of children. The Regulations set rules for issuance of national numbers for abandoned children without discrimination.

**B. Freedom of Expression:**

- In addition to Article 5-2 of the Child Act, 2010, outlined earlier, the School Regulations ensured the importance of school activities, cultural, artistic and sporting, which constitute platform for children to express themselves. This right is linked to restrictions of morality and good behavior and conduct which act as safeguards against delinquency and for the purpose of fulfilling the best interests of children.
- The National Festival for Creative Children; children from all over the Sudan, along with some other stakeholders, take part in this annual festival where they compete in 15 activities.
- The National Child Artistic Competition; this is an event where 100 children from allover the Sudan compete annually for prizes in poetry, painting, scientific inventions ... etc. Winners of the first three places are awarded prizes.
- The National TV channel has a number of programs for children, including cartons and other recreational and enjoyable programs.
- The program map of the National TV channel contains three main programs and another smaller one for children. Details are as follows:

**Table (3): Children Programs on National Tv**

Program	Frequency	Time	Nature	Shape
Children Garden	Weekly	09-10 Friday	Recorded	Feature
Children on Air	Weekly	11-12 Saturday	Live	Interactive competitions
Child Oasis	Daily (excluding Friday and Saturday)	14-15 daily	Live	Feature
Fun X Fun	Friday	10 minutes after Children Garden	Recorded	Mainly selected materials produced abroad

- Children programs on the National TV channel amount to one hour daily (Child and family programs represent %15 of the total transmission time. Children programs are repeated.
- National Radio programs for children include:
  - Cultural programs such as “Children Pillar” and “The Garden Magazine”.
  - “Here are the Children”; a daily 10 minutes program
  - “Fairytale”; a daily live program presented by grandmother who broadcasts 90 fairytales per month (message to both child and family).
  - “Childhood and Family”; a program that lasts for one and half hour every Friday.
  - The general program allocates certain time for children during functions and celebrations of children.
  - There are private radio stations that present a number of other children programs.

### **C. Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion:**

- The National Interim Constitution of the Republic of the Sudan, 2005 has ensured freedom of thought and religion to all Sudanese, regardless of their age or gender. Article 6 stipulates The State shall respect the religious rights to:-
  - (a) Worship or assemble in connection with any religion or belief and to establish and maintain places for these purposes.
  - Make, acquire and use the necessary articles and materials related to the rites or customs of a religion or belief.
  - Teach religion or belief in places suitable for these purposes.
- With regards to language Article 8 (1) of the constitution stipulates “All indigenous languages of the Sudan are national languages and shall be respected, developed and promoted”. And Article 8 (40) In addition to Arabic and English, the legislature of any sub national level of government may adopt any other national language as an additional official working language at its level”.
- To ensure the importance of multiplicity of languages Article 8 (5) of the constitution reads “There shall be no discrimination against the use of either Arabic or English at any level of government or stage of education”.
- Schools offer both Islamic and Christian religious curricula and students are free to choose the curriculum that fits their beliefs. There are no restrictions on choices provided beliefs of others are respected.

### **D. Freedom of Association and Peaceful Assembly:**

- The School Regulation ensures freedom of children in forming cultural, artistic and sporting associations. One of the fruits of this freedom was the formation of children parliaments in 9 schools in Khartoum and Gezira states.
- Children parliaments were established in the states of Kassala, W Nile, Blue Nile, N Kordufan and Red Sea. This experiment will be promulgated to the rest of states next year in an step to form a national children parliament to

reiterate the right of children to participate in national concerns and to train them on the freedom of expression and the respect of other opinions.

**E. Protection of Privacy:**

- The National Interim Constitution of the Republic of the Sudan, 2005 has provided for the protection of privacy as outlined earlier. The Child Act, 2010 has organized the protection of children against all forms of violations and has stipulated penalties for such violations.
- In this regard the NCCW, within the context of its media activities, has organized training sessions for 350 press persons representing all mass media organs during the period 2004-2007. The trainees included 30 from the national TV (producers, directors ... etc.), 30 radio cadres and 25 journalists. This effort has been coordinated with the National Press and Publications Council to train the media cadres on how to deal with various issues from a perspective that takes into consideration the rights of the child to protection of his privacy. The awareness campaign is currently to enlighten families and communities on the vitality of the protection of the privacy of children.

**F. Protection against Insult and Torture:**

- The National Interim Constitution of the Republic of the Sudan, 2005 and all state constitutions have provided for protection against torture. The Child Act, 2010 has stipulated clear provisions to confront insult of children and protecting them against torture. Its Articles listed a variety of penalties against violators of those provisions as shown in table 4 below:

Table (4): Penalties for violation of Provisions of The Child Act, 2010

<b>Article</b>	<b>Penalty</b>
13- (1) no color or preservative materials or additives shall be added to child foods or preparations unless such materials are commensurable with standards and specifications stipulated by competent authorities. (2) Advertisement about such child foods and preparations may not be allowed before registration and obtaining of licenses from competent authorities, especially for substitutes of breast feeding.	Imprisonment for a term no lesser than 6 months, fine or the two penalties combined.
18- It is prohibited to sell or distribute or allow to use tobacco, alcohol or any other narcotic material to children unless for lawful reasons.	Imprisonment for a term no lesser than 3 months, fine or the two penalties combined.
33- It is prohibited to publish, display, deal in, photograph or possess any child publication or audiovisual material addressing child lower instincts or calling for behavior against societal values and customs or encouraging delinquency.	Imprisonment for a term no lesser than 6 months, fine or the two penalties combined.
34- (1) Entry of children to cinema and other show	Imprisonment for a term no lesser

<p>theatres during the study hours of the day is prohibited unless they are in the company of their parents or guardians.</p> <p>35- Directors of cinema and other show theatres shall display clearly, in Arabic and English, in all available media spaces, the shows that are restricted to be watched by children.</p> <p>36- (1) Child labor is restricted to those below 14 years of age, with the exception of those working in grazing and agricultural works that are not dangerous or harmful to health.</p> <p>(2) Children above 14 may join industrial and vocational training institutes and centers supervised by state authorities.</p>	<p>than 1 month, fine or the two penalties combined.</p>
<p>37- It is prohibited to employ children in dangerous industries that are, by their very nature, likely to harm the health, safety or behavior of children. The Minister of labor or his authorized deputy may specify such industries.</p>	
<p>45- It is an offence to:</p> <p>(a) Kidnap, sell a child or any organ/organs of a child.</p> <p>(b) Rape a child.</p>	<p>Execution or imprisonment for a term no lesser than 20 years plus fine.</p>
<p>46- (1) It is an offence to use children in all forms of slave trade. A child may not be subjected to slavery or forced to do any work.</p> <p>(2) It is an offence to smuggle or aid to smuggle any child or children across borders for purposes of slavery, human trafficking or forced labor.</p>	<p>Imprisonment, fine and confiscation of all properties used in committing the offence.</p> <p>Imprisonment for a term no lesser than 20 years, fine or the two penalties combined.</p>

- Article 29-1 of the Child Act, 2010 listed a number of penalties against initiators of the following punishments in schools:
  - a- Harsh punishments
  - b- Reprimand with degrading phrases
  - c- Deprivation of attendance of classes
  - d- Expulsion from school.
- The same Article stipulated appropriate penalties for violators of the above provisions.
- A number of activities have been organized to fight violence, including establishment of a database on the causes and reasons of violence and how to address them. These findings have promulgated and Save the Children Sweden has conducted a study on physical punishments in Khartoum state's schools in this regard in 2005.
- A national plan to combat violence against children has been prepared to address the problem in three main areas: the first deals with the environment

in which a child might be subjected to one or more forms of violence, including the street, family, judicial institutions, conflict areas or workplaces. The second area deals with three important issues of violence against children with regards to the form and type of violence against children, namely abandoned children, FGM and sexual abuse. The third area is the mass media which is a vital partner in the building and support of establishing a comprehensive system for the protection of children against all forms of violence. The plan has considered all kinds of gender issues in this respect.

- Reference has already been made to Family and Child Protection Unit offices that render services to women and children victims of violence and sexual abuse. The Unit has activated a free phone line (9696) to receive all reports inside Khartoum state.
- Networks for the protection of children have been established in collaboration with UNICEF and NGOs working in IDP camps in Khartoum state. Membership of such networks include women, children and young people and more than 230 of this membership have received training on issues of child protection. These networks oversee issues of child protection and advise on appropriate interventions such as attachment of children to schools/vocational centers whenever appropriate. This activity served more than 15000 children.
- This activity has produced a work group comprising the NCW, UNICEF, 5 NGOs and 5 government agencies to take care of child protection issues in IDP camps. 219 officials and NGO cadres and 80 teachers have been trained on child protection and family reunion efforts.
- A study on the knowledge, attitudes and behaviors on the conceptions and practices of child protection in the states of Khartoum, Kassala and S Darfur has shown that some perceptions such as physical punishment is important to discipline children. This calls for intensification of awareness campaigns to seek to change knowledge, attitudes and behaviors of families and stockholders.

## **Chapter Five**

### **Family Environment and Alternative Care**

#### **Articles (20)(1-20)(3,2-19)(25)(25- b 2)(3-18)(24)(16)(27) of the Charter**

Parental Care; Parental Responsibilities; Separation of Child from Parents; Family Reunion; Maintenance and Qualification of Child; Adoption; Abuse, Exploitation, Neglect, Psychotherapy and Social Integration

- Official agencies of social welfare and NGOs are exerting relentless efforts to enact all Charter's article related to family environment and alternative care out of their deep belief that it is a right of the child to live and grow in a caring and protective family regardless of the surrounding circumstances. Nevertheless, there are many challenges that faced the programs and activities aiming at achieving targeted objectives. Such challenges include armed conflicts and natural disasters that produced massive population movements and displacement of families and communities. This in turn has its direct and indirect impact on children, especially children who were forced to be separated from their families.
- The National Interim Constitution of the Republic of the Sudan, 2005, the Constitution of Southern Sudan and all state constitutions consider family as the basis of society.
- Article 5-2-f of the Child Act, 2010 stipulates that parents are responsible for the upbringing of children and the state shall endeavor to provide appropriate assistance to families in this regard. The same Article maintains that the natural family made up of two parents is the ideal environment for the upbringing of children; thus parents bear the prime responsibility of upbringing of children.
- Article 25-1 of the Child Act, 2010 provided for alternative care for children who face difficult family conditions that prevent their upbringing in natural families. Such children may be referred to their first degree relatives, alternative families according to Sharia law provisions for Muslims or adoption according family affairs law for non-Muslims.
- Article 26 of the Child Act, 2010 stipulates that the Ministry of Social Affairs shall provide homes for children deprived of family care. Regulations issued in accordance with the provisions of this Act shall stipulate functions, competencies and organizations of such homes.
- Article 27 of the Child Act, 2010 stipulates that the Ministry of the Interior shall provide homes for delinquent children. Regulations issued in accordance with the provisions of this Act shall stipulate functions, competencies and organizations of such homes.
- Alternative family care system provides social, psychological and health care for children deprived of natural family care. There are certain regulations,

controls, conditions and principles organizing the use of alternative families and the beneficiary groups. Care homes are established to provide care for children deprived of family care or their families have disintegrated or failed to provide proper care for them. Regulations issued in accordance with the provisions of this Act shall stipulate functions, competencies and organizations of such homes.

