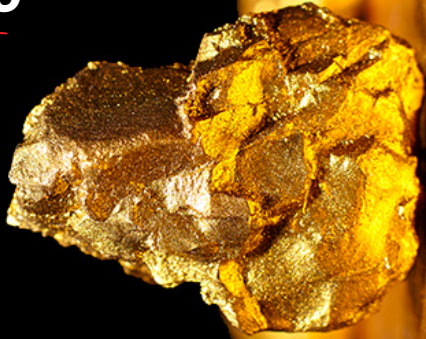




Sudan in Perspective

Issue 4, Monday, May 6, 2024

Navigating the depths of resilience and struggle in Sudan's mining sector



Gold mining war in Northern State

- *After a year of war, "homeless schooling" is the only resort for Sudanese children to get some education*
- *Season of scorpions in the North*
- *Why Al Managil, the city of oil, is flourishing despite the war*
- *Sudan's Chronicle*

Editorial

Marhaba!

This is the fourth issue of Atar English magazine from Sudan Facts Center for Journalism. It will be coming to you on Monday after every two weeks.

The prominent feature of this issue is people's lives and the daily ways of resistance they resort to. War is the general situation that is reflected in the aspects of life, but what is amazing is that people learn lessons and turn them into plans to survive and continue life with dignity.

Mahmoud Dagash writes about civil mining, and the problems faced by miners before and after the war, in a sector on which millions of Sudanese depend.

In the northern state, Amar Jamal writes about how the protest of residents of Sai Island and the village of Abu Sari against indiscriminate gold mining highlighted another dimension of the war, as a competition between the combatants over resources, even if it leads to the destruction of communities.

Summer brings with it concerns about

increased scorpion activities. Aya Sinada writes about the scorpion season in the Northern state, and how people deal with them, especially the displaced.

Al-Manaqil is the second most important city in Gezira State. Trade, agriculture, and industry were affected by the transformations imposed by the war. Despite this, the city still connects the states of Sudan affected by the war. A report on the city of oils written by Hassan Alnaser.

Ahmed Al-Nashader proposes the term "homeless education" to indicate the people's initiatives to solve the education dilemma created by the war in Kosti, Port Sudan, and Al-Fashir, and how the Sudanese resist violence with the power of hope, while they are without homes or schools.

We proposed a section in the magazine in which our correspondents write their diaries from their locations inside Sudan. In this issue, Sudan's' chronicle comes to you from Shendi and Al-Fashir.

Atar team

In this issue:

- ◇ Navigating the depths of resilience and struggle in Sudan's mining sector 4 - 10
Mahmoud Dagash
- ◇ Gold mining war in Northern State 11 - 16
Amar Jamal
- ◇ After a year of war, "homeless schooling" is the only resort for Sudanese children to get some education 17 - 25
Ahmed Al Nashadir
- ◇ Season of scorpions in the North 26 - 32
Aya Sinada
- ◇ Why Al Managil, the city of oil, is flourishing despite the war 33 - 38
Hassan Alnaser
- ◇ Sudan's Chronicle 39 - 43

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 **Atar**
Sudan in Perspective
From

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Sudanese families largely depend on their sons working in artisanal mining to make ends meet and preserve their dignity, as other avenues of employment become scarce and insecure.

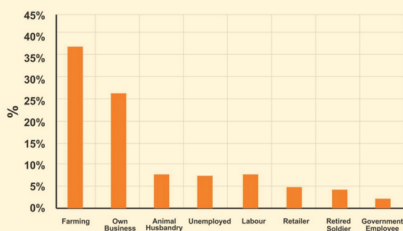
Despite the fact that artisanal miners are the most gold producers, small- and large-scale companies benefit most.

The situation has, however, changed drastically with the continuing war that erupted on April 15, 2023, between the



Map created by Atar network showing gold mining sites per state in Sudan in 2020.

Sudanese Armed Forces led by Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) led by Gen Mohamed Hamdan, widely known as Hemeti. This conflict has altered many equations, affecting Sudanese lives in general, and social and economic aspects in particular.

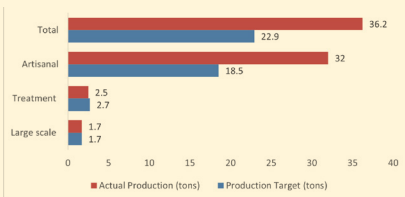


Artisanal gold miners previous source

Source: GEO Services Int. Co Report on Artisanal Mining Impacts prepared for Ministry of Finance 2015.

Artisanal mining has not been immune to these developments, as many investors, workers, and miners left the sector due to the war and its repercussions. Prices of goods, services, and tools essential for gold extraction skyrocketed uncontrollably.

Engineer Osman Jamal El-Din, a resident of al-Gadarif state, used to work in the telecommunications sector after graduating from Al-Neelain University in 2011 with a specialisation in communications engineering. However, he transitioned to mining in the search of improving his financial situation, realising that



Gold Production by Type of Mining Company (Q1, 2018)

the telecommunications sector did not meet his economic needs. He described his experience as an employee in a telecommunications company as arduous and financially limited, unable to meet even the basic requirements of life during those years.

Osman is now part of the mining community in Al-Aulaqi area, a valley located north of Sudan near the Egyptian border. He notes that working conditions in this field are fraught with risks, from the journey to the mines to the drilling and blasting operations accompanying mining activities. He, however, recognises relative improvement in safety in recent times due to restricted movement resulting from the war, though he emphasises that mining risks remain prevalent.

“The risks are numerous and pose a significant danger to mine workers, especially when working in mining shafts, which sometimes suffer from cracks and oxygen depletion at great depths. In addition, the blasting operations accompanying drilling can result in what is known as *al-geerah*, a material that falls from the walls of the shafts. For example, a worker was recently injured in his leg due to a rock falling from *al-geerah*, causing severe tissue damage, necessitating several sur-

Osman pointed out lack of security and surveillance in mining areas, leaving them vulnerable to theft without adequate protection from mining police.

gical operations, with the possibility of amputation in the future,” Osman told Atar in a recent interview.

He reflected on the impact of the war on the mining sector, where it has led to a significant increase in production costs due to soaring fuel prices, spare parts, and food items, coupled with the depreciation of the Sudanese pound.

Osman also lamented the weak positive intervention of the state in mining operations, citing regulatory weakness and inconsistency in standards, which exacerbate the challenges faced by miners.

On the security front, Osman pointed out lack of security and surveillance in mining areas, leaving them vulnerable to theft without adequate protection from mining police.

Describing the daily routine at the mining sites, Osman says they start their day by preparing and having breakfast before allocating work time and roles. Workers take turns in shifts lasting four hours each, with a midday break followed by social gatherings for conversations among workers, miners, and others.

Despite the conditions imposed by the now year-old war, Osman sees min-

ing as the best option currently available, as workers can earn a decent income of up to 15,000 Sudanese pounds per day, an income they would not achieve elsewhere.

Although mining comes with challenges, he considers it better than remaining in jobs where institutions fail to pay salaries due to the economic crisis resulting from the war.

Osman also discussed the mining process and how workers use traditional hand tools such as hammers and chisels in drilling and crushing operations. He described how they pack the extracted stones into sacks for easy transportation to milling areas.

“The number of workers with each miner depends on the depth of the shafts. The deeper the shaft, the more workers are needed, as the extraction process relies on manual handling known among us as *al-gatar*. Workers drip down a line from the bottom of the shaft to the surface, after building ramps to convey the stones to the surface. Workers use digging and crushing tools (chisels and hammers), as well as locally made tools known as Al-Kalabah and Al-Musmar to break the hardness of the shaft,” he says.

Osman also described the treatment of *carta*, the waste produced from the stone grinding process, noting that inves-

Osman also pointed out the use of prohibited substances such as cyanide in gold extraction operations by some parties, although it is considered an unofficial activity, but due to weak oversight, they find no deterrent to prevent them

tors and some companies obtain a large share of it without the workers receiving any portion.

