

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2025



From Crisis to Resilience: Strengthening Protection Systems in Sudan

Introduction - A Wounded World, A Deepening Crisis

Sudan continues to face one of the world's most severe humanitarian crises. *Ongoing conflict, mass displacement, economic collapse, and shrinking access to basic services have dramatically increased protection risks for vulnerable populations.* Women, girls; boys children, displaced families, and migrants remain highly exposed to violence, neglect, exploitation and abuse, particularly along displacement and migration routes.

One year after the launch of this initiative, Roots & Transition remains committed to strengthening local protection responses in an increasingly wounded world. What began as a focus on awareness-raising and capacity strengthening has evolved into a broader effort to reinforce protection systems and support Sudanese civil society actors at the frontlines of response.

What Have We Done Since September?

Since the August workshop in Port Sudan, our work has focused on consolidating learning outcomes and supporting local actors to translate skills into structured, actionable strategies.

Key areas of progress include:

- Continued engagement with civil society organizations (CSOs) across multiple Sudanese states to reinforce protection knowledge and support its application in practice;
- Development of a draft agenda and learning framework for a three-day, in-person capacity-strengthening workshop, focused on protection principles, protection mainstreaming, and protection of civilians in emergencies;
- Ongoing analysis of project progress and evolving protection risks to ensure activities remain responsive to a rapidly changing context;
- Review and update of Sudan-specific data related to displacement, exploitation risks, and service availability, ensuring evidence-based planning.

This phase has emphasized adaptability, recognizing that effective protection work in Sudan requires continuous reassessment and close engagement with local realities.



Beyond Training: Strengthening Protection Systems

While training remains essential, Roots & Transition has deliberately shifted toward **strengthening organizational and institutional capacities needed for sustained impact.**

Current efforts include:

- Initiating mapping and partner identification across seven states, in close coordination with the Protection Cluster and CSO partners;
- Laying the groundwork for coordinated survivor support frameworks, including referral pathways and case management processes;
- Supporting CSOs in translating protection needs into coherent project frameworks aligned with humanitarian coordination mechanisms;
- Promoting participatory, feedback-oriented approaches to ensure relevance and ownership by local actors.



By investing in system strengthening rather than isolated interventions, the project aims to improve access to protection and assistance services for victims of violence, neglect, exploitation and abuse across Sudan.

Strategic Partnerships

Partnership and coordination remain central to effective protection work. Since September, Roots & Transition has continued to **strengthen collaboration with national and international partners**, including:

- Ongoing cooperation with CAFA and engagement with Sudanese civil society actors across several states;
- Strategic collaboration with eLiberare to explore joint approaches to combating abuse and exploitation;
- Alignment with Protection Cluster principles to support survivor-centered, coordinated responses.

These partnerships help ensure that local initiatives are embedded within broader protection systems, enhancing their reach, coherence, and sustainability.



Looking Ahead: Towards 2026 in a Wounded World

Our wish for 2026: locally led protection systems that uphold dignity, even in a wounded world

As we look toward 2026, the global landscape remains marked by conflict, displacement, and growing inequalities. In this wounded world, strengthening locally led protection systems is not only a necessity, but a responsibility.

The next phase of our work will focus on:

- Delivering the planned three-day capacity-strengthening workshop in Kassala as both a learning space and a pilot for future initiatives;
- Advancing coordinated referral mechanisms and protection frameworks across mapped states;
- Continuing context analysis and adaptive planning to remain responsive to emerging risks;
- Connecting with local actors and gathering information related to exploitation awareness for our campaign;
- Using feedback and lessons learned to refine future training formats and protection initiatives.

These efforts aim to move beyond short-term responses toward more coherent, sustainable protection systems led by Sudanese actors.

In contexts where systems are under immense strain, ***empowering local actors is essential***.

By investing in organizational capacity, strategic coordination, and locally driven solutions, Roots & Transition remains committed to supporting Sudanese communities in preventing violence, neglect exploitation, protecting the vulnerable, and advancing pathways toward safety, dignity, and hope, even in a wounded world. We share the hope that 2026 will mark the return of peace to Sudan.

