**United Nation Development Programme (UNDP)**

**Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur Project (YVRDP)**

**Independent Evaluation Report**

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**Table of Contents**

Table of contents 1

Acknowledgement 3

List of acronyms and abbreviations 4

Executive Summary 5

1. Introduction 9

1.1. Background and Context 9

1.2. Description of the Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur Project 10

1.3. Evaluation scope and objectives 11

13.1. Evaluation scope 11

1.3.2. Evaluation objectives 12

1.3.3. Evaluation criteria and questions 12

1.4. Evaluation approach and methods 13

1.4.1. Data sources 13

1.4.2. Sample and sampling frame 14

1.4.3. Data collection procedures and instruments 15

1.4.4. Stakeholder engagement 15

1.4.5. Major limitations of the methodology 16

2. Data analysis. 16

2.1. Relevance 16

2.2. Efficiency, Ownership 17

2.3. Results. Effectiveness, Sustainability 17

2.3.1 Results and Effectiveness 17

2.3.2. Sustainability 20

2.3.3. Gender 20

3. Findings and conclusions 21

3.1. Findings 21

3.2. Conclusions 25

4. Lessons Learned 26

5. Recommendations 26

6. Success stories 29

Success story (1) 29

Success story (2) 30

Success story (3) 31

Success story (4) 32

**List of Tables**

Table (1) States and localities selected and visited during the field work 14

Table (2) No of Youth Volunteers and communities interviewed 14

Table (3) shows main results and effectiveness of the YVRDP Phase I. 17

Table (4) (Proposed values of loans and repayment periods) 25

**List of Annexes**

Annex (1) Questionnaire for the Youth Volunteers trained and

Deployed to the communities 33

Annex (2) Check list for interviewing/group discussions with the CBOs/NGO 35

Annex (3) List of interviewees 36

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***List of acronyms and abbreviations***

ASCA -Accumulating Savings and Credit Association

CBO -Community-Based Organization

CFCI -Child Friendly Community Initiatives

CPAP -Country Programme Action Plan

GAH -Global Aid Hand

INGO -International Non-Governmental Organization

MoA -Ministry of Agriculture

MDG -Millennium Development Goals

MFI -Microfinance Institution

MoFNE -Ministry of Finance and National Economy

MSE -Micro- and Small-scale Enterprise

NGO -Non-Governmental Organization

PCU -Project Coordination Unit

RCSO -UN Resident Coordinator Support Office

SPCU -State Project Coordination Unit

TOR -Terms of Reference

UNDAF -United Nations Development Assistance Framework

UNDP -United Nations Development Programme

UNEP -United Nations Environment Programme

UNV -United Nations Volunteers

WFP -World Food Programme

YV -Youth Volunteer

YVRBDP- “Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur” Project

VNRHD -Voluntary Network for Rural Help and Development

**Executive Summary**

The Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur (YVRD) is a joint initiative led by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with the support of the Government of Sudan (GoS) and United Nations Volunteers (UNV), with funding from the Republic of Korea and UNDP. The main implementing partners are the Universities of El Fashir, Nyala and Zalingie. The project promotes environmentally sustainable poverty reduction and private sector development through the establishment of a youth volunteers-led scheme with the ultimate goal of rebuilding Darfur.

The Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur project contributes to the realization of Outcome 1 under Sudan’s 2013-2016 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and UNDP Sudan’s 2013-2016 Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) Focus Area 1: “Poverty Reduction, Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Livelihoods” under Output 1.2: “Equitable livelihoods initiatives for rural and urban communities are supported for recovery and development’’. The project also responds to the Government’s 25-years Strategy (2002-2027) priority “to establish a National Volunteers Scheme for Private Sector Development”. In support of these objectives, the project seeks to ensure that youth in Darfur are trained and deployed to empower communities to rebuild their livelihoods.

The purpose of this evaluation is to provide an independent assessment of the impact of the YVRDP during the first phase of the project (2012-2014) and to: a) measure the extent to which the YVRDP has implemented its activities, delivered outputs and how these contribute towards attaining the outcomes and development results. b) Generate evidence-based knowledge by identifying best practices and lessons learned that could be useful for the design and development of the future YVRDP Phase II in terms of scale-up and replicability.

Outcome of field surveys conducted during this terminal evaluation has revealed positive impact of the project on the youth volunteers and the communities alike. Most important impacts of the project in this phase include its success in the developing the capacity and skills of the youth volunteers and the community beneficiaries in business management skills, environment and natural resource management. This was confirmed by 100 % of the YVs and community beneficiaries interviewed during this evaluation.

The key achievements are summarized as follows;

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Outputs** | **Indicators** | **Targets** | **Main Achievements** |
| Output 1:  Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur Scheme Established and Institutionalized in Darfur | * No. of Youth Volunteers Schemes endorsed by the state governments as part of their poverty reduction strategies * % of PCU and SPCUs’ staff who feel they are capable of doing their job | * 1 Project Coordination Unit (PCU) and 3 State-level Project Coordination Units (SPCUs) established and operational * 80 % of PCU and SPCU staff feel they are capable of doing their job. | A volunteer scheme has been established in Darfur and is operational through one Project Coordination Unit (PCU) and three State-level Project Coordination Units (SPCUs) in three universities: El Fasher, Geneina and Nyala. |
| Output 2:  Pool of graduate youth volunteers trained and deployed in their communities | * No. of qualified candidates selected, trained and integrated into the scheme, disaggregated by gender and state * No. of   volunteers and senior volunteers deployed   * % of volunteers deployed who feel they are capable of doing their job, disaggregated by state and gender | * 200 * 120 * 80% | 205 volunteers trained (M: 55%, F: 44%) to work as volunteers and 139 trained youth and senior volunteers (M: 56%, F: 43%) deployed to 47 communities in five Darfur States. |
| Output 3: Micro-enterprises in target communities established and expanded in an environmentally sustainable way, with focus on women and youth | * No. and % of community members trained who feel trainings have enabled them to establish sustainable micro enterprises, disaggregated by type of training, age and gender      * No. of start-up micro grants awarded for sound projects | * At least 4,500 community members trained in Entrepreneurship * At least 1,500 community members trained in Natural Resource Management * At least 250 entrepreneurs trained in Mainstreaming of Environmental Sustainability * At least 1,125 community members trained in Business Idea Development * At least 450 start-up micro-grants awarded for sound projects | 14,839 community members (8,095 Male and 6,744 Female) have been empowered to rebuild their livelihoods through the support of the youth volunteers and training in business and environmental management.  158 successful business project proposals received start-up grants for various micro-enterprises. These activities created approximately 500 jobs |
| Output 4 : Market access facilitated for rural MSE profit increase, with focus on women & youth entrepreneurs | * No. of MSEs (re-) integrated into agro-value chains, disaggregated by gender and age * % profit increase for existing rural MSEs through value chains (re-) integration | * At least 1,000 MSEs (re-) integrated into agro-value chains, of whom at least 60% are women &youth * At least 10% profit increase for existing rural MSEs through value chains (re-) integration | Up to 2,000 (62% youth and women) MSEs in the target localities were integrated into and assisted under the Value Chain Project through the Groundnuts, Hibiscus, Livestock and Honey Value Chains. Monitoring reports indicate that beneficiaries increased profits by average 12% within 6 months |
| Output 5: Youth employment increased | * Certificate   award ceremony and jobs fair organized   * % of youth volunteers (self-) employed 3 months after ended assignment | Certificate award ceremony and jobs fair organized  35% of 120 youth volunteers (self-) employed  3 months after their assignment | 49 of the trained youth volunteers have been formally employed within the state government ministries and NGOs |

The evaluation attempted to look into the key outcomes per Output as set out in the initial project document. The key outcome analyses are as follows:

In conclusion, the YVRDP Phase I implemented in Darfur is relevant and successful considering the present protracted conflict which affected the Darfuri populations especially the youth. The project managed to improve the skills of the community members and of the young university graduates and helped some of them access employment in the government and private sector. A Phase II is highly recommended to continue improving and strengthening the skills of the youth and the community members. In Phase II, it is also recommended to increase the number of the volunteers, and target communities. It is recommended to increase the loan and repayment period is to allow the beneficiaries maximize their income and profits from the loan. In Phase II training activities in agriculture and livestock sector should be given consideration.

