A comparative analysis of IDPs and non-displaced in urban and peri-urban Darfur, Sudan to inform Durable Solutions
Background

In 2003, men, women and children were displaced from their homes and sought refuge from the conflict in nearby El Fasher. 15 years later, the majority of 1.6 million displaced Darfuris still live in camps and depend on humanitarian assistance with many falling short of meeting their basic needs.

The protracted displacement of IDPs in El Fasher and Darfur as a whole remains unsolved and long-term development perspectives and programmes are, as yet, only nascent.

The commitment of the government to address protracted displacement led to two area-based pilot projects promoting durable solutions in Darfur – one in projects in El Fasher, North Darfur (an urban context with a high presence of IDPs in urban camps).
Why did we invest in Urban Durable solutions analysis?

It have jointly agreed upon data set to inform:

- plans of the local authorities to locally integrate the two IDP camps
- inform the discussions on return
- inform programming across the the HDPN

• A piloting of DS analysis and joint DS planning that could be replicated in other Sudan contexts with displaced populations.
Results of the profiling study:

• A comprehensive **profile** of IDPs residing in Abu Shouk and El Salaam IDP camps;

• An understanding of IDPs’ **vulnerabilities, coping mechanisms & capacities** in comparison to the nondisplaced in peri–urban and urban areas;

• Insight into IDPs’ perceptions on solutions and their future settlement intentions;
COORDINATION PLATFORM

FEDERAL AUTHORITIES
- Sudanese Government’s National Committee on Durable Solutions
- Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), federal office
- Voluntary Return and Reintegration Commission (VRRRC)
- Central Statistics Bureau

THE WORLD BANK AND UN COUNTRY TEAM
represented by the Durable Solutions Working Group, including:
- UN-Habitat
- UNHCR
- UNICEF
- UNDP
- OCHA
- WFP
- IOM
- INGO Steering Committee
- Donor representation: DFID and SDC

COMMUNITIES ENGAGING IN THE PROFILING

The voices of the IDPs were an integral part of the profiling process. It was important to make sure the IDP communities understood the process and were willing to participate.

200 sheiks representing the various ethnic groups, women’s group and youth representatives took part in discussions to decide on how communicating with the communities should be carried out. IDP camp representatives also took part in workshops to select survey indicators. When it came to conducting the actual exercise, elders and youth representatives furthermore helped finding enumerators representing the IDP community.
What was the approach used?

Approach/tools:

- Adopted the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons as an analytical framework.

- Used the *Interagency indicators* operationalising the IASC Framework (http://inform-durablesolutions-idp.org/)

- Sample based HH survey stratified by IDPs and non-IDPs
How did we set out to do it?

1. Population profile of IDPs:
   - displacement history,
   - current conditions (incl. vulnerabilities, coping mechanisms & capacities)
   - Intentions

2. Comparative approach:
   Have IDPs in the camps have any assistance or protection needs that are different than those of the residents in peri-urban and urban El Fasher? I.e. What are key obstacles to local integration?

3. Urban/area analysis: To understand El Fasher city’s capacity to integrate the camp population.
What was the approach used?
Let’s zoom into 2 elements: Stratification & urban analysis
IDP population profile vs. non-IDPs

Four strata/categories were compared:
- The two IDP camps
- El Fasher city
- El Fasher peri-urban

Aim of comparative analysis: look at whether hardships are a result of IDPs’ displacement or development challenges shared with non-displaced communities.

Peri-urban strata: assumed to share similarities with IDPs and therefore taken as a separate strata

Learning:
Comparative approach in informing area based response value when looking at local integration and protracted displacement.
Also measured pre displaced – but was not useful due to the protracted nature of displacement.
Urban analysis looked at urban plans for El Fasher including:

- availability and use of land,
- availability of services and infrastructure.

The urban analysis team worked directly with the State Ministry of Physical Planning and Public Utilities (SMPPPU) and the Housing Fund of North Darfur State.

**Learning:**
The combination of population access to services with capacity of services to address the population needs, has great value to local authorities and urban planning.

Useful to highlight availability but to really understand access to services any future analysis needs to look at functional / quality.
What did this analysis tell us?

- IDPs in camps have progressed towards solutions, given that they share many similarities with non-displaced population groups;

- Displacement related obstacles to DS linked to land;

- Poverty is deeper among IDPs and an obstacle to solutions, but also being a widespread problem for all communities;

- Location of IDP camps is decisive for accessing services, and decreased access is seen, just as in the peri-urban areas.

How is it being used?

- Is providing valuable and rich joint evidence base to guide discussions with integration policy and programming in El Fasher- particularly with regards to the potential relocating of the camps.

- The evidence base has also fed into national level to inform the development of the Durable Solutions Strategy.