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"Stabilization of Livelihoods through Creation of Youth Employment in Eastern Sudan" Project

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Final Report (March 2016 – June 2017)

'Stabilization of Livelihoods through Creation of Youth Employment In Eastern Sudan' Project Funded by the Government of Japan - Japanese Supplementary Fund

1. Introduction

This final report for "Stabilization of Livelihoods through Creation of Youth Employment in Eastern Sudan' Project" reviews the progress made during the entire life span of the project from March 2016 to June 2017, including the extended 3 months after its original 1 year period. It presents a description of the achievements, challenges, and progress towards the accomplishment of the project's objectives to support the stabilization of livelihoods through the creation of sustainable employment and earning opportunities for youth who are at risk of radicalization and involvement in violent and/ or illicit actions in the three States of Eastern Sudan (Red Sea, Kassala & Gedarif) and the project expected outputs:

- 1. Least advantaged young community members (Youth, Women, People exposed to economic shocks) are engaged in rapid employment opportunities and income generating activities.
- 2. Least advantaged young community members are economically empowered to start their micro or small businesses.
- 3. Least advantaged young community members have increased access to markets and financial resources for sustainable businesses.

The project directly responded to one of the Government priority areas stated in Sudan's Five Years **Development Plan 2012- 2016** 'Employment and national job creation opportunities are the Government growing focus and one of the top national priorities'. It contributes to **UNDP Strategic Plan Outcome 1**: 'Growth is inclusive and sustainable, incorporating productive capacities that create employment and livelihoods for the poor and excluded'; as well as to **UNDAF Outcome 1**: 'People in Sudan, with special attention to youth, women and least advantaged populations, have improved opportunities for decent work and sustainable livelihoods and are better protected from external shocks, thereby reducing poverty' and supports **UNDP Sudan Country Programme Action Plan** output 1.1 'Policy frameworks for Economic reintegration, social safety nets and employment creation developed'.

Moreover, this Project came as part of UNDP broader Programmatic integrated development approach to Eastern Sudan which mainly focuses on four components: capacities development of local government and communities, creation of sustainable job and livelihoods opportunities, community adaptation to climate changes and access to alternative energy services and social aspects of youth empowerment. So the Project directly contributed to 'creation of sustainable job and livelihoods opportunities' component as well as to youth and women empowerment.

At this stage, results have started to be visible, and the project is proven to be a good tool to create employment for the youth. But employment is a very vulnerable activity affected by many factors such as social, cultural context and economic situation at a specific time. This project's implementation based on the initial Labour Market Assessment has proven so, namely some of the conditions identified at the time of assessment changed fleetingly two months after when implementation was to take place. Despite constraints that changes brought about, all project responsible partners have managed the circumstances appealing to their experience and applying practices that in some cases have worked out well and some other times didn't get the expected results. This final report also includes the good practices and lessons learnt from its implementation.

The project has been based on the "3x6 Approach", a new methodology formulated by UNDP for creation of employment that has been implemented for the first time in Sudan. The project is ideally designed for a longer timeframe, whilst the nature of the Japan Special Fund (JSB) targets a short implementation timeframe (1 year). At the same time, the project included quite a few components (high number of beneficiaries (3,000), number of locations (6 localities), number of implementing partners (9 national organizations). The combination of all components required a punctual implementation and imposed a high pressure on timely results delivery. The short time frame also required extremely good coordination. In this particular case, implementing and government partners specifically expressed that coordination between all stakeholders sometimes could have been better, what, as a result, might have eased and speeded some procedures, avoiding some of the delays experienced.

This final report focuses on **all activities taken places during the three phases** of the implementation of the "3x6 Approach":

Phase One (April - December 2016) included: (i) selecting the young beneficiaries as per the set selection criteria in the three States -reaching almost an overall 50-50% male-female range; (ii) induction informative sessions with selected beneficiaries about the project phases and objectives; (iii) the design of vocational curricula; (iv) delivery of the trainings; and (v) engaging in income generating through rapid employment opportunities or self-income generating activities. In the end of Phase One a total of 2.818 youth (the 93,3% of the total number of targeted beneficiaries) received vocational training and somehow engaged in intensive labor activities, should it be employed or through self-generating income activities. From those 2.818 beneficiaries around 80% have opened bank accounts and 100% of them were engage in saving mechanisms, either be through individual savings or self-helping groups.

Phase Two (October 2016 - April 2017) included: (i) the delivery of entrepreneurship skills, and small business creation and management trainings for all of beneficiaries; (ii) the formation of saving groups and the opening of their group bank accounts; (iii) assessment and selection of eligible projects for funding; (iv) the delivery of funds for establishing personal or collective business projects; (v) and the beginning of business activities. During this phase a total of 71 groups of between 30 to 35 members have received trainings on business creation, management and marketing skills through different approaches. All groups have followed additional training on how to create a business plan and make a feasibility study. Around 60% of beneficiaries have presented a business project after considering a feasibility study. In Red Sea State, where a Business Idea Competition was celebrated, 80 projects accounting for 361 beneficiaries (representing 221 females and 140 males) were presented; 56 out of them qualified for initial funding through a revolving credit system that will eventually allow other projects to be funded in the future.

This final report also highlights the activities of **Phase Three** (January – June 2017) implemented during the last quarter of the Project and the extension period. This phase included the following activities: (i) trainings on microfinances and lending methods, policies, and guarantees; (ii) introduction to business support and finance services in Sudan; (iii) additional funding; and (iv) market expansion. Key activities of this phase have been: (i) training beneficiaries on microfinance systems; (ii) connecting them with finance institutions; (iii) and helping successful projects to expand their markets. A total number of 31 business projects have been offered additional credit from the implementing partners of this phase in their respective locations (18 projects in Kassala State, 6 in Gedarif State and 7 in Red Sea State). All projects add up an amount of SDG 165,850 of additional credit. Consequently, the Project Phase Three has already started delivering results beyond the project's operations since some of the supported businesses are already on the way to a sustainable livelihood for their responsible beneficiaries, which it's the ultimate objective of the project.

