

ARC

African Relief Committee



# ANNUAL REPORT

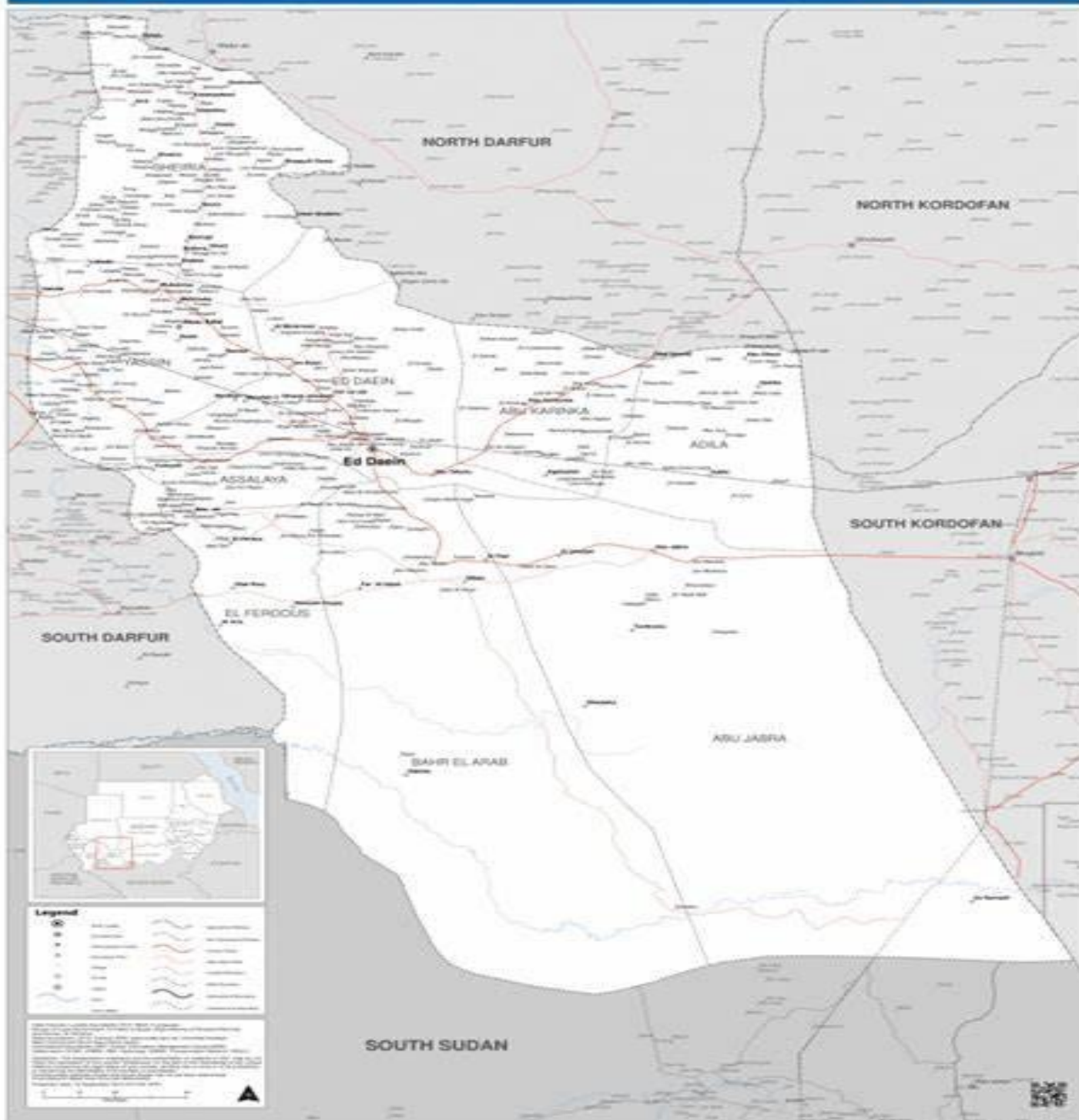
2023

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**EAST DARFUR ADMINISTRATIVE MAP**

# ARC NGO ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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## Introduction to ARC NGO Annual Report 2023

Welcome to African Relief Committee (ARC) Annual Report for 2023. This report highlights our unwavering commitment to humanitarian aid and sustainable development across Sudan. Over the past year, ARC has continued to make significant strides in improving the lives of vulnerable communities through our diverse programs and initiatives. We are proud to share our achievements, reflect on the challenges we faced, and outline our goals for the future.