**Table (5) Number of Children at Care Homes**

Home	No of Children
Child Home (Maigoama)	108
Future Home (for girls)	17
Protection Home (for boys)	21
Rashad Home for Homeless Boys	104
Taiba Home for Homeless Boys	60
Bashair Home for Homeless Girls	29
Total	339 Children

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs, Khartoum state

- Alternative family care scheme is primarily concerned with abandoned children. It is run by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Khartoum state in coordination with care homes. Similar homes are found in other states such as River Nile, Gezira, Red Sea and S Darfur. The scheme has been designed as a result of the high death rates in the care homes in addition to the fact that such homes do not provide ideal environment for upbringing as children are deprived of family atmosphere and mother tenderness. The main objectives of the scheme are the integration of the child in community and reunite him with his natural family whenever possible. The scheme has three pillars; reunification, alternative family and sponsorship.
- To provide safe environment for the child the scheme works in different areas, chief among them is the prevention of separation of the child from his mother, reintegration and sponsorship. The latter has certain conditions to be verified by social workers to ensure that the sponsor mother is Sudanese, aged 30-50, living in the same state, secure agreement of the head of her family and is cleared by the police for not having criminal record and should pass a psychosocial test. The scheme has succeeded in returning 55 children to their natural mothers and prevented separation of 83 children from their mothers in 2007. Follow up is done by 67 trained social workers through weekly visits. There is a standard form for follow up where all growth and development signs are recorded. The scheme has succeeded in building strong relations between mothers, social workers and the Ministry. This has helped children to gain confidence and to feel they are loved and wanted. 396 children were sponsored during 2009. Protection is one of the most important areas of the scheme. Protection is enhanced through awareness campaigns in residential areas, universities and other places in collaboration with UNICEF, Hope & Homes, religious leaders and NGOs. Table (6) below shows numbers of abandoned children received by care homes in Khartoum state during the period 2004-2010.

**Table (6): numbers of abandoned children received by care homes in Khartoum state during the period 2004-2010**

Year	Received	Sponsorship	Family Integration	Separation prevention	Emergency families	Death in care homes	Death in families
<b>2004</b>	695	245	37	50	96	173	2
<b>2005</b>	651	296	58	65	362	149	-
<b>2006</b>	609	367	55	83	425	163	-
<b>2007</b>	589	220	43	52	444	266	21
<b>2008</b>	707	378	40	15	407	338	6
<b>2009</b>	800	396	68	29	286	402	15
<b>2010 up to April</b>	221	91	24	3	289	290	6
<b>total</b>	<b>4264</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1681</b>	<b>50</b>

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs, Khartoum state

- A number of researches and studies have been conducted on children deprived of family care. These included:
- Field study on children returning home from the Gulf states where were employed in camel racing. The study, carried out in collaboration with UNICEF in 2006, looked into the negative effects of this phenomenon. A similar study was conducted in 2005 in collaboration with Qatar Charity Foundation.
- A research on street children in Khartoum state in 2007.
- A study on the knowledge, attitudes and practices on child protection against parental abuse and violence. The study covered Khartoum, Kassala and Nayala.

## **Chapter Six**

### **Health and Welfare**

#### **Articles (5), (13), (14), (20-a-c) (26) of the Charter**

Despite the efforts exerted to improve health conditions, especially maternity and pediatric services during the last decade, more efforts are needed to reach the MDGs.

The main objective of the health strategy is to enhance and improve maternity and pediatric services and to design programs to cover all parts of the country. Many stakeholders are involved in this endeavor to achieve the set objective, including the Federal Ministry of health and line ministries in the states, localities, universities, Armed Forces and the Police, national and international NGOs. The main drawback of the provision of health services in the Sudan is the lack of coordination between different government partners. The Public Health Act, 2008 stipulated that the Health Coordination Council is the highest agency responsible for the coordination of the efforts of all partners. It is hoped that the Council will remove duplication and standardize health policies. Like other sectors, the health sector has received its share of the impact of various variables during the last ten years such as drought, desertification, floods, rains, wars and conflicts and the expansion of the agricultural sector. All of this has produced negative health repercussions. Listed hereunder are strategies and plans for maternity and pediatric services:

#### **Strategies:**

- Health Development Strategy 1998-2002
- The 25 Year Strategic Plan for pharmacology 2005-2029
- The Strategic Plan to Combat Malaria 2002-2005
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> 5 Year Plan for Expanded Immunization Program 2006-2010
- Combating Malaria infecting Pregnant Women Strategy 2004-2008
- Reproductive Health Strategy 2006-2010

#### **Procedures & Policies:**

- Basic Primary Health Care Package Policy
- Sudan's Policy on the Development of Nursing and assistance cadres
- National Policy to Combat HIV/AIDS
- Reproductive Health Policy
- Child Health Policy
- National Nutrition Policy
- Medical Treatment policies
- National Drugs Policy

#### **A. The Right to Survival and Development**

The National Interim Constitution of the Republic of the Sudan, 2005 and the Constitution of Southern Sudan and all state constitutions reiterated the right of the child

to health care and gender equality. There are a number of legislations that safeguard the right of the child to health care. Chief among these is the Child Act, 2010. Article 7 of this Act stipulates the right of the child to breast feeding for two years and Article 8 provides for a two year paid motherhood leave. Articles 9, 10 and 11 stipulate the right of the child to immunization and free medical follow up card which goes with him until he/she joins school. Article 12 stipulates the right of the school children to regular medical checks. Article 13 prohibits addition of unauthorized materials to child food and Article 14 provides for the right of the child to primary health services. Article 15 provides for the right of the child to protection against infectious diseases and to receive medical treatment in emergencies. Article 16 obliges pairs wishing to marry to undergo medical test before marriage. Article 17 stipulates referral of children suffering from mental and psychological conditions to specialized government hospitals. Article 18 prohibits sale of tobacco, alcohol and narcotics to children. The Public Health Act, 2008 reiterated the right medical care to all segments of the population, with special emphasis on women and children.

National health programs on child care covered four areas to fulfill the right of the child to survival and development:

- Primary Health Care
- Integrated Management of Childhood Illness
- Expanded Program on Immunization
- The National Nutrition Directorate

Political decisions have been taken to enhance the right of the child to survival and development. These included:

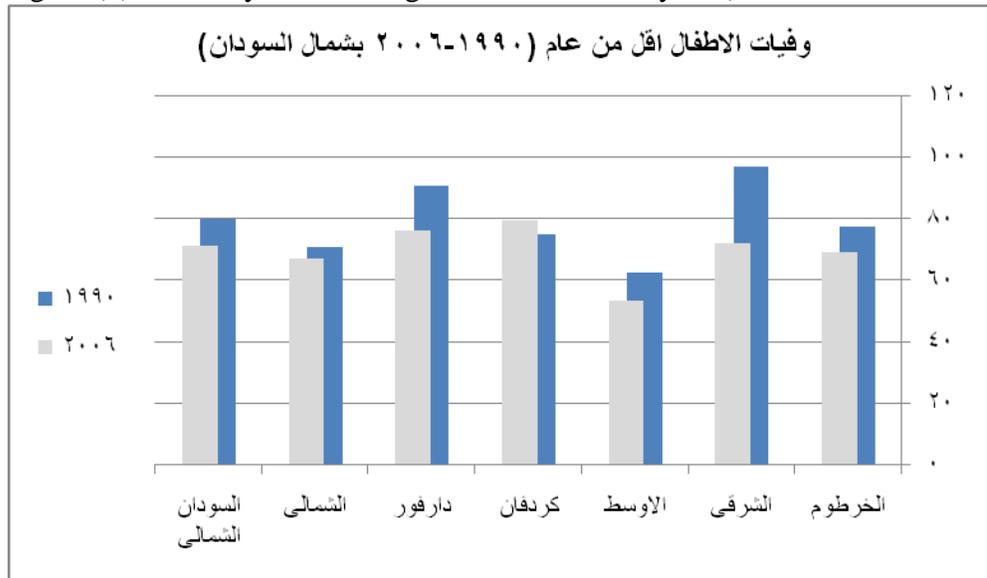
- Release of female prisoners who keep their children with them
- Maximization of work in the field of immunization
- Prohibition of detention of pregnant and breast feeding mothers. Trial of these women is to be postponed for two years.
- Free medical treatment for children involved in accidents
- Two years paid motherhood to breast feeding mothers.

Sudan Household Health Survey, 2006 which covered both north and south Sudan for the first time revealed that the mortality rate among children below 5 is 112/1000 live births and the mortality rate among children below one year is 80/1000 live births.<sup>2</sup> Drop in the mortality rate was not very significant during the period 1990-2006. The mortality rate among children below one year dropped from 80/1000 live births to 71/1000 live births and the mortality rate among children below 5 dropped from 143/1000 to 112/1000 live births. It is worthwhile mentioning that the mortality rate among infants amounted to 40/1000 live births which means that about 50% of the mortality rate among children below one year occur during the first weeks of these newborns. This calls for the importance of improvement in reproductive health services as a basic intervention to reduce of babies.

