

Sudan DDR Programme

Reintegration Project for Women Blue Nile State, Sudan



Project Brief Gender Unit

June 2011



Overview of the Project

As part of the Sudan DDR Programme, the Women Associated with Armed Forces (WAAF) Reintegration Project in Blue Nile State was funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR). Additionally, some of the packages were provided for by JICA (see story page 17). The project, which covers all 6 localities of Blue Nile State (Damazin, Roseires, Baw, Tadamon, Gissan and Kurmuk), began at the end of 2009 and finalized all activities in May 2011.

Rationale:

The Sudan DDR Programme (SDDRP) is an integral part of Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which was signed on 9 January 2005. DDR in Sudan is designed to enhance short-term security through capitalizing on peace dividends through reintegrating individual ex-combatants (XCs) and Special Needs Groups (SNGs), while also contributing to longer-term peace and stability through affecting the rightsizing of both the SAF and SPLA. Doing so will positively impact security by increasing trust and confidence between the two formerly opposing forces, facilitating conditions for domestic security, as well as directly addressing XCs and SNGs as a human security threat.

Women Associated with Armed Forces (WAAF) are a distinct special needs group eligible for DDR in Sudan as part of the SDDRP according to the National DDR Strategic Plan, implemented through the Sudan DDR Commission (SDDRC) and the South Sudan DDR Commission (SSDDRC). WAAF are recognized in the SDDRP due to the support services they provided to the military and armed groups which were essential to the maintenance and cohesion of the armed groups. WAAF are also recognized given the close inter-reliance between themselves and the military, because many WAAF traveled with armed groups and relied on the military structure for subsistence. As opposed to the civilian community, they have been excluded from social support mechanisms. WAAF do not receive a military salary thus rendering them especially vulnerable in the interim period. Disputes over WAAF have also proven to be a cause of insecurity amongst regular forces awaiting demobilization, thus underscoring the urgent need to reintegrate WAAF.

Objectives: To provide economic, social and psychosocial support to Women Associated with Armed Forces (WAAF) which is customized to their specific and unique needs;

- To provide lessons learned and best practices on WAAF reintegration to integrate in the SDDRP;
- To support International Best Practices on Gender and DDR.

Why a Community Based Approach:

- Creating a project for WAAF where Female ex-combatants (FXC) do not benefit could be divisive among DDR participants;
- WAAF have reported problems with other women in the community who feel they too should benefit from DDR;
- Many projects are applicable to the needs of others in the community (i.e. psychosocial projects) and would be divisive if only available for DDR participants; thus all projects are community based;
- Psychosocial assessment has shown high levels of males with unaddressed trauma issues. There are also areas where Domestic Violence has been reported by female DDR participants;
- Addressing reproductive health only with women will not be effective – it must also target men as agents of change.



Women participating in literacy and food preparation classes. See details on p.9. Photo credit: UNDP DDR

Project Components

Assessments and Capacity Development

Gender Assessments (Vulnerabilities & Capacities)

Results fed into real time project development

Implemented by: SDDRC, Joint DDR Commission (JDDRC), UNDP

Number Women Surveyed: 156

Geographical Coverage: All 6 localities

Conducted in: 2009-2010

Reintegration Opportunities Mapping

Results fed into development of Economic Package

IP: Policy Assessment Consulting and Training (PACT Sudan)

Geographical Coverage: All 6 localities

Conducted in: 2009

Capacity Development

Activities: DDR Cross Cutting Issues workshop with JDDRC, UNDP and implementing partners as well as one to one technical support for DDR Commission

Location of Workshop: Damazin

Conducted in: throughout the duration of the project

Information Counseling and Referral Services

Provision of one to one economic counseling and referral

Implemented by: JDDRC and UNDP Caseworkers

Geographical Coverage: Counseling in Damazin and mobile counseling in Kurmuk

Counseling conducted from: 2010-2011

Socio-Economic Reintegration

Economic Packages:

IPs: FAO (Agriculture and Livestock), JASMAR (Small Business), FPDO (Agriculture and Livestock), IPDO (Agriculture and Livestock), and Mubadiroon (Agriculture and Livestock)