The **extension period** of the Project showed to be necessary for Kassala and Gedaref States due to the accumulated delay, for it has allowed implementing partners in these two states to conclude successfully all operations from Phase Two and Three by the end of May. Red Sea State, as a leading region, had managed to finish its operation within the original time frame. The extension was welcomed anyway for it has served **to scale up results** obtained and even gave the opportunity in this state to expand funding to new projects due to the application of **a new UN exchange rate**. In Red Sea State **54 projects had been initially funded**

and eventually 9 other projects were added during the extension period. The new exchange rate reinforced saving groups in Kassala and Gedaref states with an extra top-up fund.

At the end of the extended period, the three states and its six localities have witnessed the successful completion of the project three phases and has enforced a mechanism through a **revolving credit mechanism** to secure its sustainability beyond the end of the project's operations.

Financially, the project final delivery is 97,41%, equivalent to a total expenditure of USD 1,948,244\$ out of the USD 2,000,000\$ budget allocated.

2. Project Risks and Issues

Updated Project Risks:

 Sudanese's economic growth below target could limit employment opportunities and available resources to address poverty:

The risk has always been present and it has indeed shown to be a negative effect since the adverse economic growth rate might have influenced the lack of employment opportunities, especially in Kassala and Gedarif States, that the project targeted as they were identified by the Labour Market Assessment.

• Slow progress in project implementation due to multiple partners engaged in the project:

This risk was present since the project started and was stressed at the beginning of every phase due the change of responsible implementing partners in every state what implied the beginning of a new relationship of coordination between all stakeholders. The selection of Implementing Partners (national NGOs) was done by UNDP, following an evaluation of these IPs performance from previous projects. The selection of localities where to implement was identified by the Labour Market Assessment. The selection of beneficiaries was done by the Implementing Partners. The government partners were satisfied and agreed with the selections. Although some government partners suggested their interest to participate in the selection. It would have entailed a longer selection process but would have probably resulted in more sound results. One of the lessons learnt on these selection processes, is to have more coordination between all partners in spite of risking slower processes.

Besides the identified risks, the Project has also faced numerous issues since the preparations started and later during the implementation. Herein a summary of the most remarkable ones:

After finalizing the Labour Market Assessment some issues arose since it identified only 750 rapid employment opportunities in Kassala State while only 150 jobs in Gedarif State. These regions are highly affected by the lack of job opportunities, one of the three deliverables of Output I. Beside the low number of jobs identified, some of those opportunities eventually didn't somehow finally took place. In Aroma locality, in Kassala State, the mesquite trees cutting activity was meant to absorb 250 beneficiaries; and in Gedarif the canals excavations for the town water supply couldn't employ anyone. In both cases due to the intensive floods suffered during the rainy season. In fact, employment has been the real warhorse issue of the programme in Kassala and Gedarif so far and implementing partners have been dedicating extra efforts in exploring new tenable options for beneficiaries to obtain an income in order for them to save some money and qualify for Phase Two. Due to the lack of labour opportunities, the responsible partners encouraged beneficiaries to engage in any possible income generating activities. In Gedarif for instance some male participants engaged in the construction sector as well as other casual labour such as seasonal harvesting. On the other hand, these former and latter activities shown counterproductive since some of the beneficiaries who took construction and harvesting jobs were no longer keen on participating in Phase Two, increasing the drop-out rate that the programme has experienced in the turnout from Phase One to Phase Two. In total from 2818 beneficiaries who started the

The lack of employment opportunities identified by the Labour Market Assessment triggered again coordination of all stake holders. Even though it didn't succeed to identify new employment opportunities, it was not a reason to slow down the project implementation whatsoever, but it was a reason for not achieving more sound results.

High operational cost for running the project:

In the end, this risk has not been materialized so far due to the efforts to keep it addressed by adequate planning by the project team at all time. The project has made use of previous projects equipment and that included vehicles, offices furniture and IT devices in addition to the well-established relationships with the government institutions and implementing NGOs. All this accelerated implementation and cut off cost where there was much time saved to meet all those requirements. On the contrary, what it was identified as a risk, it might have been the main reason for all the budget not to be completely spent during the initial timeframe what allowed a non-cost extension to finalize successfully all activities and scale up results.

• Coordination between East Sudan Fund and the three states:

There has not been any constraint in coordination directly with government where there is a mutual trust being built from the UNDP previous projects. The East Sudan Fund has been fully informed on the project yet had no clear coordination role at any stage. The coordination gap might have been not between UNDP and the government partners but between the former and the implementing partners. The project aimed all communication materials in **Arabic and English**, what has enhanced the flow of information from UNDP to the government partners.

programme, Phase Two has experienced a dropout of 191 participants, registering a total of 2627 beneficiaries (87,5% of initial target) to participate in Phase Two. This lack of professional opportunities deprived a big number of beneficiaries from having savings at all, what increased the amount of participants who dropped out during Phase Two. On the turnover from Phase Two to Phase Three 2019 beneficiaries were still continuing, counting the 72% of beneficiaries who started, and the 67% of the overall 3,000 beneficiaries initially targeted. From those 2,019, around 60% presented a business project, either individually or together within a group. 73% of the total of projects presented belonged to women.

As the rainy season in 2016 was quite heavy particularly in Eastern Sudan, especially in Kassala and Gedarif states, this caused a delay to begin the implementation in those states and it affected the whole process. In spite all the efforts made by the responsible partners to catch up with the initial schedule, the project implementation has been lagging in time. However, the implementing partners: SRCS with SORD in Kassala; and Zenab with Maan in Gedarif - responsible for Phase One and Twowere advancing regular meetings since October to gain time for Phase Two to start as soon as possible and compensate the time lost. The same happened between Phase Two and Three. SORD and Kassala Microfinance Institution in Kassala State: and Maan and Gedarif Microfinance Institution in Gedarif State held meetings since February to accelerate the process of Phase Three. At some point, the two phases have been implemented simultaneously and the first batches of Phase Three had already started their activities while Phase Two was still running with other batches of beneficiaries who started the programme a bit later. Red Sea State didn't suffer the intense rains and it has always been on time according to the original schedule. But in Phase Two and Phase Three it also suffered the time pressure and appealed to a Training of Trainers (TOT) approach to deliver trainings for beneficiaries in the due time (as it's covered on the Newsletter#2 of the Project, Annex 2, included as an attachment). This helped to conclude the implementation in the committed original time and by the end of March, Red Sea had finished the implementation of Phase

Three in its two localities. However, the overall quality in the trainings on Business Creation and Management and Microfinances, deliverables of Output 2 and 3 respectively, might have been affected. The delay in Kassala and Gedaref states proved the 3 months extension of the project necessary to secure a successful completion what it also helped to scale up results.