***1. Introduction***

Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur Project (YVRDP) is one of the projects under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)’s Darfur livelihoods and Recovery Programme, implemented in the five Darfur states in 2012-2014. Most of the YVRDP’s target locations were chosen where other UNDP Darfur Livelihoods and Recovery projects were also operating (e.g Value Chain Project).

At the end of the Phase I, UNDP decided to carry out an independent evaluation for the project. The evaluation aims to assess the overall process and outcome of the project regarding design, activities, interventions, effectiveness, relevance, efficiency as well as impact of the project on the targeted beneficiaries. The evaluation also identifies the challenges, constraints and lessons learned.

the results of the evaluation is expected to be used in designing of the second phase of the YVRDP thereby benefiting from the lessons learned in Phase I in terms of successes or failures.

***1.1. Background and Context***

Statistics of humanitarian assistance in Sudan illustrates a continuing emergency situation: In 2014, 1.7 million people were displaced; 4.7 million populations are food insecure; nearly half a million children have severe acute malnutrition; and around 50% of health and nutrition services being delivered by humanitarian actors. The ten years of protracted conflict has had a severe and lasting consequence on local communities, both pastoralists and sedentary farmers. The security situation in Darfur remains volatile with significant inter-communal violence and fighting between government forces and rebels. The instability in the region continues to cause large-scale displacement: in the first quarter of 2014, as many as 215,000 people have been displaced in Darfur. The loss of infrastructure and basic services has led to a persistent vulnerability and insecurity among the Darfur population, causing massive displacements and generating huge numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs). The IDPs in camps are still reliant on food aid and the entire Darfur region continues to receive humanitarian relief as a necessary means of survival. The livelihood systems have been systematically damaged with significant losses of livestock, wells, trees, tools and seeds. The gradual intensification of desertification and significant population growth, competition over scarce resources are increasingly exacerbating the already precarious humanitarian situation. In Darfur, there is now a huge need for environmentally friendly livelihoods diversification efforts to enable the rural communities to have a decent income and start re-build their assets base. And the humanitarian crises still demand short term support; there is a need for programmatic inter-phase between humanitarian and development support actions aimed at building the resilience of communities to multiple hazards. Because of the nature of the protracted crisis, there is a strong drive to maintain only humanitarian assistance.

Due to the conflict in Darfur, a whole generation of youth has suffered diminished educational and developmental opportunities. Youth (15-24 years) constitute about 19.7% of the Darfur population and the youth unemployment across the three Darfur states is estimated to exceed 40%. Limited access to education, in combination with youth being cut off from their traditional livelihoods due to displacement, creates a double disadvantage for them. While in particular young people have a great potential to help build peaceful and prosperous communities, the pressure to make a living can even become a destabilizing factor fueling violence and criminality. For the most disadvantaged group - illiterate youth in peri-urban and rural communities –agriculture and small businesses activities would provide suitable income generating opportunities. However communities still lack access to skills, finance and markets.

The Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur Project is a joint initiative led by UNDP with the support of the Government of Sudan (GoS) and United Nations Volunteers (UNV). It is funded by the Republic of Korea and UNDP. The project promotes environmentally sustainable poverty reduction and private sector development through the establishment of a youth-led volunteer scheme with the ultimate goal of rebuilding Darfur.

The Project contributes to the realization of Outcome 1 under Sudan’s 2013-2016 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and UNDP Sudan’s 2013-2016 Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP): “People in Sudan, with special attention to youth, women and populations in need, have improved opportunities for decent work and sustainable livelihoods and are better protected from external shocks, thereby reducing poverty” and the specific Output 1.2: Equitable Livelihoods initiatives for rural and urban communities are supported for recovery and development, and aligned with UNDP new Strategic Plan (2014-2017) Outcome 6: “Early recovery and rapid return to sustainable development pathways are achieved in post-conflict and post-disaster settings”. The Project also responds to the Government of Sudan’s 25-years Strategy (2002-2027) priority “to establish a National Volunteers Scheme for Private Sector Development”.

Socially, Darfur encompasses different ethnic groups historically living in harmony and sharing resources for their livelihoods. Increased population growth, marginalization, and lack of development, degradation and, desertification have increased competition between the population thus resulting resulted in conflicts where the youth are the main victims.

Economically, Darfur is depending on natural resources use (land, water and trees) for the livelihoods. Due to prolong neglect of the Sudanese regimes and government since independence, Darfur has not received the main requirements of development in the basic infrastructure (roads, electricity, and water). And because of the above constraints, investment for development has not contributed to creating opportunities of employment and income earning for the youth to sustain their livelihoods.

***1.2. Description of the Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur Project***

The Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur Project as mentioned above is a part of UNDP’s Darfur Livelihoods and Recovery Programme. The programme has set a strong foundation for expanded livelihood and economic recovery activities in Darfur through the implementation of four interconnected components: Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur, Pro-Poor Value Chain Integration, Local Level Conflict Prevention and Peaceful Community Coexistence and Return and Reintegration Support Package for returnees and host communities.

The Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur Project empowers and deploys young volunteers with the goal of rebuilding Darfur. The project period of Phase I was from January 2012 to June 2014. It operates with a two-step approach: at first, with the help of three Darfur universities, the volunteers are selected and trained in micro finance, green business planning and natural resource management. In the second step, the volunteers are sent back to live with their communities for nine months, sharing the skills and knowledge as they are deployed as business brokers and environment volunteers. This enables an unprecedented outreach across Darfur, and allows the youth to build the capacities of their communities in finding sustainable ways for improved livelihoods through microfinance and entrepreneurships. The project also creates a link between remote communities and markets.

The project addresses the main challenges for environmentally sustainable poverty reduction in Darfur through an innovative approach that supports and complements existing local initiatives. These include entrepreneurship skills training, self-employment, and access to microfinance, value chain integration, natural resource management, forestry and climate change adaptation. In cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Finance, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Volunteer (UNV) and 3 Sudanese Universities, the project provides a nationally owned, intensive and cost-effective approach to fill the enormous business and financial skills capacity gap among youth and women in Darfur, while at the same time contributing to the employment of skilled graduates. In addition to facilitating access to markets, business and financial services for rural and peri-urban micro-entrepreneurs, young graduate volunteers will promote local entrepreneurship among youth and other community members and connect them to UNDP value-chain project as well as UN-environmental programme at the local level.

The project targets 9,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries within 1,285 households in 47 communities in five Darfur states and is set to achieve these through five key outputs:

***Output 1: Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur Scheme established and institutionalized in the five states of Darfur***

***Output 2: Pool of graduate youth volunteers trained and deployed in their communities***

***Output 3: Micro-enterprises in target communities established and expanded in an environmentally sustainable way, with focus on women and youth***

***Output 4: Market access facilitated for rural Micro, Small Enterprise (MSE) profit increase, with focus on women & youth entrepreneurs***

***Output 5: Youth employment increased***

The total allocated project resources was USD $ 1,803,751.78 USD (contribution from ROK was USD 1,478,380 and contribution from UNDP was USD 325,371.78). The expenditure for the entire project period was 1,802,405.06 USD representing 99.9% of total allocated resources. In the planning phase of the Project, the Government of Sudan committed to contribute to the Project with a 1,000,000 USD. However, that contribution was not provided till the first phase of the project came an end.

***1.3. Evaluation scope and objectives***

***1.3.1. Evaluation scope***

The evaluation focuses on measuring development results and potential impacts generated by the YVRDP during the course of its first phase of implementation and to examine the extent of delivery of its outputs, activities and inputs detailed in the project document and associated modifications made during the implementation period (January 2012 – June 2014) within the five states of Darfur.

***1.3.2. Evaluation objectives***

The purpose of this evaluation is to provide an independent assessment of the impact of the YVRDP during the first phase of the project and seeks to:

a) Measure the extent to which the YVRDP has implemented its activities, delivered outputs and how these contributed towards attaining the outcomes and development results.

b) Generate evidence-based knowledge by identifying best practices and lessons learned that could be useful for improving design and development of future YVRDP Phase II in terms of scale-up and replicability.