Geographical Coverage: All 6 localities

Beneficiaries: 445

Conducted in: 2010-2011

Community based projects: literacy and food processing training integrating peacebuilding and reconciliation

IP: Sudan Open Learning Organization

Geographical area: 3 localities in BNS

Beneficiaries: 200 WAAF and community women

Conducted in: December 2010-April 2011

Reproductive Health Component

IP: UNFPA, Sub-IPs Mubadiroon and Islamic Relief Agency (ISRA)

Geographical area: All localities in BNS

Beneficiaries: 30 Healthcare providers, 6 caseworkers, 90 peer educators, 21,900 WAAF, FXC and community women

Conducted in: December 2010-May 2011

Psychosocial: Screening, Referral system, and Counseling

IP: Africa University – Psychosocial Trauma Centre

Geographical area: All 6 localities in BNS

Beneficiaries: Offered to all 1096 WAAF and FXC and community women and men

Conducted in: December 2010-May 2011

Civic Education Component

IP: Sudanese Red Crescent Society Blue Nile State and Partner LABENA

Geographical area: All localities in BNS where WAAF and FXC reside

Beneficiaries: 1096 WAAF and FXC, and 200 community women

Conducted in: September 2010-May 2011

Assessment and Capacity Development

Gender Assessments (Vulnerabilities and Capacities)

To inform reintegration planning for WAAF, an initial assessment of vulnerabilities and capacities of the WAAF caseload was undertaken in 2005 and qualitative base line data was collected. Subsequent cycles of gender assessments were conducted from 2009-2010, by the SDDRC, JDDRC and UNDP providing the project with basic data pertaining to FXCs and WAAF's reintegration needs and capacity.

Several additional assessments with male and female civilians and DDR participants took place from 2010-2011 within the framework of the Community Security and Arms Control component of the DDR programme.

Here, the results of Focus Group Discussions with women fed into real time project changes. For example, the Focus Group Discussions revealed gaps in key life skills – such information was used to formulate a Civilian Training Package comprised of 10 topics and to develop a literacy and food processing project.

Reintegration Opportunities Mapping

The objective of the Reintegration Opportunities Mapping (ROM) is to assess opportunities that will enable XCs and WAAF to earn their livelihood and participate in the economic and social life of their communities either through formal employment or self-employment. It also identifies the capacities of existing, and the need for additional, educational and training facilities in the resettlement communities. The Mapping conducted as part of this project covered the 6 localities of Blue Nile State.

DDR Cross Cutting Issues Workshop

JDDRC and UNDP staff, including case workers, as well as implementing partners in Blue Nile State attended a DDR and Cross Cutting Issues Training Workshop, which took place in Damazin from 2-3 May 2010. The workshop was co-facilitated by UNDP/DDR section, UNFPA, UNMIS HIV, UNMIS Gender, UNMIS Civil Affairs, and UNMIS/DDR.

The aim was to build the participants' capacity on cross cutting issues within DDR, establish a common understanding of these issues within the Sudan DDR Programme, identify key related challenges, and propose concrete solutions.

The topics covered included: the role of public information; definition and concepts of HIV/AIDS and how to communicate such sensitive issues; the importance of HIV Voluntary Confidential Counseling and Testing; gender concepts and issues; reproductive and maternal health issues; and Gender Based Violence concept, types, and key forms.

Information Counseling and Referral Services (ICRS)

Implemented by: JDDRC and UNDP Caseworkers

The objective of one-to-one counseling is to enable individual participants to choose the most suitable reintegration strategy. Female caseworkers are available to counsel female DDR participants, including WAAF and FXCs, and female DDR participants are given special priority for counseling.

UNDP and JDDRC Caseworkers provided assistance to each WAAF and FXC in BNS to assess their experiences, skills and interests in order to make an informed decision about a sustainable livelihood.

Caseworkers also assisted DDR participants to identify possible barriers to employment, such as physical disability or the need for skill training, and provided referrals to appropriate community resources, such as clinics, self-help groups, adult learning classes, services for persons with a disability, and women's association.



Counseling sessions in BNS.