ARC compiles comprehensive annual report. This document summarizes achievements, challenges, financial data, and impact. It was shared with donors, government agencies, and the public.

### Acknowledgments

*We extend our deepest gratitude to our incredible donors, partners, staff, and beneficiaries. Your unwavering support and contributions has been the cornerstone of our success and progress.*

*To Our Donors: Your generosity and commitment to our cause have empowered us to make a significant impact in the communities we serve. Your belief in our mission fuels our determination to create lasting change. Thank you for your trust and support.*

*To Our Partners: Your collaboration and shared vision have been instrumental in driving our initiatives forward. Together, we have achieved milestones that would have been impossible alone. Thank you for your partnership and dedication.*

*To Our Staff: Your hard work, passion, and resilience are the heart of our organization. Your tireless efforts and unwavering dedication inspire us every day. Thank you for your commitment and excellence.*

*To Our Beneficiaries: Your courage and strength motivate us to strive for a better future. Your stories of resilience and hope remind us why we do what we do. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your journey.*

*Together, we are making a difference. Thank you for being a part of our mission and for your continued support.*

*With heartfelt gratitude,*

  
Hafez MORSAL



**Hafez MORSAL**

**Senior Program Manager**

## Message from the Country Director

*A brief overview of the year's achievements, challenges, and Way forwards.*

***Dear Friends and Supporters,***

*As we reflect on 2023, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the progress we have made. This year, ARC successfully implemented numerous projects that have positively impacted thousands of lives. From expanding our child protection programs to launching new vocational training initiatives for women, our efforts have been both impactful and transformative.*

*However, the journey was not without its challenges. Political instability in some regions and logistical hurdles posed significant obstacles. Despite these difficulties, our dedicated team and resilient communities have shown remarkable perseverance and adaptability.*

*Looking ahead, we are committed to deepening our impact and expanding our reach. Our goals for the coming year include enhancing our shelter construction projects, strengthening our monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and fostering more robust partnerships with INGOs, UN Agencies and Multi-donors. Together, we will continue to build a brighter, more sustainable future for all.*

*Thank you for your unwavering support.*

*Sincerely,*



**Saifadine Dahab Yassin**

**Country Director -ARC**

## Executive Summary

This report provides the overall achievements of ARC from January to December 2023 which contributed significantly to the status of targeted beneficiaries including vulnerable IDPs and host communities at its operations areas several states of Sudan.

ARC interventions in 2023 were focused, South Darfur, West Darfur, Central Darfur and East Darfur State with support and contribution from its donors.

African Relief Committee addressed the humanitarian needs in various sectors and has reached almost 722,497 most affected and vulnerable persons with humanitarian assistance services across 4 sub-offices, worth almost \$ 5,150,000.00

Year	Program Costs (Health, Nutrition, WASH, Protection,	Administrative & Support Costs	Total Annual Budget (USD)	Locations Covered
2022	1,250,000	250,000	1,500,000.00	East Darfur, West Darfur, North Darfur
2023	1,400,000	300,000	1,700,000.00	East Darfur, South Darfur, West Darfur, North Darfur
2024	1,600,000	350,000	1,950,000.00	East Darfur, South Darfur, West Darfur, North Darfur
	<b>Total</b>		<b>5,150,000.00</b>	

## ARC Vision & Mission Statement

ARC has a clear mission and vision: Reaffirming its commitment to supporting vulnerable groups, affected displaced communities and ensuring accessible services for all.

**Mission Statement:** ARC emphasizes its commitment to providing high-quality humanitarian services and excellent response to people of concerns across various locations in Sudan.

**Vision:** ARC's vision is to be the leading national humanitarian agency in Sudan, providing exceptional humanitarian experiences and impact able interventions.

## Why Our Mission is Important

Countless Children, men and women who affected by recent military conflicts were displaced losing their essential life needs & Shelters and basic services or left with lasting invisible wounds, including depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and debilitating brain trauma.

Lack in core basic needs of life and trauma healing will lose and quality of those lives might be profoundly altered.