So far trainings have been one of the elements that more have suffered the time pressure since implementing partners had to adapt curricula to the short time frame. Vocational trainings that are initially 4 months, due to the time constraint, they were compressed within a month what it reduced the quality and the quantity of knowledge to be passed on. Besides intensive trainings on vocational skills need a lot of practice and the lack of it, reduces even more their effectivity.

- The gender sensitivity in Kassala state predicted limitations for women to do labour activities since the traditions and culture in this region make it uncommon for them to do hard work. In Gedarif it was also difficult for women to engage in paid jobs. However, the project encouraged female participants in these states to engage in self-generating activities using the skills gained during the vocational trainings undertaken during Phase One. This way, many women started to earn an average of between SDG 20 to 60 daily and were able to qualify for Phase Two. On the other hand, the programme has proven to empower specially women in Kassala where they actually outnumbered male participants. In Aroma locality, in Kassala State, women participating in Phase Two reached the 82% of the total. In total 22 groups out 30 groups formed in Kassala state between its two localities for Phase Two were of women. In Red Sea State 5 projects, out of 7 that have initially received additional credit from microfinance institutions in Phase Three, one of the deliverables of Output 3, belonged to women.
- Another big challenge faced by the Project has been the opening of bank accounts for the beneficiaries. Different factors conditioned a very slow progress to reach this objective of Phase One: (1) limited number of banks offices in rural localities (i.e. In Alfashaga locality only the Sudanese Agricultural Bank); (2) limited operational capacity for opening more than five

new accounts per day; (3) age restriction (only 18+ years can open bank accounts) whereas some beneficiaries are under this age; and (4) lack of identification documents by the beneficiaries. All these reasons caused delay and in some cases have made somehow impossible to commit to target. In Aroma 100 beneficiaries managed to open bank accounts. So far, around 55% of the youth have opened individual bank accounts. However, the responsible partners managed for a big number of beneficiaries to engage in any sort of saving schemes to be able to participate in Phase Two. In Aroma for instance a total of SDG 10,149 had been saved by 11 groups of participants who couldn't do it through a bank account.

Savings has been the major challenge faced by the beneficiaries themselves. Some participants who undertook paid jobs or others who engaged with casual works or selfgenerating income activities haven't been able to save much money or any at all due to the high costs of living. The income generated barely covered their subsistence. In many cases transports fees, daily meals and supporting their families have made saving part of their wages untenable. In some other cases, participants were indebted before beginning the programme and with the income generated they started to pay debts back. In order to overcome this issue, implementing partners formed saving groups in which minimal contributions were required. In Kassala for instance by the end of 2016 some groups could have saved only SDG 130 and in Aroma locality SDG 500 but they all qualified to participate in Phase Two which was considered the most important at that time. This way beneficiaries could go on with the business education offered in Phase Two. Eventually this "self-helping group" saving modality, called sandoug in Sudan, was implemented for all the groups in Kassala and Gedarif State after some individual saving records proved to be unrealistic. This also made the Project Technical Committees from Gedarif and Kassala states change the rules to access the funds for the start-up business projects, one of the deliverables of Output 2. The Business Idea Competition was no longer to be the way to select projects qualifying for funding and instead a decision to distribute the funds equally between all the saving groups was taken. This required the groups themselves manage to

- redistribution, always supervised by Phase Two implementing partners: SORD and Maan respectively.
- The formation of the groups of beneficiaries during the different phases have experienced also some issues. Beneficiaries expressed their differences when passing from Phase One to Phase Two. In some cases the groups restructured and participants who followed the same vocational training ended up in a different group, sometimes in a group of beneficiaries with completely different interests and background. It would have been coherent and practical to maintain the groups with the same beneficiaries from one phase to the other, although it was not always possible since sometimes drop-outs forced some groups to restructure.
- The restructuring of groups, a consequence of the handover from phase to phase, might have not been the only consequence. Since the project has 3 different phases with 3 different responsible implementing partners, the turn over form one phase to the next has not always been smooth and in most cases, it has taken very long time. The large number of beneficiaries, 1,000 per state, contributed to extend the time of the handover. Even though responsible partners from two different phases were at times working simultaneously and they started the next phase activities when the former one was still happening, this didn't speed up enough the process and beneficiaries complain of the long wait. The long wait might also have contributed to increase the drop out of participants that the project has experienced from phase to phase. In spite of the drop out, the Project has seen how in the end, 2,019 beneficiaries, almost 60% of the initial target has successfully finalized all activities of the project, have presented a business idea and either have been funded or are waiting for funds to make them true.

3. Project Performance

OUTPUT No. 1: Least advantaged young community members (Youth, Women, People exposed to economic shocks) are engaged in rapid employment opportunities and income generating activities.

Activity ID: Phase One- inclusiveness (Vocational & Entrepreneurial Training)

Deliverable Description:

Employment Opportunities for the least advantaged young community members increased through skills development

Actions:

- Conduct Youth Vulnerability and Market Survey in the 3 states of the Eastern Sudan
- Develop vocational and business skills capacities of least advantaged young community members (both males and females)
- Create rapid employment opportunities through labour intensive work in most appealing sectors

Indicators

- 3,000 of least advantaged young community members- disaggregated by type and gender- trained in entrepreneurial and vocational skills
- 3,000 of least advantaged young community members- disaggregated by type and gender- temporarily employed

Evaluation:

- 2,818 of least advantaged young community members- disaggregated trained in vocational skills (1,291 equivalent to 45% of them females)
- 1,358 of least advantaged young community members- disaggregated temporarily employed (741 equivalent to 55% of them females)

This output 1 contributed to achieve Phase One (Inclusiveness) of 3x6 approach through engaging the young men and women into vocational skills trainings and rapid employment opportunities and income generating activities/ businesses. After a slow beginning, specifically in Kassala and Gedarif states, the project finished the year 2016 having concluded almost completely the Phase One of the project. The implementation of the Project Phase One undertook the following activities: (1) selecting the young beneficiaries as per the set selection criteria in the three States -reaching almost an overall 50-50% male-female range; (2) induction informative sessions with selected beneficiaries about the project phases and objectives; (3) the design of vocational curricula; (4) delivery of the trainings; and (5) engaging in income generating through rapid employment opportunities or self-income generating activities.