The outcome of this evaluation will be used by UNDP and other stakeholders to inform policy and guide similar future programmatic responses. The evaluation is focusing on measuring development results and potential impacts generated by the YVRDP. It examines the extent of delivery of outputs, activities and inputs detailed in the project document and in associated modifications made during implementation period (January 2012 – June 2014) within the five states of Darfur

***1.3.3. Evaluation criteria and questions***

According to the Terms of Reference (TOR), the evaluation criteria and questions centered on the following;

**1. Assess the results and achievements of the YVRDP Phase I. In particular, the mission focused on the following aspects:**

a) Outline the main achievements of the project and assess the extent to which the YVRDP has contributed to solving the problems identified in the design phase;

b) Assess whether the project has produced its outputs effectively and efficiently and identify the major factors, which have facilitated or impeded the progress of the project towards achieving its goal and desired results;

c) Determine the effect of the project on target groups and in particular the quality, usefulness and sustainability of the project’s achievements and outputs;

**2. Review and assess the efficiency and adequacy of implementation arrangements and management of the project.**

a) In particular, the evaluation should assess the professional capacity and review the quality of inputs and activities by the main national implementing partners of the programme: The PCU and the SPCUs.

b) Assess whether these organizational arrangements were cost effective

**3. Review the effectiveness of the approach used to produce the project results. In particular, the mission should focus on the following aspects:**

a) Revision of the management structure of the project and to determine whether the structure of the project, the resources, the distribution of responsibilities and coordination mechanisms were appropriate for the achievement of project objectives.

b)Reviewing the project strategy and approach such as the selection of the volunteers, target groups, modalities for community deployment and engagement, microenterprise development, the management of the small grant and accumulating savings schemes.

c) Assessment of the support and roles of teams at project management level.

**4. Assessing views of the direct beneficiaries.**

a) In particular, the evaluation would examine whether the participation of primary beneficiaries has been adequate in the preparation and implementation and evaluation of the activities.

b) To the extent possible, the mission will collect the views and impressions of beneficiaries on the perceived impacts of the project.

**5. Sustainability aspects of the project;**

a) Review approach, structures, strategies use by the project to involve local communities and build to technical and management capacities to implement and maintain the project;

b) Assess to what extent the project managed to build community and national ownership.

c) Assess the involvement of different stakeholders and inter-linkages and interactions at the local, state and national levels.

d) To the extent possible highlight linkages and synergies; direct or indirect with other UNDP, government and other donor supported projects.

e) An analysis of the underlying factors beyond UNDP’s control that influence the outcome;

**6. Document Findings, Best Practices and Lessons Learned;**

**7. Produce, as logically and objectively as possible, significant conclusions** that are extracted from the evaluation in terms of project overall goals, approach, relevance, performance, success, failure, strengths, and weaknesses.

**8. Identify the main lessons learned during implementation, identify the major impediments encountered and make specific recommendations** to address these findings in the next envisaged phase of the project.

***1.4. Evaluation approach and methods***

The YVRDP was implemented by UNDP and other partners (Ministries of Finance and Economy at the states levels, Darfur States Universities, Community Based Organizations (CBOs)/NGOs) in the five Darfur states. It is an ambitious recovery, livelihoods and economic development project. For undertaking evaluation for this project, the following methodology was used:

a) **Desk review** of the project document of project action plan, project final report as well as, project monthly, bi-annual and annual reports from the project implementing partners.

b) **Meetings and discussions** with project implementing partners, i.e. UNDP, UNV, PCU and SPCU of the universities, CBOs/NGOs. Project staffs at different levels, some of the project beneficiaries, individuals and groups were met. The objectives of the meetings and discussions are to generate information for exploring the project effectiveness, efficiency and achievements of the proposed outcomes and results. It also to explores lessons learned during the implementation, constraints and challenges encountered.

c). **Field visits** were conducted by the consultant to observe implemented activities in the target locations. The selections of the sites for the filed visit were agreed upon with UNDP and project coordination members taking into account access and security. The field visits allowed the consultant to acquire information and knowledge on the project results and impact on beneficiaries, particularly women. The consultant also obtained information on challenges and constraints faced by the volunteers during implementation of the project activities. The consultant used **Observations** in the field to explore change in practices in the project interventions, and project impact.

d). In order to assess the success and challenges faced by the project, **group discussions and individual interviews** were conducted with the project beneficiaries (male & female) and, volunteers. Some project success stories from the beneficiaries were documented in the Section 6 “Success Stories”.

e). Due to the present conflict context in Darfur, and the rainy season, there were restrictions in access to some of the project sites. Therefore purposive randomized sampling was used to select sites (states, localities and some project sites in the rural areas) then the sites were visited.

***1.4.1. Data sources***

The data sources for this evaluation were the project proposal, annual and bi-annual reports, reports from three SPCUs and primary data collected from the field which provided the quantitative information such as the number of the Youth Volunteers trained and deployed to their communities and the number of community beneficiaries trained by the YVs. Funds proposed and agreed upon by the donor, Sudan Government and UNDP also formed source of information. In addition, UNDP’s project reports provided information the sources of the project funds allocated and used for implementation of the project activities e.g. costs of Youth Volunteer’s’ training, incentives of YVs deployed in their communities, incentives of PCU/SPCUs staffs etc.

***1.4.2. Sample and sampling frame***

Since the Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur Project has a large number of target communities, (47 communities in 5 Darfur states), and beneficiaries (205 Youth Volunteers and more than 14,000 community members), a sampling methodology been used to collect quantitative and quantitative data and information for the evaluation of the YVRDP.

Purposively, three states (North, South and West Darfur) states were randomly selected and visited based on ease of access by flights and security access. The capitals of the three selected states have better access by WFP flights or commercial flights. Moreover five localities were purposively randomly selected within the 3 states for visiting based on ease of access by road and security situation on ground. Table 1 below indicates the states and localities selected/visited during the field surveys:

***Table (1) States and localities selected and visited during the field work***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***State*** | ***Localities*** |
| North Darfur State | 1.Kelaimindo locality  2.Daeassalam Locality |
| South Darfur | 1.Nyala Locality  2. IdelFursan Locality |
| West Darfur | 1. Geneina Locality |

32 Youth Volunteers and community 53 beneficiaries were randomly selected for the interviews. The interviewed Youth Volunteers represents 23 % of the total Youth Volunteers deployed (139 YVs). Table 2 below indicates the Youth Volunteers and community members interviewed:

***Table (2) No of Youth Volunteers and communities interviewed.***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **State/Locality** | **Youth Volunteers** | | **Senior V** | **Beneficiaries** | | **ASCA groups** |
|  | M | F | M | M | F |  |
| ND/Daressalam | 3 | 4 | 1 | 4 | - | - |
| ND/Kelaimindo | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| SD/Idelfursan | 3 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 4 | - |
| SD/Nyala | 5 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 10 |
| WD/Genina | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 9 |
| **Total** | **15** | **12** | **5** | **22** | **10** | **21** |

***1.4.3. Data collection procedures and instruments***

The quantitative secondary data is collected from the project proposal, project implementation reports prepared by UNDP and the PCU/SPCUs. Regarding data collection procedures, individual interviews, group discussions were used.

Questionnaires and checklists were developed and used as instruments to collect quantitative and qualitative information. The questionnaires were used to collect quantitative information through for interviewing the volunteers and community beneficiaries (see annex 3). The checklist is an instrument for qualitative information collection.

***1.4.4. Stakeholder engagement***

The stakeholders of the YVRDP engaged in implementation of the project are as follows:. a) UNDP is responsible for direct implementation of the project , b) the Darfur universities represented by their Peace Centers are responsible parties for coordination of the volunteers, c) NGOs and rural development programs and the targeted communities in the states are responsible for hosting the volunteers, d) States Ministries of Agriculture, and Animal resources and Darfur states training centers are responsible for agricultural training and extension, veterinary training and vocational training respectively. It was however found that the engagement of the States Ministries of Agriculture and Animal resources was weak because training in agriculture and animal resources was not conducted. It is attributed to the fact that the project did not receive all the planned funding from the Government of Sudan.

***1.4.5. Major limitations of the methodology***

The field work of this evaluation was conducted in July-August 2015. As it was in the period of the rainy season, access to many project locations was difficult or impossible. The time allocated for the field work was also very short (12 days). For these reasons, a sampling methodology was used for the evaluation.

***2. Data analysis.***

The quantitative information collected for this evaluation is through the use of questionnaires, and direct interviewing of the selected volunteers and community beneficiaries. Excel Program is used to measure statistically the percentage of the interviewees’ responses.

