

UNDP Management Response Template
Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur Project (YVRDP) Date: 1/05/2016 (Updated October 2016)

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Overall comments:

Since its inception in 2012, the Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur Project has made important contributions to the achievement of the UNDAF Outcome 1: "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". The project successfully established a volunteer scheme in collaboration with UNV and 4 Universities in Darfur. Under this scheme, 205 youth volunteers have so far been trained of which 139 of them were deployed to their local communities where they supported and built the capacity of the community members. Approximately 14,000 community members in 47 communities within 5 states of Darfur have been empowered to rebuild their livelihoods through start-up support and training in the areas of business, environmental management and economic development. This terminal evaluation was launched by UNDP and State Governments in Darfur to assess the impact of the project and to document lessons learned for the development of a new phase II of the project.

Evaluation Recommendation for YVRDP				
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 1: Number of Volunteers deployed was limited and support provided them during deployment was limited. Also, some volunteers were referred to as 'Senior Volunteers' which created a feeling of segregation among volunteers.				
Management response plan: The project team had a discussion with the project' board members in Darfur and Khartoum. The meeting agreed on the approach of increasing the number of the volunteers and advancing required support.				
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking*	
			Status	Comments
1. Increase the number of volunteers trained and expands the geographical coverage to more areas in the five states.	By April 2016	DLRP/PBSC	Completed.	The Project has selected and trained 150 volunteers under the Phase II as a continuation and expansion. These new volunteers will cover 45 additional communities.
2. Review the title of senior volunteers titles and	By April	DLRP/PBSC	Completed.	As a result of discussions with the IPs, the Project decided

refer to all as volunteers with same incentive;	2016			to keep Senior volunteers as they play important roles during the deployment period however, agreed to provide same amount of incentive for all volunteer no matter their titles.
3. Increase the amount of the monthly incentive and provide additional monthly transportation and communication allowance;	By April 2016	DLRP/PBSC	Completed.	The monthly volunteers' incentive has been increased from 350 SDG to 500 SDG. In addition, 200 SDG will be provided monthly for transportation and communication cost. The budget was allocated accordingly.
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 2: Volunteers deployed did not have adequate accounting and record keeping skills.				
Management response plan: The project board agreed for more training on basic accounting principles to all new Volunteers as part of their pre-deployment training.				
Key Action(s)				
1. Provide more training on basic accounting and record keeping to new Volunteers;	By April 2016	DLRP/PBSC	Completed.	Training modules for the training of youth Volunteers have been reviewed and basic accounting and record keeping have been included in the trainings for Phase II volunteers.
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 3: Grants and Loans provided to women were better utilized with better results than those granted to men. More grants should therefore be granted to women in the future. The repayment period for the loans was too short for some activities and should be reviewed.				
Management response plan: The project Board agrees that efforts be made to extend more grants/loans to women as well as provide increased support for livestock and agricultural related interventions in the next phase of the project.				
Key Action(s)				
1. Increase the amount of Grants / Loans for livestock and agricultural small businesses- between 4000-5000SDG.	By September 2016	DLRP/PBSC	Completed.	Under the new phase of the project, minimum grants being given to groups and individuals is at 5000SDG.