Photo credit: Paul Banks, UNMIS

Economic Packages

Economic Packages:

Implementing Partner: FAO (Agriculture and Livestock), JASMAR (Small Business), FPDO (Agriculture and Livestock), IPDO (Agriculture and Livestock), and Mubadiroon (Agriculture and Livestock), Women's Union

The individual reintegration component provides sustainable reintegration options to XCs, who are individually counseled on their best reintegration option. Reintegration opportunities are offered in fields such as agriculture and animal husbandry, small business start-up, vocational skills and formal education. Under this project, and through its implementing partners, economic Packages have been provided to 445 women.

Reintegration packages include:

- 1) Training
- 2) Material Package
- 3) Follow up support to ensure sustainability of livelihood
- 4) Referral Services



Photo credit: Paul Banks, UNMIS

Women can choose from a number of different packages, including animal husbandry (left) and small business (above).

Market Mastery: Fawzia's Business Growth



Fawzia Babiker Ibrahim
Photo credit: UNDP DDR

“May God not return the times of war,” prays Fawzia Babiker Ibrahim, juggling her baby as she serves an early morning customer. Through the provision of small business training, the Sudan DDR Programme and UNDP Consumable Commodities Project, has assisted many women affected by the war, such as Fawzia, to begin a new chapter in their lives.

As a child, Fawzia witnessed the fighting in her own village of Gissan: “At that time the circumstances were very dire: there was no way to earn an income.” Her family eventually fled the fighting, moving to Habisha (Ethiopia), where life was still difficult. There, at the age of 15, her husband moved with her back to Damazin where she had no choice but to work preparing food for the SPLM. She would also walk 5-6 hours to sell mangoes collected in Damazin to meet her basic food needs.

While experiences of the war are still difficult for her to talk about, discussions of her new business prospects elicit a much happier response: *“In the training I learned about the debit and credit and I also learnt how to do the measurements”*.

Standing in her very own shop, a converted room of her home in Damazin, it is clear from the eagerness in her voice that the training from SDDRC and UNDP implementing partner JASMAR has given her more than just business skills. The ritual of a daily afternoon coffee with her neighbors at the small tea and coffee stand she has set up in front of the shop is testament to the newly strengthened bonds as her business success allows her to play a fuller role within the community.

Community Based Women's Projects

Community Based Women's Projects: Literacy, Food Processing and Community Centre Days

Implementing partner: Sudan Open Learning Organization (SOLO)

Background and Rationale:

- High rates of illiteracy among women;
- During gender assessment women requested literacy/numeracy and food processing training;
- Women reported food insecurity during certain times of the year and requested support in learning how to use food they have excess of for the future.

Key Activities:

- Nutrition assessment determined types of food processing to focus on, based on what nutritional elements are present in specific areas;
- Training of Trainers Training for 12 facilitators in Literacy using the REFLECT method which incorporates women's empowerment themes and peacebuilding elements;
- Literacy circles formed in 4 communities, with 25 women per circle;
- Women developed "Expenditure Trees" of their income and time;
- Women developed time lines of division of work and time in the home and community;
- Training of Trainers Training conducted for 8 facilitators on food processing, who each roll out to 25 women in their community;
- Trained of Ministry of Education staff on M&E and REFLECT
- Two peacebuilding events organized in each community where women apply their newly acquired food processing skills and sell goods to the community, coupled with drama, music and other events that illustrate key issues identified in their REFLECT circles.

The REFLECT approach to literacy involves community members in the development of the literacy lesson through activities related to their development needs.

Going SOLO, together



Muna, Aisha and other participants during a training session. Photo credit: UNDP DDR

Not so long ago, Muna Yousef Albasher and Aisha Mohamed Abied were unemployed and work prospects seemed scant; but they are busy now as the two were among eight new volunteers participating in January's Training of Trainers Programme to build capacity on nutrition, food processing, and market pricing skills organized by Sudan Open Learning Organization (SOLO), as part of the reintegration programme for women in Blue Nile State.

The training in Roseires was developed based on an assessment of locally available foods and traditional dishes, with an eye on improving their nutritional value. With the information garnered, SOLO went on to develop a nutrition manual for the Training of Trainers, which Muna and Aisha will now use during their own sessions.