---

<sup>2</sup> Health Development Strategic Report, 2008

Figure (1) Mortality Rate among Children below 1 year (1990-2006)



Key:

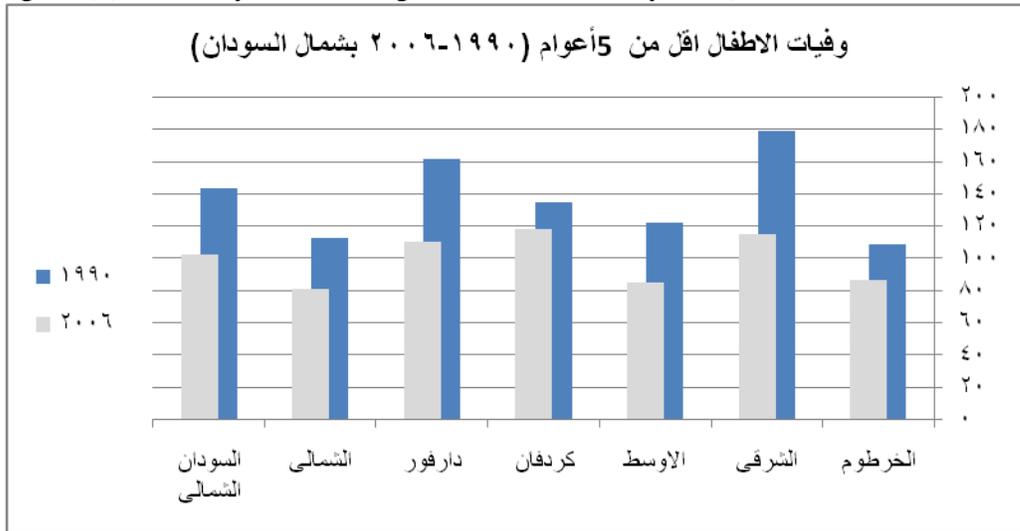
Gray color=2006

Blue color 1990

Regions from right to left= Northern Sudan, Northern region, Darfur, Kordufan, Central region, Eastern Region and Khartoum.

Figures= starting from 0 below going up to 20, 40, 60, 80, 100, 120

Figure (2) Mortality Rate among Children below 5 years (1990-2006)



Key:

Gray color=2006

Blue color 1990

Regions from right to left= Northern Sudan, Northern region, Darfur, Kordufan, Central region, Eastern Region and Khartoum.

Figures= starting from 0 below going up to 20, 40, 60, 80, 100, 120, 140, 160, 180, 200

Results of the Sudan Household Health Survey, 2006 show big disparities between regions. Ratios are very high in the south with the highest being recorded in Western Equatoria state and the lowest was in Gezira state which recorded 62/1000 live births for children below 5 and 52/1000 live births for children below 1 year as depicted in figures 3 and 4 below.

Figure (3) Mortality Rate among children below 5 by state

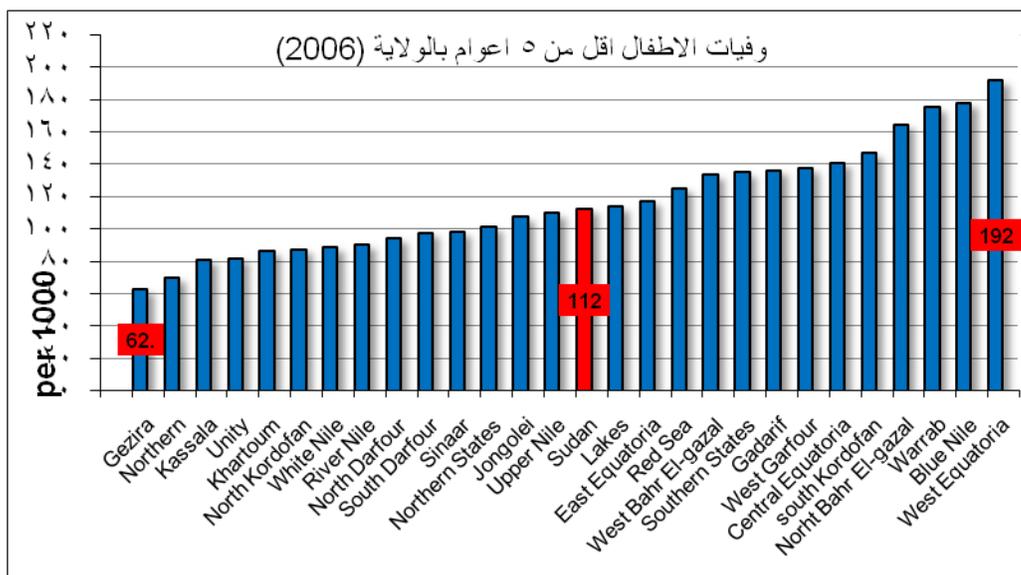
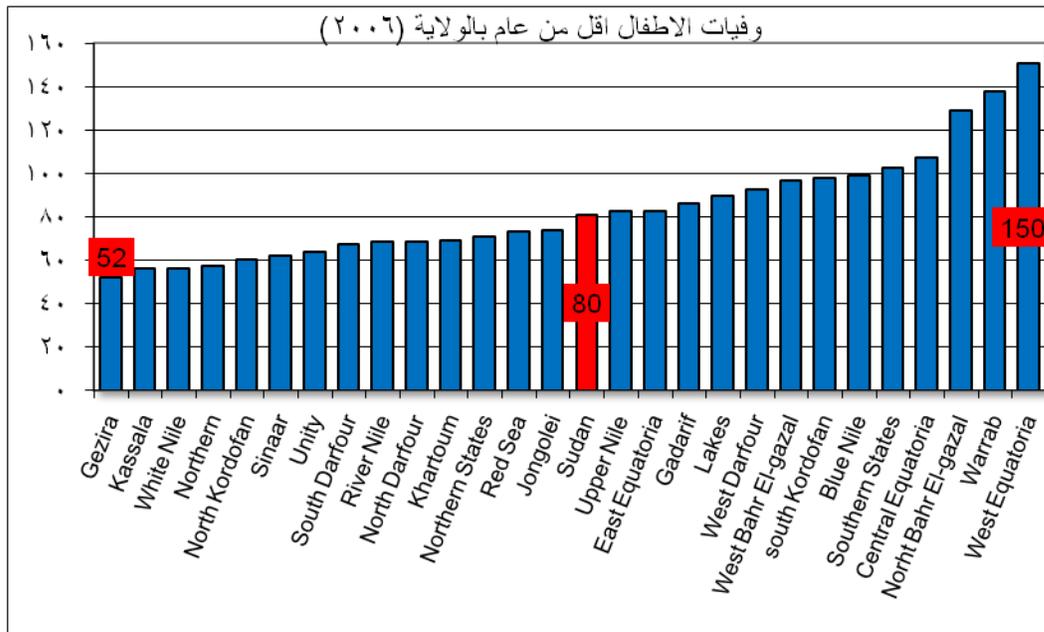
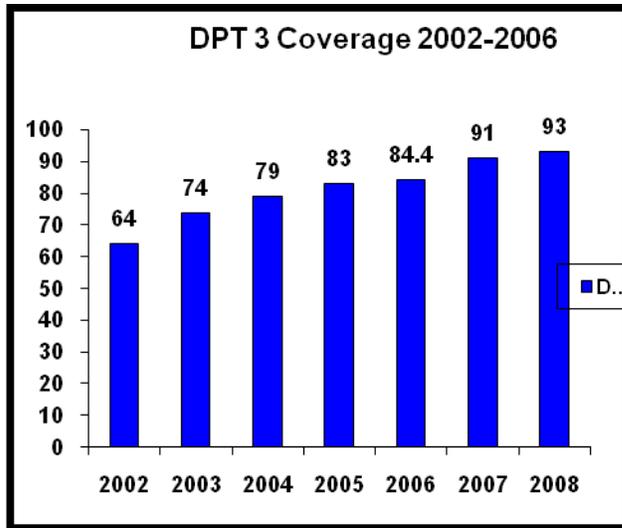


Figure (4) Mortality Rate among children below 1 year by state



The MDG target is to reduce mortality rate by 2015 to less than two thirds of 1990 rates. The Ministry of Health has adopted a number of strategies to improve child health and reduce mortality rates. Immunization campaigns covered more than 90% of children below 3 years of age by 2008 with support from GAVI as shown in figure 5 below.

Figure (5)



2008 also witnessed the launch of ACSI in collaboration with UNICEF in 15 states in the north (Jump Start) which comprised 7 interventions. Coverage included:

- 2.7 million children with measles vaccine (96.5% of the target in the remaining 9 states since 2007)
- 3.7 million children with vitamin A (96% of the target)
- 3.4 million children with anti-intestinal worms (80% of the target in 14 states)
- 3.4 million children with polio vaccine (95.3% of the target)
- Distribution of 1.2 million mosquito nets
- Targeting families in 9 northern states (about 15 million people) with awareness campaigns (covering cleaning hands, personal hygiene, using mosquito nets, breast feeding ...etc)

## **B. Children with Special Needs:**

All frameworks of activities pertinent to children with special needs come under the umbrella of the National Disabled Act, 2008. The Act was issued subsequent to the ratification of the Sudan of the UN Convention on the Persons with Disabilities. The Act provided for exemption of the disabled from education fees, facilitated their education through all available means and called for motivating and encouraging them and emphasized their right to employment in government institutions. The Act also provided for inclusion of the disabled under the umbrella of health insurance.

The drawbacks of this sector may be summarized as follows:

- Lack of accurate information due to the absence of enough statistics and studies.
- Meager resources to enable early intervention.
- Inadequacy of programs and specialized health services accessible to persons with special needs.

The Child Act, 2010 provided for the provision of care and protection to children with special needs as stipulated in Article 48 of the Act. Articles 49 and 50 provided for the education of children with special needs and awarding them certificates specifying the trade for which each and every one of them was qualified. Articles 51 and 52 provided for enlisting of children with special needs in labor offices and the allocation of quotas for them public sector employment openings. Article 53 provided for exemption of all equipment used by children with special needs from duties and customs.

#### **Policies and Legislations on children with special needs:**

- The National Interim Constitution of the Republic of the Sudan, 2005 (Articles 12, 44 and 45). These cover the rights of children with special needs in employment, social justice, education and health.
- Public Service Act, 2007 which allocates 2% of employment openings in the public sector to the qualified disabled.
- The Ministry of Welfare and Social Security has issued the National Policy on children with special needs in collaboration with the Ministry of Education which called for the integration of children with special needs in the national educational system.