The numbers speak for themselves, numbers of victims is significant. With support of our community, of donors and team members, we give a voice to those needs and empower victims to begin the journey to recovery.

## **ARC's core values:**

ARC, as humanitarian agency, is guided by core values that include freedom, solidarity, mutual respect, and environmental awareness. It actively supports civil rights, fights against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and upholds the principles of democracy, civil liberty, and equality

### **Service:**

We serve and collaborate with humility, dignity, and respect.

### **Integrity:**

We are honest, transparent, and accountable.

### **Loyalty:**

We passionately commit to our mission and to each other.

### **Fun:**

We cultivate joy and belonging within our team and in our service to others.

### **Innovation:**

We have the courage to challenge the status quo and vigorously debate ideas in the pursuit of excellence.

## **Operational Context:**

The humanitarian situation in Sudan required continued support, especially within sixth states where African Relief Committee-ARC operated in 2023. The population who was affected by the crisis after 15 April 2023 where the largest number of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The affected population faced complex and deeply interconnected issues including environmental degradation, protection crisis on multiple fronts, scarcity of water, and escalating conflicts, in addition to pervasive poverty, lack of access to markets, and high unemployment rates.

As an immediate consequence, the targeted beneficiaries are enmeshed in a challenging matrix of needs.

With continued clashes, large numbers of civilians have been forced to flee homes including people who were already internally displaced and refugees from other countries who had sought safety in Sudan.

Furthermore, affected people were either displaced inside the country or fled as refugees into neighbouring countries, and vulnerable populations were disproportionately affected by forced displacement.

They have faced a lack of resources and mobility to flee to safety, leaving them stranded in conflict zones or exposed to further danger during their journey. The displacement had led to the loss of homes, livelihoods, and social support networks, exacerbating vulnerability

## Scope of programs:

ARC scope of programs and operations structured outline based on the key areas we serve:

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Food Security & Livelihoods	Emergency Shelter /Non-Food Items
Health Care/Nutrition	General Protection
Child Protection	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
Gender & GBV related	Women & Youth engagement

## ARC Achievements'

In 2023, African Relief Committee-ARC through the vital efforts of its dedicated staff, successfully implemented 16 projects, reaching 322,497 individuals affected by war and floods across Sudan. Despite the significant challenges facing humanitarian actors during this critical period, ARC's active and collaborative teamwork ensured that over %90 of our planned response was achieved. Our interventions had a profound impact on the target communities, particularly in hard-to reach areas.

The commitment and resilience of our staff were instrumental in delivering essential services and support, significantly enhancing the well-being and recovery of those affected by the crises. ARC's work continues to reflect our unwavering dedication to alleviating human suffering and promoting sustainable development in Sudan.

ARC's integrated emergency response enhanced the provision of lifesaving, inclusive, safe, and dignified protection services, including SGBV and PSS and improved access to and utilization of inclusive, safe and gender-sensitive WASH services in the various conflict-affected areas in Sudan. The established and trained community-based protection networks by ARC managed to identify several protection concerns within their communities and addressed them through their vital roles in coordination with ARC and other protection actors and community leaders. Furthermore, the community-based protection networks contributed to delivering several protection awareness sessions for the local communities which contributed positively to the mitigation of protection risks within the communities.

ARC's interventions contributed to enhancing the food security and nutrition status of vulnerable groups including internally displaced people, refugees and affected host communities through increased agricultural production. ARC contributed to restoring and improving the food security of vulnerable small farming people and contributed to restoring crop and livestock production through the mitigation of conflict between farmers and pastoralists over access to natural resources.

ARC's capacity-building program intervention contributed to strengthening the roles and capacity of civil society organizations and community-based organizations that played a key role in conflict mitigation and promotion of conflict resolution transformation. The Women & Youth groups trained by ARC played significant roles, supporting peace building through various ways of communication approaches which changed the negative phenomenon to positive one. This contributed to changing some of the negative roles within their communities into positive ones.

ARC as CWG member & JMMI facilitated the process of Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance to conflict-affected IDPs and Individuals contributed to meeting their basic needs and assisting them in protecting and re-establishing their livelihoods.

## Coordination & Partnerships:

ARC, has a long history of being involved in humanitarian work, coordination, partnerships and engaged in networking with various stakeholders in Sudan.

