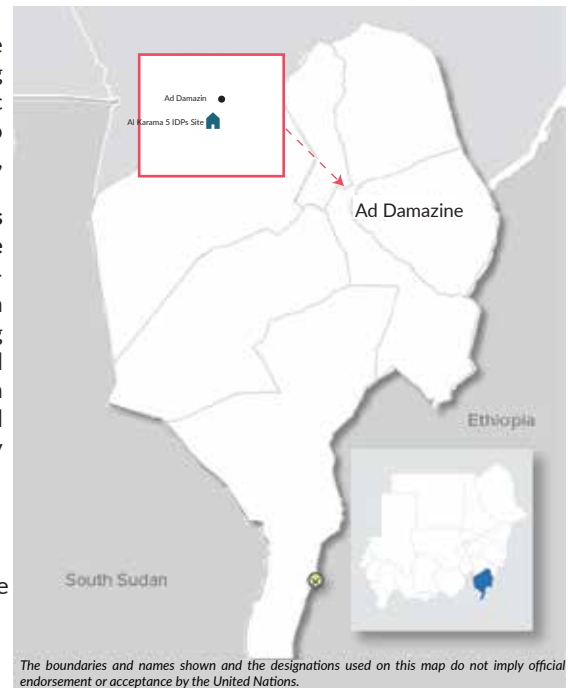


Site Overview:

Al Karama 5 hosts Sudanese returnees (former refugees) from Maban Refugee Camp in South Sudan. Most returnees reported leaving under highly concerning circumstances, driven by reduced humanitarian assistance, lack of access to basic services, and pressure to repatriate. The return journey exposed individuals to significant risks, including unsafe border crossings, exposure to active fighting, health threats, and loss of livelihoods.

The site is located in Ed Damazin locality, Blue Nile State, and **currently receives site management support from ACTED, which is expected to conclude by June 2026.** The potential cessation of support poses serious risks to site level coordination and service delivery. Living conditions remain challenging, with major gaps in shelter, wash, and education services. Protection risks are high due to ongoing insecurity, limited lighting, family separation, and increased exposure of women and children to harm and child marriage and child labour. Most households rely on shelters constructed from locally available materials, while access to safe water and adequate sanitation remains insufficient. Site level coordination is currently conducted on a monthly basis.



Site Population:

The site is currently open and population trend is increasing with a fair overall site condition



Year Established
2025



Total Households
4,795



Total Population
45,987

Population Profile :



Males
19,712



Females
5,084



Children
16,924



Older Persons
1,484



PSNs
2,310



UASC
473



Female headed Household
2,816



Site management and community governance:

The presence of a dedicated site management actor, **ACTED**, has significantly strengthened coordination at the site, particularly in relation to multisectoral service delivery and referral pathways. Site management has facilitated engagement between humanitarian actors and community structures, contributing to improved identification of needs and referral of protection cases. However, resource and coverage constraints continue to limit the scale and consistency of service provision.

Community participation is organised through recognised community leaders (Sheikhs), who play a central role in representation and distribution processes. While this structure enables communication and mobilisation at community level, reliance on a limited number of male representatives has contributed to inclusion gaps, particularly for women and vulnerable individuals who are not prioritised within existing selection mechanisms.



Site environment and safety:















The site environment presents number of safety and dignity concerns, particularly for women and children. Sanitation facilities are located at a distance from shelters. Women face protection risks linked to poorly located showers despite segregated latrines, resulting in lack of privacy, reduced use, particularly at night and increasing protection risks. Fire hazards are present due to cooking practices inside shelters. Road accessibility during the rainy season is a major concern and may affect both humanitarian access and service delivery. IDPs also require plastic sheeting in advance of the rainy season to support emergency shelter reinforcement and reduce exposure to weather-related risks.



