

STABILIZATION OF LIVELIHOODS THROUGH CREATION OF YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN EASTERN SUDAN

KASSALA
GEDAREF
RED SEA



1



Learn professional skills, engage in intensive labour, earn money and start saving

INCLUSIVENESS

Phase #1

- Vocational training and building of capital through rapid employment activities.
- Engaging in income-generating activities (e.g. public works).
- Opening and depositing into saving accounts at micro'finance institutions.

Port Sudan City
Red Sea State

The first batch of beneficiaries completed Phase I. A big ceremony is celebrated on the occasion.

Gedarif City
&
Alfashega Locality
Gedarif State

Zenab, example of a sound implementation with special attention to communication aspects

Aroma Locality
Kassala State

A fair trade to wrap up Phase I and support financially beneficiaries savings



Stabilization of Livelihoods through Creation of Youth Employment in Easter Sudan

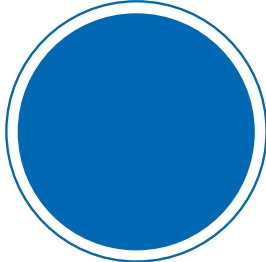


RED SEA STATE

The first to complete Phase I

Participant receives a certificate in Port Sudan

Bravo!



Ahmed Elhag | Head of Poverty Reduction Unit
UNDP Sudan

The UNDP project “**Stabilization of Livelihoods Through Creation of Youth Employment in Eastern Sudan: Kassala, Gedarif and Red Sea States**” is the first time the 3X6 approach for employment creation is being implemented in Sudan. Counting the successful results attained in Yemen, Rwanda and Burundi, UNDP is now implementing this wholesome methodology in our country to reduce poverty in the much needed areas of Eastern Sudan. The project is the result of a successful cooperation that involves **the government, UNDP and national organizations** working locally at grassroots level to eradicate poverty and ensure community’s resilience..

This **newsletter #1** is the portrait of the work done during the Phase I of the project, which under the title of Inclusiveness, it includes two different steps: Engaging in a vocational training to gain skills and in an income generating activity to start saving money. This is the portrait of the beneficiaries of the programme in doing those two endeavours.

Ready for Phase II

Red Sea State, pioneer among the other regions, celebrated on the 28th September 2016 the first milestone of the project. 480 youth have finished the vocational training offered by Asnyan organization and UNDP and have started to earn money through income generating activities.

Intensive labour activities in Red Sea cover 5 different sectors: water networking, heavy machinery driving and heavy machinery control, as unskilled support technicians, as apprentices in small workshops or involved in self-income generating activities.

The **480 participants** comprise half the quota for this state among a total of 3,000 beneficiaries targeted by the project that it’s also being implemented in Kassala and Gedarif states, with a budget of 2,150,000\$ funded by the **Japan Supplementary Fund** and UNDP.

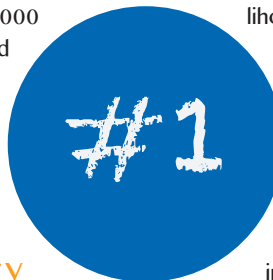
Representatives of the State, local authorities, NGOs and UNDP congratulated the participants and awarded them with a graduation certificate. Among them, some attending on their wheelchairs assured that they have greatly benefited from the programme attending the trainings that

were specially adapted for them. According to the trainers these participants have shown a remarkable motivation.

Mohamed Ahmed Adam

– Director General of the Ministry of Finance of Red Sea State, UNDP’s partner in this project who attended the ceremony commented: ‘The livelihoods stabilization project is responsive to our priorities to create employment particularly among youth. This creates a positive impact in reducing unemployment and enhancing productivity. In addition to the economic impact, the project also has a considerable social impact represented in the way it channels the energy of the youth towards useful ends rather than criminal acts’.

Phase II will involve participants into saving schemes and training their business skills and management capacities.



Stabilization of Livelihoods through Creation of Youth Employment in Easter Sudan



Popular Trainings

PERFUMES

Aroma Locality
Kassala State

Around 100 attendees.

It has offered the possibility to learn how to put up together some ointments and essences to craft perfumes and other cosmetics.

WALDING

Alfasaga Locality
Gedarif State



Males in Alshowak town know that welding is a prosperous activity around Alfasaga so it has become the most attended training in this town. Around 60 participants learn about welding in two sessions every day.

FIXING MOBILES

Kassala Town, Kassala State

How to dismount and mount all and every single piece of a mobile phone. This training catered the interest of around 80 participants. At the end of the training Samsung had no secrets for the attendees

HENNA TATTOOING

Port Sudan, Red Sea State

More than 70 ladies with an artistic penchant could learn and improved their henna tattooing skills for around a month. Henna tattooing has become a popular business and a good source of income for ladies in Sudan.



