In the making since 2014, UNAMID’s transition concept was consolidated in 2018 by the Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic review of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur. Endorsement by the United Nations Security Council resolution 2429 (2018) led to further definition of a two-pronged approach to peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Through an innovative whole-of-system concept for joint planning and implementation between UNAMID and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), the “State Liaison Functions” (SLF) contributed to galvanize the transition through an adaptive approach to a rapidly changing context.

DCAF’s ISSAT responded positively to a request from UNAMID to partner in carrying out a lesson identification on the support provided on rule of law (RoL) and human rights (HR) through the SLF. This project was implemented in collaboration with DROLSI, the UN Transitions Project (DCO-DPO-DPPA-UNDP), and OHCHR. Data collection included extensive interactions with stakeholders at UN headquarters and fieldwork interviews in Darfur and Khartoum.

The report, which is available on the DCAF-ISSAT website, includes:

- analysis of how the strategic and operating environment affected transition planning and the introduction of SLF programming on RoL and HR.
- identification of lessons, good practice, and innovation from the development of the SLF, and respective joint planning, implementation and coordination modalities by UNAMID and UNCT.
- analysis on the role of key UN entities/initiatives (including UNDP, the PBSO, the Transition Project, OHCHR), in contributing and enabling RoL and HR in Darfur, considering a sequenced approach with that of the SLF.
- recommendations for improvement of the SLF in upcoming phases of implementation.
- a suggested (reconstructed) Theory of Change for the SLF programmatic approach.

UN Deputy Secretary General, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed and UNAMID DJSR, Ms Anita Kiki Gbeho (center) inaugurate the Human Rights Center at El Fasher University, north Darfur. Construction of the Center was completed with UN State Liaison Functions (SLFs) programmatic funding from UNAMID under management of UNDP, in partnership with the University of El Fasher. | 28 October 2019 | Photo by Amin Ismail, UNAMID
The project comprised briefings on preliminary findings and recommendations, informing planning for the upcoming United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS), approved by UNSCR 2524 (2020). It further contributes through providing timely learning for other UN missions nearing transition planning (MONUSCO, MINUSMA, MINUSCA).

Findings and recommendations are relevant to intra-UN system learning on transition planning and implementation, as well as for improvement of the SLF mandate implementation modality. Based on these the UN Transition Project is in the process of producing a practice guidance note. In addition, in order to best assess the results of the SLF, a potential follow-on initiative has been foreseen in the format of a review mission to take place in late 2021.

Given the pertinence of the lessons to inform design thinking around continued support to Justice and Security and Human Rights in Darfur/Sudan, the target audience of the findings comprises a wide array of international actors, in addition to Sudan’s federal and Darfur state-level stakeholders.

Amongst these are: the United Nations Security Council; the UN Secretariat, including DPO, DPPA, OHCHR, and PBSO; UNDP and additional UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes; other UN peace operations; the African Union Peace and Security Council and the African Union Commission; the Government of Sudan; national stakeholders; and other international partners providing support to Sudan.

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ABOUT DCAF

DCAF - Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance is dedicated to making states and people safer through more effective and accountable security and justice. Since 2000, the Centre has facilitated, driven and shaped security sector reform (SSR) policy and programming around the world.

DCAF’s Foundation Council comprises 63 member states, the Canton of Geneva and six permanent observers. Active in over 70 countries, DCAF is internationally recognized as one of the world’s leading centres of excellence for security sector governance (SSG) and security sector reform (SSR). For more information please visit www.dcaf.ch

The International Security Sector Advisory Team (ISSAT) is a Department within DCAF. ISSAT was established in 2008 in response to the need to increase the capacity of the international community to support Security Sector Reform (SSR) processes, to enhance the effectiveness and quality of SSR programming, and to facilitate the coordination and coherence of international assistance for nationally driven SSR processes. ISSAT brings together 16 bilateral donors and seven multilateral actors active in supporting security and justice reforms.

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