Key Protection Concerns:

Returnees face multiple intersecting protection risks, with lack of civil documentation including birth certificates identified as the most critical barrier to accessing services, education, and livelihoods. High levels of child labour, and exploitative working conditions for women were reported, driven by economic precarity and reduced assistance. Significant gaps in maternal health services, including cases of denial of emergency care at hospital due to inability to pay, pose serious protection risks. Barriers to education equivalency may exclude youth from higher education and employment, while family separation, and limited coverage of assistance—such as dignity kits—further exacerbate vulnerability. Many returnees remain unable to return to areas of origin due to insecurity and lack of services, resulting in prolonged displacement.

Service status by cluster:

Cluster	Key Status	Main Gap	Overall Status
 Health	Functioning through mobile clinic by PANCARE	All working through the day time (4 days a week)/ no ambulance	 Fair
 WASH	Available provided by UNICEF fund through ACTED	<p>Insufficient Water Supply: The daily amount of water available is not adequate to meet the needs of the camp population.</p> <p>Lack of Hygiene Supplies: There is no regular distribution of soap, affecting basic hygiene practices among residents. Water tap exist.</p> <p>Sanitation Facilities in Poor Condition: The camp has 120 latrines, of which 40 are not functioning. Gender separated latrines and showers with solar lights provided. These latrines either require rehabilitation or desludging, severely limiting access to functional sanitation facilities.</p>	 Fair
 Shelter & NFIs <i>Priority Need</i>	Emergency shelter was provided by UNHCR and later MEDAIR provided local materials for IDPs to setup their own shelters.	Shelters require plastic sheets ahead of the rainy season	 Fair
 Protection <i>Priority Need</i>	<p>CBPN are supported by UNHCR through ADRA. Child Protection activities are also implemented through UNICEF funding, with PANCARE operating Child-Friendly Spaces .and women and girls service spaces</p> <p>Through UNICEF funding, CAFA is providing small grants to women to support handicraft production as a form of economic empowerment. This initiative aims to enhance well-being, reduce negative coping mechanisms, and promote self-reliance.</p> <p>In addition, ACTED and BMDO support community-based protection networks (CBPNs).</p>	<p>GBV and Child Protection services (MHPSS, , EORE , PSEA case management and FTR) provide support to survivors and individuals at risk, including Individual Protection Assistance (IPA) for vulnerable women and children. It was clear that there is a significant gap in legal assistance for the returnees , particularly in supporting the issuance of civil status documentation.</p> <p>The needs of dignity kits for most vulnerable women and girls - Livelihoods to avoid the increased exposure to harassment including in the deplacement to the cotton farm- Awareness in the communities for GBV prevention and improved help seeking behavior as those cases happened but reporting remains low</p>	 Fair
 Food Security <i>Priority Need</i>	WFP/Worl Relief provided dry food basket.	The site residents explained that last food distrbtrtion was in Febraury and it is enough for 10 days only.	 Poor
 Education	No Education intervention	Due to Language barriers and difference in curriculum and absence of documentation returnees are not able to return.	 Poor
 Livelihoods	With funding from UNICEF, CAFA is providing a limited number of small grants to women to support handicraft production as a livelihood and economic empowerment initiative. The activity aims to improve wellbeing, reduce reliance on negative coping mechanisms, and promote self reliance among returnee women.	However, coverage remains limited, and additional support is required to ensure more inclusive access to	 Poor

Priority Needs:

Protection:

Advocate/facilitate access to civil documentation to restore freedom of movement and enable access to essential services, including health and education.

Strengthen the child protection response, with a focus on prevention of child labour and identification and support for separated and unaccompanied children by providing case management including Family Tracing and Reunification.

Livelihoods:

Support agricultural livelihoods through provision of seeds and farming tools, and small grant livelihood projects for women, recognizing that many returnees own or have access to land.

Non Food Items (NFIs):

Provide emergency shelter support through the distribution of plastic sheets.

Food Assistance:

Ensure timely and adequate food assistance, with priority given to newly arrived households and mitigation of informal losses during food preparation.



Photo by Mahmoud Awad, in Al Karama 5, 22 April 2026