***2.1. Relevance.***

The conflict in Darfur has undermined livelihood coping strategies and caused millions of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in camps relying on food aid. There are over 500,000 Darfuri refugees in Chad and South Sudan. Intertribal fighting continues to displace civilians and affect humanitarian and early recovery activities. There has been significant livestock loses, and immense destruction of livelihood assets.

The Darfur Conflict resulted in a whole generation of youth suffering from diminished educational and developmental opportunities. Women, in particular, who have little access to income sources and markets, have been further marginalized. Many of the youth and women live in the rural and peri-urban parts of Darfur with no access to basic services or sustainable livelihood opportunities. Moreover, there is a large increase in the number of college graduates, but most of them lack employment opportunities as well as access to capacity building, microfinance services and markets, to enable them to establish their own business. These youth, desperate to make a living, represent a destabilizing risk to the region.

The design of the YVRDP is relevant because it addressed the real needs of the youth in Darfur. The project design has considered the Darfur conflict context which affected the Darfur population in general and the youth in particular. The project trained 205 graduate youth volunteers in business management, natural resource management and peace building. The Youth Volunteers trained about 14,839 community beneficiaries. The result is an improved capacity of the youth and community members that would enable them to managed their businesses and their natural resources. The loans/grants component of the project was the most relevant intervention because it tested the results of training received by the YVs and the community beneficiaries. The grant/loan component was very successful and this confirms that the Youth Volunteer Rebuilding Darfur projects design is relevant.

The design of the YVRDP is also linked to MDG, UNDAF and the national priorities. The Project was designed to involve the participation of national stakeholders such as Darfur Universities, Darfur relevant state ministries CBOs/NGOs and rural communities in implementation of the project to create ownership of the project.

***2.2. Efficiency, Ownership***

The YVRDP has succeeded to implement over 80% of its planned activities with high efficiency. The YVRDP management structure is made up of a program board, a technical advisory committee, and a project manager and Project coordinators in UNDP. As well as field project coordinators belonging to the Darfur universities (El Fasher, Nyala, and Zalingei). The participation of the Darfur universities by provision of the project coordinators to the project has saved some costs of the project because the staffs of the universities are taking their salaries from their institutions. So the participation of these organizations has helped the YVRDP to implement more than 80 % of the planned activities despite the fact that the government failed to provide its committed contribution which was more than 40% of project budget agreed upon by the donor, UNDP and the government.

***2.3. Results | Effectiveness, Sustainability***

***2.3.1 Results and Effectiveness***

Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur Project has proposed achievement of certain results from the proposed five out puts, during the evaluation it is found that the project has achieved over 85% of the expected results from the implemented planned activities.

The effectiveness of the project resulted from the benefits received by the beneficiaries (trained YVs, community beneficiaries who responded that they have acquired skills and knowledge that helped them in managing their small businesses e.g. IDPs).

However, it is found that some of the interventions where it is proposed to be implemented by the government technical departments, project partners, or to be funded by the share of the government which has not materialized, has not been implemented

The YVRDP implementation was undertaken effectively and efficiently because from the evaluation it is found that the project achieved over 85% of the proposed outputs and results in spite that over 40% of the allocated budget has not materialized (the share of the government). This means that the management of the project implementation was undertaken in efficient manner. ***(See table3)***

***The table 3 shows main results and effectiveness of the YVRDP Phase I.***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Output*** | ***Achievement*** | ***Budget*** | | |
| Output 1.  Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur Scheme Established and Institutionalized in the five states of Darfur | One (1) PCU and 3 SPCUs were established and operational in the universities of El Fashir, Zalingei and Nyala. Government liaison officers were seconded to the SPCUs. State level co-ordination mechanism was established and was regularly organized throughout the project phase. Standardized templates, procedures and database structures were developed to facilitate the smooth flow of operations. Through this action, the coordination capacity of the units were strengthened  2) A joint monitoring review conducted with PCU and SPCUs indicate that 85% of the PCU and SPU staff feel their capacities have improved through training, interaction and involvement in the programme. However, areas such as financial management, reporting and project management have been identified as areas of weakness and prioritized by PCU and the SPCUs as areas for future capacity building. In the evaluation , the data base template is not used by the PCU to show the information of achievement | planned | Utilized | Balance |
| 485,37.63  Korea | 572753.32  (Korea) | (77382.69) |
| Output 2  Pool of graduate youth volunteers trained and deployed in their communities |  | 29,770  Korea | 67,559.08  Korea | (37,789.08) |
| The targets achieved.  1. 205 (M: 114, F: 91) volunteers were selected and trained. The geographical breakdown is as follows:  -95 young graduates in South and East (S/ED)  -65 young graduates in North Darfur (ND)  45 young graduates in West and Central Darfur (W/CD) |
| Training Evaluation survey indicates that out of the 205 volunteers selected and trained, up to 95% were satisfied with the training according to the training evaluation  During evaluation 100% of YVs interviewed reported they were satisfied with the training they received. |
| Out of the 205 trained, 139 volunteers comprising 126 Youth Volunteers (M: 65, F:61) and 13 Senior volunteers were deployed to different communities as follows:  -S/ED: 51 business volunteers, 15 environmental  -volunteers and 7 Senior volunteers deployed  -ND: 34 business, 11 environment volunteers and 4 Senior volunteers deployed  -W/CD: 10 business, 5 environment volunteers and 2 Senior volunteers deployed.  -Capacity assessments of RDPs, NGOs and CBOs was conducted which provided the basis for screening and selection. Through these assessments, 9 suitable RDPs and NGOs were identified, to act as employers of the volunteers.  -The project covered 47 communities in the 5 Darfur states. Target communities were selected based on the presence of other UNDP projects, the nature of their identified needs (i.e. the reasons for needing a volunteer), the feasibility to aggregate them into clusters, as well as their ability to contribute to hosting volunteers (accommodation for volunteers, site for the trainings etc.) and their commitment to involve vulnerable and marginalized groups within their communities. |
| Output 3.  Micro-enterprises in target communities established and expanded in an environmentally sustainable way, with focus on women and youth. | -14,839 community members (8,095 Male and 6,744 Female) have been empowered to rebuild their livelihoods through the support of the youth volunteers and training in business and environmental management.  -100% of the community members interviewed during the evaluation responded the training has enabled them to establish their microenterprises.  -158 successful business project proposals received start-up grants for various micro-enterprises. These activities created approximately 500 jobs.  -196 Accumulating Savings and Credit Association (ASCA) groups were established in the five Darfur states and are functioning independently. | 694,804.37  (Korea) | 661,309.64  (Korea) | (33,494.73) |
| Output 4  Market access facilitated for rural Micro, Small Enterprise (MSE) profit increase, with focus on women & youth entrepreneurs | 139 micro-finance mediators were trained who acted as linkages to MF institutions who facilitated access to a wide range of Business Development Services (BDS).  Up to 2,000 (62% youth and women) MSEs in the target localities were integrated into and assisted under the Value Chain Project through the Groundnuts, Hibiscus, Livestock and Honey Value Chains. Monitoring reports indicate that beneficiaries increased profits by average 12% within 6 months. | 4,337  Korea | 0 | 4,337 |
| Output 5  Youth. employment increased | All the 139 youth and senior volunteers who successfully completed their deployment were awarded certificates at a graduation ceremony and job fairs.  Cumulatively, 49 of the trained youth volunteers have so far been formally employed within the state government ministries and NGOs. | 33,463  Korea | 279,529.83 | (312,992.83) |

***2.3.2. Sustainability***

The Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur Project is aligned with the Government of Sudan’s 25-Year Strategy (2002-2027) priority “to establish a National Volunteers Scheme for Private Sector Development” and as such, a youth volunteer scheme has been established”. The Project has set up mechanisms that will ensure the sustainability of the scheme in the future. One Project Coordination Unit (PCU) and three State Project Coordination Units (SPCUs) were established which are currently operational in the Universities of El Fasher, Zalingie and Nyala. They remain the main structures for the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project. State-level governments provided in-kind contributions to the project through secondment of staff to the SPCUs. The secondment of state ministry staff to the SPCUs ensured government participation and ownership and will ensure continuity upon withdrawal of UNDP. The Ministry of Finance worked closely with UNDP in the implementation of the project.