A total number of 2818 of the beneficiaries in the three States have started and concluded their vocational trainings mainly in the areas of heavy machinery, auto mechanics, auto and general electricity, plumbing, air conditioning and driving, food processing, handicrafts, henna tattooing and tailoring. Red Sea State had witnessed the successful completion of Phase One during the 3rd quarter of the year 2016 while Kassala and Gedarif ended the last trainings before the end of December 2016.



Beneficiary Identification Card Registration Process



Electricity Training, Kassala



Tailoring Training, Gedarif

The overall evaluation of activity is as follows:

• Red Sea State: the implementation has been ahead compared to the other two states. A 1000 sharp figure of beneficiaries in Port Sudan and Al Gonnob & Al Oleb locality (the 100% of the target) completed their vocational training by the end of September, and were engaged in temporary labour in 5 sectors: water networking, unskilled support technicians, self-income generating activities, heavy machinery driving, heavy machinery control and apprentices in small workshops. Incomes from remunerated activities range from SDG 500 to 700 per month for the Sea Port Corporation, between SDG 550 and 600 for the Water Corporation. Women organized in self generating activities producing biscuits, cakes, pasta, handicrafts or tailored products made between SDG 60 and 80 per week. Beneficiaries engaged in food processing with the Nutrition Department got wages between SDG 300 to 500 and the youth involved with the Small Enterprises Association account an average income of SDG 400 a month. A number of 779 beneficiaries opened their bank accounts.



Baking Training Port Sudan



Heavy machinery driving training, Port Sudan

• **Gedarif State:** A total of 872 beneficiaries received their vocational trainings in the areas of auto mechanics, auto and general electricity, plumbing, driving, food processing, handicrafts, tailoring, animal production, cool and air conditioning and interlocking. Bank accounts were opened by 821 beneficiaries. On the other hand, 856 participants engaged in remunerated activities and were formed in saving schemes qualifying to participate in Phase Two.



Handicrafts training, Gedarif



Car electricity training, Alshwoak, Alfashega Locality

• Kassala State: 946 beneficiaries received their vocational training in the areas of mobile phone repairing, auto mechanics, auto and general electricity, plumbing, driving, food processing, handicrafts, tailoring, leather and perfumes processing in Kassala town and Aroma locality. 241 beneficiaries also engaged in paid jobs and self-generating income activities like producing biscuits, cookies, other bakery or handicraft products. 846 beneficiaries have engaged in saving schemes and were handed over to SORD, the responsible partner for Phase Two in the state.



Tailoring Training, Kassala



Shoemaking Training, Kassala



Women selling products baked during workshop

• In **Kassala** and **Gedarif states** the final activities of Phase One took place at the same time of the initial activities for the first batches of Phase Two trying to catch up with the initial schedule. The conclusion of Phase One in these two states was in the end delayed by two months. At the end of 2016, this phase had been completely finished regarding operations, although financially there was still the final liquidation by the responsible partners what happened in the first weeks of 2017.



Dossiers for beneficiaries bank accounts Agricultural Bank, Aroma, Kassala State



Director reviewing dossiers Faisal Bank, Kassala

Start and End Date: April – September 2016

% Progress to date: Approximately of Activity 1: 100 %

Quality Criteria	Date	Results of Activities:	Resource Status	Timeliness
# of least advantaged young community members- disaggregated by type and gender- trained in entrepreneurial and vocational skills # of least advantaged young community members- disaggregated by type and gender-temporarily employed	19 May 2016	 Labour Market Assessment: Localities: one urban and one rural locality in each state Labour intensive sector: 5 in Red Sea, 4 in Kassala and 2 in Gedarif. Manpower Absorption: 1,000 in Red Sea, 750 in Kassala and 150 in Gedarif. Selection Criteria has been set Validation workshops to verify and endorse the findings have taken place in the three States following by official endorsement by the States Government. 	Spent	Completed
	8 June 2016	 Identification of and contracting with implementing partners: Three NGOs identified, assessed and contracted to implement the Project 3x6 Phase One: Asnyan in Red Sea, SRCS in Kassala, and Zenab in Gedarif. First advance payment received by the NGOs to start implementation. 	Advance Payment disbursed	Completed

1 June 2016	Technical Committees formed with the related institutions to support the project implementation and to overcome bottlenecks that may face the project. Periodical meetings have been scheduled during the whole implementation of the programme. The Technical Committees were agreed by the project management and the Ministry of Finance at each state.	Spent	Completed
30 Ma 2016	Recruitment of Project staff is completed.	Payroll established	Completed
Jul 201	• Targeting process of the project young beneficiaries as per the set selection criteria in the 3 States	Spent	Completed
Jul 201	• Induction sessions with selected beneficiaries about the project objectives	Spent	Completed
Jul 201	Design of vocational curricula	Spent	Completed
Sept 2016	• 1,000 youth in Red Sea State have completed their vocational training and are engaged in temporary labour sector.	Spent	Completed
Nov 2016	779 youth in Red Sea State have opened their back accounts.	Spent	Completed
Dec 2016	872 beneficiaries in Gedarif State has completed their vocational trainings. 117 of female beneficiaries got engaged in self-generating income activities .	Spent	Completed
Dec 2016	• 946 beneficiaries have completed their vocational training in Kassala State: 520 in Kassala city and 426 in Aroma Locality. 241 of female beneficiaries are engaged in selfgenerating income activities.	Spent	Completed

OUTPUT 2: Least advantaged Young community members are economically empowered to start their micro or small businesses

Activity ID: Phase Two- Ownership (Community based business groups)

Deliverable Description:

Economic activities for least advantaged young community members are established through saving and business venturing

Actions:

- Form community based business groups for economic engagement & self-reliance
- Develop business and entrepreneurial skills capacities of least advantaged young community members (both males and females)
- Enrol community based business groups into saving and credit schemes for efficient financial management
- Create business

Indicator:

of community based business groups formed disaggregated by gender # of community based business groups enrolled into saving and credit schemes # of top community based business groups received start-up micro-grants

Evaluation:

- A number of **80 community based business groups** have been formed, of which 48 from women and 32 from men. 2016 had seen the formation for 39 male community based business groups but as the year 2017 progressed, 7 groups, mainly from the driving vocational trainings dropped out. Beneficiaries from that training were only interested in acquiring the driving skills.
- A number of 2,627 beneficiaries have enrolled into saving and credit schemes.
- A number of 55 community business groups organized as self-helping groups and composed of 1,446 beneficiaries in Kassala and Gedarif States have received a micro-grant to be redistributed as a revolving fund for start-up a business project. As well as with the business groups, Kassala and Gedarif states have seen how the number of saving groups decreased as the programe progressed. From 62 initially formed counted by the end of the year 2016, at the end of the programme 55 community business groups were registered as active. Beneficiaries from drop-out groups and interested in going on with the Programme were absorbed by other active groups.
- 56 individual or community business projects out of 30 initially targeted, accounting for 361 beneficiaries in Red Sea State have received start-up micro-grants through a Business Idea Competition.