Agricultural bank, Aroma

The challenge of saving: constraints to the opening of bank accounts

This has been with no doubt the biggest constraint in the implementation of Phase I of the project. For different reasons banks in the Eastern States of Sudan feel reluctant to open bank accounts for disadvantaged youths

Between those reasons some beneficiaries had no ID card, only National Registration Document, but banks insisted on the need of the ID card. Some beneficiaries living in very rural areas, they never need the ID so they never processed it or coming from very poor families, they couldn't afford to pay the fees to apply for them. With no ID and national index or official birth certificate, banks couldn't open a bank account so this made implementing partners and UNDP to consider different options. In some cases partners supported financially the beneficiaries in order for them to open the bank account and start saving money to qualify for phase II.

Another situation arose with 15, 16 and 17 years old participants. As under age according to the law they are not eligible to perform legal actions, and thus can't open a bank account. This situation unfortunately couldn't be helped so no personal bank accounts have been opened, instead some

saving groups were formed. Some participants over 18 years old were nominated as saving representative and opened the bank account on behalf of a group, all supervised by implementing organizations.

Another scenario was the slow process. Some bank offices can only open a certain amount of accounts per day, some other offices dedicated to the participants of our program only 1 or 2 hours a day limiting again the number of daily accounts. To speed the process negotiations with many different banks soon started. This was possible in towns but in rural areas like Al Gonnob & Al Oleb, Al-fashega and Aroma localities due to the lack of other different brands so that slowness couldn't be helped. Beneficiaries started to work and had to keep their incomes in cash in their pockets waiting for their accounts to be finally proceeded.

Little details make perfection

by Zenab Organization in Gedarif State

Beneficiaries in Gedarif State are granted with a participant card in which their photo is displayed with some information including their personal details as well as the training they are following. The student cards show the UNDP and Japanese Embassy as well as the different government partners logos: the Gedarif State and the line



ministry supporting the project, the Ministry of Finance, Economy and Manpower. This little communication initiatives that follow indications from the communication strategy designed specifically for the project "only required the team to dedicated some little extra time but not so much budget" declared Alya Numan, Zenab coordinator for the project.



And it does indeed happen that participants in Gedarif State wear their card proudly all the time while they are at the training sessions. Alya is also confident to believe that "it makes the project to look good and it gives a sense of ownership to the participants who have a cute card to show everyone the project they are taking part in".



Two beneficiaries at a shop where their products are being sold at Gedarif market

New goods in Gedarif Souq

Gedarif State is famous for its sorghum and its sesame. This popularity has now found some competition since the products manufactured by the "Animal production workshop" have also started to be sold in this market and they are being very successful.

It's organized in partnership with Zenab and the Ministry of animal resources and fisheries of Gedarif State and is one of a kind among the trainings offered by the Stabilization of livelihood project. In total 143 beneficiaries in Gedarif Town has taken part of this vocational training and another 40 in Alfashega Locality.

It has 5 different sections: **fodder production, poultry, leather, meat production and dairy products**. All of them have proven to be very successful and they are managing to market all their products in different outlets around the city.

Leather shoes and sandals, belts and bracelets of a very high quality can be found in some shops around the central market. Restaurants in town started to serve the new flavours out of the meat production training: shish kebabs, shish tawooks and sausages are becoming popular snacks and dinner meals.

But of them all, if there's something with an expanding market those are the dairy products. Yougurt, white cheese, mozzarella cheese, butter or ice cream are beating sales records.

LEATHER

70 participants

One training in which males and females participate altogether. Students learn to deal with leather from different animals to produce bags, belts, wallets, shoes, sandals and different cases who can be found later in Gedarif market.

MEAT

83 females

Focused specially in high standard hygiene measures and the quality of ingredients, no doubt the products produced by this workshop are already having such a success in restaurants and butcher outlet around Gedarif.



FODDER

46 males and females

Another example of a mix training catering the interest of males and females. They produce fodder at a professional level and they are commercialized between the network of farms around Gedarif town and the rest of the state.

POULTRY

54 males and females

They couldn't imagine that breeding poultry would be so interesting. It's hard participants reckon, specially due to the high standard of hygiene measures they need to follow but it's rewarding seeing the little chicken grow day by day.



The successful ice creams of Maria



Maria Youssif is an example of best seller nowadays in **Gedarif market**. During the training she learnt how to manufacture different products made out of all types of milk: camel, goat, sheep and cow. After experimenting with some products, she has then decided to produce ice cream. She comes from a poor family, her father with a little disability in one leg can not really work so income in their house-

hold has always been a struggle. During the training she showed a special motivation. She is smart and learnt fast so quickly saw the possibility to get an income through the production of ice cream.

In order to buy the raw ingredients she managed to get a credit from Zenab and soon started to practice at home what she had learnt at the training.

Lemon, Orange, Strawberry and Vanilla ice cream pots from Maria's kitchen can now be bought at a few venues around Gedarif. The little shop near her house was her first outlet but since then and thanks to a little distribution plan her ice creams are also sold at several university canteens. She already paid her debt back and is now earning to keep up production on a daily base and she is even saving between 50 and 100 pounds a day.



