

UNDP Management Response Plan
Youth Volunteers Supporting Peace and Recovery in Darfur (YoVoReD-IV)
(17 December 2018 - 30 October 2019)

Prepared by: John Anodam

Position: Programme Manager

Unit/Bureau: Sudan/RBAS

Cleared by: Jos De La Haye

Position: Deputy RR (Programme)

Unit/Bureau: Sudan/RBAS

Input into and update in ERC: Nadia Hamid Salman

Position: Planning/M&E Specialist

Unit/Bureau: Sudan/RBAS

Overall comments: The evaluation focused on measuring development results and impacts generated by the YoVoReD-IV. It examined the extent of delivery of outputs, activities, and inputs detailed in the project document and the associated modifications made during the two-year implementation period (November 2017 to October 2019) within the five states of Darfur.

The evaluation employed both quantitative and qualitative methods and adopted an evidence-based, transparent, and participatory approach. The quantitative survey was used to collect data from the direct beneficiaries through face-to-face interviews. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 restrictions on-field access, the team used digital systems for collecting, collating, storing, and analysing the data from the field, ensuring quality, efficiency, and flexibility.

Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 1: For UNDP: UNDP should scale up the youth volunteer model to other localities. Further efforts should be made to link the community members, notably the Accumulating Savings and Credit Associations (ASCAs), to the micro finance institutions. UNDP should also ensure that funds are disbursed promptly to avoid delays that resulted in increases in prices of goods and services and the resultant budget distortions.				
Management Response: A new Phase of the project has been developed with funding from the KOICA which replicates and expands the youth volunteers' model and linking it to the community members on-going livelihoods initiatives, notably the Accumulating Savings and Credit Associations (ASCAs) and to the micro finance institutions.				
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking*	
			Status	Comments
Description activities, then specifics as needed 1.1 Increase the capacity building activities to cover more youth groups and community members. Management Response	December 2021	UNDP, The Implementing Partners, The State Youth Volunteers Coordination Units (YVCUs)	Completed	Addressed through the new project phase which now targets more youth volunteers. The project has also now included vocational training to capture youth who dropped out of school.
1.2 Improve operational efficiency including timely release of funds to	December 2022	UNDP	On-going	Being addressed through

implementing partners.				enhanced planning.
1.3 Expand the project implementation area, increase the youth volunteers' numbers, and include vocational training into the project.	December 2021	UNDP	Completed	Under the new Phase V, the project coverage has increased from 30 to 50 targeted communities. Also, number of Youth Volunteers targeted increased from 200 to 300. As well, total targeted beneficiaries increased from 10,000 to 20,000
1.4 Link the community members, particularly the ASCAs, to the microfinance institutions	December 2022	UNDP/IP	On-going	This activity has been incorporated into the new Phase V of the project and being implemented.
1.5 Ensure that funds are disbursed promptly to avoid delays that result in increases in prices of goods and services and the resultant budget distortions	December 2022	UNDP	On-going	New IP agreements being signed
1.6 Training and other critical community-level activities should be planned to coincide with the lean/dry seasons when farmers are less busy participating and benefit from these interventions fully.	December 2022	UNDP/IP	On-going	Activity plans are re-aligned on periodically
1.7 Include reference checks on the performance of potential IPs with their previous or current UN agencies or INGOs' partners as part of the criteria for selecting them.	December 2021	UNDP/IP	On-going	This has already been included in the IP selection process. Additional capacity assessments are carried out using HACT and PCAT.
1.8 Improve the project's visibility at the community level. This would enable the community members to be aware of the project's social services infrastructure and facilities.	December 2021	UNDP/IP	On-going	Project visibility plan is already in place and being implemented under the new Phase V.
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 2: For IPs and Government Ministries/Institutions: The IPs and Government Ministries/Institutions should undertake follow-up initiatives to sustain the Project's gains and enhance women's empowerment, particularly in mixed groups, to reduce men's dominance when accessing loans and grants.				
Management Response: The new phase of the Project includes joint field monitoring and follow-up activities to be embarked by the member of the States Youth Volunteers Coordination Units (SYVCUs).				
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking	

			Status	Comments
Description activities, then specifics as needed				
2.1. Undertake follow-up initiatives to sustain the gains made by the project.	December 2022	UNDP, The Implementing Partners, The State Youth Volunteers Coordination Units (SYVCUs).	On-going	Arrangements being put in place for
2.2. Scalability of initiatives through spill-over effect in non-targeted communities should also be monitored and supported to continue.	December 2023	UNDP	To be addressed	Mid-Term Review will consider effects on non-targeted communities
2.3 Enhance the empowerment of women, particularly in mixed groups, to reduce the dominance of men when accessing loans and grants.	December 2021	UNDP/IP, SYVCUs	On-going	Strategy for increasing targeting of more females in place in the Phase V currently on-going.
2.4 Comprehensive communication plans should be developed for the project with national and local level stakeholders involved to avoid the poor communications that result in delays in project implementation.	December 2021	UNDP/IP	On-going	Comprehensive communications plan in place under the new Phase V. The Project recruiting dedicated Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Officer by end of 2021.
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 3: For Community Members: UNDP and Government should further strengthen the cost-recovery models for the management, operation of the infrastructure established to ensure their sustainability.				
Management Response: UNDP and Government have built cost-recovery mechanisms into the utilization of all infrastructures under the new Phase V of the project. In addition, enhanced mechanisms will be put in place to ensure efficient recovery of micro-loans provided.				
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking	
			Status	Comments
Description activities, then specifics as needed				
3.1 Communities that benefited from the social services infrastructure/facilities should continue to operate and maintain them appropriately to sustain and enhance the benefits being derived from them.	December 2022	UNDP/IP, SYVCUs	On-going	Cost-recovery mechanisms in place and continue to be built into the Phase V of the project and being implemented
3.2 Community members should sustain and enhance the cooperation and commitments exhibited in future programming to enable them to derive the full	December 2022	UNDP/IP, SYVCUs	On-going	Gender-sensitive community structures have

benefits of program/project interventions.				been incorporated into the new phase of the project to ensure adequate community leadership and ownership; including community contrition.
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* The implementation status is tracked in the ERC.