Females and males community saving groups (Aroma and Kassala towns respectively)

This Output contributes to achieve **Phase Two (Ownership)** of 3x6 approach through enrolling into saving scheme and encouraging business venturing. At the end of 2016 the three States started implementing this Phase and all beneficiaries belonged to a group formed according to the professional skills acquired during Phase One and were engaged in saving schemes. At the end of 2016 only a few dossiers from the last beneficiaries in Gedarif who attended the driving training and some participating in the last leather processing workshop in Kassala were pending to be assigned to a group, what took place during the first weeks of 2017. In Red Sea by December of 2016 all beneficiaries had completed Phase Two and preparations for the beginning of Phase Three had started. Kassala and Gedarif States finished the trainings, one of the deliverables from Output 2, at the end of March 2017 while the distribution of funds, the other deliverable of Output 2 happened already during the extension period (April to June 2017). Hence, the overall evaluation of activities is as follows:

• Red Sea State: 825 youth were formed into groups and enrolled into saving scheme through their bank accounts or the saving group modality. At the end of the phase the 42% of beneficiaries had actually made savings. All beneficiaries divided in 30 groups (20 groups of males and 10 groups of females) received

trainings on Credit and Saving Management; Formation of Associations and Groups for Small Scale Economies; Credit Facilitation and Saving and Micro Grant Business Management; Saving Systems; Loans and Revolving Fund Management; and Accounting. To accelerate the process and commit to the initial schedule the responsible partner for implementation of Phase Two in Red Sea decided a Training of Trainers approach having selected two representatives out of all groups who received the trainings first and later deliver them to the other members of their groups. Topics included in the trainings included the concepts of business groups, the importance of business group formation, types of business groups, team work and communication and leadership tools. By March 2017 the Business Idea Competition, one of the deliverables from Phase Two, had also successfully concluded in this state. In total 567 beneficiaries out of 825 (the 69% of the total) participated in the contest with the presentation of 93 business projects of which 80 qualified. The Assessment Committee formed by representatives from trade unions, the Bank of Sudan, the Red Sea University, the Youth Microfinance Corporation, the implementing partner of Phase Three in Red Sea State: PASED; and two members from the project technical committee initially selected 47 projects to be funded corresponding to 296 beneficiaries. The results of the Business Idea Competition were celebrated in a ceremony where beneficiaries responsible from the selected projects received a certificate. The ceremony took place in the Government Palace of the Red Sea State in Port Sudan with the attendance of the Walli of Red Sea State, high officials from the Ministry of Finance, H.E. Hideki Ito, the Ambassador of Japan in Sudan, and Selva Ramachandran, UNDP Country Director in Sudan. After that, during the extension period and thanks to a new exchange rate adopted by the UN system, the programme could scale up results and 9 other projects from the remaining 33 also selected were supported. In total in Red Sea State, 56 business projects, accounting for 361 beneficiaries received a start-up micro-grant. The selected projects have received a total of SDG 889,440.





Project Exhibition, Port Sudan 20 February 2017

Visit to a brick production project, Port Sudan

Gedarif State: 856 beneficiaries qualified for Phase Two formed into 25 groups: 14 groups in Gedarif Town and 11 in Alfashaga Locality. All participants concluded their business skills and credit management trainings by March 2017 Some activities from Phase Two were still happening when Phase Three started in Gedarif State, always aiming at catching up with the original schedule. This constriction of time plus some unrealistic saving records from some beneficiaries, made the Programme Technical Committee take exceptional measures on the distribution of funds. The Business Idea Competition meant to assess and select the projects for funding was cancelled and an equal distribution of the funds was decided. All saving groups, regardless the amount of savings recorded, received the same amount (SDG 28,000). This required the groups themselves to redistribute the funds. In order to do so the Committee agreed specific criteria based on the performance of the beneficiaries and the feasibility of the business projects. On average 3 or 4 projects have been funded within every group, the decision on what projects to receive the initial grants have been by the groups themselves although always under the supervision of Maan Organization, the implementing partner for Phase Two in this state.



Handicrafts workshop supported in Kassala



Shoemaking workshop supported in Gedarif

Kassala State: 926 beneficiaries formed into 30 business groups according to the vocational skills gained during Phase One. In Kassala State is noticeable that the majority of beneficiaries qualified for Phase Two were women. In total 671 women participated in Phase Two in this state, while the number of men reach 225. A total 22 groups of women and 8 groups of men were formed. Due to the lack of professional opportunities the beneficiaries in Kassala started the Phase Two with very little start-up savings, something that SORD, the implementing partner of Phase Two in this state, addressed through savings schemes by groups. By the end of the phase the amount saved by the women groups reached SDG 56,235 with groups having an average save of SDG 2,500. While men's groups saving reached a total of SDG 11,400. The difference between the two genders is explained by the greater self-generating activities that women developed. The skills gained during the vocational trainings of Phase One allowed women to produce a wide variety of products that were easy to market and sell within their communities. This explained also the higher drop-out rate between males. Some male beneficiaries were only interested in the vocational trainings and once they had acquired the skills, they opted to look for their own professional job opportunities outside the programme. The lack of professional opportunities in the state and as a consequence the little savings, altogether with the time pressure made the Technical Committee of the Programme in Kassala State take a similar decision as in Gedarif and the Business Idea Competition was suppressed. In Kassala State the distribution of funds followed also set criteria for an equal distribution of the funds, and the amounts were distributed proportionally between all the groups according to the number of participants . The amounts received by the groups varied from SDG 25,000 to 56,000 based on the number of individuals in each group.



