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Conflict interrupts Health Service delivery in West Darfur, Sudan – Concern with partners overcoming challenges

Funded project:

*Strengthening Resilience for IDPs, Returnees and Host
Communities in West Darfur, Sudan*

Global Health Exchange Conference - Dublin

12th September 2019



Programme Objectives



The *overall objective* is to improve the living conditions of IDPs, returnees and local communities, by addressing the root causes of irregular and forced migration by:

- ***Strengthening local health systems***
 - to deliver a basic package of health services in West Darfur and to create a more conducive and sustainable living environment for host & displaced populations
- ***Strengthening governance capacity of states***
 - and local authorities for a well-functioning and sustainable health system;
- ***Improving access and quality of primary health care***
 - including nutrition services
- ***Creating a more participatory and inclusive health system through involvement of local communities***



□ **Specific Programme Objective: To improve the provision of basic health and nutrition services for vulnerable populations in West Darfur.**



Current humanitarian context in Sudan



42.6 million people in Sudan

- 8.5 million people in need of *humanitarian assistance* (USAID 2019)
- 5.7 million (USAID 2018) □ more than **1/3 increase**
- 2 to 2.3 million IDPs in need of humanitarian assistance □ 1.8 million in Darfur
- Currently 41% of the population lives in IDP camps or hard-to-reach areas, limiting access to essential *health* and *nutrition* services.
- The target group under this action is estimated at Kulbus Locality 112,340 and in Jebel Moon Locality 31,098 people.



Conflict interrupts health service delivery



1) Economic challenges:

- ☐ high inflation rates
- ☐ limited cash availability in the banks

2) Political upheaval:

- ☐ civil protest starting in Dec. 2018 led to ousting of yr. Al-Bashir regime in Apr. 2019
- ☐ restricted travel permission since Apr. 2019
- ☐ disputes btw. nomads& farmers at field sites
- ☐ **Attack on villages in Jebel Moon, Darfur (Feb '19) led to halting of Concern's field activities for a month**



Service delivery – despite challenges, ongoing:



- a) Capacity building training** for mother support groups & traditional birth attendants completed & health education provided by local partner (CDA)
- b) Renovation of LHA buildings** in Kulbus & Jebel Moon
- c) Outreach EPI** implemented **with SMoH staff**
- d) Medical supplies delivered:**
 - Concern registered with National Medical Supplies Fund (NMSF) online system with IMC
 - Purchased essential medicine from NMSF for the two targeted localities
- e) 11 health facilities operational again, providing essential PHC services**
- f) Increasing awareness & education on the National Health Insurance Fund**



Overcoming challenges - How did Concern & partners address the political & economic challenges?



- **Fuel crisis:** WFP released fuel for field operations, incl. CMAM activities;
- **Cash crisis:** engagement with suppliers & contractors with cash flows; organised joint trainings with IMC with the support of SMoH;
- **Improved coordination with SMoH, IMC, UNICEF and WHO** to stay on track to more effectively implement national MoH policy changes;
- Engaged with **MSF Sudan** for obtaining **medicines** in-country during **stock-outs** (approved by EUTF/WHO);
- Concern Sudan maintained a **cordial relationship and communication** with the **West Darfur State authorities** throughout;



Conflict breaks health systems...yet.....



- Concern Sudan remains committed to delivering on the EUTF project with SMoH, IMC and CDA partners;
- CMAM activities are now being integrated in the Health Facilities with the support of UNICEF;
- Plan is to complete remaining training and capacity building with LHA and SMoH staff;
- Preparation of Community Health Committees for sustainability by linking them to SMoH;
- Promoting National Health Insurance Fund/NHIF take-up in West Darfur to increase coverage





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**ENDING
EXTREME POVERTY
WHATEVER
IT TAKES**

Thank you for your attention

Franziska Clevers, on behalf of the Concern Sudan Team