

FEBRUARY - APRIL 2025

Introduction

It's been some time since our last newsletter and much has changed in the humanitarian landscape since. The recent suspension of U.S. humanitarian aid has sent shockwaves through the sector, bringing both deep challenges and a rare opportunity for reflection and transformation.

At *Roots & Transition*, we see this moment not as a pause but as a turning point. One that demands we reaffirm who we are, what we stand for, and how we move forward, together.



A Turning Point for Humanitarian Aid: Standing Rooted, Moving Forward

The current crisis underscores what many have long known: our systems must change. The era of top-down humanitarian aid is no longer viable, nor ethical. As resources become increasingly scarce, we are reminded that the dignity, rights, and priorities of crisis-affected populations must remain at the heart of everything we do. For *Roots & Transition*, this is a reaffirmation of our identity. The “Roots” speak to our foundation: humanity, justice, and deep proximity to the communities we serve. “Transition” reflects our ability to evolve, adapt, and act with agility in uncertain and shifting contexts.

This moment calls for courage. Not just to respond to the immediate crisis, but to reimagine how we operate. It calls on all humanitarian actors to break down institutional silos, rethink operational models, and embrace genuine collaboration and solidarity.

→ Read more: [Aid cuts shut down critical services for Sudanese refugees in Chad](#)

What must change?

Localisation must become the norm, not the exception. Local organisations are closest to the issues and best positioned to lead. It's time to empower them not just as implementers, but as strategic partners and decision-makers.

Shared systems must replace duplicated structures. We must rethink logistics, pool resources, and adopt models that reduce costs, environmental impact, and inefficiencies.

We must choose trust over control. International actors need to step back where appropriate: reducing parallel supply chains, scaling down overhead-heavy operations, and investing in the capacities of national and grassroots partners.

At *Roots & Transition*, we remain committed to walking this path with you, anchored in solidarity, and moving forward purposefully.



Project Updates



Sudan

Protecting Communities Affected by Forced Displacement in Sudan

- Initiation of coordination mechanisms with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) Partners; UN agencies; humanitarian clusters, and relevant political bodies
- Analysis of Training Needs Assessment
- Development of training module frameworks for frontline CSOs
- Setup of communication and project management systems to ensure smooth implementation

This project underscores our commitment. Rather than creating parallel structures, we are:

- Supporting local CSOs to lead efforts in identifying and responding to trafficking risks
- Focusing on community-based actors to ensure responses are context-specific and culturally grounded
- Prioritizing capacity building and partnership

Looking Ahead:

Sudan continues to grapple with one of the world's most severe internal displacement crises, with over 14 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), placing women, girls, boys, and persons with disabilities at heightened risk of trafficking, exploitation, and abuse.

While the operational environment remains complex—affected by ongoing insecurity, economic instability, and rising community tensions—there are still viable opportunities for impactful interventions. The strength of local civil society networks remains a key asset for community-based engagement. Although recent developments in Port Sudan have presented new logistical and coordination challenges, the city continues to serve as the primary hub for humanitarian operations and strategic project oversight across the country.

- Finalize training modules tailored to the needs of local CSOs
- Conduct capacity-strengthening workshops on victim identification, survivor support, and referral systems
- Strengthen community outreach and awareness activities to reduce trafficking risks in displacement settings
- Deepen coordination with government stakeholders and protection clusters
- Begin monitoring and evaluation activities to ensure we remain responsive and adaptive



Lake Chad Basin

Human trafficking in Sudan cannot be addressed in isolation. The country sits at the crossroads of regional displacement, conflict, and economic instability, dynamics that also deeply affect the Lake Chad Basin, including parts of Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, and Niger.

This broader region faces similar challenges: mass displacement, weak protection systems, porous borders, and increasing trafficking risks, particularly for women, girls, and persons with disabilities. As populations move across regions in search of safety, the need for coordinated, cross-border, and localised protection systems becomes even more urgent.

Our work in Sudan aligns with a wider regional effort to:

- Strengthen CSO-led protection responses in fragile contexts
- Enhance referral pathways and cooperation across humanitarian and state actors
- Build resilient, locally rooted systems that can respond to trafficking risks before, during, and after displacement



source: [UNOCHA \(reference map- 2021\)](#)

Chad & Cameroon: DIMS II Pilot Paves Way for Civil Society Leadership in Fragile Areas

Following the successful rollout of Phase I - which mapped and accredited 970 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) across the region - Phase II is set to deliver a digital platform to strengthen CSO coordination, visibility, and action in fragile areas.

This targeted pilot will offer CSOs tools to:

- self-assess organizational capacity
- collaborate across borders
- engage more effectively in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus.

Key components of the pilot include:

- a private digital portal for CSOs to evaluate needs and access capacity-strengthening resources
- public portal for donors, INGOs, and other partners to view CSO profiles, enabling better coordination and funding outreach
- creation of physical hubs and an online business center to anchor the digital system with real-world access
- a funding mechanism to strengthen grassroots response and leadership

“IF YOU WANT TO GO FAST, GO ALONE.

IF YOU WANT TO GO FAR, GO TOGETHER”