### **Under are some details:**

**UN Agencies:** ARC can collaborate with United Nations agencies such as UNICEF, UNHCR, FAO, UNFPA, UNDP, WFP and OCHA. These partnerships facilitated resource sharing, joint assessments, and coordinated responses.

**INGOs:** ARC established connections with INGOs like CIS, WV, ALIGHT, DRC, NRC Save the Children, and CRS. These partnerships enable knowledge exchange, capacity-building and joint advocacy efforts.

**NNGOs:** ARC worked closely with local NNGOs operating in Sudan (SDPO, OHO, UDC,...etc.). These partnerships enhance community engagement, localization, and context-specific interventions.

**CBOs:** Collaborated with Community Based-organizations(CBOs) allows ARC to tap into grass-roots networks, community-based initiatives, and local expertise. Examples include women's groups, youth associations, and community development organizations.

**Humanitarian inter-cluster Sudan:** ARC engaged with cluster leads in multi-sectorial humanitarian clusters (FSL, Health, Nutrition, WASH, ES/NFIs and Protection). These clusters facilitate coordination, information sharing, and joint planning.

ARC believes good coordination, partnerships and effective networking involves active participation, regular communication, and a commitment to shared goals is crucial to humanitarian role. ARC's involvement contributed to more holistic and impactful humanitarian response in Sudan.

In 2023, ARC adopted several coordination mechanisms, working closely with humanitarian partners, government and line-counterparts, stakeholders and targeted population throughout program cycle management.

This collaboration enabled ARC to deliver life-saving emergency responses to affected IDPs and host communities while fully integrating protection and gender mainstreaming principles, resulting in high-performance, accountable programming. ARC is an active member of several sectors, including Shelters/NFIs, Protection, Food Security & Livelihoods, and the Cash Working Group. Since the onset of the war, ARC has been a positive contributor to these clusters.

ARC advocated for establishing Al-Manara New IDPs Camp-East Darfur with collaboration of Humanitarian agencies, HAC, within coordination Forum under UNOCHA's leadership to relocate new IDPs in gathering sites and improve responses to their needs and strengthen humanitarian assistance.

Enhancing high level of coordination and communication with Multi-donors and continued focusing on finding gaps, assessing needs and fundraising to responses for critical situations of people of concerns.

Despite challenges posed by erupted of Sudanese war in 15 April 2023 and on-going, ARC has facilitated active participation, coordination and External /internal communication to maintain operational effectiveness.

## **ARC's Risk Assessment Process.**

ARC's risk assessment process is a comprehensive approach designed to ensure the safety and well-being of beneficiaries, staff, and assets. Here's an overview of the key steps involved:

### **1. Context Analysis and Actor Mapping**

**Understanding the Environment:** Assessing the local context, including political, social, and economic factors.

**Identifying Key Actors:** Mapping out all relevant stakeholders, including local authorities, community leaders, and other NGOs.

### **2. Threat Identification**

**Types of Threats:** Identifying potential threats such as violence, conflict, natural hazards, health issues, and political interference.

**Vulnerability Assessment:** Evaluating how ARC's operations, staff, and beneficiaries might be vulnerable to these threats.

### **3. Risk Analysis**

**Likelihood and Impact:** Analysing the probability and potential impact of identified threats using a risk matrix.

**Risk Threshold:** Determining ARC's threshold for acceptable risk based on organizational capacity and the critical nature of the programs.

### **4. Mitigation Measures**

**Security Strategies:** Implementing strategies such as acceptance, protection, and deterrence to mitigate identified risks.

**Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs):** Developing SOPs for various scenarios, including travel safety, office security, and emergency response.

### **5. Continuous Monitoring and Re-evaluation**

**Regular Updates:** Continuously re-evaluating risks and updating the risk assessment to reflect changes in the environment.

**Documentation:** Keeping detailed records of the risk assessment process, key findings, and mitigation measures.

### **6. Staff Training and Awareness**

**Training Programs:** Providing regular training to staff on risk assessment, security protocols, and emergency procedures.

**Guidance and Support:** Offering guidance on interpreting risk levels and implementing appropriate measures.

This structured approach helps ARC to proactively manage risks and ensure the safety and effectiveness of its programs.