“In the past, there were specialised companies in this field, and they used to buy them from mill owners. Among those companies, for example, were the Russian company, the Chinese company, the Rida company, and the Abu Rukaiyah company. The companies buy these waste materials and work on processing them. The process starts either by purchasing dump trucks of waste from the mills, or through partnerships individuals make with those companies, where the benefit lies,” Osman said.

Osman also pointed out the use of prohibited substances such as cyanide in gold extraction operations by some parties, although it is considered an unofficial activity, but due to weak oversight, they find no deterrent to prevent them.

Despite the freedom to sell the product to traders, there are reservations about the exploitation of additional areas in mining, as some are reserved for the benefit of companies without being utilized.

Regarding the sale of extracted gold, Osman clarified that they find freedom in selling the product to the traders they prefer, based on their mutual understanding. He attributed this interaction to which traders enable them to borrow and loan until the gold is extracted. In this context, Osman added:

“We had proposed that the Central Bank of Sudan opens a branch operating in the mining area, so that sales could be made at reasonable prices. Now the market is controlled by traders, and we have the freedom to deal with whomever we choose among them.”

Osman explained the administrative and legal aspects of working in the mining sector, where they deal with locals who claim land ownership and demand a share of the production. They allocate to them, as Osman told Atar, a 10 per cent of the total production as compensation. The government also imposes fees on miners based on each sack.

Omar clarified the presence of children under the age of eighteen who work in the mines, often coming to work due to family relationships or acquaintances.

“On the government level, the Sudanese Company of Mineral Resources holds us accountable for mining on each sack (weighing 50 kilograms), individually. It has directed that markets operate according to the regulations it has set, yet those markets lack security and are susceptible to occasional theft.

Generally, the state does not deal with the mineral industry in a way that preserves its rights; they only deal with miners as a production machine that is supposed to pay the state.”

Omar clarified the presence of children under the age of eighteen who work in the mines, often coming to work due to family relationships or acquaintances. They work under the same conditions as adults, with no differentiation in treatment.

Although natural resources are not renewable, under the current conditions of the war raging since mid-April of last year, Osman considers mining the best option in Sudan. This in spite of the pressure exerted by the government and mining companies, in addition to the fees imposed on miners, which reduce the value of production and affect their income.

Osman tries to utilize the income he earns from mining to invest in his future projects, such as commercial or agricultural activities. He attributes these plans to his lack of confidence in the continuity of mining work, which could stop at any moment by government decision or the dominance of large companies.

On the other hand, Ahmed Adam, a graduate of Electrical Engineering at the Red Sea University, says he chose to join the mining sector after graduation, due to the limited employment opportunities in his field of specialisation. Ahmed also pointed out the challenges and risks faced by workers in the mining sector, especially artisanal mining, such as the possibility of the wells collapsing, equipment deterioration, and obsolescence.

Ahmed also highlighted the impact of the war on the cost of living and the increase in prices of basic commodities and gold extraction materials. Ahmed explained the impact on workers, where living conditions deteriorate and difficulties in earning income from mining increase due to decreased production and the withdrawal of some investors who cease to continue in the field.

“Since the war broke out, the costs of everything has increased excessively. The balance of everything changed just three days after the start of the war, and work patterns in the market changed, reflected

in the increase in prices of basic commodities such as onions, flour, sugar, tea, and other essentials, in addition to the increase in the prices of gold extraction materials, such as mercury and fuel. And the biggest affected by that are the workers.”

In general, it appears the mining sector faces significant challenges amidst the difficult conditions experienced by workers, including security instability, rising living costs, and decreased productivity, all of which have been greatly caused by the war.

Ahmed described the market shifts due to the war, saying: “The situation has now become somewhat complicated, as capital owners are not willing to risk investing their money in any work with uncertain results. If we compare the current situation to the situation before the war, we find that everyone in the field used to be able to move easily, liquidity flowed greatly and continuously into the market, and prices, despite their relative increase, were reasonable and accessible, unlike what I said earlier.”

He talked about personal changes in his professional situation due to the war, as he used to work as a supervisor for workers and mills before the deterioration of conditions, which significantly affected his income.

In artisanal mining, the search for

new gold areas has become common for extremely traditional methods compared to the advancements in the field. People used to engage in random searches, where four or five individuals head to unknown areas with primitive exploration devices. If gold is found in the area, it becomes their property.

“After discovering new areas following traditional methods, these explorers begin preparing the place to start operations. The number of workers in this depends on the expected production; if it’s high, around 20 workers may be involved in one shift. After the workers engage in drilling and stone extraction, the shaft owners transport the stones to the mills located in Al-Ebidiya area in northern Sudan. From that stage, costs start to increase, from the fees paid at the entrance gate to the final stage when the gold is extracted,” Ahmed said.

He pointed out that the stone grinding process takes between 10 to 12 hours, and the product is known as green gold after being collected using mercury before being burned in the final stage.

It is worth mentioning that each shift of workers participates in all these steps with the shaft owners and investors who

the search for new gold areas has become common for extremely traditional methods compared to the advancements in the field.

fund these operations. The reason behind the necessity of these three groups’ attendance is that the product is divided among them, one-third for each, and sometimes due to lack of trust.

Ahmed concluded his discussion with Atar by explaining the harsh conditions experienced by workers in the mining sector, where they receive minimal income compared to the efforts they exert, and the impact of the war on the sector in general, and on them specifically, to a greater extent.

Atar

Sudan in Perspective

Issue 4, Monday, May 6, 2024

Gold mining war *in Northern State*

By Amar Jamal



On the morning of April 28, citizens of Sai Island, in Abri locality of Northern State, woke up to the sound of massive excavation machinery, including graders and screens, encroaching archaeological sites dating thousands of years.

The excavators belonged to companies that have obtained the necessary approvals from the Sudanese Mineral Resources Company and the local authority in Abri.

The residents and the International Committee for the Nubia Rescue and Dams Opposition, however, succeeded in halting the work before it began, ensuring the withdrawal of the machinery from the island.

Meanwhile, about 90 kilometers south of Sai Island, residents of Abu Sari village in Delgo locality, Northern State, clashed with the local police following protests against the reopening of the Turkish mining company's factory in their area. Some protesters were arrested.

The Turkish company, also known as Delgo Mining Company, has a long history of environmental pollution and resource plunder, facilitated by corrupt political connections within the state.

These two incidents, though local in nature, shed light on another aspect of the war, the fierce competition over resources.

The protest by Abu Sari residents was not the first of its kind. At the beginning of last year, weeks before the outbreak of the war, people staged sit-ins and shut down the company's water supply station in protest against the company.

At the beginning of last year, weeks before the outbreak of the war, people staged sit-ins and shut down the company's water supply station in protest against the company.

Delgo Mining was established in May 2012 as a joint venture between the Sudanese government and Tahe Mining, a Turkish company. The company was granted mining rights in Block 17, an area of 11,569 square kilometres in Abu Sari, equivalent to more than 14 times the size of Bahrain. According to documents obtained by Atar, the government has 18 per cent of the company and TAHE International controlled 82 per cent. The documents show names of senior officials in the board of directors, including Al-Bashir's brother (See infographic in the end of this story).

Since its establishment, the relationship between the local population and the company has been fraught with caution. In early 2017, the company threatened the residents after they objected to blasting operations that damaged homes.

A [report](#) by the Alliance of Demand-Based Campaigns (TAM), outlined how the company's board of directors included prominent figures in al-Bashir regime, such as the president's brother. Little has changed even after the regime fell despite demands by the residents for its departure.

Following the December Revolution in 2019, and pressure from the residents and the Empowerment Removal Committee, the company tried to find another way to operate by changing its face, replacing the Turkish owners with Qatari ones, and appointing a representative from al-Junaid Multi Activities Company Ltd, affiliated with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), to its board of directors.

After reviewing environmental reports in 2020, all parties, including local representatives, government, and the company, agreed on the need to relocate the site. However, according to environmental scholar, activist and mining specialist Mohammed Salah, the company began to procrastinate. Two years later, residents began to stage protests, close the company's water station, and filed a lawsuit against it.