Aisha, who will be working as a trainer in the village of Bakori, says she volunteered for the job because she wants to help other people in rural communities who have not had the same opportunities as her.

At the end of February 2011, Muna, Aisha and six other women learned to teach food preservation and processing methods adapted to the local context, and techniques for enhancing the nutritional value of traditional dishes. As Aisha noted with a smile, "I'm so happy to work with war-affected women and help them have a happier and healthier life."

Civic Education Component

Civic Education Component

Implementing Partner: Sudanese Red Crescent Society and LABENA Women's Organization

Background and Rationale:

- This project responds to gaps in key life skills due to years away from formal and informal educational systems;
- The Civilian Training Package was developed as a result of findings of gender assessments.

Key Activities:

- Development of 10 Manual Civilian Training Package with technical experts from Ministries, NGOs/CBOs and UN Agencies:
 - ❖ Comprehensive Peace Agreement/Civic Rights
 - ❖ Human Rights/Women's Rights
 - ❖ Conflict Resolution
 - ❖ Leadership/Citizenship
 - ❖ HIV/AIDS and STIs
 - ❖ Malaria/Diseases
 - ❖ First Aid
 - ❖ Reproductive Health/Parenting
 - ❖ Hygiene and Sanitation
 - ❖ Nutrition
- Participants received food package from World Food Programme;
- Community members selected the 200 female participants;
- Training for 33 facilitators on using the 10 Manuals conducted. The facilitators trained groups of no more than 40 women (civilian and WAAF/FXC) for 30 days and conduct discussion groups with them on the 10 topics;
- Standard Operating Procedure developed based on lessons learned.

Way forward:

- This project will serve as a model for the roll out of Civic Education roll out across the Sudan DDR Programme;
- Low literacy pictures will be added to each manual to make them more useful for low literacy populations.

Building Life Skills with the Civilian Training Package

Born in Kurmuk, a small village on the border with Ethiopia, Najwa Ibrahim is 23 years old and holds a secondary school degree. Recently, she became one of 35 Sudanese Red Crescent/LABENA Women's Organization volunteers who participated in a Civilian Training Package (CTP) training of trainers, an opportunity which she welcomed as a great way to diversify her knowledge base, and gain respect from community members. "I learned a lot from this course," she explains, "before, I used to sit at home and I had very little experience. Now, it will make it much easier for me to find work."

Najwa recalls with sadness the hardships of the years of war. "When I was 13 years old my mother was held captive and suffered like many other women around her. This gives me the motivation and inspiration to help other women like her. I refer to my region and my roots to spread the messages and information I learned through this training to other women."

With pride, Najwa explains that she is looking forward to supporting women in her community by raising their awareness on the CTP's 10 topics: HIV/AIDS/STIs, Hygiene/Sanitation, Nutrition, First Aid, Leadership/Citizenship, CPA/Peacebuilding, Conflict Resolution, Diseases, Reproductive Health/Parenting, and Women's Rights/Human Rights. The training of trainers was facilitated by technical specialists from Ministries, UN Agencies and NGOs/CBOs in Damazin and the roll out was supported by the World Food Programme, who provided 1296 WAAF, female ex-combatants and community women with a standard food package, as part of the Sudan DDR Programme.



Training and group work sessions. Photo credit: UNDP DDR

Reproductive Health Component

Reproductive Health Component

Implementing Partner: UNFPA and Mubadiroon and Islamic Relief Agency

Background and Rationale

- During gender assessments women reported lack of knowledge on Reproductive Health (RH), HIV, and other health issues and requested training;
- WAAF have not had access to RH services and may have been exposed to Gender Based Violence (GBV);
- Targets men and women to ensure most comprehensive response to GBV, HIV, and RH.

Key Activities:

- Worked with Ministry of Health staff to ensure sustainability;
- Improved services at 3 Voluntary Confidential Counseling Treatment centers;
- Provision of medical equipment and drugs to select hospitals;
- Trained health care providers on clinical management of rape;
- Conducted community outreach, including radio drama, music, and community theatre;
- Trained 60 peer educators on RH, HIV, GBV implemented;
- Follow up FGDs conducted separately with women and men;
- "One Man Can" Training Of Trainers with 30 peer educators completed;
- Provision of awareness materials STI/STDs, GBV, RH, etc;
- Trained JDDRC and UNDP caseworkers on RH and GBV messages.