2. Increase the loan repayment period to one year for livestock and agricultural crops production businesses;	By September 2016	DLRP/PBSC	Completed	Repayment period for each grant has now been set to a minimum one year with 6 months grace period for all enterprises and activities.
3. Extend more grants to more women	By September 2016	DLRP/PBSC	Completed	Of the 150 grants being extended, 52% went to female clients for various activities.
4. Develop a common microfinance strategy for UNDP Sudan to ensure uniformity;	By end of 2016	DLRP/PBSC	Completed	A micro-finance strategy for UNDPs Livelihoods Programme in Darfur has been completed and being used in programme implementation. However, discussions are also on-going to expand this to other parts of Sudan. Recommendations for a country-wide strategy will be reflected in a common Livelihoods Position Paper being developed.
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 4: Capacities of the Peace Centers to manage the coordination of the projects on independent basis remain weak. There is need for increased capacity development activities for the SPCUs.				
Management response plan: It was agreed at the board meeting that, in order to ensure effective coordination, the structure should be reviewed and build the capacity of the Peace Centers to assume increased responsibility for the coordination of the projects.				
Key Action(s)				
1. Provide more on-the-job training to the SPCUs	By end of 2016	DLRP/PBSC	On-going	Under the second phase of the Project, UNDP continue to work closely with the State Project Coordination Units (SPCUs) to provide technical support through on-the-job training. This will continue till end of the Project in June 2017.
2. Provide desktop computers and printers to each hosting NGO/CBO for the use of volunteers;	By June 2016	DLRP/PBSC	Completed	Six desktop computers, Seven (7) laptops and 2 printers have been provided to 8 hosting NGO/CBO for the use of volunteers;
3. Conduct more trainings on financial management for the SPCUs;	By September 2016	DLRP/PBSC	Completed	Four (4) training workshops have been conducted provided to the SPCUs on Financial Management Skills. At least 10 key staff from the SPCUs have been trained In addition, UNDP also provided substantial support on financial

				management through on-the-job training.
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 5: Coordination among SPCUs and PCUs were not strong. There is therefore need to improve the coordination among the various parties and stakeholders.				
Management response plan: Management agreed that the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) be dissolved and the State Production Units (SPCUs) be strengthened to plan and implement their own state coordination activities.				
Key Action(s)				
1. Organize frequent Coordination meetings and review reporting formats;	By end of 2016	DLRP/PBSC	Completed	Minimum 3 meetings are held in each state between UNDP and the SPCUs per month to coordinate the implementation of the project.
2. Review the PCU/SPCU structure to be more effective;	By June 2016	DLRP/PBSC	Completed	After the review, the Project (re)established four SPCUs in El Fasher, Nyala, Geneina and Zalingei. Each SPCU consists of a Director, Project officer, Admin/Finance officer and government seconded officer. UNDP plays the role of PCU and the former PCU has been scrapped.
3. Remove the PCU; Each Peace Center be treated as an independent implementing partner and directly link with UNDP;	By April 2016	DLRP/PBSC	Completed.	Each Peace Center would be treated as an independent implementing partner and UNDP acts as PCU. The Project (re)established four SPCUs in El Fasher, Nyala, Geneina and Zalingei. There will therefore be no centralized PCU for the project anymore.
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 6: The issue of climate Change in Darfur is very serious and the number of environment volunteers should be increased;				
Management response plan: The Board Meeting agreed that the number of Environmental volunteers be increased to ensure adequate capacity to mainstream climate change adaptation issues into all aspects of the project.				
Key Action(s)				

1. Assign one environmental volunteer per target community in Phase II;	By April 2016	DLRP/PBSC	Completed.	Under the new phase II, 45 Environmental volunteers were trained and deployed to 45 target communities in five Darfur States.
2. Incorporate findings, recommendations and lessons learned into the next phase;	By June 2016	DLRP/PBSC	Completed	The findings and lessons learned from the Phase I of the project have been incorporated into the design of the Phase II.
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 7: The project has had positive impact on the target population and need to be expanded in the longer term				
Management response plan: The project Board agreed that the project be extended to the next phase and more funds raised to scale-up and replicate the results achieved so far.				
Key Action(s)				
1. Raise more funds for the expansion of the project;	By end of 2016	DLRP/PBSC	On-going	In Phase II, the Project received funds from UNDP, the Republic of Korea (Until end of 2016) and UNV programme (Until June 2017). A Youth Needs Survey covering the Darfur region has been completed. Based on the needs and gaps identified through this study and based on the lessons learned from the previous and current project implementation, a new concept note for the 3 rd phase of the project has already been drafted. The new phase is expected to run from June 2017 till June 2019. The concept is being circulated for fundraising purposes.

* The implementation status is tracked in the ERC.