“The court sessions were held in Delgo Court in Northern State from April 2023 to the end of last March when the court decided to schedule a special session to hear experts' opinions to prove the harm of cyanide and announce the relocation of the excavation site as agreed. At that moment, Northern State governor Abdeen Awadallah, with the assistance of

In 2020, all parties, including local representatives, government, and the company, agreed on the need to relocate the site.

the Northern State Supreme Court in Dongola, decided to transfer the case file from Delgo Court to Dongola Court and start proceedings from scratch,” Salah told Atar.

This was the direct reason behind the clashes between Abu Sari residents and the police in Delgo last

week.

Salah says after the outbreak of the war, RSF withdrew from the Abu Sari mining site, and they were replaced by a force affiliated to Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) military intelligence with the aim of operating the factory for the latter's benefit. This was not the only excavation site owned by RSF that was seized by the SAF in northern state. They also seized an active excavation site belonging to Al-Junaid Company in Al-Qua'ab area on the west bank of the Nile, 35 kilometres north of Dongola, the capital of the Northern state

The President of the Sudanese Mineral Resources Company in Northern State, Abdulrahman Al-Nadif, [announced](#) in mid-January last year, that each of the mining companies operating in the state donate 10 kilogrammes of gold to the SAF, in addition to donations from miners and traders.

Furthermore, in September last year, Northern State decided to open a gold market in its capital, Dongola, with the aim of monitoring production and facilitating buying, selling, and exporting gold. [Zadna Company was](#) tasked with the establishment of the market and its headquarters becoming the hub for the new gold market. Thus, Zadna Company replaced Al-Junaid Company in controlling the gold exports.

Zadna is one of the economic arms affiliated with SAF, which were subjected to US sanctions at the end of January last year, along with RSF's Al-Junaid, on charges of financing the war. The US Treasury Department clarified that sanctions were imposed under a US executive order authorising sanctions on individ-

uals who undermine stability in Sudan and undermine the country's democratic transition.

It is worth noting that the Turkish company is one of the largest companies operating in the country.

“Moreover, the tax revenue from these companies is significant, as the government receives about 28 per cent of the total production of these companies, and the revenue from gold exports adds to the volume of hard currency entering the government's coffers,” Salah told Atar.

With the kicking out of RSF from mining in northern Sudan, the only obstacle to the greed and corruption of the state's violent extraction of resources re-



The competition between SAF and RSF over gold in the northern state is not a result of war. In a previous interview, a miner and owner of an exploration company operating in the northern state gave a description of two rivals over gold.

The first is led by SAF through the Hi-Link Company, and includes the Solj Company (Wagner) and the Crusher Company (Emirati), in addition to the support of the state regulatory body ‘Sudanese Mineral Resources Company’.

The second is led by RSF through Al-Junaid Company, and includes the Turkish company, among others. It is worth noting that the wife of former President Al-Bashir, Wedad, owned 33% of the Turkish company. After the judge of the Empowerment Removal Committee decided to recover her money, a conflict broke out between the Ministry of Finance (Jibril Ibrahim) and RSF over who would inherit that percentage, and RSF won.

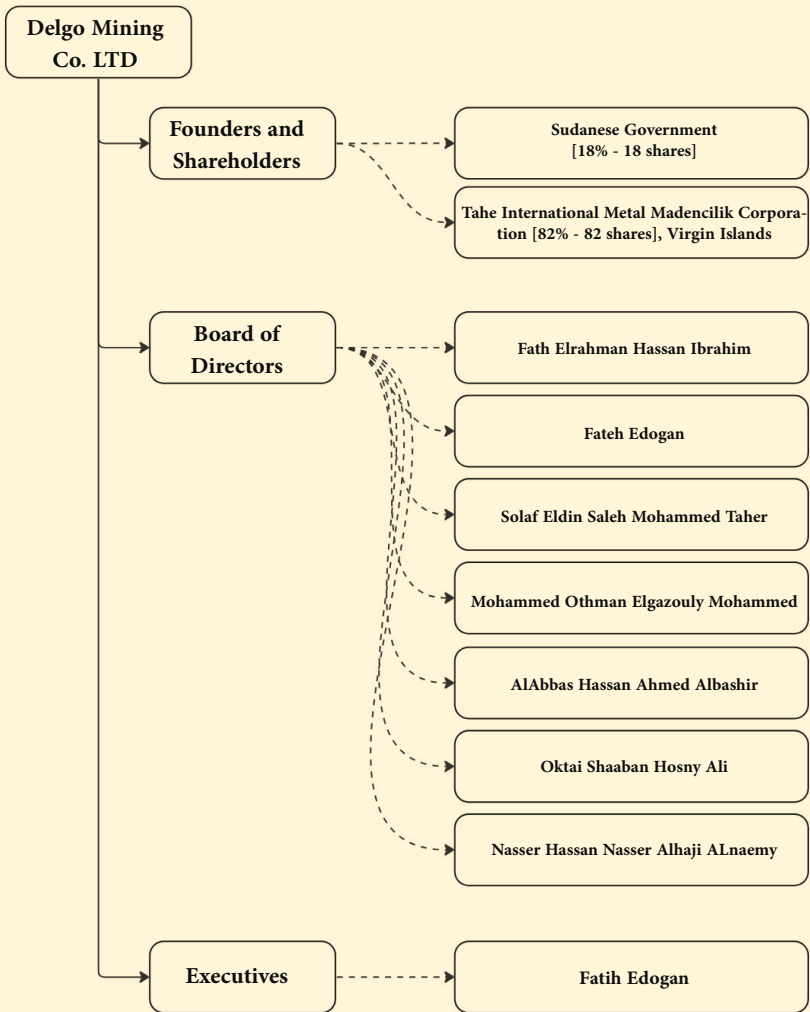
mains the resistance of the local population.

It is within this context, the acts of police violence and arrests witnessed in the region last week are understood, as well as the decision of the Northern State government to dissolve the Change and Services Committees at the beginning of the current year and the subsequent appointment of alternative management committees to facilitate the unregulated mining carried out by SAF without societal oversight.

Residents of Dalqo locality agreed to dissolve the previous committees, but insisted that the new committees be formed through direct elections.

With the kicking out of RSF from mining in northern Sudan, the only obstacle to the greed and corruption of the state's violent extraction of resources remains the resistance of the local population.

First published in Arabic, **Atar** weekly magazine, 28th issue, May 2, 2024.



Ceated based on documents obtained by Atar Network.

After a year of war, **“homeless schooling” is the only** *resort for Sudanese children to* *get some education*

By Ahmed Al Nashadir



Homeless schooling is a made-up expression, for the purposes of this article. It can mean education with no home nor school, in the context of displacement. It can also mean the tragic and comic fate of the idea of home schooling within the current war context.

Home schooling is an alternative strategy for societies and families who want their children not to be indoctrinated in curriculums that perpetuate the conditions of injustice or that teaches subjugation to power.

Or perhaps families that want to give their children an education more efficient or more fitting to their disposition. But in Sudan, within the context of the war, this alternative is not possible when there is no home no more. With the unprecedented proportions of displacement, Sudanese societies and family's resort to a different alternative in their displacement and refugees' places and camps, I call this alternative homeless schooling, for lack of better term.

Formal education, a teacher's perspective

In a comparative, generalised assessment to the post-war Sudan education situation, Adil Saad, a secondary school teacher from Atbara in the River Nile state, touches on the range of destruction and the flawed official response in terms of vision saying:

“No doubt, war is a catastrophe that atrociously and swiftly affected every sector of Sudanese life, especially the education sector which suffered tremendously, from the bombardment of schools, or turning them into military camps and rocket launching platforms.”