Training sessions and community outreach in BNS. Photo credit: UNDP DDR

One Man Can: Breaking the Silence

Under the comprehensive Reproductive Health awareness raising project, Mubadiroon adapted and piloted the **One Man Can** Manual from *SONKE Gender Justice* for the first time in Sudan, and for the first time in any DDR programme. The project, which integrated issues of Gender Based Violence and HIV/AIDS, is part of the Sudan DDR Programme, funded by UNDP and implemented by UNFPA

The **One Man Can** (OMC) campaign encourages men to work together with men and women to take action in their communities to promote healthy relationships based on a commitment to gender equality and to supporting women to achieve their rights to health, happiness and dignity.

Mubadiroon, with support from UNDP Rule of Law Project trainers, trained 30 individuals on OMC including nurses, Sudan National AIDS Programme staff, People Living with HIV/AIDS, ex-combatants previously trained as HIV Peer Educators, actors, media and local NGOs. These 30 individuals then supported training to 60 community level peer educators in DDR receiving communities, who in turn developed community outreach and awareness strategies on Gender Based Violence, Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS tailored to their own community.

At the same time, the OMC facilitators worked with community educators to develop a comprehensive public information campaign for communities, which reached 19,500 individuals. Community leaders were engaged in the project to record key messages for local public radio on these topics.

Overwhelmingly, women welcomed the fact that men were also targeted through this project, allowing them to openly discuss their traditions, cultural practices and barriers, and perspectives of women's roles. In Ofod, in Geissan locality, men recognized the challenges to overcoming traditional barriers with regards to early marriage, female genital mutilation and gender-base violence, while at the same time accepting that they have a role to play in the process. In turn, the women in the community expressed their gratefulness that such issues are now discussed in the public arena, and explained that in their view the project is helping break a long existing "silence."

Psychosocial Component

Psychosocial Component

Implementing Partner: Africa University – Psychosocial Trauma Centre

Background and Rationale

- During gender assessments women reported trauma, depression, anxiety and other trauma related issues;
- WAAF have reported issues of domestic violence and harassment, including from men under the influence of alcohol;
- Following a psychosocial assessment, which identified high psychosocial needs among men the project was enlarged to expand training of male counselors and provision of counseling for men.

Key Activities:

- Referral system established to refer severe cases from community counselors to State Hospital and from State Hospital to Khartoum IUA Psychosocial Trauma Center;
- Low literacy counseling manual for Community Counselors was developed and utilized;
- Development of an SoP for psychosocial reintegration in the SDDRP;
- Psychosocial radio dramas developed to raise awareness and reduce stigma, including issues of alcohol/drug use and domestic violence;
- Community open days organized to raise awareness and foster community discussion;
- 102 Community Counselors (selected by the community) trained in 6 localities of BNS to handle basic counseling (Tier 1);
- Provision of counseling for WAAF and FXC (and community members) by Community Counselors;
- Training of Ministry of Health staff in Damazin State Hospital to handle mid-level cases (Tier 2) conducted.



Counselors during training and providing services to the communities.

Photo credit: UNDP DDR

Healing Hearts and Minds for a Brighter Tomorrow

Entesar Khlefa and Badria Alhajj are two of the 102 community counsellors trained in Damazin on Rapid Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) screening, psychosocial counselling and referral, and communication skills. As Entesar, a young lady in her early twenties explains, she has greatly benefited from the training as a counsellor by deepening her understanding of psychosocial issues. “I am happy because I am a part of this program and it’s the first time the people talk frankly about their psychological problem,” she explains with pride. “I hope to continue helping our people for many more years.”

After receiving the training, Badria screened 15 female DDR participants, of which six were mid level cases which were referred, and four which she could treat herself with basic counselling. “As a result of the project,” she says, “I have gained satisfaction in helping other women (and men) in the community solve their problems.” Through the project she has become well known in her community as a person who provides such care.