#### **Status of Children with Special Needs**

- There are certain procedures for qualification of children with special needs at kindergartens before integration in the educational system. Most of these procedures are medical in nature with little psychosocial assessment. Services rendered to families are meager.
- The percentage of boys visiting medical institutions is higher than girls and the majority of them aged 1-6.
- Physical disability constitutes the majority of cases of children with special needs visiting medical institutions.
- Causes of disability of children with special needs visiting medical institutions are diseases, difficult labor at birth and accidents.
- Treatment centers for children with special needs have been established in Dongola, Kassala, Damazin, Kadugli, Nayala and Gadaref. Physiotherapy facilities have been opened in Dongola, Kassala, Damazin, Kadugli, Nayala and Gadaref. The disabled, including children with special needs, have benefited from 12,500 big arm support sticks and 25,000 small arm support sticks, 1000 blind sticks and 330 wheel chairs from local and international sources.

#### **Size of Disability in Sudan:**

The NCCW in collaboration with Save the Children Sweden conducted a survey of children with special needs in the states of Khartoum, Blue Nile, River Nile and S Kordufan in 2007-2008. Results were as follows:

#### **Khartoum State;**

- Total number of children with special needs in disability institutions is 5513, 59.2% of them i.e. 3264 are boys and 2249 are girls representing 40.8%. The number of institutions working with children with special needs is 29.

- The total number of children with special needs affiliated to integration institutions in the state is 5118; most of them suffer from physical disability.
- The total number of children with special needs admitted to hospitals in the state is 359.

**Blue Nile State:**

- Total number of children with special needs in disability institutions (4) is 175.
- Children with special needs integrated in schools are;
  - Deaf (38): 60.5% boys and 39.5% girls.
  - Physical disability (54): 61.1% boys and 38.9% girls.
  - Blind (10): 70% boys and 30% girls.
  - Mentally retarded (31): 41.9% boys and 58.1% girls.
- Total number of children in Damazin hospitals was 1432, of whom 103 are admitted, representing 7.2% and 1329 are outpatients, representing 92.8%. Children with hearing disabilities were 768, representing 53.6% as the highest rate amongst children with special needs, followed by 586 children with sight disabilities, representing 40.9% and 75 children suffering physical disability, representing 5.2%. The increase of incidence of children with special needs is attributed to:
  - Armed conflicts
  - Landmines
  - Road traffic accidents
  - Lack of awareness

**River Nile State:**

The study covered the 20 institutions working with children with special needs. The percentage of boys was 52.1% (202) and girls 47.9% (186). Children with special needs aged 7-13 represented the highest percentage (46.8%) followed by the group aged 13-18 (42.3%) and 11.1% for children with special needs in the group 0-6. This indicates lack of awareness among families of children with special needs which prevented early interventions. It was noticeable that the number of children with special needs suffering hearing disabilities was very high (691), followed by those suffering physical disability (428), then those suffering sight disability (191), then those suffering learning difficulties (86) with smaller numbers of those suffering multi-disabilities, mental retardation and language disturbances.

**Southern Kordufan State:**

Institutions dealing with children with special needs in the state are 11 representing social welfare offices, handicapped associations, Zakat Chamber and one NGO. There are specialized institutions providing services to children with special needs.

The total number of children with special needs was 412, 261 of them were boys representing 63.3% and 151 were girls representing 36.7%. Physical disability was highest incidence (56.6%), hearing disability 32%, sight disability 4.5%, multi-disabilities 3.4% and smaller percentages for other disabilities such learning difficulties and language disturbances ...etc. Physical disability was the highest in the age group 7-

12 (girls 20.5% and boys 19.2%), followed by the age group 13-18 (boys 16.9% and girls 22.5%).

Education services are provided for children with special needs. The following table shows numbers of children, teachers and institutions.

**Table (7): numbers of children, teachers and institutions**

No of Institutions			Type of Disability					Teachers
Public	Private	Total	Sight	Hearing	Mental	Physical	Total	598
43	41	84	7251	18639	5170	8692	39752	

Source: Ministry of Education, Education Statistics Book 2008-2009

### C. Services in the Health Sector:

A survey conducted by the Ministry of Health in May-August 2008 on the map of medical services in 12 out of 15 states in northern Sudan revealed the following results:

- There were disparities between states where the numbers of populations and villages are not commensurable with numbers of health institutions. For instance the Northern state with 380 villages and a population of 625,428 has 303 health institutions while the state of Southern Kordufan with a population of 2,528,619 and 2,101 villages has only 395 health institutions.
- The survey indicated that accessibility to health institutions was good in general. The percentage of population who live 5 km from health institutions was 75%. The states of North Kordufan, North Darfur and South Darfur have the least accessibility percentage, with percentages of population who live 5 km from health institutions amounting to 32%, 45% and 47% respectively. Despite the high percentages of accessibility, yet there are disparities between localities which call for reconsideration.
- The survey revealed that the percentage of coverage in all northern states is one institution for every 6,587 people. This is close enough to recommended percentage. However, disparities between localities call for reconsideration of the geographical distribution of health institutions to ensure equity. Distribution of rural hospital should be one hospital for every 100,000 people as recommended.
- The survey also revealed that percentage of coverage of health canters is a little short of the recommended number (one center for every 20442) and the total number of health centers is 32 centers short of the recommended number of 1566.
- The survey also showed that only 15.3% of the total number of health institutions provides the whole package of primary health services (immunization, nutrition, pregnancy care, full treatment of light diseases).
- It was noticeable from the survey that 3977 of the villages surveyed have midwives (a coverage percentage of 57%). This means there was a gap in villages with population of 1000 and above amounting to 3006 villages. This gap was 60% in S Darfur, 52% in Sinnar and 22% in the Northern state.

#### **D. Social Security:<sup>3</sup>**

Reports of the Zakat Chamber indicate that good efforts have been exerted in all states of the Sudan in the fields of drinking water, health, education and sponsorships.

Relentless efforts are being exerted to develop social funds. Financial equilibrium has been achieved in all these funds. The minimum pension pay was increased from 90 Sudanese Pounds to 120 and maximum was increased from 442 to 620 Pounds.

The Pension Fund and the Social Security Fund support pensioners' development projects. The number of beneficiaries from these projects increased by 2.7 folds from 4,513 to 12,411; While actual payments increased by 4 folds from 10 million Pounds to 40.

On the other hand and, in view of small amounts of pension pay the funds provided social support to pensioners whereby the number of beneficiaries increased from 59,000 to 85,000 and the actual payments increased from 8.7 million Pounds to 16.2 million Pounds.

In view of the relative scarcity of employment opportunities there is a need for development of private enterprises (small and medium) as a means to combat poverty. Accessibility to credit for the poor is very important in this respect. The Central Bank of Sudan has adopted a strategy for the provision of microfinance and has opened a new and important venue for social finance (social banking). Statements indicate that the total amount of loans offered up to 31 August 2008 was 9.3 billion Pounds, the share of microfinance was 264 millions i.e. 3%.

Contribution to microfinance by only two banks amounted to 71% of the total microfinance offered. These were the Saving & Social Development Bank (41%) and the Sudanese Agricultural Bank (30%). These two are specialized banks that already deal in microfinance. However, response of private and foreign banks was very weak.

Work is underway to define who is the microfinance client and the whole credit policies in view of the expected recession the possible transmission of infections from economies of the big countries. Social organization represents an important pillar to the success of social banking. The experiment of the Zakat Chamber in supporting cooperatives is worthwhile studying (218 cooperatives were supported by tractors and accessories).

#### **Health Insurance:**

Following the issuance of the Health Insurance Act, 2001 coverage of health insurance jumped from 1.5% in 1997 to 25.5% in 2006 to reach 40.1% in 2010. Table (8) shows coverage by states.

---

<sup>3</sup> Source: Report on the Definition, Measurement of Poverty and Efforts to Combat it, 2008, Ministry of Welfare and Social Security.

**Table (8): Coverage of Health Insurance by States**

State	% Coverage
Sinnar	42
Khartoum	30.4
Gezira	36
Gadaref	42
Red Sea	63
River Nile	47
W Nile	40
N Darfur	40
B Nile	41
W Darfur	51
N Kordufan	50
Northern	64
Kassala	38
S Kordufan	38
S Darfur	44
Western Sector (Foola)	50

The number of institutions providing health insurance service is 832, 302 of which provide direct services and 530 provide indirect services. (Source: National Health Insurance Fund)

**Orphans:**

Report of the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security – Directorate General of Social Programs (Department of Social Security) revealed the numbers of orphans in the Sudan by states and the sponsorships available to them from the Zakat Chamber, popular sponsorships and charity associations and funds. Table 9 below show the figures.

**Table (9): Numbers of Orphans by States**

S/N	State	No of Orphans
1	Khartoum	35000
2	Gezira	15000
3	Gadaref	7000
4	Kassala	9000
5	Red Sea	15000
6	Northern	9000
7	River Nile	7000
8	Sinnar	5000
9	W Nile	3000
10	B Nile	2000
11	N Darfur	10000
12	S Darfur	21000
13	N Kordufan	4000
14	S Kordufan	5000
<b>Total</b>		<b>142000</b>

Source: Report of the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security – Directorate General of Social Programs (Department of Social Security)

- The orphans' sponsorship umbrella expanded by the introduction of the popular societal sponsorship system. The number of orphans sponsored by the Zakat Chamber reached 63737 in 2009.
- The number of students sponsored by the Zakat Chamber reached 38500 in 2009. This was an accumulative increase of 52% at a cost of 17.3 million Pounds.
- 93043 pensioners benefited from social support (medical treatment, sponsorship of female university students, sponsorship of brilliant students, sponsorship of orphans and other miscellaneous forms of support). This represented 87% of the targeted numbers at a cost of 46.5 million Pounds.
- Application of national policy of orphan sponsorship in different states (N Kordufan, River Nile, Gezira and Gadaref).
- Training courses on best ways to deal with orphans with participation of stakeholder from government agencies and NGOs.
- Establishment of orphan sponsorship center in Gezira state.
- Establishment of special cases of orphans in Khartoum.
- Establishment of orphan sponsorship with a vocational centre and hostels attached to it in Madani.
- The Zakat Chamber provides monthly sponsorships to help orphans meet cost of living in addition to providing school kits and new clothing during Eids (holy celebrations) and inclusion of orphans in the Health Insurance Scheme. The Zakat Chamber has introduced a new program to provide shelter to orphans who have no shelter (Orphan Housing Scheme). Number of houses provided through this scheme amounted to 1000 in Khartoum state, 500 in Kassala state and 300 in N Darfur state. The main objective of this scheme is to enable the Zakat Chamber to reach a maximum segment of orphans.
- The Investment Deposit Scheme: this is a new program for orphan sponsorship. It aims to provide the orphan with a permanent source of income (500-700 Pounds per month).