Stressing that it is nearly impossible to think about continuity of the educational process, in such a complicated and highly perilous state, Adil said:

“Whatever the notions posed by the

ministry of education trying to pass its plan which it called, the overcoming plan, there are so many flaws in the proposal, the ministry considers as a therapy that entails administering two sets of Sudanese secondary school certificate exams. The first one is meant for ready students in the areas not affected by the war, the affected states as well as students of Sudanese schools abroad. The second exam is allocated for students who are not ready yet. After a suitable span of time from the first exam. This is unrealistic and devoid of justice and fairness principles.”

For Adil, the ministry should look at the actual standings of the current educational process and it is various complications.

Where the students of secondary school third class as well as primary school are yet to finish the curriculum as the war cut the educational year short. Student must receive 180 days of curriculum learning but with the war, they received 90 days or less.

Adil focuses on the complete or partial destruction to the various educational institutions in war-stricken states, especially Khartoum state. He points out the students' registration for secondary school certificate exam may add a burden to the students and their families considering continuous displacement and the search for safe shelters.

“As for the basic, secondary schools and universities in the considered safe states, the institutions are now sheltering people who escaped the hell of war,” he says.

Adil argues that the de facto government is practicing a misleading discourse, through its educational institutions, broadcasting a false reassuring message devoid of transparency and unburdened with crisis that will follow, which is going to lead to a losing outcome.

Informal deterioration

The extensive destruction of the formal education and the dust rising from its ruins, shouldn't cloud our vision of the unfathomably complicated network of informal education and it is trajectories of lifelong learning processes.

So as to complete mapping the educational situation in post-war Sudan, we must pay attention to the informal counterpart, which include in a non-exclusive manner, traditional Quranic school (Khalwas), public libraries, reading groups initiatives such as education without borders, book fairs organized by work cultural groups, reading for change, literacy initiatives, educational institutions, churches, Quran reading groups across the mosques and women groups in their homes, activities of cultural associations, book fairs, art exhibitions, theatre and cinema movements activities,

The extensive destruction of the formal education and the dust rising from its ruins, shouldn't cloud our vision of the unfathomably complicated network of informal education and it is trajectories of lifelong learning processes.

apprenticeship in industries and agriculture, and museums such as the National museum and Natural history museum.

Mohamed Omer, owner of well-known al-Wraqin bookstore, spent a long journey of displacement in Sudan searching for a refuge outside, facing the unstable fate of his library, which was based in Khartoum and was renowned for its strong participation in cultural and educational scenes through providing rare and diverse both academic and non-academic books and through other activities such as book fairs, lectures, book clubs and discussions.

“Our story always begins with the question, what were you doing on April 15 2023, the day the war out broke?”

“After a generous donation from one of al-Wraqin library friends, we were planning a new and distinguished site for

the library. What happened after that was disruption and utter stoppage of the library activity. For the three days after 15th April, I tried to reach the library to secure some of the library financial assets, the computer that contain the library archive, and some important books and references. I returned empty handed under the threat of the gun,” Mohamed said.

After 3 months Mohamed and his family left Khartoum and headed to New Halfa in east Sudan. Some 15 days later, he left to Atbara city, to evaluate the possibility of establishing a small library, an iron stall for selling newspapers, just like the one he used to see back in pre-war Khartoum.

“I faced so many challenges, such as saving enough money to afford the stall, getting permission and bringing books. Before even waiting to see what the future will bring regarding this idea, I decided to embark on a journey around Sudanese cities, to identify which one is more suitable to start the library activity,” he said.

From Atbara, Mohamed headed to Halfa in the north looking to accommodate his family. He spent two months in a street shade in the company of some displaced Sudanese youth who were waiting for visas to enter Egypt. He succeeded in finding new accommodation for his family.

After two months, Mohamed took back the initiative, in collaboration between his library and al-Musawwarat publishing house, but their adventure was not without looming threats.

We embarked on a dangerous affair trying to get 17 book boxes out of then under siege Al-Ubayyid in North Kordofan state, and due to the high risk on any one carrying that sort of load under the eyes of suspicious security soldiers specially when it comes to books, I asked them to write my name and phone number on each box. The truck driver had been stopped at the first checkpoint in Kosti by security agents who talked to me on the phone and insisted on confiscating some of the books,” he said.

Truck driver had to resort to mix the books with a load of peanuts after he hired some loaders to make room in the middle of the peanuts load, which was permitted. Peanuts shawls had to hug books in order to smuggle them successively to Wad Madani city in the first week of September 2023. The book had been received that night by members of resistance committee. They stored them in a nearby house to avoid confiscation. Mohamed had to travel from Halfa to Madani in six days, before the city fell into RSF hands.

In Madani, he started a new adventure.

“I couldn’t make a book fare for al-Wraqin library in Madani, due to authorities’ reluctance, and the high amount of money they asked for to give permission. I transported the book fare to Al-Gadarif in the east. It was a huge success as I sold 70 per cent of the books and went back to Halfa.

Last January, Mohamed arrived in Cairo and participated with al-Musawwarat publishing house in an international book fare in February.

Education of resistance

In his description of Sudanese October 1964 revolution, Mahmoud Mohamed Taha, the renown religious thinker and reformist, says in his book Cultural revolution:

“October revolution has proved that power is necessary for change but not violence. In fact, complete power cancels violence completely. The one with power has no need for using violence, and it is enemy turns its back on the unfruitfulness of the idea. When power is separate from violence, the door will be open for a new understanding of power that depends on the conformity between thought and feeling.”

In a previous quotation, Taha shows the originality of power to counter violence which he sees as not original in things. He provides a proof through the

success of nonviolent 1964 Sudan revolution in ousting General Abboud’s military regime. 50 years later, the same idea was present in 2018 peaceful revolution that toppled the Al Bashir regime.

In the context of the nonviolent power, we read the map that opposes the map of war destruction to the structure of education, which the map of resistance through invention of educational alternatives, and creating what is more powerful than weapons, which is the strive to create life. That power for peace represented by education in the face of violence connected to war.

Emergency rooms volunteers have never stopped demonstrating struggling peacefully despite the fire and difficulty across Sudan’s various regions, as SH from Al Fashir emergency room informed Atar.

SH says their initiative was on and off and it focused on the psychological support in shelter centres, because they didn’t have a permanent place to start classes. They coordinated, instead, with other emergency rooms to seek the services of the teachers in different shelter centres to teach the old curriculum.

“For example, Al Salam neighbourhood emergency room targeted two shelters with a plan to teach four subjects, Quran and mathematics in addition to

both Arabic and English languages. For all levels, to occupy students' time and to fill the vacuum left by war. This is a resumption of a previous effort by Plan organisation, which stopped in the Ramadan month, where the study was for four days per week for 50 students in basic, primary and secondary school levels.

To overcome children absence, teaching stopped every market day, on Monday and Thursday where students do light work.

As for the obstacles facing the emergency room, SH indicates lack of support in comparison with size of the activity and their inability to cover all sheltering centres, which might threaten the continuity of the work and the range of coverage.

SH mentioned the diversity in the fun activities which help the children to overcome the psychological difficulties, including sport and contests and entertainment programmes. SH feels proud of the strength of the youth network that support the work of emergency rooms in the central neighbourhoods as well as in displacement camps, showing sacrifice and offering their time and efforts for a whole year of war in helping children and old people as well.

To overcome children absence, teaching stopped every market day, on Monday and Thursday where students do light work.

“War time is a time of volunteering for us,” SH concludes.

AD, a volunteer from Port Sudan city emergency room said their work as volunteers is not restricted to one aspect and one might find oneself preparing food in the kitchen or facilitating electronic education for children or in charge of storing.

AD says they were working with UNICEF and Sadagat organisation on a mobile class that provides educational requirements of children from the age of seven to age 14 due to large numbers of children who have no fixed location. Most of them being from displaced families.

As for Al Defa Al Gawi School for boys in Port Sudan, AD describes its community as diverse culturally, intellectually and geographically, and points out challenges in providing food, water and electricity, in addition to some other problems he describes as racial and educational.

The quick response programme they implemented played a role in creating peaceful coexistence.