ASCA Training



Bricks Production Start-up supported



Community Farm supported in Arbaat, Red Sea



Cars Mechanic workshop supported in Kassala



Handicrafts shop supported in Port Sudan



Exhibition, graduation ceremony (Phase Two)

Start and End Date: September – December 2016

% Progress to date: Approximately 100%

Quality Criteria	Date	Results of Activities:	Resource Status	Timeliness
# of community based business groups formed disaggregated by gender # of community based business groups enrolled into saving and credit schemes # of top community based business groups received start-up micro-grants	8 June 2016	 Identification of and contracting with implementing partners: Three NGos have been identified, assessed and contracted to implement the Project 3x6 Phase Two: Reyada in Red Sea, SORD in Kassla, and Ma'an in Gedarif. Coordination meetings have been organized between the different implementing NGOs responsible for Phases One and Two to ensure full synergy, close coordination and timely delivery in place. 	Committed	Completed
	Sept. 2016	Orientation workshop has been held in Red Sea State with all stakeholders: Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Social Affairs, Humanitarian Aid Commission, Partners NGOs, and technical committee members to focus on orientation and sensitization of participants of Phase Two and all plans related to the coming period.	Spent	Completed
	Oct. 2016	Orientation workshop has been held in Kassala and Gedarif states with all stakeholders to prepare Phase Two.	Spent	Completed
	Nov 2016	First activities of Phase Two start in Kassala and Gedarif states.	Spent	Completed
	Oct. 2016	825 youth in Red Sea State have been formed into 30 groups, each of which has a	Spent	Completed

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	supervisor to follow up their activities and two representatives to ensure the TOT approach through which the trainings was delivered. The groups were also enrolled into saving scheme through their bank accounts or the saving group modality.
Nov 2016	Stakeholders in Red Sea hold meeting to develop the Business Ideas Competition and form the Independent Assessment Committee. Completed Completed
Dec 2016	Business Idea Competition (BIC) was celebrated with 93 business projects submitted from which 80 qualified with the requirements and 47 were selected for funding. 7 projects out of all have been presented by disabled beneficiaries, of which 3 have been selected. A total of 567 participants out of 825 (69% of total) have participated in the BIC. Completed Completed
Dec 2016	• 825 beneficiaries have completed business skills and credit management trainings in Red Sea. Completed
20th Feb 2017	Business Idea Competition ceremony in Port Sudan, Red Sea State. with attendance of the Wali of Red Sea, H.E. the Ambassador of Japan in Sudan and UNDP Country Director. Completed Completed
March 2017	Coordination meeting between SORD and Kassala Microfinance Institution to organize handover of beneficiaries from Phase Two to Phase Three in Kassala State. Completed Completed Completed
March. 2017	• Coordination meeting between Maan and Gedarif Spent Completed

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	Microfinance Institution to organize handover of beneficiaries from Phase Two to Phase Three in Gedarif State.
March 2017	• 725 beneficiaries in Gedarif State formed into 25 groups concluded business trainings. Completed
March 2017	In Kassala 721 beneficiaries were formed into 30 groups and started attending business skills trainings while engaged in saving schemes. Spent Completed
March 2017	Programme Technical Committees from Gedarif and Kassala States meet to decide suppression of Business Idea Competition and take special measure for distribution on funds. Spent Completed
April 2017	Micro-grants for start-up businesses distributed between the saving groups by Maan and SORD in Gedarif and Kassala States. Spent Completed
May 2017	Scale up of the programme in Kassala and Gedarif States with extra top-up grants due to new UN exchange rate distributed. Spent Completed Extension Period
May 2017	Scale up of the programme in Red Sea State with distribution of funds for 9 news projects from the remaining projects qualified during the Business Idea Competition. Spent Completed Extension Period

OUTPUT 3: Least advantaged young community members have increased access to markets and financial resources for sustainable businesses.

Activity ID: Phase Three- Sustainability (Sustainable businesses)

Deliverable Description:

Sustainable businesses to least advantaged young community members through Access to Microfinance and Business Support Services is created

Actions:

- Support development of micro and small enterprises through Business advisory services
- Facilitate access to additional finance and market through linkages/ agreements with microfinance institutions.

Indicators

of community member's business groups supported through Business Support Services in the 3 states # of community member's business groups benefited from additional finance and access to market

Evaluation:

- An average of betweem **300** and **400** beneficiaries per state received business advisory services through workshops on microfinances and ways to access credit for small and medium businesses. At this stage is difficult to keep accurate records of beneficiaries supported due to the different stages at which the business projects are.
- 31 business projects have been offered additional credit from the implementing partners of this phase in their respective locations (18 projects in Kassala State, 6 in Gedarif State and 7 in Red Sea State). All projects add up an amount of SDG 165,850 of additional credit

Under this output, the project undertook activities that were fundamental for the implementation of the project in order to gain sustainability. This output contributed to achieve Phase Three (Sustainability) of 3x6 approach through investing and accessing markets. Trainings on Microfinance systems, Lending policies, Loan parameters, Financial and management skills and Insurance policies and services were organized as one of the deliverables of Output 3 corresponding to this phase. Red Sea State started the year 2017 with the first activities of this phase of the project, what it leaded to finish all operations within the original time frame. By the end of March 2017 Red Sea State had implemented all activities from the project. Kassala and Gedarif states proved to need the extension period granted, to successfully finish all operations, and by the end of May, all states had finished all programme's activities. At the same time as trainings were taking place, the implementing partners of Phase 3 in the three states were assessing beneficiaries' business projects in order for them to find further funding, the other deliverable of Output 3. This happened through connecting them with banks and micro finance institutions in their respective states and in some cases offering the extra credit the implementing partners institutions themselves. At the end of the reporting period, a total of 31 business projects have initially succeeded to get extra credit and some other projects were under assessment what it will expand the life of the project beyond its timeframe as agreed by the implementing partners on the terms of references for the implementation of this Phase 3. The month of June served to do the financial closure of Phase 3 and the overall project. Hence, the current evaluation of activity is as follows:

• Red Sea State: Coordination meetings between the responsible partners for Phase Two, and Phase Three in Red Sea State started as soon as the beginning of the year 2017 to ensure the proper beginning of activities of Phase Three and ensure the smooth transition of beneficiaries to the last phase of the project. This allowed PASED, the implementing partner for Phase Three in Red Sea State, to keep implementation on track and by the end of March all participants in Port Sudan and Al Gonob and Al Oleb, the two localities from Red Sea, had finished their trainings on finances and were in the process to connect with credit institution. A total of 10 training sessions on Microfinances concepts, Micro Insurance and Small Business Management were delivered with the attendance of 379 youth. In addition to the trainings some visits to successful start-up projects supported by PASED were organized. In total 236 beneficiaries saw from up close the ongoing success of young entrepreneurs who recently started businesses in Port Sudan and are already a worth inspiration for the beneficiaries' start-up projects. On the other hand, by the end of the extended period, PASED registered 7 successful projects that benefited from additional finance, the other deliverable of Phase Three. The 7 projects supported with additional credit added an amount of SDG 45,000 extra credit. And the work of PASED will have not finish here since the implementing partner of Phase Three in Red Sea State is committed to continue helping access the market to all the business projects resulted from the programme. At the end of project, PASED has other 22 projects under assessment for further financial support.

