

**Ensuring Food & Nutrition Security and Peaceful Co-Existence
of Former Refugees and Host Communities
Gedaref State, Eastern Sudan**



Final Evaluation Report

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Project Brief Sheet

Grant Contract No	BMZ 2017.1804.8
Implementing Agency	German Red Cross and Sudanese Red Crescent Society
Project Title	Ensuring food and nutrition security and peaceful co-existence of former refugees and host communities in Gedaref State, Eastern Sudan
Project Location	Um Gulja – Wasat Locality and Um Rakuba – Gallabat Locality, Gedaref State, Sudan
Total Target Beneficiaries	1,200 households and 6,000 Members
Project Duration	38 months
Project Start Date	01.11.2017
Original Contract end Date	31.12.2020 and extended to 28.02.2021

Financial Data

Overall project budget	€1,300,000
BMZ funds contracted	€ 1,300,000
Revised Budget	€
Expenditure incurred by project at evaluation date	€ 1,300,000 (There is an amount committed to be spent in February)

Abbreviations/ Acronyms

AtB	- Accountability to Beneficiary
BMZ	- German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CEA	- Community Engagement and Accountability
COR	- Commissioner of Refugee
CV	- Curriculum Vitae
DAC	- Development Assistance Committee
GoS	- Government of Sudan
GRC	- German Red Cross
HAC	- Humanitarian Aid Commission (Sudan)
HH	- Household
HoO	- Head of Office
HR	- Human Resources
IFRC	- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
LFA	- Log Frame Analysis/ Logical Framework Approach
LPMC	- Locality Project Monitoring Committee
NHQ	- National Head Quarters
OECD	- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PCC	- Project Community Committee
PCM	- Project Cycle Management
PMC	- Project Monitoring Committee
PMER	- Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting
RCRC	- Red Cross and Red Crescent
SDG	- Sudanese Pound
SMoSW	- State Ministry of Social Welfare
SMoA	- State Ministry of Agriculture
SRC	- Sudanese Red Crescent
SPMC	- State Project Monitoring Committee
ToR	- Terms of Reference
VCA	- Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment
WASH	- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sudanese Red Crescent Society with the support from German Red Cross and funding from BMZ, transitional aid, as donor were the implementer of “Ensuring food and nutrition security and peaceful co-existence of former refugees and host communities in Gedaref State, Eastern Sudan”. The locations Um Rakuba and Um Gulja were chosen for the project as the inhabitants are especially vulnerable and their nutrition is poor. The host communities are cooperative and willing to share the resources. The local authorities (COR, HAC and State Commissioner) have agreed to the site selection. The project period was 38 months from November 2017 to November 2020 with no cost extension to February 2021.

The project main objective is “to contribute to strengthening the resilience towards food insecurity as well as the peaceful co-existence of former refugees and host communities” in two localities in Gedaref through training of the targeted group to apply improved knowledge and a higher awareness with regard to sustainable use of natural resources and to climate change, developed more sustainable and more environmentally sound livelihoods, host communities and refugees live together peacefully and to strengthen the technical capacity of SRC to work effectively for the improvement of the status of refugees and host community.

The end-line and final evaluation was conducted in two target villages in two localities of Gedaref State, Sudan. The sectors to be evaluated are: Agricultural trainings, community structures (Community centre, community garden, etc.), support field crops cultivation (Sorghum and Sesame), support for home gardens, nutrition awareness and improvements, animal husbandry and benefits, income generating training and activities (food processing, tailoring, driving, etc.), support for people with disabilities, establishment of water sources and the environmental protection awareness/ technologies (solar).

Key questions of the evaluation were structured as follows:

1. Relevance:

The appropriateness of project objectives to the real needs and priorities of the target beneficiaries?

2. Effectiveness:

Measures the achievements of activities towards specific objective and outputs?

3. Efficiency:

Measure whether the most efficient approach has been used by the project?