According to AD, their work focuses on social aid in order to reach a Suda-

nese society capable of co-existing and dealing with various situations, with ability of self-control and surviving challenges. AD explained also that Port Sudan emergency room had been shut down for a while, and they are operating now through Iwaa Initiative. He added that most of the problems they are facing are from security apparatus and governmental authorities which cancelled the emergency rooms.

Education of the oppressed, a glorious scene

A glorious scene is conveyed through the renowned female Sudanese singer Aisha Al Falatiya when she sings in a famous song about student success.

“A life elixir more powerful than weapons. With profound knowledge you will face hardships”.

The description of success in Aisha’s song resembles the joy of seeing the graduation of a class of displaced students from an educational centre in Kosti city after they received an inventive psychological and educational healing based on Brazilian educator and philosopher Paulo Freire’s theory, pedagogy of the oppressed.

It has been adapted to suit Sudan war

Alhadi focuses on the idea of psychological rehabilitation, and attempts to create a normal educational environment as much as possible.

situation by teacher Alhadi Radi, who led the successful initiative that lasted four months.

Freire’s notion takes off from the idea of literacy of lower class by teaching workers so they can liberate themselves and their communities, including their own oppressors.

Teacher Alhadi, who has been displaced to Kosti city along with his three kids, leaving their mother who was in a different part of the city behind, chose to work with Freire’s idea with many modifications to make it adaptable. It ended up with huge success despite difficulties, in educating students and healing them on a psychological level.

Alhadi sees these children as oppressed in another way, through war and displacement, forced out of their houses and neighbourhoods, losing their friends, schools and environment in one night, transported to live in a shelter centre where they wait alongside their families for meals with no educational requirements, no teacher, no pen nor a notebook.

Alhadi focuses on the idea of psychological rehabilitation, and attempts to create a normal educational environment

as much as possible. His initiative started when he took the spirit of Freire's idea in pedagogy of the oppressed and started a series of brain storming with his fellow teachers.

“The group agreed upon the idea and implemented it,” Alhadi said, describing the suffering of the education sector since before the war.

“Since the decree number 18 that had been issued by the 1989 coup de ta government, which decided and held conference for educational policies from September 17 to 26, 1990, politicisation and ideologisation of the educational process took place” he said, adding,

“After April 15, 2023 I have been displaced to Kosti due to war. I met here a group of my fellow teachers and psychologists. We met and discussed what can be done in such exceptional situation. We agreed on an initiative for children education in the shelter centre. We named the initiative a pedagogy of the oppressed as a main title. But the content was an attempt to adapt Freire's theory on teaching the oppressed into a Sudanese theory so we added another title, educating for psychological support project. We worked for 4 months in a collaboration with Kosti organisation for culture and development. We started on December 15,” Alhadi said.

He also described the idea of the

After data sorting and data analysis, it has been shown that over 1000 children live in the city primary schools after they were turned into shelters for internally displaced people with complete absence of any educational or psychological rehabilitation programmes.

project as based on using education as a tool to support children psychologically and to improve their skills in Arabic, English, mathematics, computer, human development, art and theatre using interactive approach focusing on entertainment programmes, sport, computer games, contests, fun trips, drawing and painting, music and drama.

It was preceded by a survey in shelter centres across the city.

After data sorting and data analysis, it has been shown that over 1000 children live in the city primary schools after they were turned into shelters for internally displaced people with complete absence of any educational or psychological rehabilitation programmes.

Khadijah binti Khuwaylid centre has been chosen to implement the project in order to generalise it across other centres later on. The centre contains 86 children from age seven to age 13 they have been divided into two groups: the first from age seven to 1ten and the second from age 11 to 13.

“To implement the project, we de-

signed a quick response programme to meet the goals mentioned previously. With a curriculum including eight subjects, its main target is to use education to psychologically support the children. Although we got the inspiration from the concept of pedagogy of the oppressed, I think we succeeded in adapting the idea to the violent reality of post-war Sudan. We are pleased with the results,” Alhadi said.

First published in Arabic, Atar weekly magazine, 26th issue, April 18, 2024.

Season of scorpions *in the North*

By Aya Sinada



Nemat opened her mouth wide in wonder as she listened to the neighbourhood's women narrating a story about a lady who got used to weekly scorpion stings, so she no longer feels them anymore.

Then they told a story of a six-month-old child who died after she wore her shoes without noticing the scorpion inside it.

Nemat, who was displaced by the war from Khartoum, freaked out. As soon as she arrived home, she raised her children's shoes from the ground to a chair adjacent to the bed, tucked the linens under the mattress, and left the lights on.

As the summer season begins, residents of the majority of Sudan's states become anxious due to the increase in scorpions and venomous snakes. Snakes that tend to preserve energy by limiting their movement and slowing down their metabolism in winter, increase their activity in summer. Scorpions on the other hand come out of their hibernation looking for food and mating.

Dr Sarrah Abd Allah, an assistant professor and the director of natural history museum at Khartoum university, emphasizes that the rate of attack is higher among those displaced because of their lack of a local knowledge on prevention, especially in the scorpions' natural environment.

Rania Baleela, an associate professor and director of Toxic Organisms Research Centre at the University of Khartoum, says that the size of scorpions found in each state is not necessarily directly proportional to the number of incidents.

"State ranking in the annual incidence numbers, according to the federal

ministry of health reports, doesn't necessarily reflect the state ranking in terms of the extent of scorpions' prevalence and their toxicity classification. River Nile state ranks the highest statistically in incidence number, followed by Northern state, Kassala, White Nile, and Khartoum," Dr Rania said.

As for the annual mortality rate arising from scorpion stings, Rania says Kassala comes first followed by Northern Kordofan, Northern state, and Khartoum.

The last update in the ministry records was in 2021. The Facebook page, Scorpions and Snakes of Sudan aims to raise awareness about recognise toxic organism types and their toxicity degree and treatment methods for the observed types last year after the break of the Khartoum war.

Sudanese have a range of local traditional medicine knowledge spread throughout most parts of the country.

"First the sting area is to be rubbed with sand. The area becomes wet after a



A [study](#) conducted by Sudanese and non-Sudanese researchers and published in 2023, to update previous studies on scorpion species and their distribution across Sudan, concluded that there are 17 types of scorpions in the country's eighteen states. Four of these are highly poisonous. The scorpion density and types vary from state to state but seven states are more prone. These include Khartoum and the Northern state with seven types, Red Sea state has six types, River Nile state and Kassala state have five types.

short time, then a bloodletting process is to be conducted by creating a superficial wound with a sharp object such as a razor at the sting site to evacuate the poison out of the body. A patient should stop drinking water before being treated so the poison is not spread in the body,” Rufaida Abd Allah from Kemnar village in Al-Burgig locality, told Atar.

Northern state residents also tie the veins near the sting area. This process is called *a hajir* in some northern areas. It is a first aid measure administered before a patient receives medical treatment. Sometimes it is sufficient, along with drinking soaked lime and mint.

“I had traditional treatment before I go to the hospital. Sometimes the scorpion attacks with its claws rather than its tail. The sting in this case is milder. That is what happened to my sister’s son. His doctor decided he doesn’t need the vaccine,” Hussein Taj al-Din from el-Selaim near Dongola told Atar.

Both Rufaida and Hussein agree on the use of cooking gas as a first aid measure. The injured area will be exposed to a small amount of cooking gas in order to slow down the process of poison flowing to the rest of the body. But Dr Baleela warns of using gas because it infiltrates under the skin and causes health problems.



The Museum of Natural History has played a huge role in the toxic organisms’ research. It has been licenced by the Sudan wildlife conservation force for rearing animals for research purposes, and has skilled technicians trained to care for these animals.

In the aftermath of Manasir villages catastrophe in 2018, and the death of tens of children due to scorpions’ stings, a number of toxic organisms’ domain researchers gathered and established a multi-disciplinary research centre, with different specialties. They started collecting field samples through self-financing.

