



برلمان الشباب
YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Youth Parliament – Sudan

Initiative | Access to Basic Services Protocol

Summary: This Protocol proposes a practical six-point framework for civilian protection within a complex and fragmented conflict environment. It is based on building political and security consensus to ensure the neutrality of basic services, preventing their targeting or politicization. The initiative aims to empower local authorities and grassroots groups to deliver essential services under the umbrella of **International Humanitarian Law (IHL)** through effective coordination partnerships. It calls for the integration of this protocol into truce agreements to ensure the neutralization and continuity of services, while strengthening international monitoring and accountability mechanisms, thereby transforming humanitarian coordination into a measurable and enforceable commitment.

Article (1) The Core of the Initiative

Depriving civilians of basic services and targeting civilian infrastructure constitutes a grave violation that may amount to **war crimes** under the principles of International Humanitarian Law, including the **Rome Statute**, and in accordance with the obligations set forth in the **Jeddah Declaration**.

Accordingly, "**Localities**" (local administrative units) are recognized as the primary technical entities for the coordination and management of public services, which include—but are not limited to—education, health, water resources, energy, and civilian facilities. **Grassroots groups** (Emergency Response Rooms, local initiatives, youth, women, and civil society organizations) shall serve as the

executive partners in delivering these services equitably and transparently to local communities.

To ensure operational continuity amidst multiple centers of control, logistical coordination and monitoring tasks shall be assigned to the **"Humanitarian Partners Chamber"** as a central coordination platform. This serves to protect the right to life and the integrity of civilian objects throughout Sudan.

Article (2) The Operational Track

- Grassroots groups are recognized as local humanitarian and service initiatives working in partnership with Localities. Efforts shall be made to neutralize them from any restrictions or interventions that hinder their humanitarian performance, including measures imposed by authorities acting as proxies for military parties.
- **Coordination Partnership Councils** shall be established between Localities and grassroots groups to plan, implement, and monitor the delivery of basic services.
- Localities, in coordination with local groups, shall manage and operate basic service facilities within their geographical scope, including food warehouses, water stations, health facilities, and other civilian infrastructure.
- Any military targeting or intervention that obstructs the work of civilian facilities, service personnel, or humanitarian responders is a violation of IHL and shall be subject to monitoring, documentation, and accountability through relevant international mechanisms.
- Transparent funding mechanisms shall be developed to enable Localities and grassroots groups to access support through trusted humanitarian channels, ensuring service continuity and minimizing the risks of politicization or exploitation.
- A coordination platform, the **"Humanitarian Partners Chamber,"** shall be established, comprising the Youth Parliament – Sudan, representatives of grassroots groups, regional and international organizations, and humanitarian partners, to coordinate efforts and enhance response strategies.

Article (3) Access and Oversight Mechanisms

- International partners shall support logistical efforts and facilitate the flow of humanitarian supplies in accordance with the principles of **neutrality and independence**, contributing to enhanced service access for local communities.
- Grassroots groups, in coordination with partners, shall undertake community monitoring roles within service facilities (such as schools and health centers) to mitigate military interference and document violations in a professional and systematic manner.

Article (4) Protection Principles

- All parties must respect and protect personnel engaged in the delivery of basic services and volunteers; they must not be harassed or targeted while performing their duties.
- Military parties shall facilitate the movement of supplies and services between different regions via **safe corridors**, ensuring the continuous provision of services to the civilian population.

Article (5) Documentation and Accountability

- The role of "**Community Partnership Councils**" shall be strengthened as civilian mechanisms for monitoring and documentation, ensuring their protection and enabling them to perform their duties independently and safely.
- These councils shall document any disruption or targeting of basic services—such as water or power outages—using unified professional methodologies. These incidents shall be referred to the "Humanitarian Partners Chamber" to be linked with international monitoring and verification mechanisms, activating accountability pathways at both national and international levels.

Article (6) Integration and Humanitarian Recognition

- The principles of this Protocol shall be explicitly incorporated into truce agreements to reinforce the neutralization of basic services.
- The obligations of the parties shall be linked to enabling the delivery of basic services and humanitarian supplies to Localities, in accordance with the principles of this Protocol.

- The role of Localities and grassroots groups as executive partners in providing non-politicized basic services shall be officially recognized.
- Joint monitoring and evaluation mechanisms shall be included, in coordination with the "Humanitarian Partners Chamber," to ensure compliance with protection clauses and prevent service disruption.
- Any breach of these commitments shall be considered a violation of humanitarian arrangements, subject to documentation and referral to relevant international bodies.

Call to Action

We call upon **international and regional mediators** to include this Protocol as a binding clause in ongoing negotiation tracks. We call upon **UN agencies and international organizations** to align their programs with this framework and provide logistical and technical support. We urge **donors** to direct funding through humanitarian channels that support Localities and grassroots groups based on transparency and non-politicization. We call on **military parties** to make a practical commitment to neutralizing basic services and protecting civilian personnel. Finally, we invite **local communities** to organize themselves within "Partnership Councils" to ensure service continuity and monitor any violations.

COORDINATION AND CONTACT POINTS

For technical coordination and follow-up regarding this initiative, the international mediation and signatory parties may contact the designated representatives of the proposing entities:

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