In the last few months four male community members came to her to request care after hearing the Psychosocial Radio drama on the radio, a series which was developed by International University of Africa in conjunction with the SDDRC and UNDP. “I am happy to provide care to anyone in need,” explains Badria. “I recognize what an important service it is and how high the need is.”

Entesar, for her part, screened 25 female DDR participants, finding 11 individuals positive for PTSD. One case in particular stood out to her. A young woman she screened, which had mid level PTSD, shared with her that every night she remembers the death of her husband and daughter. After talking with her, Entesar convinced her to see the Tier 2 level doctor at the Damazin hospital. Since then, she has received treatment, with follow up from Entesar on a regular basis, both of which have greatly helped her deal with the trauma. At the same time, the impact of dealing with such cases has helped build Entesar’s reputation as a counsellor that women can trust.

Dressed for Success



Hindia Omer-Mohammad in Roseries
Photo credit: UNDP DDR

In the tiny village of Roseires, the lesson today is centered on getting the stitching absolutely perfect. For the 15 women working with beautiful brightly colored fabrics on new sewing machines supplied by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), this is just one of the twenty days of training they are receiving as part of their DDR reintegration package, under the Sudan DDR Programme.

For four hours a day, under the guidance of local NGO Woman's Union, they learn it all. Afterwards kits from JICA will be distributed to ensure that these lessons don't stop in the classroom. These 15 women, many of whom were formerly associated with armed

forces in the region, are finally getting a chance at something new.

One of the training participants is a demure woman named Hindia Omer-Mohammad. A Roseries native, Hindia has been working as an Arabic teacher in primary school since ending her service as cook and cleaner in the armed forces almost 3 years ago. With her husband, a driver, she works long hours to support her six children.

Although she did not have any dressmaking experience, she sees this as a means to amply support her family. She even plans on establishing her own dressmaking company. "I want to be able to make and sell these dresses, to improve my income and my standard of living." Now her daughters too will be able to wear the ornate dresses and garments she is producing as Hindia sews her family into a prettier future.

Lessons Learned



- Empowering women through socio-economic reintegration reduces their vulnerability, builds support among community for women, promotes healthy relationships, and supports successful reintegration.
- Community based social reintegration promotes reconciliation and peacebuilding among DDR participants
- Working with Ministries, NGOs, CBOs, and UN Agencies promotes sustainability of the project beyond the DDR programme.
- Social and psychosocial reintegration complements individual economic reintegration, more comprehensively addressing the needs of DDR participants.
- Food for training projects are an effective component of Social Reintegration trainings and projects.
- Comprehensive Reproductive Health projects are an essential component of reintegration support and provide care for those in need.
- Both male and female DDR participants need access to psychosocial reintegration and trauma recovery.
- Participation in food processing projects supports much needed food security and nutrition of the family.
- Literacy and numeracy training is a vital and highly demanded support needed for female DDR participants to fully benefit from their economic reintegration package and successfully run their household.
- Civic Education can be an effective Stop Gap measure while DDR participants await Economic Reintegration package, or after as a support to overall socio-economic reintegration.
- Field testing of the Civilian Training Package confirms it fills a critical gap in key life skills, from which both male and female can benefit.
- Linking Social and Psychosocial Reintegration interventions with Community Security and Arms Control components of the Sudan DDR Programme supports sustainability and long term impact.

Partnerships



Sudan DDR
Commission



United Nations
Population Fund



Joint DDR Commission
Blue Nile State



Women Organization
for Development &
Capacity Building
(LABENA)



United Nations
Development
Programme, Sudan



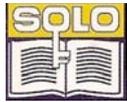
Sudanese Red
Crescent Society Blue
Nile State



Mubadiroon



Women's Union
Blue Nile State



Sudan Open Learning
Organization



Japanese International
Cooperation Agency



International University
of Africa



Policy Assessment
Consulting and Training



Islamic Relief Agency



JASMAR Human
Security Organization



Food and Agriculture
Organization



Friends of Peace and
Development Organization



International Peace and
Development Organization



World Food
Programme



Sonke Gender
Justice Network
IPDC/NGOs, Gender Equality, Human Rights