The skills and knowledge that Youth Volunteers acquired from the training would enhance employment opportunities for the youth. Moreover, the knowledge and skills that the beneficiaries acquired especially in the field of business management would ensure sustainability of the project at the beneficiary level.

However, during the evaluation and from the discussions and interviews with the PCU and SPCUs staff, it appeared to the evaluator that the Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur Project would not be sustainable if UNDP and the donors withdrew their funds. That is because, firstly, the peace centers, the main implementing partners of the project, belong to the state’s universities, and they are experiencing continuous turnover of their staff without proper handover, which affects business continuity of the project. Secondly, generally the universities are handicapped by lack or limited resources and so the peace centers, in turn, are lacking funds. In their current states, it would be difficult to continue the project on their own without UNDP or donors’ support. In addition, the sustainability of the project could be affected by decision makers/senior management at the universities (e.g. University chancellors). If the senior management of the Universities no longer show interest in the project, they might not give enough support to the peace center and the project. .

The coordination between the peace centers is currently weak because the SPCUs in Nyala and Geneina are dissatisfied that the Project Coordination Unit was established in the Peace Centre in El Fasher.

The government has failed to provide its contributions during Phase I of the project in spite of its commitment; the project is therefore, not expected to receive funds from the government in Phase II. The NGOs/CBOs need budget support to keep taking part in the project. In this regard, the project would not be sustainable if UNDP and the donor withdrew their funds.

However, regarding the sustainability of YVRDP, impact of the soft component of the project (knowledge and skills acquired by the trained YVs and the community beneficiaries) would be sustainable even if UNDP and the donor funds are withdrawn. This is because the trained YVs and the communities would continue using their gained knowledge and skills in managing their businesses. Their skills and knowledge would expand to their communities through replication of the experiences by practice.

Therefore, to improve the management of the YVRDP in Phase II, it is recommended that each peace center of the estates’ universities participating in implementation of the project are to be treated as independent implementing partner in that particular state in directly link with UNDP. Each peace centers would feel stronger ownership of the project and it may continue supporting the YVs project. And if UNDP and the donor withdrew, the YVRDP may be more sustainable. In addition, each state has to establish its own project data base: in Phase I, the project achievement in establishing a project data base was very weak.

***2.3.3. Gender***

Women in Darfuri Communities in particular are the main active actors in their societies. They play important roles in economic and social development and livelihoods of the households. The Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur Project has taken this important role of women into consideration and thus the gender dimension in the YVRDP was well addressed. The involvement and contribution of women in all project activities and interventions were well represented by more than 40% e.g. the Youth Volunteers selected, trained and deployed to their communities comprises 119 male (56%) and 91 female (44%).

Although the grant/loan winners are made up of more men than women, from the interviews conducted during the evaluation, the success of women in their projects are more successful than men. It can be attributed to their hardworking and the dedicated nature of women in Darfur. Women, especially in rural areas, bear more responsibilities in their livelihoods. They often take any chances and make the utmost efforts to sustain or improve their livelihoods and that of their families. Also, having borne the brunt of household responsibilities including managing scarce resources, woman in Darfur have thus gained enormous experience for managing resources which they transferred into managing their own small businesses. With these reasons, increasing the number of women in loan/ grant project should be considered in Phase II.

***3. Findings and conclusions***

***3.1. Findings***

This terminal evaluation was commissioned by UNDP to assess the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability of the Phase I1 of the Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur Project which was implemented from, January 2012 to June 2014. The evaluation entailed a combination of desk review, review of key project documents and field surveys including bilateral interviews as well as focus group discussions conducted in six localities of three States of Darfur. The following provides a summary of the key findings of the evaluation per each Output of the Project.

***Output 1: Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur Scheme established and institutionalized in five states of Darfur***

One Project Coordination Unit (PCU) and three State Project Coordination Units (SPCUs) were established and operational in the Peace and Development Centers of the three Darfur Universities, El Fasher University in North Darfur, Nyala University in South Darfur (to cover South and East Darfur states) and Zalingie University (to cover West and Central Darfur States). There was a structural change at Zalingie University at the beginning of 2015 and the Zalingie University campus in Geneina became Geneina University. Therefore, SPCU Geneina now belongs to the Peace and Development Center in Geneina University and will now become UNDP’s implementing partner for the YVRDP in Phase II .

During the first phase of the project, the PCU and the SPCUs have selected and trained 205 university graduates (M: 114, F: 91) and deployed 139 of them to function as youth volunteers (YVs) and senior volunteers (M: 78, F: 61) in 47 communities in five Darfur States.

However, from the discussions with the PCU and SPCUs staffs, the structure of the project formed from one PCU at one university (El Fasher) and SPCUs at the other Universities is not appropriate. Establishing one PCU in one university was not welcomed by the rest of the peace centers at other universities (Nyala, Geneina) and this was the main cause of the weak coordination and exchange of information between the SPCUs. Therefore in Phase II of the project, it is recommended that each SPCU is to be treated as separate YVRDP implementing partner at that state and UNDP is to act Project Coordination Unit for the five states. This structure would encourage and create competition between the peace centers in the implementation of the project and create feeling of ownership of the project.

From the discussions and interviews also with the staff of the SPCUs in the states (North, South and West Darfur), it was observed that the coordination between the PCU and SPCUs as well as between the SPCUs is not strong enough. There is a need to improve the database and reporting system which will allow them to share more information among PCU/SPCUs. One of the issues reported was that some of the project information was not kept properly. In addition, the SPCUs staffs need more training and more voluntary spirit themselves. This should be addressed in the second phase of the project since the PCU/SPCUs are the main and essential implementing partners of the Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur Project (YVRDP).

***Output 2: Pool of graduate youth volunteers trained and deployed in their communities***

Under the Phase I, 205 university graduates (M: 114, F: 91) were selected and trained by the three SPCUs in El Fasher, Nyala and Zalingie Universities. 100% of the interviewed youth who received training by the SPCUs responded that they are satisfied with the training and the subjects they received. 100% of them also responded that the training had increased their knowledge. Out of the 205 trained youth, 139 Youths Volunteers and 13 senior volunteers were deployed to their communities. 95% of the deployed volunteers interviewed, expressed their satisfaction with the support and cooperation they received from their communities. This is an indication that the Darfur communities in the rural areas are positively responsive to volunteerism. With this background, it is recommended that the YVRDP should expand their activities in the rural areas of all Darfur states.

From the interviews and discussions with the volunteers, it was found that the incentive provided by the project (350 SDG per month) to the deployed volunteers was very small to support their food while they are living in other villages and not with their families. Many senior volunteers and environmental volunteers cover more than 2 communities which meant that they had to travel between the communities. For them, transportation of the volunteers from their resident villages to other villages for the community training was a challenge for the volunteers during the deployment period in Phase I of this project.

Regarding the senior volunteers, the evaluation showed that their TOR and selection criteria need to be revised so that their roles and tasks are clear. In order to avoid creating a feeling of superiority among the volunteers, it is recommended not to make any differences in volunteers’ incentives and allowance among the two.

Regarding the community members trained by the deployed Youth Volunteers, 92% of the community members interviewed replied that they had acquired essential knowledge through the training they received from the Youth Volunteers. The community beneficiaries trained by the YVs made use of the knowledge they received in managing their loans and grants they received. The result of the training in environment helped some of the beneficiaries in improving their farming practices (planting sesame and ground nuts in alternative rows increased productivity of both crops .said by Hamid) beneficiary interviewed in Darelsalam ). This is an encouraging indication for expansion of the YVRDP to cover more communities in the rural areas in Darfur.

The volunteers were equipped with laptops and internet access devices. However, these did not necessarily help them in their work and communication with the CBOs/NGOs and the SPCUs. During the evaluation, 93% of the interviewed Youth Volunteers responded that the laptops did not help them for many reasons; (a) there is no electricity for recharging the laptops in rural areas, (b) the solar chargers which were supposed to be delivered were not provided in the end, and (c) lack of mobile internet coverage in almost all the rural areas of the Darfur states. They concluded that the laptops and internet access devices were not useful during the implementation the YVRDP Phase I. Some of the Youth Volunteers interviewed added that it would have been more useful and beneficial if the funds allocated for the laptops and internet equipment had been used to increase the amount of the loan/grant or to increase the number of the loan/grant beneficiaries.