One of the centre’s objectives is to investigate the causes of increased mortality, as well as raising awareness about toxic organisms and the importance of ecological diversity. It also plays a role of informing emergency room medical officers about the toxic organisms’ taxonomy in order to deal with the cases in the right way.

Unfortunately, all that came to a halt after the war erupted in the on April 15, last year.

Paramedics use local anaesthesia, then the patient is transferred to the hospital for re-evaluation of the situation by monitoring vital signs. If the patient's condition deteriorates, an anti-scorpion venom treatment could be used. It varies from one area to another, depending on the scorpion type.

Dr Baleela says, the National Medical Supplies Fund open bids for the selection of registered vaccines through The National Medicines and Poisons Board.

There is only one registered vaccine for scorpions' stings in Sudan, produced by VIN, an Indian company. It is a moderate efficacy drug, and doesn't neutralise scorpion toxicity to a considerable degree.

Toxic Organisms Research Centre had commenced extracting snakes poison and conducting research on it before the war out broke. This was the first step in producing specifically designed Sudanese vaccines for snakes poison anti-venom. The centre also planned to conduct similar experiments to produce specifically designed vaccines to neutralise scorpions poison. All these has been affected by destruction caused by April 15, 2023 war, says Dr Baleela.

Children mortality is high due to their weak capability to resist the toxin, which affect the central nervous system and causes paralysis of the respiratory system and muscles.

Dr Sarrah, from the Museum of natural history, thinks that children mortality is high due to their weak capability to resist the toxin, which affect the central nervous system and causes paralysis of the respiratory system and muscles. Sarrah says that a patient's condition might deteriorate if they have diabetes or weak immunity.

"For this reason, we advise not to delay taking their anti-venom so they can avoid reaching the phase of cardiac arrest and hypotension or even death," Sarrah said.

Zaher Shamat is one few on Dagarti island, to the north of Dongla, that people run to in case of a scorpion sting. He keeps the anti-venoms and he knows how to use them properly.

Zaher practices this vocation voluntarily in service of his kin and the residents of the island. He does not profit from it. He told Atar that he started this work three years ago because of the high rate of incidences and the difficulty in transporting patients to the nearest hospital in Badeen island or Akkad village, especially because the first aid protocol necessitates that patients stop any sort of mobility so that the venom will not spread.

“At first I just wanted to treat my family members. But after I succeeded in implementing the therapy according to the guidelines, I encouraged myself and started practicing in an official manner,” Zaher said, adding that the medicine is imported from Saudi Arabia, sometimes it is available at the stores.

It consists of two powder packages, one is black and the other is white. “When we discover the sting site, we apply some of the first powder using a small stick which we use only once. We don’t use it for the second powder. Then we put the same amount of the second powder and add some water drops to mix them. The patient will feel an excruciating pain,” Zaher says this reaction means the poison has exited the body.

Dr Baleela, however, criticised this practice saying these are not registered anti-venoms, but chemical compounds reacts in the presence of water which serve as a medium, it might cause bruises and burns for some people. “When the scorpion toxin reaches the blood, it heads directly to the heart. Nothing can neutralise it then but the real anti-venom”.

Can our homes become fortresses against scorpions in the summer?

Sabreen Jabir, an architect who grew

up and live now in Northern state, says using modern building materials might keep us safe from the scorpions. Such materials are cemented floors and red brick walls covered with sand and cement. It is very easy for scorpions to come out of their holes in case of houses made out of clay and dirt yards. The distribution of empty spaces in the house, such as distant bathrooms and kitchens, also increases the possibility of getting stung, especially if a person uses the bathroom or the kitchen at night.

Using modern building materials might keep us safe from the scorpions.

Sabreen emphasised that in the case of poor financial conditions, clay can be used to replace cement in coating walls and filling the cracks, especially

in the lower parts, small terrace can be built at the juncture where the wall meets the floor so as to make the scorpion’s task more difficult. It is necessary to provide good light at evening.

In case the house residents wanted to make a garden, Sabreen says it should isolated, and the same goes to the washing and ablution tubs, because they are the most likely places for scorpion presence.

On her part, Dr Baleela says planting plants with strong pervious smell such as mint and basil might deter scorpions. Dr Sarrah says poultry is the natural enemy of scorpions, so raising chicken might be

an effective method for protecting houses from scorpions.

Some climate conditions provoke scorpions to come out their den, such as excessive heat, heavy rain. The scorpions also come out when feeling threatened by activities such as when someone breaks down or move or dig the soil near the stones they live under.

Scorpions hate heat and light. That is why it is most likely to come across them at night and in damp places like bathrooms, kitchen and garden, according to experts who spoke to Atar.

The experts also say scorpions use their poison to defend themselves, not in attacking or predation. Some of the scorpions are classified as highly toxic, but not all.

Displacement amount pressure on places that were not peopled before. In addition, illegal hunting of wild life might lead to either extermination of the organism or adaptation with the threat, as in the scorpion case, by producing more resistant offspring that can preserve its natural habitat within its environment.

“Haphazard conduct by companies and individuals specialised in hunting scorpion for profiting purposes, causes environmental imbalance,” said Dr Sarah.

“Haphazard conduct by companies and individuals specialised in hunting scorpion for profiting purposes, causes environmental imbalance.”

Dr Baleela on the other hand, confirmed that artisanal mining has pushed the scorpions to seek shelter at houses because it is less noisy.

Rufiada says that scorpion toxin is the most expensive fluid in the world due it being very difficult to extract. It can be used in many medicinal industries other than vaccine industry.

“Some scorpion toxins are used in the medical field such as treating some types of cancer as well as a die that helps surgeons in excising some cancerous tumours. We, however, need to study Sudanese scorpions’ toxins in order to know their benefits,” said Dr Baleela.

Despite all that. There is no benefit in dead scorpions because spoilage of the toxin producing protein. Dr Baleela thinks most likely there is other purposes for hunting dead scorpions, which leave

the door open for illegal hunting from dilettante as well as locals without safety and protection tools. In the process, these people expose themselves to danger and expose the country to lose its ecological wealth by smuggling it outside the country.

Dr Baleela says that some of the most virulent scorpions defend their species

against illegal hunting by increasing their new-born numbers to various percentages and by increasing their hostility and ferociousness.

Taxation umbrella in Sudan had expanded its range in 2022 to include trading in some animals such as scorpions, snakes, dogs and falcons.

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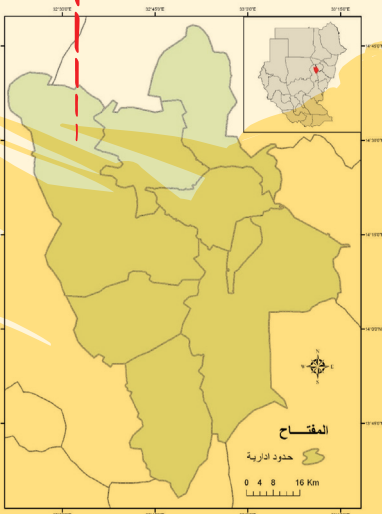
Markets

Why Al Managil, the city of oil, is flourishing despite the war

By Hassan Alnaser

The Sudan war that began slightly over a year ago, has reshaped the landscape of transportation and mobility in the country. While the war ended Khartoum's control over Sudan's trade and services, granting other cities opportunities to become commercial and economic hubs, it also enabled some to control the flow and transformation of transportation and the movement of people, goods, and crops.

Wad Madani, for instance, emerged as an alternative economic capital and a focal point of commercial activity, before its takeover by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in mid-December,



Traders and owners of light industries realised the futility of awaiting the military's resolution of the battles in Khartoum, so relocated to Wad Madani, some 118 kilometers south of the capital.

This move was not only limited to industry but also saw major financial institutions initiating operations in Wad Madani.

Encouraged by this, the state government entered into multi-million-dollar deals with private companies and the Social Security investment Administration for projects in urban planning and real estate.