**Chapter Seven**  
**Education, Leisure Time and Cultural Activities**  
**Articles (11) (12) of the Charter**

Education policies in Sudan adopted the principles of open opportunities to all, gender equality, geographical balance in the provision of inputs, the nationality of curricula and continuous revision, development and improvement of curricula. Objectives of education, as outlined in the Planning and Organization of Education Act, 2001, include strengthening the spirit of nationhood and loyalty to the homeland, development of preparedness for cooperation, promulgation of the culture of peace, respect for cultural diversity, encouragement of brilliancy and capacity and skills building through the creation of training opportunities, achievement of comprehensive development and enhancing environment awareness of young people.

**A. Training, Vocational Training and Guidance:**

The National Interim Constitution of the Republic of the Sudan, 2005 provided in Article 22 that elementary and secondary education and the administration of education is one of the competencies of respective states. Article 13-1-a stipulates “The State shall promote education at all levels all over the Sudan and shall ensure free and compulsory education at the primary level and in illiteracy eradication programs”. To implement this Ministerial Decree was issued in 2005 establishing a committee to revise all legislations governing the education process to make it commensurable with the provision of the Constitution and the CPA. Article 28 of the Child Act, 2010 provided for the right of the child to free and compulsory education while Article 30 obliged rewarding outstanding children in academic, cultural and artistic fields.

**Pre-school Education:**

Enrollment in pre-school education (4-5 years) rose from 26.4% to 30.2%. Enrollment percentage of boys rose from 26.7% to 31.1% in 2008-2009. The number of pre-school institutions rose by 2,285 institutions compared with 2007 figures to reach 13,925 in 2008-2009.

**Basic Level Education:**

Enrollment dropped from 68.7% in 2007 to 66.1% in 2008 for both genders. Percentage of boys dropped from 73.9% to 64.6% while percentage of girls rose from 63.4% to 64.6%. Number of basic level education institutions reached 180,052. To encourage enrollment the Ministry of Education in coordination with the Ministry of Health exempted pupils not in possession of birth certificates to enroll first and issued with the certificate later.

**Secondary Level Education:**

The number of male students rose from 361,400 in 2007 to 409,238 in 2008 (an increase of 47,838 students – 13.2%). The number of female students rose from 319,367 in 2007 to 374,347 in 2008 (an increase of 54,980 students – 17.2%). The number of schools dropped by 20 because of deficiency in some states. Percentage of enrollment dropped from 29.6% to 29.4% for male students and rose from 26.3% to 29.4% for female students. The overall enrollment percentage rose from 28% in 2007 to 29.7 in 2008.

**Girls' Education:**

The girls' education programs were based on researches and studies carried out in the 1990s in the areas traditionally resistant to girls' education (study on the socio-economic factors affecting girls' students and other studies). A round table conference held to discuss the issue pinpointed the starting areas such as the expansion in basic level education, especially for girls with more focus on raising awareness on the importance of education for girls through popular media, finding alternatives to provide education for girls outside schools and securing financial sources.

Findings of the conference were translated to a strategy to push girls' education in 2004. The strategy focused on implementation of a program aiming raising awareness of enrollment of children on the day of national enrollment to encourage parents to send their children to school, especially girls. School uniform and breakfast were provided free of charge in rural and remote areas. There are a number of programs and activities carried out by the Ministry of Education, including:

- Annual training course for headmasters of girls' schools.
- Annual national conference on girls' education to review performance during the year.
- Regular visits to states for assessment and follow up.
- Holding of the National Enrollment Day, with focus on girls and distribution of free school uniform in remote areas.

To follow up and detect obstacles the Ministry issues a quarterly magazine on girls' education. UNICEF provides 60% of the cost of girls' education in the north and 80% in the south.

**Education of IDPs and Returnees:**

Educating IDPs is one of the challenges facing education in the Sudan. There are 320 IDPs schools accommodating a total of 179,444, including 81,161 boys and 98,283 girls. The average size of classrooms is 23-35 pupils depending on the population intensity. In some states IDPs schools work parallel to regular schools. IDPs schools depend mainly on support provided by CSOs. The schools suffer acute shortages in text books where 5 pupils share one book in average and the classrooms are not built with fixed materials.

Following the signing of the CPA there were large numbers of children returnees who didn't receive any form of education. The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with UNICEF, contemplated implementation of condensed curricula that shorten education level to 4 years to enable pupils catch up with next level in the regular education system. The project, which targets children aged 14-18, is in the stage of development and training of teachers has just started.

**Illiteracy eradication among Children (9-14 years):**

The percentage of illiterate children (aged 9-14) was 47% of the total population (2,513,278, 33% of them males -901,296- and 61% females – 1,611,982).

University graduates doing their National Service duty were used to teach illiteracy eradication classes after receiving special training for this job. This has a positive effect.

The educational system suffers high rates of dropouts. Therefore, a special program for education and qualification of children was introduced. This is flexible form of education that takes into account local environments and targeting children aged 9-14 who either never joined schools or dropped out of them. 60% of the program capacity targets girls. 188,666 children benefited from the program, including 39,750 boys and 148,916 girls. The gender indicator was 3:7 for girls. The number of centers providing this service was 5042 with 6021 teachers. These centers face a host of problems as they located in poor communities that can not possibly finance and support them in addition to structural problems in this form of education.

Popular effort plays important roles in providing support to schools through education councils which fulfill schools' needs. Localities cover only the first chapter i.e. salaries of teachers. Education council and NGOs cover the cost of maintenance, daily expenses, breakfast for children ...etc. This amounts to 52.7% of the total cost of the educational process.

The education sector has benefited greatly from support provided by UN agencies, NGOs, banks and funds. This has helped in the development and stability of education in remote areas. This support amounted to \$ 52,592,331 and can be summarized as follows:

UNICEF is the largest contributor in the basic level education programs which aim to push up rates of enrollment, reduce rates of dropouts in nine states in Sudan (Blue Nile, Kassala, Gadaref, greater Kordufan, greater Darfur and southern states), promulgate activities of the culture of peace, protection against HIV/AIDS and achievement of human rights to education and equality.

WFP aims to achieve educational policies by maximization of enrollment rates through the provision of free breakfast meals to children in remote and poor areas, focusing mainly on girls, in addition to mobilization of more support from local communities in the targeted states (localities of Nayal, Genaina and Fashir in Darfur and the states of Kassala, N Kordufan and Blue Nile and some localities in the Red Sea state).

UNESCO supports education sector (both basic and higher education). The most important projects include training of cadres in the field of educational planning, establishment of early childhood development centers, training of basic level teachers (4 courses) and development of illiteracy eradication programs.

The role of WFP is confined to cooperation with the Ministry of Education in contributing to financing population education programs. Such cooperation has contributed to the production of teaching materials and a reference book.

## **B. : The right to Leisure, Recreation, Play and Cultural Activities:**

Education curricula have included all features of our modern time. IT has been included in the curriculum of the secondary education level and plans are underway to introduce it at the fourth grade of the basic level education.

There is currently an experiment to introduce English at the third grade of the basic level in collaboration with Garnet Institution. The experiment is financed by Qatar and has covered 100 schools in Khartoum state with more than 7000 pupils in addition to training 1000 teachers and 21 directors.

Results of the experiment indicated that 97% of responses emphasized the importance of adoption of the project to cover all states of the Sudan.

The UC MAS system of Malaysia has been tried in 6 schools in Khartoum state and the experiment is still underway.

The National Center for Curricula and Scientific Research is currently developing a special curriculum for brilliant children within the context of the national curricula (from fourth to eighth grades). Experiment has started in some schools in Khartoum state under the supervision of National Authority for Sponsorship of Brilliant Children.

A number of matrixes have been developed to enhance curricula in the areas of the culture of peace, human rights, health education to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS, population education and a matrix on education outputs for the training of teachers through short courses (on job training).

Realizing the importance of activities and sports in the development of bodies and minds of children, education planners and designers of have included about 40% of such activities in the national curricula. These activities have been transformed to be teaching subjects that are taught and exercised of classes in places such theatres, sporting arenas and cultural associations.

Competitions in national tournaments between schools from different states play an important role in removing barriers between the sons and daughters of the same homeland. These tournaments are organized under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Education and are sponsored by the top leadership of the country.

### **Child Cultural Development:**

This focused on:

- Development of child capacity through organization of different activities, including music, theatre, painting, physical education, swimming and reading (library sessions).
- Organization of competitions in different fields.
- Participation in child conferences, carnivals and competitions that are organized locally at the national level, regionally and internationally.

- Organization of celebrations on national, regional and international occasions for children such as the Orphan Child Day, the African Child Day, the Arab Child Day and the National Day ...etc.
- Taking arrangements to ensure participation of children with special needs in such celebrations.
- There are four centers for child cultural development in Madani, Damazin, Port Sudan and Fashir.
- National Radio presents cultural programs for children such as “Children Pillar” and “The Garden Magazine”.
- There are private radio stations that present a number of other children programs.

The general strategic objective of these activities is build an education system that achieve national unity, security and stability to all sons and daughters of the Sudan and enable create a society of excellence in values and in knowledge. This strategic objective can be broken down to subsidiary objectives as follows:

- Improvement of enrollment, coverage, efficiency and quality to meet obligations towards education for all and towards MDGs.
- Revision and development of the cost and finance of basic education.
- Reformation and development of education aids, especially in the fields of science and technology.
- Improvement of training of teachers to meet educational needs and requirements of the MDGs.
- Development of flexible and high quality alternative learning programs those contribute to economic development.
- Improvement and development of basic skills through vocational training.
- Building of expertise to strengthen the administration of the educational system.
- Ensure effective coordination; follow up, evaluation and assessment.