***Output 3: Micro-enterprises in target communities established and expanded in an environmentally sustainable way, with focus on women and youth***

The Youth Volunteers transferred the knowledge they gained through the training sessions to the community members. The training subjects included business and financial skills, risk management, bargaining skills, natural resource management, water harvesting reforestation and peaceful negotiation etc. This activity was an important and useful intervention of the YVRDP. 100% of the interviewed beneficiaries responded that they are satisfied with the training. Business management subject was the most useful because it helped the grant and loan recipients to manage their projects successfully. Training in environment subjects raised awareness of the beneficiaries on the importance of natural resource management and preservation. A beneficiary from Darussalam said “*We learned from the environmental training that cutting trees and declining rainfall are the main cause for desertification*.” .

Among the grant/loan winners who benefited from the grant/loan, 100% of those interviewed responded that without the training in business management, they would not have benefited from the grant/loan. The amount of the loan/grant varies from location to another. For example the winners in the IDP camps received 1,400 SDG as grant, the income of some reached 6,000-10,000 SDG within one year (e.g women groups and carpentry beneficiaries). The agricultural and livestock loans beneficiaries in the rural area of North Darfur and South Darfur states, their average income of the successful projects from the loans ranged between 4,000-6,500 SDG per year. Female community members who received the grants/loans were the most successful beneficiaries of the project. It can be attributed to their hardworking and the dedicated nature of women in Darfur. Women, especially in rural areas, bear more responsibilities in their livelihoods. They often take any chances and make the utmost efforts to sustain or improve their livelihoods and that of their families.

Although the amounts of the grant for the IDP beneficiaries in South Darfur was very small (1,400 SDG per individual), the impact was substantial in terms of creating employment opportunities for some of the IDPs. The businesses established in IDP camps were more successful than the loan businesses in the rural areas. This is because the small businesses products (juice, handicrafts etc.) have higher demand and their markets are readily available throughout the year within the IDP camps while livestock and agricultural crops markets are seasonal. As an example found:

The loans provided to the winners in North, West and South Darfur (Id al Fursan) were on the average 3,000 SDG. Many of them could not make much profit from the businesses they started with the loans. Generally, livestock fattening or cash crops farming requires more than six months or at least one year for producing tangible profits. Moreover, risks and market challenges and constraints are high in the present protracted conflict context in Darfur. During discussions and interviews with the loan beneficiaries in North and South Darfur, it was found that six months was too short to run any type of business, especially in the rural areas. The three month grace period, before you start to repay your loans, was not long enough. Moreover, agricultural inputs require more than 5,000 SDG. Livestock fattening or breeding business requires a reasonable amount of money to succeed (e.g. a capital of 5 male goats to be fattened for three months to generate 20% to 25% profit requires 3000-40,00SDG in addition to another 10%-15% of management and fattening costs)

*A blacksmith in Otash Camp received 1,400SDG. hHe started by purchasing steel for manufacturing agricultural implements (donkey ploughs, Hoes). hHe purchased two Guntars (90 Kg) of steel for SDG 800. From this quantity, he made 4 donkey ploughs and 80 Hoes) he sold the 4 donkey ploughs for 1,500 SDG and the 80 hoes for 1,600SDG. His total income from this first business was 3,100 SDG, making a profit of (3100- 1400= 1700 SDG. within 2 months). From the profits, he managed to pay school fees for his three children in addition to his daily family expenses.*

***Output 4: Market access facilitated for rural MSE profit increase, with focus on women & youth entrepreneurs***

A total of 139 volunteers were provided with microfinance mediators training as well as Accumulating Savings and Credit Associations (ASCA) training in order to link beneficiaries with microfinance institutions and to form ASCA groups in the communities. However, the evaluation shows that these activities were not fully implemented as planned. The evaluator only found ASCA groups formed in the IDP camps in South Darfur. In North Darfur, (Dar es salam and Kelimindo Localities) it was found through discussions with the Senior Volunteer and the representative of the CBOs, that there was a confusion among the CBOs/NGOs as well as the volunteers in terms of understanding the concept of ASCA. Farmers’ Union groups (50-100 members) had already been formed in these areas and registered in the Ministry of Agriculture at the state and federal level as farmers unions, therefore the CBOs/NGOs thought there was no need to form another groups in their communities but that these Farmers Union Groups could function as ASCAs.

In West Darfur, the evaluator found that leather and shoes makers group consisting of 101 members and a women group with 200 members (handicraft making group) had been activated through UNDP’s Pro-Poor Value Chain Projects. The two groups are registered under the General Corporation of the artisan. Each of the two groups received 3,000 SDG from the YVRDP as small loans. Although the two groups benefited from the loan, they are not presently accessing the credit institutions to get further loans or credits. Traditionally in Darfur, small businesses are reluctant to access banks or credit institutions because these institutions make profits through imposition of interest and requiring collateral. Many small business owners, including both men and women, in Darfur consider interest rate in lending as a sin (haram in Islam). This should be taken into account when the project delivers future ASCA activities. The project should revise ASCA’s repayment system so that it will meet the conditions set by the Islamic law.

***Output 5: Youth Employment Increased***

The training on business management and other subjects provided to the Youth Volunteers by the project in Phase I has created employment opportunities to the YVs. The grant component for the winners helped them to employ themselves. Moreover the training they received helped others to access formal employment from NGOs and in the government.   
The target was set as “35% of 120 youth volunteers (self-) employed 3 months after their assignment” and the project achieved that 49 % . According to data from UNDP reports, 49 (M: 31, F: 18) volunteers have so far been formally employed as a result of the improved skills gained through training and experience working in the communities. In addition, 20 YVs (12 male & 8 female) started-up th eir own business benefiting from the micro-grants.

***Thurea****, a female Youth Volunteer trained by the project interviewed said: I have been selected from other candidates to hold a job in the State Ministry of Finance in West Darfur due to my training by the Youth Volunteer Rebuilding Darfur Project which gave more points in the competition with others who applied for the job*

Other trained volunteers interviewed responded that the training in different subjects they received helped them to be employed especially in the education institutions (primary schools, kindergartens) of public or private sector especially in the rural areas.

Because business and private sector fields in Darfur states are so limited, not many YVs managed to access employment in the private sector. However, the chances for the YVs to access employment in the private sector would come when peace is achieved in Darfur where the private sector would lead the development and economic growth.

Some of the private lending institutions have very good experience (e.g Microfinance Institution in North Darfur) in 2012-2013 provided small credit/loans for poor families and youth in 16 localities. The loan was SDG 3000 for each beneficiary either in kind or cash and the repayment was once or at the end of the period one year without interest. The total beneficiaries were 1096 in all ND. The rate of the repayment was more than 90%. The guarantee for the receipt is either personal, through institution or traditional leaders etc. my recommendation for Phase II is to contact or implement part of the loan component of the project through this institution with specified agreement of partnership.

***3.2. Conclusions***

a) The Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur Project (YVRDP) is one of the successful UNDP interventions in Darfur during the present protracted conflict.

b) The YVRDP is a rational project because the present protracted conflict context has been taken into consideration in its design and this contributed to the project’s success, in spite of fund limitations due to none materialization of the Government share.

c) The training in business management and other training modules have provided the YV and the communities with knowledge and skills that helped many of them to improve their livelihoods.

d) The small grant/loan component of the project has tested the theoretical aspect of the training and many successes have been achieved by the loan/grant beneficiary winners who used their knowledge acquired from the training.

e) The grant/loan provided to the YV and to some of the beneficiaries was small, especially for the agricultural and livestock small projects; this is because business on livestock fattening or breeding needs more capital than SDG 5000.

f) Electricity power and internet network is not available in almost all the rural areas of the Darfur states. This however, undermined the use of the laptops and internet equipment provided to the deployed YV and this situation will continue for some time.

g) The agricultural and livestock extension intervention was not implemented due to limitation of funds. These interventions were proposed to be implemented from the contribution of the Federal Ministry of Finance which did not materialize.

h) The grants for small businesses provided to the IDPs in the camps, although the amount of the grant was small (1400 SDG for one project), was more successful than the loan businesses in the rural areas. This is because the small businesses products (Juice, handicrafts etc.) are demanded and their marketing is available in the IDP camps while livestock and agricultural crops markets are seasonal.

i) The grants/loans provided to the YV and some of the beneficiaries at the end of the project phase thus resulted in weak follow-up by the CBOs/NGOs, the implementing partners of the project. For example, the Global Hand Aid (the NGO project implementing partner) refused to distribute loans for Idd El Fursan loan winners because the agreement between GHA and the South Darfur SPCU has expired. This affected the follow-up and monitoring of loan intervention, because until now the loan beneficiaries no one has asked them to pay back their loans as the evaluator was told by the loan winners during the discussions in Idd El Fursan with YV and the community beneficiaries who received loans for small businesses

***4. Lessons Learned***

1. The capacity of the Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur project implementing partners (project Coordination Units at the peace centers of Nyala, El father and Zalingei Universities) and the CBOs remain limited in management, data base management and coordination. This resulted in weak /poor follow up and monitoring of some project activities especially after the end of the phase one of the project,(e.g. following- up of the loan/grant activities).