Kassala State: Identification of prospect partners to implement Phase Three in Kassala State happened once the project implementation had started. The contract for the implementation of Phase 3 in this state was signed in February 2017. Since the overall implementation of Phase Two in Kassala State was a bit delayed, this late signature together with the extension period granted allowed proper coordination between implementing partners from Phase Two and Phase Three. The coordination process and the handover of beneficiaries happened smoothly thanks to the extra time allowed and by middle March Kassala Microfinance Institution, the implementing partner of Phase Three in Kassala State, was starting its activities. A series of initial induction sessions were organized at the same time as the last activities from Phase Two were still taking place. The month of April was all hands-on for Kassala beneficiaries with microfinances and ways of funding for start-up and small businesses. Trainings on microfinances concepts, objectives, lending methods, policies, quarantees and the Islamic mode of finance were delivered. Kassala has also seen the greater number of projects which have found extra funding. Up to the month of June 2017, in total 18 projects had received an overall amount of SDG 93,250 in extra credit to scale up their initial successful businesses. From these 18 projects, 10 are based in Kassala town: 8 projects relate to retailing and 2 businesses are home bakeries that due to their good sells, they need to increase production therefore the money received it's been invested in bigger ovens. Aroma Locality hosts the other 8 projects that have initially received extra credit. Those 8 businesses add up a total amount of SDG 58,200 as extra credit. It's worth it to notice that most of the projects in Kassala and all projects in Aroma belong to female participants who are challenging the traditional status quo regarding gender in this conservative area of Sudan and showing that they can effectively contribute to the livelihoods in their household. At the closing of the reporting period, big news came from Kassala since a big cooperative for leather products and shoemaking, with 34 beneficiaries involved, was under assessment for further credit by the Kassala Microfinance Institution. The 34 beneficiaries belong to the Hauza tribe, settled in Kassala during the 1980's and live in one of the poorest areas of the city: Garb El Gash, on the east side of the river, where their leather production factory will also be based. This would be another sample of the powerful change that this Sustainable Livelihoods project might have brought to some communities in Kassala State and Eastern Sudan.



Microfinances Workshop, Aroma



Finance and Insurance Policies Seminar, Kassala

• Gedarif State: As well as in Kassala State, the agreement between UNDP and the implementing partner for the implementation of Phase Three in Gedarif State took place in February 2017. Coordination meetings between the responsible partners for Phase Two, and Phase Three in Gedarif State started as soon as the agreement was signed and by middle March, the Gedarif Microfinance Institution had started to deliver induction sessions followed by microfinance trainings, the first deliverable of Output 3. Gedarif noticed that at this stage of the programme, beneficiaries form Alfashaga Locality, the rural locality in the state, showed a greater keenness and motivation to go on with the programme, and the attendance to the trainings was slightly higher. So far 7 training sessions on microfinances for 25 business groups were organized in Gedarif State. In addition, the Gedarif Microfinance Institution organized altogether with the Bank of Sudan, the Savings & Social Development Bank and the Sheikan Insurance Company, two workshops on policies, regulations, procedures and insurances of loans. At the end of the reporting period Gedarif State had seen 6 of its business projects supported with extra credit: 4 in Gedarif Town, and 2 in Alfashaga Locality. It was also reported that other beneficiaries were preparing their dossiers with the required documents to present to the finance institutions to apply for further credit for their businesses to consolidate their entrepreneurial success and achieve the sustainability of the businesses,

the final goal of this Sustainable Livelihoods through Creation of Youth Employment in Eastern Sudan Project.



Beneficiary received certificate of attendance to "Microfinance and insurance collateral" workshop in Alshwoak, Gedarif State



Beneficiary sharing his experience as an entrepreneur at Seminar on Microfinances, Gedarif State

Start and End Date: January - March 2017 Extension Period: April — June 2017

% Progress to date: Approximately of Activity 3: 100%

Quality Criteria	Date	Results of Activities: User Perspective	Resource Status	Timeliness
# of community member's business groups supported through Business Support Services in the 3 states # of community member's	Sept 2016	The responsible partners for Phase Three in Kassala and Gedarif States has been identified.	Spent	Completed
business groups benefited from additional finance and access to market	Sept 2016	Coordination meeting between responsible partners for Phase Two and Phase Three in Red Sea State has been held to identify focal persons to follow up activities of Phase Two to ensure smooth transition of beneficiaries from Phase Two to Phase Three.	Spent	Completed
	Nov 2016	Process of micro- assessment as a requirement by HACT for Kassala and Gadaref Micro Finance Institution started by UNDP. The independent audit firms Hassabo and CO audit carried out successfully the required audit.	Spent	Completed

Dec 2016	The Terms of Reference for the project Phase 3 has been shared with Kassala and Gadaref Micro Finance Institutions. Meetings to discuss the project objectives and expected outputs of Phase 3 are discussed. Agreement on the set of activities that	Spent	Completed
	would lead to achieving these objectives and outputs.		
Dec 2016	 Proposals and implementation plans with budgets for Kassala and Gedaref are sent by the responsible partners. 	Spent	Completed
Dec 2016	Responsible Party Agreements are prepared by UNDP's country office with both institutions to resume project implementation during January 2017.	Committed	Completed
Feb 2017	Responsible Party Agreements are signed by UNDP and Kassala and Gedarif Microfinance Institutions for implementation of Phase 3 in Kassala and Gedarif States respectively.	Spent	Completed
Feb 2017	Coordination meetings between SORD and Maan and Kassala and Gedarif Microfinance Institutions started for the handover between Phase Two and Three in Kassala and Gedarif States.	Spent	Completed
March 2017	 Kassala and Gedarif Microfinance Institutions started induction sessions and delivery of trainings on microfinances (deliverable of Phase Three) 	Spent	Completed