## Chapter Eight

### Special Protection Measures Articles (23) (25) of the Charter

#### **A- Children Refugees, Returnees and IDPs:**

The legal aspect of Sudan's policy towards refugees is based on the international and regional instruments regulating refugees' issues. Child refugees are treated according to the provisions of the UN Covenant of 1951 and its protocol of 1976 and the OAU convention of refugees, 1969. With regards to national legislations there is the Refugee Organization Act, 1974 which provided in Article 7 the commitment of the Sudan to all its obligations contained in the international and regional instruments regulating the affairs of refugees in the country. The same Act included in Article 2 an addition to the definition of refugee not mentioned in the above international and regional instruments of 1951 and 1969 provided for the rights of unaccompanied children to have special treatment and special protection.

Cooperation between the Commission of Refugees (COR) and UNHCR through the local UNHCR in Sudan and other international stakeholders in taking measures to provide the necessary protection to refugees including the provision of basic services in refugee camps such as shelter, food and non-food assistance, water, basic education and health services.

Urban refugees and their children do not enjoy the services offered to camp refugees. There is a small segment of urban refugees in Khartoum state. Services to this group is provided under the supervision of (COR) and financed by the UNHCR. Child refugees are provided with IDs and other documents according to the provisions of the law. Their treatment in this regard is similar to that of citizens. Adoption of child refugee is dealt with according to national and international legal criteria and according to the beliefs of the refugee under the supervision of UNHCR and (COR).

Within the context of sharing responsibilities between the international community and the host country special villages for orphan child refugees were established in the area of Abu Rakhm where children were grouped according to nationality and beliefs. These children enjoy the same services offered to the Sudanese children of the host states as the villages do have maternity and pediatric care, registration of newborn, free birth certificate and vaccination, compulsory basic education. The ration of children to women is 4:5.

#### **Services Offered to Child Refugee in Camps in the States of Red Sea, Kassala, Gadaref, Sinnar and Gezira in 2008:**

**1- Education:** the number of pupils in basic level schools in the refugee camps was 7,565, of whom 1,556 were Sudanese and 6,007 were refugees. Girls were 3,679 and

boys were 3,886. Education services are equally offered to refugees and citizens living in the nearby villages.

**2- Water:** there are good water services in the refugee camps. A budget amounting to 300,000 Pounds has been allocated for maintenance of pipes and tanks.

**3- Health:** there is an agreement between WHO, (COR) and UNHCR to organize the provision of health services in refugee camps.

**4- Food:** the year witnessed some food shortages, especially the commodity of sugar.

#### **Services offered to Child Refugee in Western Camps/Darfur:**

**1- Health:** good health services were provided by the contracted NGOs.

**2- Education:** refugee children received education in government schools. Some of them suffered from lack of fees.

**3- Food:** 2008 witnessed stability in food distribution.

#### **Service available to Refugee Child in Khartoum:**

1- The Consultative Services Office and the Legal Protection Unit of (COR) provide service to urban refugees in Khartoum.

2- Services targeted 30,000 during 2008 where admin assistance and facilities were provided in liaison with concerned departments, with focus on fragile groups (women and children).

3- Services and financial assistance in the fields of health, education and employment were provided through the Consultative Services Office to 1,036 refugees, including 27 children receiving employment opportunities, 30 children receiving scholarships in vocational training, IT and business administration of whom 11 have completed their studies. This group included boys and girls (83% boys and 17% girls).

#### **Child IDO/Returnee:**

Networks for the protection of children in IDP camps in Khartoum state have been created with support from and partnership with UNICEF and a number of NGOs. These networks include women, young people and children. 230 members of these networks received training on child protection. The mission of these networks is to monitor child protection issues and make necessary interventions such as registering children in schools and vocational training centers. This activity covers 15,000 children.

This work has led to the establishment of a taskforce made up of the NCCW, UNICEF, 5 NGOs and 5 government agencies to follow up child protection issues in the camps. A forum for NGOs working in the camps was established and 219 cadres of these NGOs and 80 teachers were on child protection issues and tracking families.

6,265 returnee children, including 262 unaccompanied children received support during their journey from W Nile state to the south. Such support also covered 1077 unaccompanied women. There was close watch to child protection issues.

A committee made up of the NCCW and partners was formed to deal with IDP children during voluntary return journeys. A training package was designed for 30 cadres including officials and child protection groups' members and IOM observers.

### **Children in Armed Conflicts and Arrangements for Care and Protection:**

During peace talks in Kenya a DDR commission was established by a presidential Decree in 2003. The child soldier was one of the most important portfolios of the talks. After the signature of the CPA in 2005 another Presidential Decree was issued in 2006 re-forming the DDR commission and attaching it to the Presidency of the Republic. National DDR Commissions were formed by the Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan. DDR Program targets:

- I. Child soldiers and children associated with armed groups
- II. Children subjected to the danger of conscription (IDP/Refugee children and homeless children).

Objectives of the program are:

- Demobilization of children from armed forces and groups
- Reuniting such children with their families and communities
- Prohibition of conscription or re-conscription of children
- Reintegration of such children, socially and economically, into their communities
- The Program considers the Paris Principles and IDDRS basic technical references for the implementation of its activities. All peace agreements, including the CPA, 2005, the DPA, 2006 and the East Peace Agreement, 2006 provided for the demobilization of any person below 18 in the groups signing agreements with the government with commitment to not re-conscript any demobilized children. There was another commitment on the part of the rebel groups signing agreements with the government to enable stakeholders to reunite these children with their respective families and communities. A training program has been designed to enable teams from state social affairs ministries, social workers, officials of the ministries of education and health and other partners from the ministry of the interior, (COR) and CSOs engaged in emergency work in Khartoum and other states.

Database, training manuals, social work forms and follow up reports' format have been prepared. Technical teams of social workers have been formed. Child soldier numbers were 41 in Red Sea, 243 in Kassala, 33 in Gadaref, 31 in Khartoum, 99 in Blue Nile, 256 in Southern Kordufan, 535 in Southern Darfur, 186 in Northern Darfur and 304 in Western Darfur.

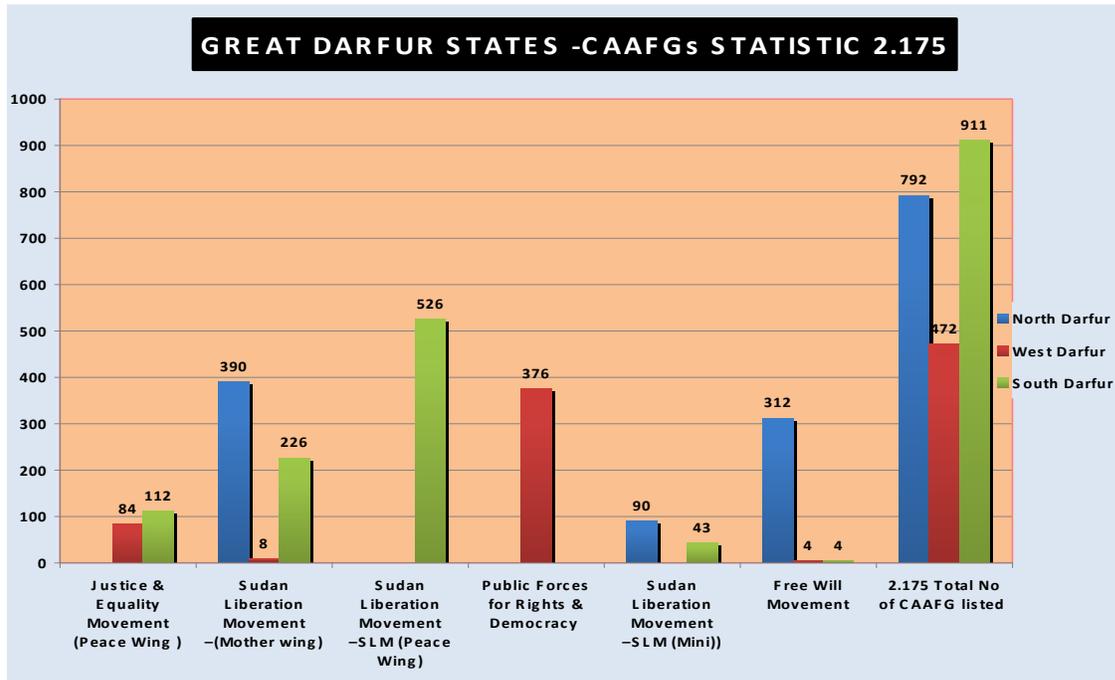
The national policy of DDR program has been prepared by the DDRC (North). Its legal framework was based on references, agreements, international and regional instruments. The basic principles of the policy were national ownership, best interest of the child, the right to survival and development and participation of the child. The policy defined the targeted group and specified partners from national and international NGOs, relevant government agencies and UN partners, namely UNICEF and the Red Cross. The DDRC has prepared SOPs to regulate work of all stakeholders.