2. Lack of sufficient funding has undermined some of the project interventions e.g. (livestock, agricultural extension activities which was planned to be implemented by the contribution of the government which has not been materialized.

3. Lack or limited access to microfinance due to inability of the lending institutions to provide credit to the small businesses or lack of will of the community to access loans/credit due to religious and interest imposed by the lending institutions was the main reason for none establishment of effectives ASCA groups especially in the rural areas

***5. Recommendations***

Based on the evaluation findings so far, the following are some recommendations to be considered in the second phase:

a) **Continuation and expansion of the YVRDP**: Due to the success of the training provided to the YVs and the community beneficiaries and building the capacity and skill improvement, it is recommended to increase the number of volunteers trained as well as to expand the geographical coverage to more areas in the five states.

b) **Increase in sums for small grants/loans:** The amount is recommended to be increased to 4000-5000SDG for livestock and agricultural small businesses. It is also recommended to increase the loan repayment period to one year for livestock and agricultural crops production businesses.

***Table (4) (Proposed values of loans and repayment periods and time for the beneficiaries)***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Type of beneficiary*** | ***Place***  ***/location*** | ***Type of business*** | ***Proposed amount of the loan/grant*** | ***Repayment period*** | ***Number of installments*** |
| Individual | In rural area | Agriculture (Livestock/crops etc) | 4,000-5,000 SDG | One year | One installment |
| Individual | In town | Non-agriculture  (Service/trade/trading/production etc) | 3,000-4,000 SDG | One year | One installment |
| Group (including ASCA) 10-20 persons | In rural area | Agriculture and Non-agriculture | 10,000-15,000 SDG | One year | One installment |
| Group (including ASCA) 10-20 persons or more | In town | Agriculture and Non-agriculture | 10,000-15,000 SDG | One year | One installment |
| Individual IDP | In camp | Non-agriculture | 3,000-4,000 SDG (Loan) | One year | One installment |
| Individual IDP | In camp | Non-agriculture | 1,500-3,000 SDG (Grant) | N/A | N/A |

c) **Training in accounting** to be provided to youth volunteers: More training in the subject of expenses and inputs, returns is recommended to be intensified for the YVs to be able to provide quality training for the communities. The evaluation shows that most of the beneficiaries do not know how to keep records in their business. It will provides better understanding and business management skills to the beneficiaries especially those who gain the loans/grants.

d) **Female community members** who received the grants/loans were the most successful beneficiaries of the project. It can be attributed to their hardworking and the dedicated nature of women in Darfur. Increasing the number of women in loan/ grant project should be considered in Phase II.

e) **Improved coordination for PCU and SPCUs:** the coordination between the PCU and SPCUs as well as between the SPCUs needs to be improved. There is also a need to improve the database and reporting system which will allow sharing information among the PCU and SPCUs. (During the project coordination meeting on 24 August 2015, this issue was discussed with PCU/SPCUs members. It was agreed to revise the reporting format and to complete the volunteer database by end of September 2015.)

f) **Laptops: Since electricity and internet networks** are not available in most of the rural areas in Darfur, providing laptops to the YVs for the purpose of reporting is not practical and therefore, it is recommended that the YVPDP Phase II provide a desktop computer and printer to each hosting NGO/CBO for the YVs’ use, since they usually have access to power supply and internet. To avoid the risk of misuse or personal use by NGO/CBO staffs, it is recommended to provide a desktop computer not a laptop.

g) **Senior volunteers:** To avoid creating a feeling of superiority among the volunteers, it is recommended not to make any differences in volunteers’ incentives and allowance. .

h) **Volunteers’ incentives and allowance:** The amount of the monthly incentive should be increased and the monthly transportation and communication allowance should be provided. In Phase I, one environmental volunteer covered more than two communities and often the distance between their target communities was far. To reduce the transportation expenses for the environmental volunteers, the Project should assign one environmental volunteer per target community in Phase II.

i) **Microfinance strategy**: To improve implementation of microfinance activities, UNDP Sudan country office should take action on looking further into microfinance and make sure that different projects learn from each other so that UNDP can offer a more holistic approach.

j) **Recommended management actions**: it is recommended that each peace center of the estates’ universities participating in implementation of the project are to be treated as independent implementing partner in that particular state in directly link with UNDP. Each peace centers would feel stronger ownership of the project and it may continue supporting the YVs project. In addition, each state has to establish its own project data base.

**Key Management Actions:**

1. **Incorporate** findings and lessons into the next phase;
2. **Raise more funds** for the expansion of the project;
3. **Review the PCU/SPCU structure** to be more effective;
4. Establish one SPCU in Zalingei;
5. **Review the Micro-capital grant/Loan scheme** to increase the amount and repayment period;
6. Provide more **on-the-job training** to the (S)PCUs on substantive areas such as M&E and Financial management;

***Success Stories*** *“****Output 3:*** *Micro-enterprises in target communities established and expanded in an environmentally sustainable way, with focus on women and youth.****Achievement:*** *158 successful business project proposals received start-up grants for various micro-enterprises. These activities created approximately 500 jobs.”*

Success story (1)

***Women group (Juice making project) - Otash Camp South Darfur***

***1. Asia Haroun Mohamadain, 2.Maryam Abdalla Ibraheem, 3.Safia Adouma Hassan***

We three received training in juice and handicraft making from Care International during 2007/2008. The three of us are displaced from different areas of South Darfur State and from different tribes. We made friendships in the camp since we came here. When the YVRBDP came, the volunteers trained us in business management and how important it is to support our livelihoods. As we were trained in juice making and handicrafts, we submitted proposal to receive a grant from the project. We were lucky and we received 4200 SDG in April 2014 (1400 SDG for each). We started our business by purchasing Juice making equipment (e.g. buckets, pans, plastic jerry as well as local juice making materials such as Adensonia Digitata fruits, Tamarindus Indica, Argnia Spinosa and Hibiscus spp . We started making juice and selling it in Nyala., many people knew our juice and they started asking for it in large quantities to sell to other customers., For example, trucks drivers bringing goods to Nyala from Khartoum discovered the quality of our juice and started requesting large quantities to take it to Khartoum so our business expanded and we are earning considerable profits from juice making.

In addition to juice making, we started making handicrafts such as small wallets for women, sweets presentation bowels made from palm leaves and plastic materials. Since we received the 4,200 SDG grant for three of us and we started our business, the profit we made is as follows: Our capital in our hands per day is 5,000SDG in addition to juice making and handicraft material valued at 2000 – 2500 SDG. Regarding our profit for each of us we are not keeping exact figures except larger amounts because every one of us is spending daily for her family needs. With this regular income, each of us can make savings and investments.

1.***Asia Haroun*** :From my share of our profit, I managed to save about 1,500 SDG, I used it to travel to Khartoum to visit my father who was at a hospital in Khartoum for treatment. I also purchased a donkey cart for 1,700 SDG and a donkey for 350 SDG. My son used the donkey cart for selling drinking water in the camp during his school vacation for one month. He managed to save 1,100 SDG to cover his school expenses.

2. ***Safia Adouma*** Hussein: From my share of our profit from our business, I managed to save 4,000 SDG for my son’s expenses in the university in Khartoum in addition to my daily family expenses between 15-25 SDG.