## **ARC handles political interference risks**

ARC employs a multi-faceted approach to manage and mitigate political interference risks. Here are the key strategies:

### 1. Contextual Understanding and Intelligence Gathering

**Socio-Political Analysis:** Conducting thorough analyses of the political landscape to understand potential sources of interference.

**Stakeholder Mapping:** Identifying key political actors, their interests, and their influence on ARC's operations.

### 2. Engagement and Relationship Building

**Local Partnerships:** Building strong relationships with local authorities, community leaders, and other stakeholders to foster trust and cooperation.

**Advocacy and Dialogue:** Engaging in continuous dialogue with political actors to advocate for humanitarian principles and negotiate access.

### 3. Operational Strategies

**Neutrality and Impartiality:** Ensuring that ARC's operations are perceived as neutral and impartial to avoid being drawn into political conflicts.

**Decentralized Decision-Making:** Empowering local teams to make decisions based on real-time assessments of the political environment.

### 4. Risk Mitigation Measures

**Security Protocols:** Implementing robust security measures to protect staff and assets from political threats.

**Contingency Planning:** Developing contingency plans for various political scenarios, including evacuation plans and alternative operational strategies.

### 5. Training and Capacity Building

**Staff Training:** Providing regular training to staff on political risk management, including how to navigate complex political environments.

**Scenario Planning:** Conducting scenario planning exercises to prepare staff for potential political interference situations.

### 6. Monitoring and Adaptation

**Continuous Monitoring:** Keeping a close watch on the political situation and adapting strategies as needed.

**Feedback Mechanisms:** Establishing mechanisms for staff and beneficiaries to report political interference and other concerns.

By implementing these strategies, ARC aims to minimize the impact of political interference on its operations and ensure the safety and well-being of its beneficiaries and staff.

## ARC handle situations where political actors demand preferential treatment:

ARC handles situations where political actors demand preferential treatment with a combination of principled approaches and practical strategies to maintain its neutrality and integrity. Here are the key steps involved:

### 1. Adherence to Humanitarian Principles

**Neutrality and Impartiality:** ARC strictly adheres to the principles of neutrality and impartiality, ensuring that aid is provided based on need alone, without favoritism.

**Clear Communication:** Communicating these principles clearly to all stakeholders, including political actors, to set expectations from the outset.

### 2. Engagement and Dialogue

**Constructive Dialogue:** Engaging in open and constructive dialogue with political actors to explain ARC's mandate and the importance of impartial aid distribution.

**Advocacy:** Advocating for the humanitarian principles and the negative consequences of preferential treatment on the affected communities.

### 3. Policy and Protocols

**Strict Policies:** Implementing strict policies against preferential treatment and ensuring all staff are aware of and adhere to these policies.

**Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs):** Developing SOPs for handling demands for preferential treatment, including escalation procedures.

### 4. Training and Capacity Building

**Staff Training:** Providing regular training to staff on how to handle demands for preferential treatment and how to communicate ARC's principles effectively.

**Scenario Planning:** Conducting scenario planning exercises to prepare staff for potential situations involving political interference<sup>2</sup>.

### 5. Monitoring and Accountability

**Incident Reporting:** Establishing robust mechanisms for reporting and documenting incidents of political interference or demands for preferential treatment.

**Accountability Measures:** Implementing accountability measures to ensure that any breaches of policy are addressed promptly and appropriately.

### 6. Risk Mitigation

**Risk Assessment:** Continuously assessing the risk of political interference and updating risk management plans accordingly.

**Contingency Planning:** Developing contingency plans to ensure that operations can continue even in the face of political pressure.

By maintaining a firm stance on neutrality and impartiality, engaging in proactive dialogue, and having robust policies and training in place, ARC effectively manages and mitigates the risks associated with demands for preferential treatment.

## Monitoring & Evaluation:

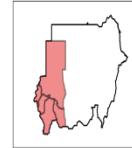
ARC adopted community participation as a key aspect throughout the project's implementation.

The individuals who are directly affected by the project – host community members and internally displaced persons (IDPs) – were actively involved in daily monitoring.