**Table (10): DDR Program Activities**

	Total	S Darfur	R Sea	N Darfur	Khartoum	Kassala	Gadaref	B Nile	S Kordufan	W Darfur
No of children registered in Program	1750	535	41	186	91	243	33	99	218	304
No of children benefiting from DDR Program	638	2	36	2	31	212	29	82	17	33
No of children followed up by social workers	427	18	35	2	24	212	29	60	13	34
No of children in schools	234	0	14	2	15	91	20	51	13	27
No of children on vocational training	103	0	24	0	10	50	9	9	0	1
No of children benefiting from social and psychological programs	316	0	35	0	16	212	29	No data	17	7
No of children re-conscripted	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0

With regards to Darfur, and in liaison with the commission of security arrangements and through contacts made with commanders of the six movements that signed the DPA, the program received lists of all child soldiers associated with these movements totaling 2175 children. A national workshop was organized to set a plan of action detailing all DDR activities for these children. A mechanism for follow up was formed comprising representatives to the movements. Figure (6) shows distribution of child soldier in Darfur

**Figure (6): Distribution of Child Soldier in Darfur**

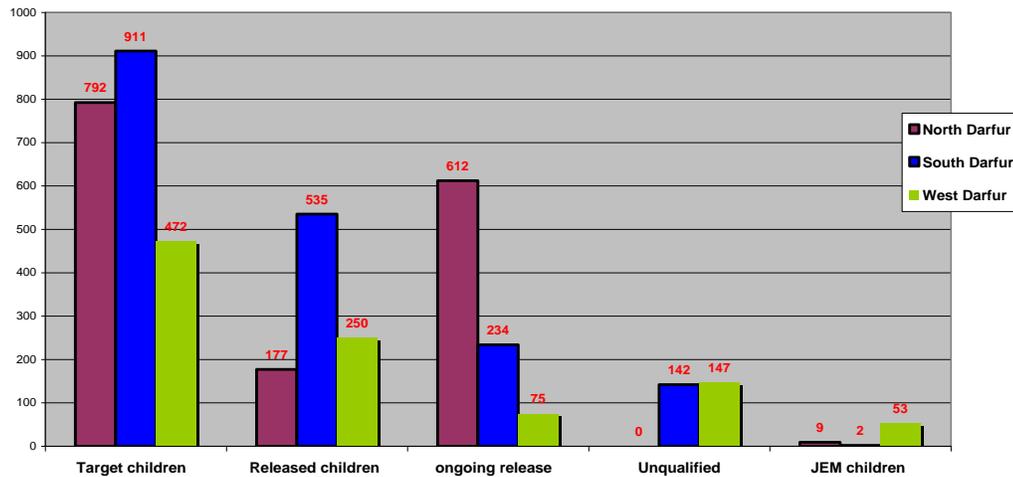


The following activities were carried out:

- A joint program document, detailing roles of all partners and stages of implementation has been approved.
- 34 social workers have been trained to support DDR activities.
- 220 movements' commanders have been briefed on the child soldier program.
- A series of meetings with 15 host communities were held in Darfur attended by 1200 tribal and community leaders. The meetings focused on reintegration mechanisms and services and the importance of strengthening those mechanisms.
- With considerable support from movements' representatives, UNICEF, UNAMID and other stakeholders DDRC (North) was able to demobilize and disarm 962 children. After careful scrutiny 289 of these children were excluded as it was proven they were not members of the movements.
- Children were registered on special forms and were all subjected to medical examination to determine who is able or disable. They were all briefed on HIV/AIDS and then reunited with their respective families.

**Figure (7): % of Implementation of DDR Program Activities in Darfur**

**DARFUR CHILD DDR PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION PRECENTAGE 51.3%**



The DDR Program faces some difficulties, including the heavy financial demand, continuation of armed conflicts in Darfur and the fragile infrastructures in the targeted communities. These difficulties hinder the reintegration activities of children in their communities. As a result of this some movements succeeded in re-conscripting former child soldiers.

**Children of Justice and Equality Movement (JEM):**

In the attack launched by JEM by Omdurman in May 2008 the Armed Forces arrested a number of JEM forces. There were children (below 18) among these prisoners. A higher committee comprising representatives from the ministries of Defense, Justice and the Interior, the ACHR and HAC was formed to deal with the issue of these child soldier prisoners. The children were separated from adult prisoners in a separate building where health, education and social services were provided for them in addition to psychosocial support according to international standards in dealing with similar situations.

The NCCW, in collaboration with the Red Cross and UNICEF, announced that these children were victims themselves and therefore are not accused and will not be tried or threatened with trial.

National and international media, national and international NGOs and popular organizations visited the children and witnessed the services rendered to them, including shelter and health, educational and recreational services in addition to psychosocial support according to international standards in dealing with similar situations.

Efforts culminated in issuance of Presidential Pardon in respect of children who took part in the attack against Omdurman. All of them were reunited with their families and communities in liaison with the Red Cross (see table 11).

**Table (11): JEM Child Soldiers**

S/N	No of Children	State	Remarks
1	54	W Darfur	An amount of \$ 82,000 was allocated to finance the reintegration of children. 33 of the children returned to school
2	9	N Darfur	Ministry of Welfare and Social Security was tasked with follow up
3	2	S Darfur	returned to school
4	25	Chad Refugee Camps	No reports received on them (work is underway to contact these children)
5	<b>Total 90</b>		

**Children in Armed Conflicts:**

Provisions of the Armed Forces Act, 2007 were in line with the provisions of the UNCRC and its two Optional Protocols and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. The Act stipulates:

- Ensure the age of enlistment is 18 and shall remain as stipulated in the Personnel Regulations, 2960.
- The Act stipulated certain conditions for enlistment; chief among them is the age of 18 and ability to endure military life.
- The Act provided for a 5 years imprisonment to whoever enlist a person below 18.

The Act dedicated a whole chapter on the protection of civilians during armed conflicts; reiterated protection of children and other fragile groups and stipulated punishments reaching 20 years imprisonment and death sentence in certain cases. In the area of protection the Act stipulated the following:

- Special protection for children.
- Prohibition of relocation of children belonging to certain regions, ethnic groups or national groups to different areas.
- Prohibition of imposing special measures such family size control of prevention of pregnancy.
- Prohibition of all sexual acts with children or marriage of children or exercise of any form of sexual exploitation or abuse.
- Article 43 of The Child Act, 2010 provided for prohibition of conscription, appointment or use of children in armed forces or groups or in military operations. Article 44 of the same obliged development of DDR programs for child soldiers.

The establishment of a Child Rights Unit has been highlighted earlier. Here are some of the projects and programs conducted by the Unit:

- Implementation of a joint training program with regional experts in the field of armed conflicts in Darfur. The program, financed by Save the Children Sweden, included 5 courses and 5 seminars.
- Implementation of a triangular conceptual training between the Armed Forces, NCCW and UNICEF (see table 12).

- Conclusion of a triangular conceptual memo between the Armed Forces, NCCW and UNICEF.
- Training of the joint Sudanese-Chadian forces to secure borders.

Table (12): Armed Forces Training Courses on Child Rights in 2009

Venue	City	Date		No of Trainees	Targeted Ranks
Admin Sciences Inst	Omdurman	6/28	2009/6/30	45	Officers
NSI Inst	Khartoum	7/5	2009/7/7	50	Officers
Moral G Inst	Omdurman	7/12	2009/7/14	50	Officers
6 <sup>th</sup> Division	Fashir	7/19	2009/7/21	20	Officers
6 <sup>th</sup> Division	Fashir	7/20	2009/7/21	10	L Colonel and above
16 <sup>th</sup> Division	Nayala	7/23	2009/7/26	20	Officers
16 <sup>th</sup> Division	Nayala	7/23	2009/7/25	10	L Colonel and above
Division Officers	Jinainah	7/27	2009/7/30	20	Officers
Division Officers	Jinainah	7/28	2009/7/29		L Colonel and above
Mil Police Inst	Omdurman	8/9	2009/8/11	30	Officers
Armory Inst	Omdurman	9/6	2009/9/8	20	Officers

#### **B- Children in Conflict with the Law:**

Reference has been made to the fact that the Child Act, 2010 has stipulated the criminal responsibility age at 12 in Articles 4 and 5. Furthermore, the Act has provided for the establishment of certain mechanisms and procedures with respect to children in conflict with the law. Articles 54-83 provided for the establishment of special police unit to deal children and stipulated its competencies and obliged the presence of guardian, social worker or lawyer during investigation with children. Children must not be detained with adults and detention period must not exceed seven days. The Act also stipulated establishment of separate waiting rooms and separate prosecution offices for children. The Act, furthermore, stipulated certain procedures for trial of children and certain arrangements for the provision of care for children below 12 who endangered with delinquency. The Act obliged establishment of homes for such children and gave the competent court the power to stop procedures once the child is reformed. The Act also obliged submission of quarterly reports on children in homes as it might contain information that lead to referral of verdicts passed by first instance court to appeal court. The Act demanded study of the case of the victim child by specialists to prescribe best treatment. The Act also obliged that death sentence may not be passed against children and, respect of the child right to privacy during trial. Courts were allowed to refer delinquent children to social institutions of the court's choice for treatment without having to try the child before those institutions. The Act provided for the confidentiality of child's records and stipulated the role of the social worker in case the child was placed under social observation. The Act also reiterated the rights child victims and witnesses.

Sudan has known administration of juvenile justice a long time ago as juvenile courts have been established in the country since 1948. Compositions of these courts have always included social workers. One of the most popular arrangements was the verdict of social observation through social workers. There was a department for social service, homes for convicted children separate from adult inmates and separate waiting rooms. Prison Officers College was established in 1953. Sudan has a suburb heritage in juvenile justice administration and has been enriched by the modern scientific and legislative developments at both national and international levels.

The most recent arrangements in the administration of juvenile justice include the establishment of juvenile courts in a number of states and the directive of HE the Chief Justice that juveniles are to be tried by the most senior judges in the states. Furthermore, separate juvenile prosecution offices were established to have children investigated only by general prosecutors. Another development was the establishment of the Family and Child Unit by the Police to enable the police deal with child victims and reintegrate them in the community. Officers of the unit were highly trained on child protection in collaboration with UNICEF.

One of the arrangements in this respect is the training of judges on juvenile justice administration and the establishment of a child department at the National Supreme Court to revise verdicts and appeals of children and advise competent courts accordingly.

Work is currently underway to establish an integrated legal, legislative and administrative system for juvenile justice as stipulated by The Child Act, 2010 and in accordance with the steady development seen by the legislative framework in the Sudan in the field of juvenile justice.

### **C- Children Accompanying Mothers in Prisons:**

Children accompanying their mothers in prison represent an important issue. Prison administrations do their best to solve problems with support from NGOs. Political decisions were taken to release mother prisoners with children in prison. Other important political decisions include Release of female prisoners who keep their children with them; Prohibition of detention of pregnant and breast feeding mothers charged with civil offences. Trial of women charged with criminal offences is to be postponed for two years. Reference has already been made in chapter five to the arrangements taken with regards to pregnant girls outside marriage as this is illegal in Sudan. Ever since the establishment of the Police Family and Child Unit it has shouldered the responsibility of dealing with children in conflict with the law. The Unit uses the services of experts such social workers, prosecutors, judges, providers of legal aid services and health workers specializing psychosocial support provision.

### **D- Exploitation and Abuse**

#### **Economic Exploitation and Child Labor:**

Sudanese legislations have prohibited economic exploitation and child labor. Article 36 of The Child Act, 2010 stipulated that Child labor is restricted to those below 14 years of age, with the exception of those working in grazing and agricultural works that are not

dangerous or harmful to health. The Labor Act, 1997 echoes the same restrictions as provided for in the ILO conventions 182 and 138 on the minimum age of employment. Article 37 of the Labor Act, 1997 prohibited child labor that harms children. Articles 38-42 of the Child Act, 2010 placed conditions for child labor, including free medical examination before employment; daily work hours should not exceed seven, entitlement of the child to paid leave and the child labor must benefit from labor social services appropriate to his age and should also receive training before work begins.