Acting Minister of Industry Mahasin Ali Yagoub, told Atar that approximately 160 factories relocated to the capital of Al-Jazirah State between August 2023 and the end of November 2023. Furthermore, around 3000 new shops opened in the markets of the city and its neighbour-

hoods, according to sources from the state government.

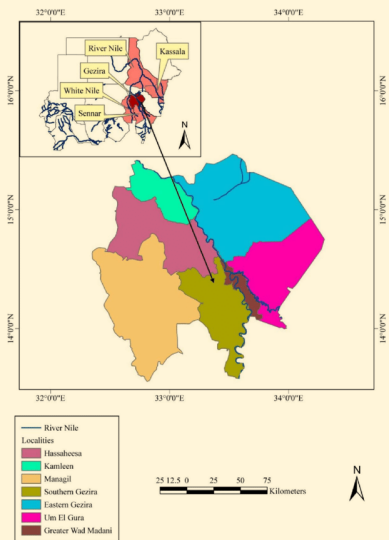
This commercial activity not only encouraged banks to reopen their doors in Wad Madani but also led to the reactivation of the banking clearance system for the resumption of financial transactions related to exports, before RSF invaded Wad Madani in mid-December last year.

With RSF entering the heart of Al-Jazirah and Wad Madani, the state lost control of its agricultural project. Its institutions were forced to withdraw to Al-Managil locality, where the government of Al-Jazirah State convened at the end of March last year, according to state sources.

On March 14 last year, the harvest of 220,000 acres of wheat began in [Wad Al-Mansi section](#) of Al-Managil locality, the largest and wealthiest locality in Al-Jazirah in terms of revenue.



Among the seven localities of Al-Jazirah State, Al-Managil is considered one of the wealthiest. It is characterised by three main activities: agriculture, industry, and commerce. Al-Managil locality is divided into eight administrative units with the city at its centre, covering an area of 180 square kilometres and inhabited by 99,775 people distributed across approximately 51 neighbourhoods. Al-Managil is sometimes designated as an extension of Al-Jazirah Agricultural Scheme, and representing 40 per cent of it, according to one of the dignitaries of the city. In his book, *My Life in Al-Jazirah Scheme*, Yousef Al-Karib states that Al-Managil remained a plan on paper throughout the British colonial era, until it implemented after the independence, to increase the Scheme into two million and one hundred thousand acres.



Map illustrating the localities of Al-Jazirah state - [Source](#)

According to a farmer, Al-Managil has a special climate that allows year-round farming over extensive areas with both rain-fed and irrigated agriculture. This has significantly increased the annual income per capita, as stated by one of the city's traders, and this surplus production has created a large market for crops in the city.

The agricultural lands of Al-Managil are divided into the eastern side of the canal, which is rain-fed, and the western side, which is irrigated/flow-fed.

During the [2023 rainy season](#) in Al-Managil plateau, 72,000 acres of millet, 180,000 acres of maize, and 120,000

acres of sesame were cultivated, while rain-fed projects in the regions of Kordofan and Darfur were affected by military operations. Despite this, winter crops in Al-Managil were unaffected during the harvest season, with approximately 220,000 acres of wheat planted in the Al-Managil territories.

Al-Managil is considered one of the largest wheat-producing areas in Sudan, with an average yield of 30 sacks per acre.



The relationship between Al-Jazirah Project and Al-Managil locality [Source](#)

Al-Managil locality enjoys a preferential advantage over the rest of Al-Jazirah, second only to the state capital, Wad Madani, which hosts most of the commercial operations due to its connection to export and import movements and its financial bureaucracy's ability to maintain the privileges of dry ports in the state and revenue collection operations.

All of this intensified with the outbreak of war and the shift of the country's trade centre to Madani.

Al-Managil, however, retained a competitive edge over Wad Madani, facilitated by its connections with cities and towns in the western regions of the country, making it a significant market for crops destined for cities like Rabak, Al-Ubayyid, Al-Fashir, Nahud, and El-Daein.

According to a crop trader in Al-Managil market, the city's relationship with western Sudan has two inseparable dimensions, Sufi routes and crops.

Sudanese groundnuts, produced in the western regions, are considered the most important commodity linking the city's market to Darfur and Kordofan, where oil presses attract the crop to return to western Sudan as a commodity.

This economic-religious entanglement has strengthened social cohesion, further facilitated by the distribution of families between Al-Managil and western cities. It has also facilitated individuals' movement from Al-Managil to cities like Rabak, where they open businesses in its markets, enhancing both their familial

During the 2023 rainy season in Al-Managil plateau, 72,000 acres of millet, 180,000 acres of maize, and 120,000 acres of sesame were cultivated.

and commercial ties with relatives who are farmers and traders in Al-Managil due to the flourishing trade between the two cities. The same applies to cities like El-Daein, Al-Ubayyid, and Al-Fashir, where the movement of people and goods has expanded trade and built extensive commercial networks.

“Among the people of Al-Managil, the saying, a trader of the west is better than an expatriate, prevails, indicating the wealth of those engaged in trade with western Sudan. This commercial movement has contributed to the accumulation and concentration of capital within specific families, even as it has not hindered its revitalisation within the city's markets, allowing anyone in Al-Managil to compete and accumulate wealth in their own way,” the crop trader told Atar.

According to another trader, the main food trade in local Al-Managil markets was previously sourced from Khartoum, even for imported goods, which remained in storehouses and on the shelves of shops until the beginning of the current year. This changed with the entry of RSF into Wad Madani, as imported goods from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates flooded the market. The trader denied the arrival

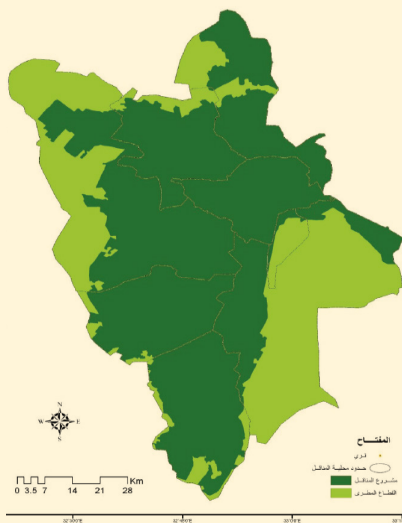
of food items from South Sudan, indicating that traders in the city, import onions, maize, and oils to it.

With the outbreak of war and the destruction of Khartoum as the country's commercial centre, commercial operations in the markets of Al-Managil increased and flourished more widely. Al-Managil also contributed to filling the deficit of oils and grains in the markets of White Nile State and the capital of North Kordofan. The city also provided these states with flour, as the city's mills increased their production. Trade networks with western Sudan markets are strengthened due to social and family relationships, easing the obstacles to trade movements, including roadblocks. Trade and its history have taught Al-Managil traders the ways of venturing into the markets of western Sudan for decades.

Al-Managil hosts seven major grain mills. According to sources from the Ministry of Industry, the city boasts approximately 300 industrial establishments, both small and medium-sized. Over the past five years, there has been a significant increase in the number of industrial facilities due to abundant raw materials for industry and a large financial surplus.

The cooking oil industry is the largest locally, with around 18 small oil presses, placing Al-Managil on par with Al-Ge-

daref in oil production and trade with Sudanese states, especially those in the west. Oil presses have created significant employment opportunities.



Map illustrating the agricultural patterns in Al-Managil locality [Source](#)

The city also has a plastic industry, which has become a major industrial activity post-war. Bottle and jerry-can factories have emerged, proliferating with the increase in oil production and expanding trade with western Sudan cities. According to an oil factory owner, the doubling of industrial production in the city has enhanced traders' capabilities and expanded commercial activity.

The market in Al-Managil revived with the migration of traders from Wad

Madani after December last year. New industrial activities emerged, especially in livestock production, such as cheese manufacturing, revitalizing the surrounding villages of Al-Managil.

However, this economic and commercial resurgence has been a source of concern for both the people and traders alike. A trader in Al-Managil told Atar the city's increased production capacity and accumulation of a large amount of money makes it a possible military target.