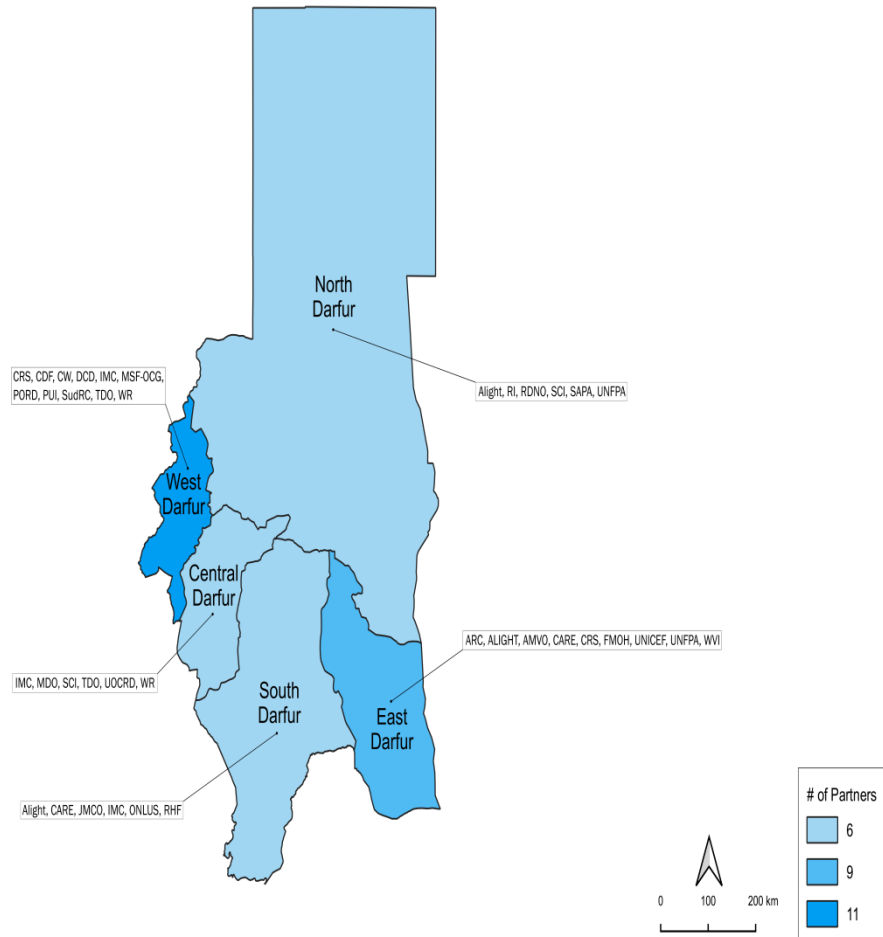
Their insights, feedback, and observations played a vital role in shaping project activities and ensuring they align with the needs and expectations of the communities we serve.

ARC employed participatory appraisal methods and community mapping. These approaches helped ARC to build a holistic understanding of the community's needs and resources.

Through the completed projects, ARC leveraged its existing M&E mechanisms and reported on results at various stages. At the outset, ARC conducted several assessments and established the starting point for project implementation. These assessments included data collection on beneficiary demographics and conditions.



Organization	Acronym
African Relief Committee	ARC
ALIGHT	Alight
Al-Manar Voluntary Organization	AMVO
CARE International	CARE
Catholic Relief Services	CRS
Concern Worldwide	CW
Community for Development Foundation	CDF
Al Dar for Community Building	DCD
EMERGENCY NGO ONLUS	ONLUS
International Medical Corps	IMC
Jabal Marra Charity Organization for Rural Development	JMCO
Mercy house for Relief and Development Organization	MDO
Medecins Sans Frontières - Switzerland	MSF-OCG
Peace Organization for Rural Development	PORD
Premiere Urgence Internationale	PUI
Relief International	RI
Rufaïda Health Foundation	RHF
Rural Development Network	RDN
Save the Children International	SCI
Federal Ministry of Health	FMOH
Sudanes American Physicians Association	SAPA
Sudanes Red Crescent Society	SudRC
The Alliance for International Medical Action	ALIMA
Trust Rehabilitation & Development Organization	TDO
United Nations Children's Fund	UNICEF
United Nations Population Fund	UNFPA
United organizations charity for relief and development	UOCDR
World Relief	WR
World Vision International	WVI



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