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	April 2017	 PASED organized 11 visits to successful business projects established in Port Sudan for inspiration and knowledge sharing. 	Spent	Completed Extension Period
	May 2017	 Workshop on policies, regulations, procedures and insurances of loans organized by Gedarif Microfinance Institution together with the Bank of Sudan, the Savings & Social Development Bank and the Sheikan Insurance Company. 	Spent	Completed Extension Period
	May 2017	 Workshop on Kassala State policies on microfinances organized by Kassala Microfinance Institution, the Bank of Sudan and Sudani Mobile Company in Kassala Town and Aroma Town. 	Spent	Completed Extension Period
	June 2017	• 4 business projects in Red Sea State, 9 in Gedarif State and 18 in Kassala State received extra credit by the implementing partners of Phase Three in the respective states for business consolidation.	Spent	Completed Extension Period
	June 2017	Other business projects from beneficiaries having taken part in the programme under assessment for extra funding by PASED, Gedarif Microfinance Institution, and Kassala Microfinance Institution.	Committed	On track*
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^{*} Since Phase Three is about sustainability, Implementing partners of this phase, by the signed TORs, agreed to go on supporting all business projects originated in this Programme beyond its timeframe.

Annex 1. Financial Summary

Activity	Budget (USD)	Expenses (USD)
Output 1: Skills development and rapid employment		
1. Develop vocational and business skills capacities of least advantaged young community members (both males and females)	600,000.00	618,002.81
2. Project management (staffing, ICT equip., Communication, Operation, Travel)	100,000.00	118,143.75
Output 1 Total	700,000.00	736,146.56
Output 2: Groups formation and economic engagement		
1. Form and enrol community based business groups into saving and credit schemes for economic engagement & self-reliance	540,000.00	501,302.47
2. Create business (micro-grants)	202,000.00	204,176.60
3. Project management (staffing, ICT equip., Communication, Operation, Travel)	85,000.00	100,422.19
Output 2 Total	827,000.00	805,901.26
Output 3: Support to micro and small enterprises		
1. Business, mentoring and advisory services	250,000.00	198,736.70
2. Project management (staffing, ICT equip., Communication, Operation, Travel)	74,852.00	88,432.96
Output 3 TOTAL	324,852.00	287,169.66
Sub Total Programme Cost	1,851,852.00	1,829,217.47
UNDP GMS (8%)	148,148.00	119,026.08
Grand Total	2,000,000.00	1,948,243.55

Annex 2. Media Kit

- 1. Newsletter #1 (Attachment 1)
- 2. Newsletter #2 (Attachment 2)

3. Video Library.

Documentary films produced and published by the project:

Support for a cooperative farm in Red Sea - https://youtu.be/K7]PIdEv7lU

Support for a charcoal family production business https://youtu.be/9YTwQFSR1mQ

Support for a Handicrafts Start-up Workshop in Kassala https://youtu.be/IJsBmMq2mlM

Stabilization of Livelihoods through Creation of Youth Employment in Eastern Sudan video documentary https://youtu.be/aULiQvJFIF8

Annex 3. Press Clipping

1. Features published

Bringing Stability to Communities: Japan Contributes USD 4 million to Community Stabilization and Livelihoods in the Southern and Eastern States of Sudan

Mar 28, 2016



March 27, 2016, Khartoum— The Government of Japan has allocated a total of USD 2 million to support UNDP's Community Stabilization Programme in the southern border states and an additional USD 2 million for the creation of youth employment in Eastern Sudan.

Read More:

http://www.sd.undp.org/content/sudan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2016/03/28/bringing-stability-to-communities.html

Stabilization of Livelihoods through Creation of Youth Employment in Eastern Sudan



East Sudan is among the Sudanese states hardest hit the poverty where around 52.6% of the 4.5 million population lives below the poverty line, 60% of them are Youth. The Youth unemployment is one of the major challenges in the region. Youth are trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty, unemployment and illiteracy. The lack of livelihood opportunities puts them at a high risk of being involved in violent acts,

radicalized movements or illegal activities such as human trafficking, smuggling, etc. This is especially true for ex-combatants and former child-soldiers. It is a situation that proliferates the pressure and increases the high potential of tension in the region. Therefore, there is a critical need to develop the youth's capacities to upgrade their employability, and to ensure access to short and long term jobs to become self-reliant. Hence, providing alternative employment opportunities for these young groups and creating rewarding jobs will stabilize the situation and prevent potential violence.

Read More:

http://www.sd.undp.org/content/sudan/en/home/operations/projects/poverty_reduction/Creation_of_ _Youth_Employment_in_Eastern_Sudan.html

Red Sea State Inaugurates Youths Stability Projects

Red Sea Governor, Ali Hamid has affirmed his government support for the projects of youth's employment and stability to enhance the economy and tourism. He hailed the efforts of United Nations Developmental Programme (UNDP) and the Ministry of International Cooperation for opening the door for the different international organizations and the donors for supporting different projects in Sudan. He said while inaugurating the projects of means of earning a livelihood which is targeting 3,000 young men and young ladies at six localities and three states in Eastern Sudan, that Sudan has suffered during the past period from economic problems and he is looking forward for benefiting from the projects that seeks to enhance the economy and realizing stability as the these projects are working towards training and employing youths in the labor market.

For his part the Minister of Finance of the Red Sea state, Imad Al din Al Hussein said the project is an end of the second phase of the three projects which aims at providing means of gaining livelihood and stability of the youhs who are doing poor jobs noting that the number of the targeted youth has totalled 1000 youths of both genders in this phase.

The Japanese Ambassador said his visit to the Red Sea State comes paving the way for enhancing relations between Sudan and the people of Japan and reviewing method of supporting such projects as well as seeking means partnership and friendly relations. He affirmed Japan's continual support of the projects that boost livelihood means and creating jobs for youths .

 $\textbf{Read More:} \ \underline{\text{http://news.sudanvisiondaily.com/index.php/new-posts/local-news/5151-red-sea-state-inaugurates-youths-stability-projects}$