3. ***Maryam Abdalla Ibraheem***: Because my family is big (11 persons), my daily household expenses is 25-35 SDG for food and other items. I pay monthly school fees for my four children for 175 SDG. . Beside these expenses, I purchased a donkey cart for 1,200 SDG and a donkey for 500 SDG. The donkey and the cart is used for selling water, the average income from this donkey cart is 25-40SDG per day which is enough for supporting my family. Thanks to UNDP for this important project which have assisted many IDPs to support their livelihoods and improve our living standards. Our recommendation to UNDP is to help us access to markets outside Nyala. Moreover if UNDP can take our products to outside Sudan, we are ready to present and sell our products made by our natural ingredients.



***Success story (2)***

***Abdalla Juma Tahir (Otash Camp)***

*I was trained by Care International in Carpentry 2007/8. After that, I received training in Business Management from the Youth Volunteers then submitted a project proposal for a small grant to start producing simple furniture for the IDPs,. I was lucky as I was one of the grant winners and I received 1,400 SDG. From this capital, I purchased carpentry materials such as e.g wood, wire nets, glue etc. then started making furniture and selling them. from the rest of my capital, I purchased two goats for breeding. Now I have six 6 goats and sold two of them for 650 SDG. From this money I purchased 30 laying hens and from their eggs, I am earning 30SDG and spending only 6-7SDG for their daily feed. In addition, my goats valued for 3,000-3,500SDG.*

*Thanks to UNDP for this important project. Now I consider myself a rich person and better than* *many other IDPs and rural population.*





***Success Story 3***

***Amna Elnur (Id El fursan)***

*Amna Enur is a female YVRDP beneficiary and one of the projects loan winners. She received* ***1,500 SDG****. Amna said, “I received* ***1,500SDG*** *in July 2014 and it was beginning of the rainy season, I cultivated groundnut using the 1,500 SDG. I harvested 15 guntars (1 Guntar equals to 45Kg) of ground nuts in December 2014. After that, I sold one guntar of ground nut for 200 SDG and the total profit I gained was* ***3,000 SDG*** *(15 guntar x 200 SDG =3000 SDG). I repaid the loan (1,500 SDG) and with the rest of the profit (1,500 SDG), I cultivated watermelon in winter and sold them in March 2015. I made profit of* ***4000*** *SDG. Then I continued and used part of that profit and cultivated vegetables and Okra, by which I made* ***1500 SDG*** *profit. I also utilize my capital in trading different items in Id al Fursan Town market. Now my capital is* ***7,000 SDG****, Thanks to UNDP and the YVRDP for supporting me to have capital that helped me for improving my living.”*

***ccess story 3***



***Success story 4***

***Shoe maker group in West Darfur***

***1. Ahmed Tahir Nouradeen***

***2. Hussein Ibrahim***

*We received 3,00SDG from Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur project as a grand. We used this grant as a capital for our group to widen our business of shoe making bearing in mind that Geneina is famous in shoes making from local sheep and goats leather. With the 3,000 SDG, we purchased shoe making materials (leather, rubber, threads, adhesive material etc.) , in addition we hired some of our members to make the shoes. We paid 30SDG for making of one pair of shoes. Within one month we managed to produce 113 pairs of shoes from the materials we purchased by the 3,000 SDG. We sold each pair of shoes for 130 SDG to one of shoes traders in Khartoum (our customer). From this grant, we managed to increase l income and employment opportunities y to our members. Our profit from this business was 8,300 SDG.*

*a. The cost of the shoes making materials =3,000 SDG*

*b. The cost of making 113 pairs of shoes 113x30 SDG =3,390.*

*c. Total cost =6,390*

*The selling value of 113 pairs of shoes 113x 130 SDG =14,690*

*The profit 14,690 - 6,390 =8,300 SDG*

*Thanks to UNDP for providing our group the 3000 SDG which helped our group to start this small business which increased income for our members and capitals to develop Geneina shoe making industry.*







***6. Annexes***

***Annex (1)***

***Questionnaire for the youth Volunteers trained and deployed to the communities***

Q 1.State……………………………….. Locality …………………………….

Community……………………………………………………………..

Q2.Name of the volunteer………………………………………..……… Sex…………………

Q3. Are you satisfied with the training you received?

Yes ……………………… Yes/No………………………No……

Q4. Do you think your skill improved after training and deployment?

Yes …………. No……………

Q5. If the answer is no, why?

1. Because it is too difficult.

2. Not relevant

3. Methodology and performance of the trainer is satisfactory

4. Other specify ………………………………………………..

Q6. Have you benefited from the knowledge you acquired from the training?

Yes……………………………….No……………………

Q7 .If the answer is yes? How you used the knowledge you gained in your livelihood?

1. Started business……….

2. Managed to get employment………….

3. Improved my agricultural practice…………

4. Others, specify…………………………

Q8. If the answer is yes, give two examples

1.……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

2.………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………...

Q9. If the answer is no, why

1.………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

2.………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

Q10. Are you satisfied with the support/cooperation of the community you deployed to?

Yes…………………….No……………….to some extent………….

Q11. How many community members you trained from your community

Male……………………Female………………….Total……………………..

Q12. What challenges and constraints you encountered during your work in this project?

a.………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

b.………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Q13. Do you see that this project would sustain if UNDP withdrew its funding?

Yes……………………… No…………………………

Q14.If the answer is yes, give reasons

a.…………………………………………………………………………………………………..………………..

b.…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

Q15. If the answer is no, why?

…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Q16. What are your recommendations for continuation of this project?

a.……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….……………………….

b.………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

Q17. Have you received grant/loan from the project? (Only for Volunteers who received grant/loan)

Yes………… NO………..

Q18. If the answer is yes, how much…………………………..SDG

Q19. How much profit you made from this loan……………………..SDG

Q20. Have you managed to pay back the loan in time?

Yes……….. No………………..

Q21. If the answer is no, why?

a. ………………………………………………………….

b. …………………………………………………………..

c. …………………………………………………………….

Q22. What are the challenges you encountered during implementation of your business?

a. ……………………………………………………………………………………………………….

b. …………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

c. ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

***Annex 2***

***Check list for interviewing/group discussions with the RDP/NGO***

1) Do you regularly providing the SPCU with activities implementation reports? How many reports you sent? Give examples.

2) What are the challenges you encountered during implementation of this YVRBDP with SPCUs

3) What are your recommendations for UNDP for continuation of this project in partnership with your NGO/ SCUs?

***Annex 3***

***List of the interviewees***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***No*** | ***Name*** | ***Organization/Post/Position*** |
| 1 | John Anodam | UNDP Darfur Livelihood Programme Manager |
| 2 | Hiromi Amano | Youth Volunteer Rebuilding Darfur Project manager |
| 3 | Amna abdelaziz Adam | Youth Volunteer Project Coordinator ND |
| 4 | Omer Haroun Mastour | Former UNDP Livelihood National Project Coordinator North Darfur |
| 5 | Sara hameto | UNDP youth volunteer Project Coordinator SD |
| 6 | Yagoub Fadul | UNDP Youth Volunteer Project Coordinator WD |
| 7 | Dr. Jihad ohamed Ali | Director of the Peace Centre Al Fashir University |
| 8 | Ismaeil Mohamed Ahmed | YVRDP coordinator North Darfur State |
| 9 | Elsir Khaleel Abdelrafei | M&E YVRBDP Al Fashir University |
| 10 | Dr. Nagla Basheir | Director Peace Centre Nyala University |
| 11 | Dr. Saad Eldeen Ahmed | Project coordinator South Darfur |
| 12 | Dr. Eltaib Ahmed | Vice Chancellor Geneina University |
| 13 | Dr.Tarig Mohamed | Project coordinator West Darfur |
| 14 | Ahmed Mohamed Abdalla | VNRHD implementing Partner ,North Darfur YVRDP |
| 15 | Adam Ali Adam | CFCI Project Implementing Partner West Darfur |
| 16 | Mojahid TajElsir | Global Aid Hand South Darfur |
| 17 | Salih Haroun Suleiman | GAH South Darfur |
| 18 | Suleiman Bakheet | GAH South Darfur |
| 19 | Ahmed Tahir Nour Edeen | Chairperson show makers Union WD (ASCA) |
| 20 | Mohamed Yahya Zakaria | Owner of Tanner and Leather &skin merchant WD |