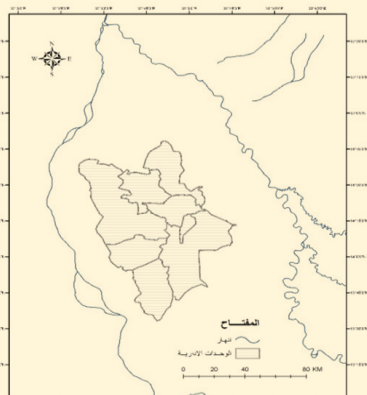
The administrative unit committees and the local council formed during the transitional government unified the community efforts to address challenges, culminating in a flood response in 2022.

The war found people in a solidarity bond, both among themselves and with newcomers from Khartoum. With RSF seizing Wad Madani, people began envisioning scenarios of RSF entering Al-Managil. People in the city say they agreed among themselves to pay RSF whatever they demanded as long as they kept production inputs like factory machinery safe from sabotage.

Perhaps the city has clearly aligned itself with the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF), being the only locality in Al-Jazirah State under its control. The residents of Al-Managil do not hide their support for SAF, as they began supplying the soldiers

who came to the city after withdrawing from Wad Madani.

“The people and community of Al-Managil have helped supply SAF and provide food necessities, expecting in return that SAF will remain to protect them,” a trader says.



Map illustrating the administrative units of Al-Managil, irrigation channels, and water drainage [Source](#)

RSF and its Kiseebah, a mercenaries and bandits, are not the only sources of fear for the residents of Al-Managil. The fall season may cause the closure of dirt roads connecting Al-Managil and its villages to cities like Rabak and Al-Dweim, leading to the city's closure and siege. Moreover, floods may complicate people's lives and hinder productive activities in Al-Managil market.

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Atar

Sudan in Perspective

Issue 4, Monday, May 6, 2024

Sudan's Chronicle:

*New wave of displacement pushes
thousands into River Nile State*

*Al-Fashir under siege amidst aerial
bombardment*

ATAR: Shendi and Al-Fashir

*Diaries Recorded by
Atar Network
Correspondents*



New wave of displacement pushes thousands into River Nile State

Shendi: By Atar Correspondent

At dawn last Tuesday, some 150 passenger buses crossed Al-Auateb into Shendi, south of the River Nile State. The buses were full of people displaced by the war in Khartoum seeking refuge in the state.

The dire conditions of the newly displaced people in both Shendi and Atbara cities are catastrophic. The people are living in squares and open spaces, with soaring temperatures exacerbating the situation, posing risks of disease outbreaks.

Displaced individuals from the areas of Um Dawan-ban, Al-Esilat, Ed Babiker in Sharq Al-Neel locality, say they had been subjected to assault and looting by elements affiliated with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) along the route to Shendi from Sharq Al-Neel in Khartoum State.

A medical source in Shendi that hospitals in the city have been overwhelmed with patients and casualties in recent days, indicating a new wave of displacement from Khartoum.

Those displaced from Sharq Al-Neel, who recently arrived in Shendi, complained about the use of heavy drones by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) in their areas that forced them to flee for their lives.

Amidst recent development of the battles and the advancement of SAF in Omdurman and the northern part of Khartoum city, the situation is taking a new turn with the intensified attacks by SAF, hinting at the possibility of a large-scale military operation in the region.

This situation has compelled many residents, including those who fled to Khartoum and Sharq Al-Neel after the invasion of the Al-Jazirah State by the RSF, to escape the fighting, to forcibly displace to the River Nile State.

Humanitarian, health, and economic conditions worsened after telecommunication disruptions and the inclusion of food and medicine as weapons of war between the two parties.

Hammad Osman, who recently arrived in Shendi from Um Dawan-ban, told Atar that the citizens in Sharq Al-Neel locality have been suffering from a major water crisis for over two months due to power outage, which led to the suspension of pumps used to extract water from wells in all neighbourhoods.

This forced residents to resort to alternative solutions, starting from attempting manual extraction of water from wells. They have now resorted to extracting water from sewage lines.

“Recently, other treatments have begun through attempts to provide fuel to operate water extraction pumps via generators or by working on providing solar energy cells in some areas. However, the soaring prices of gasoline in the black market and the theft of solar panels have hindered the effective treatment, in addition to the scarcity of foodstuffs and the shortage of liquidity, preventing the continuity of food support. The interruption of water and electricity has also led to the spoilage of medicines in functioning health centres,” Hammad said.

Displaced individuals from the areas of Um Dawan-ban, Al-Esilat, Ed Babiker in Sharq Al-Neel locality, say they had been subjected to assault and looting by elements affiliated with the (RSF)

Abu Khalil, from Ed Babiker, has lost hope in any possibility of resumption of electricity because most transformers have been looted.

It appears that the escalation of military operations between SAF and RSF in Khartoum, coupled with the worsening living conditions and the interruption of water and electricity services, has led to a new wave of displacement among the stranded population since the outbreak of war, towards safer areas in the River Nile State, which is adjacent to Khartoum State.



Al-Fashir under siege amidst aerial bombardment

Al-Fashir- By Atar Correspondent

There have been renewed clashes and escalating conflict between the warring factions of Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) in the city of Al-Fashir in recent times.

Last week, Sudanese Air Force aircraft targeted positions and deployments of the RSF in the northern and northeastern directions of Al-Fashir in North Darfur State for three consecutive evenings. There was, however, a cautious calm in the capital of the state, Al-Fashir, last

Tuesday, following fierce clashes between SAF and armed movements on one side and the RSF on the other, in the northern and northeastern directions of the city.

The continued aerial bombardment has led everyone to anticipate the arrival of military aircraft, which bomb the positions of the RSF day after day. SAF also targets RSF gatherings for attack or confrontation from a distance.

The increased bombing on the northern and northeastern areas of the city has forced the displaced to head towards the southwestern neighbourhoods of Al-Fashir, which are considered safer and have shelters and hosting communities.

Al-Fashir city is experiencing stagnation in market activity and weakening purchasing power, coinciding with the fall of Mellit city into the hands of the RSF. Mellit used to be a hub for trade between Sudan, Chad, Libya, and even Nigeria.

After the RSF closed the road leading to Al-Fashir, Mellit became crowded with vendors and goods, while Al-Fashir became almost devoid of them, leading to a sharp rise in prices and scarcity of goods.

Districts such as Al-Wefaq, Al-Masaniae, Al-Ma'ahad, Al-Jabal, Al-Wihdah East, and Al-Kahraba East have witnessed successive heavy strikes, with bombings occurring day after day between eleven and two at night.

The aircraft illuminate the darkness of the city caused by power outages since last year as a result of the deployment of the RSF near the main power generation station.

Most residents in the targeted areas have fled to the south, where there is relative safety. The population has crowded in schools, streets and wide squares. The cost of transportation within the city have up.

Generators have become prone to constant malfunction due to fuel mixed with impurities, especially after the closure of Mellit-El Fashir road, which directly af-

ected the flow of fuel into the city. The price of a barrel of water from tankers has risen to 3,500 Sudanese pounds while cart dealers are selling at 4,000 pounds amid severe scarcity. According to one tanker driver, it takes four nights waiting in a row beside the well for one to get turn for filling in manual pumps, which fill about 200 gallons each morning, even though the water is not fit for drinking due to its high salt content.

Al-Fashir market opens for hours during the day, then closes, and then opens again, depending on the security situation inside the city. Al-Salam weekly market has become a large square with goods but no customers, as prices exceed the purchasing power of citizens.

The livestock market, which has become a destination for wholesale traders who have moved from the main market, and traders from the "Libya market", is now experiencing a clear recession as most traders have stored their goods, awaiting what the future brings, especially with the road closure and tight siege.

On Wednesday, May 1, the United States warned of potential widespread looting sprees in Al-Fashir, the capital of North Darfur State. US ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Greenfield, [said](#) that Al-Fashir is on the brink of a wide-scale massacre, calling on the Rapid Support Forces to lift the siege on the city.



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