Surveys were conducted about child labor by the NCCW in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor and an expert from the U of Khartoum to study the phenomenon in the states of Kassala and Khartoum; the study pinpointed the causes and listed 42 dangerous works the exercise of which was restricted for children as they affect child health, social, psychological and physical growth of children. The list was approved and adopted by the Ministry of Labor.

Signature of partnership protocol between the European Commission, the ILO and the Government of the Sudan on child labor in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries; signing for the Government of Sudan were the Ministry of Labor, the NCCW and the Ministry of Education (October 2008).

The protocol aims mainly to building partnership to develop and support efforts to fight child labor through supporting education in all areas, focusing on girls' education. Initial steps to activate the protocol started in earnest in June 2010.

#### **Abuse of Narcotics:**

The Council of Ministers formed a committee to combat drugs. The committee comprised all stakeholder agencies, including the Ministries of Health, Justice, Social Welfare, Education, the Interior, Information and Communications. The committee acts upon the provisions of the national policy to combat drugs, 2007 as revised and updated in 2010. Moreover, the committee liaises with the Drugs Combating Network which comprises all NGOs working in this field at both national and state levels. Combating is activated through different themes; the theme of enforcing legislations on combating drugs and administration of criminal justice, the theme of treatment of addiction cases and addressing causes of the problem and the third theme is focusing on guidance and dissemination of awareness and protection of children against the dangers of drugs.

#### **Sexual Exploitation and Abuse:**

Sudanese legislations have clearly stipulated severe punishments against perpetrators of all sexual crimes. This has been demonstrated in the articles of the Child Act, 2010 highlighted in chapter four of this report. In addition to this Sudan has ratified the two optional protocols of the UNCRC on sexual exploitation of children. Furthermore, there are additional details in the report demanded by the International Committee which was deliberated on by the Committee in May 2007.

The Government paid great attention to raising awareness about protecting children against all forms of violence. Mechanisms within the state structures have been created to

address this type of crimes. A central Family and Child Protection Unit with similar units in the states were established to protect children against violence and sexual exploitation and abuse and children in conflict with the law. Procedures start with filing police report and referral of victims for medical treatment and lab tests by forensic specialists. Units have psychotherapists and social workers to provide psychosocial support to victims and to delinquents as well to re-qualify them to lead normal lives. The units also have close TV circuits to use during investigations, using state-of-the art equipment.

The psychosocial support offices out these units strive to render their services to victims and the accused. The office includes a group of highly trained police officers. Administrations of the units use the service of experts of psychology and sociology (Ph D holders). A training program has been prepared to all staff to ensure quality of work both at the treatment level and the awareness level.

The main duties of the unit include:

- Provision of psychological support to victims and their families with regular follow up visits and therapy sessions.
- Assessment and psychological therapy through deep case studies and follow up of qualification; the study of personal history, psychologically and socially.
- Raising awareness of the community about the importance of psychological health and the hazards threatening children through lectures, rallies, workshops and seminars.
- Organizing training courses on psychotherapy.

### **Smuggling and Abduction:**

In fulfilling its commitments under the UN Human Rights Commission decision of 1999, the Sudan has exerted relentless efforts to eliminate the phenomenon of abduction through the creation of the Committee for Eradication of the Abduction of Women and Children (CEWAC) referred to earlier in chapter one (under mechanisms of child protection). (CEWAC) received considerable support from the state, including financial resources, furnished building to carry out its work and more powers as per the last Presidential Decree. (CEWAC) has opened peace centers and made searching for abducted children one of its main objectives. (CEWAC) has a number of projects that contribute to the elimination of abduction and re-qualify abducted children and reintegrate them in their community.

A French organization (Arche de Zoe) attempted, under humanitarian work cover, to abduct 103 Sudanese and Chadian children from the Sudanese-Chadian borders in late 2007. The attempt, however, was aborted; and it was widely condemned as a crime and as clear violation of the rights of those children.

Immediate measures were taken and many visits were made to the crime scene in Chad. Visitors included HE the Minister of Social Affairs, MPs and NGOs. Assistance and support was provided to children and the incident was in the spotlight of international media. Popular rallies were organized allover the Sudan to condemn this crime.

The Sudan raised the issue with forums of the international community and UN agencies. The NCCW coordinated efforts in collaboration with UNICEF and the Red Cross for the return of the children to their families and the provision of psychosocial support to them. 11 children were returned to Sudan. Perpetrators were tried and convicted by a Chadian court but were soon released upon a pardon from the French Government. The NCCW is seeking to obtain damages from the organization to these children.

Within the context of challenging the phenomenon of using children in camel racing in the Gulf region agreement has been concluded on a joint program between NCCW, the Ministries of the interior in Sudan and UAE and UNICEF for the purpose re-qualification of these children and providing support for the payment of personal indemnities and the development of their local communities through the provision of health, educational and cultural services in collaboration with UAE, UNICEF and Qatar Charity Organization. Moreover, awareness and advocacy campaigns were organized in support of these children. The reintegration program for the children included the following activities:

- Child friendly clubs
- Case studies
- Camel racing children joining schools
- Camel racing children joining vocational training centers
- Child to child awareness campaigns
- Community awareness
- Radio programs
- Recreational activities
- Follow up of individual cases
- Registration of concerned children for individual indemnities
- Capacity building

The program has succeeded in returning all concerned children and the provision of health and education services to their respective communities. It can be safely said that this file has been closed.

### **Insult and Torture:**

Sudanese legislations have provided for the right of the child to not be subjected to torture, cruel, inhumane or degrading punishment. Reference has already been made to Articles incriminating those acts in the Child Act, 2010 (chapter on the civil rights and liberties) in addition to the provisions of the National Interim Constitution of the Republic of the Sudan, 2005 and the constitutions of southern Sudan and the states that ensure this right.

A number of activities have been organized to combat violence, including the establishment of database on causes of violence and ways of addressing it. In this context all studies on violence in Sudan have been revised and recommendations widely disseminated. A study has been conducted on violence in schools in 2005. In 2008 the national plan for combating violence in Sudan has been prepared (refer to item f of the theme of civil rights and liberties).

### **C- Child Victims of Harmful Social and Cultural Practices:**

## FGM/C

Sudan has a long experience on raising awareness of the community to abandon the FGM practice. Relentless efforts have been exerted by both official quarters and civil society organizations in this respect. These efforts have paid off, especially in enlightening society about the health and psychological hazards of FGM practice. The said efforts have also influenced trends of the public opinion about the harm and uselessness of the practice. However, the effect on the FGM practice itself still needs transformation in the approaches and means to make abandoning of FGM practice a collective and cohesive societal act not just a personal choice. There are successful experiences in this respect when the Sudanese society collectively abandoned the practices of face cutting (*shilukh*) and tattoo.

The FGM continued to be practiced at high rates (90% according to SMS 1999 – Save Mother Survey). However these rates dropped significantly as the SHHS (Sudanese Household Health Survey) 2006 revealed. According to this survey the rate dropped to 69.4% and the percentage of mothers wishing to practice FGM on their daughters was 53%. This means that more than half of the girls are facing this problem; which in turn means efforts must be maximized. Partners have agreed that a national strategy to eliminate FGM practice must be laid and all sectors must be committed to it. Looking into similar experiences around the world it appeared that it is possible to abandon harmful practices within a generation through positive rapid social transformation. In 2004 the NCCW developed a program to eliminate FGM practice in collaboration with UNICEF and CSOs. The national strategy for the elimination of FGM practice within a generation was issued in 2008 (the generation was 2008-2018). The strategy was to be implemented in collaboration between all partners, including government agencies, CSOs and international NGOs.

The following decisions have been taken to combat the FGM practice:

- The Sudan's Declaration on Safe Motherhood
- Decision of the Medical Council No 366, dated 27 August 2003 which stipulates "Doctors may not practice any act that is harmful or may be harmful to people, including all forms of FGM practice".
- Decision of the National Assembly No 29, dated 20 June 2007 which reads "draft necessary legislations that prevent FGM practice and all other harmful practices".
- Decision of the NCCW, dated 6 September 2007 which recommended adoption of the national strategy for the elimination of FGM practice within a generation. Other recommendations included targeting pre-school education as a mechanism to eliminate FGM practice; training teachers of kindergartens to deliver positive messages to families and children; disseminate awareness about the hazards of FGM practice; formation of coordination committees in the states to work with CSOs and national and international NGOs.

Sum up and say, in view of the current situation, and based on the fact that all partners have adopted the national strategy for the elimination of FGM practice within a generation, the program has managed to develop mechanisms for coordination of efforts

of partners, including UN agencies, government agencies at both national and state levels and CSOs according to the “positive rapid social transformation” approach to eliminate the FGM practice and to encourage society to abandon it.

**Child Responsibilities:**

Education policies in Sudan adopted the principles of open opportunities to all, gender equality, geographical balance in the provision of inputs, the nationality of curricula and continuous revision, development and improvement of curricula. Objectives of education, as outlined in the Planning and Organization of Education Act, 2001, include strengthening the spirit of nationhood and loyalty to the homeland, development of preparedness for cooperation, promulgation of the culture of peace, respect for cultural diversity, encouragement of brilliancy and capacity and skills building through the creation of training opportunities, achievement of comprehensive development and enhancing environment awareness of young people.

Within this framework education strategy aims to build an original educational system that links theoretical and applied subjects in all different levels of education; and to enlighten the child about his social and national duties to create the required balance in his personality with regards to the spiritual and medical needs of the body; to develop moral aspects and implant the spirit of love and cooperation. This would achieve sound social upbringing for positive social interaction between individuals and families and would enhance effective participation in the social life and would also enhance child capacity and responsibility towards his society, family, nation and Africa. This is clearly demonstrated in activities associated with educational curricula such tournaments and competitions between all schools and states of the Sudan and programs or reformation and re-qualification of street children and other similar programs targeting children in difficult circumstances.

The values implanted in a child by his family and community, and in view of cultural diversity of the Sudan, would him with the necessary knowledge to enhance his affiliation with his society, family, nation and continent.