Derar Jaber Mahmmoud, teacher of the mobile phone repairing workshop in Kassala

The most sophisticated workshop Reparing Smartphones

Kassala Town, Kassala State

It has two levels: Basic and Advance, being the latter the most popular since focuses on smartphones

The beneficiaries had to wait long for this. It has been the last workshop to start in **Kassala town** but they reckon their wait has been worth it. When you get into the classroom you need to be very careful not to step on any mobile phone spare piece lost during the assembly and disassembly of the devices.

It's the most popular training in Kassala and going around the market in the city you might understand why. There are many shops fixing mobile phones and nowadays even in Kassala a mobile phone is **a commodity that everybody has**.

The novelty of this training is that it's also taught how to repair the new smartphones. Actually that the biggest beneficiaries' interest.

Derar Jaber Mahmmoud, the trainer of mobile phones fixing workshop is surprised with the attendance and says that "participants are always punctual. They even get to the classroom before the time to practice by themselves and nobody misses any class.

Possibilities for all

Inclusive workshops

Workshops have been adapted to cater also participants with disabilities

Under the new **3x6 approach** of employment creation applied for the Sustainable livelihoods project, the moto for Phase I is Inclusiveness and this concept applies to all its meaning. Implementing partners have made an extra effort to include also participants with disabilities. It's considered one of the main objectives.

Handicapped women specifically found some options to acquire and improve their vocational skills. The training about henna tattooing offered in Port Sudan or the production of handicrafts, a training available in the 6 localities where the program is being implemented, targeted specifically this group. But women with disabilities not only participated in workshops specifically targeted for them, in Kassala and Gedarf they also joined along with men the handling leather workshop and we could see them producing new items equally motivated. This is the case of **Safa Ibrahim** who suffers weakness in her legs' muscles and attended the leather workshop in Kassala town on her wheelchair. "I want to learn and produce my own products to sell them in the market and take advantage of the benefits of having a constant income. I like to work with the leather and it's something I can do with my situation".



Participants attending a leather training on their wheelchairs

The opportunity of my first job

Abdulahakeem Waleed

Mohammed Zain was meant to go to university but unfortunately after obtaining his certificate, his father was fired from his job and couldn't find another one due to his age. He started then to look for a job. He was but for long time didn't succeed since he had no prior experience. He was actually looking for work when he heard about the Sustainable of livelihood project.

He joined the **welding training** and in less than a month he learnt how to make beds, windows and doors. He has shown a remarkable motivation.

Soon after joining the workshop he also found his first job as a welder. Now he is earning enough to support the family and save part to quality for phase II. "I wish to save enough to be able to prove that I am a good candidate to receive financial support and start my own business. I

would like to open my own workshop and teach others what I have been taught. Besides I would like to send my siblings to university and enjoy the opportunity that I haven't been given."

Abdulahakim is now **earning around 100 SDGs per week** and is being able to save around 1/3 of it after contributing to his household expenses.





Alfashaga Locality Commissioner
Mr. Abdulatti Dakin

A trainee of honour

Alshowak Town, Alfashaga Locality

On Monday 31st October at Elshowak Vocational Training Center it was a common day, but it was not

Classes at the trainings started early as usual. Mechanic workshop practitioners were already practising at the engines, welding course attendees wearing their protection googles were already seeing the sparks coming out of their practice, the teacher at the electricity training was explaining some theory regarding circuits. Positive attracts negative. Negative repels negative.

Soon after the classes had started the commissioner of the locality Mr. Abdulatti Dakin arrived at the training center to assess and support the project. He considers the UNDP project funded by the Japanese "a very much need initiative in this locality where there's a high rate of youth who can't afford higher education or any education at all and where employment opportunities are very low".

The commissioner is a warm hearted person with a great sense of humor and we could see him making jokes while talking to the beneficiaries learning about what they are leaning as any other participant.

A trade fair to complete Phase I

Aroma Town, Aroma Locality
Kassala State



Aroma wanted to honor the participants of the project with a special graduation ceremony.

Besides the presence of the locality commissioner Mr. Omer Almadih and the representatives of UNDP and SCRC, the official speeches and the attendance of half of Aroma town, the real protagonists of the day were the beneficiaries of the program, specially the females. For the occasion they had prepared an exhibition with all the different items produced during the trainings. Biscuits, (all different bakery products typical), clothes and garments for babies, children and grown ups, perfumes and a wide selection of handicrafts could be seen all along the different classrooms of the training center.

At the end of the ceremony almost everything had been already sold. These earnings will contribute to the savings that the beneficiaries have started to deposit in their newly opened bank accounts in order to qualify for phase II.

Males also had their space at the exhibition with the display of a big electric circuit and a mechanical station where samples of their work done during the training could also be observed.



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Stabilization of Livelihoods through Creation of Youth Employment in Easter Sudan