4. Impact Prospect:

Measure the, positive and negative impact towards the HH wellbeing and economical improvements?

5. Sustainability:

Measure the key factors that contributed to the sustainability

Key findings

The FDG during the final evaluation indicated that the community participation in implementation of the activities is very high hence the results of the intervention are also good compared to the

base survey. The project is successfully implemented and communities are satisfied with the implementation and support provided.

The OECD evaluation criteria (relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability) were followed during all steps of the project implementation.

The Key findings of the final evaluation can be summarized as follows:

a) Relevance

- The VCA findings were the main guide for the development of the project activities such as selection of crops that relevant to the targeted location and shortage of water in Um Gulja.
- The implementation of the project faced no problems with the community. The distribution of agricultural inputs, home gardening, sheep/goats, and awareness sessions conducted on nutrition and natural environment protection had contributed to strengthening the resilience of community towards food insecurity through production of food, availability of milk and vegetable for the family nutrition.
- The establishment of CDs and formation of joint PCC from host community and former refugees in the two locations also contributed to peaceful co-existence in the community
- The beneficiaries and PCCs during the FGD expressed their satisfaction with the project implementation and inputs distributed to beneficiaries and they would like to have a similar project to target other beneficiaries in the communities in Um Gulja and Um Rakoba.

b) Effectiveness

- The formation and training of PCC and SRC mobilizers/volunteers enable better implementation of the project relying on the long experience of SRCS in the area and the linkages established with the different stakeholders and contractors.
- The specification and quality of activities are ensured through participation of the concerned stakeholders and under their technical supervision and supplied by local contractors and adhered to transparency of bid announcement and selection of vendors' procedure.
- In agricultural activities for example, the project introduced improved field crops seed varieties of *Arfaa Gadamak* for Sorghum and *Bromo* for Sesame varieties which are recommended by Agriculture extension for rain-fed agriculture. The selection of pregnant female animals for distribution has been a wise decision to shorten the longer returns period expected from the animals as compared to other IGAs that have quick returns such as crops.
- To reach fairness between the beneficiaries who are supported with animals and those supported with seeds, which is much less in cost than animals, the latter are compensated for by providing them with seeds for the last three seasons.

c) Efficiency

- Procurements of the project are in line with procedure of bids and selection of venders. The efficient project management overcomes the challenges that faced the project during the country lack of liquidity and high inflation of the prices with no significant delays of plans implementation. The increase in the official exchange rate assisted the project to cope with the price inflation.
- The partner capacity and experience of SMOA contributed in the design and implementation of the vegetable farms and nurseries.
- The installation of the solar in CDC is justified as the solar energy allow for the use of fans and light during day and night that PCC and community use the CDC during the

day for meeting and conducting training sessions as well as national events and international days which is attended by the community.

- The delays in implementation of some activities and fluctuations resulted in some money returns to Donor in the second and third year.

d) Impact

- Activities implemented are directed to diversify livelihood means; this is expressed in the IGA options made available to the beneficiaries. Car driving and food processing and introduction of vegetable cultivation in the home gardens were introduced to generate income for the youth and women beside encouraging consumption of vegetables. The evaluation revealed that monthly income of some respondents in Um Rakoba host community increased to SDG 18,000 and In UM Gulja host community increased to SDG 6828 while in Um Gulja former refugees increased to SDG 523.
- The project has contributed to support women by providing appropriate training and inputs to enable them to generate income and to contribute in provision of the family needs. The project monitoring follow up confirmed that food processing women groups in Um Rakoba with the support of the project established three cooperatives and were linked to finance institutions.

e) Sustainability

- Communities' ownership, which is essential for the sustainability, has been addressed since the VCA in which the stakeholders participated, including PCCs members.
- The PCC members received training on management, book keeping, meeting organization which enable the PCC to communicate with the community after phasing out of the project.
- The PCC are responsible of the running of CDC, water facilities and vegetables farm and the income is used for payment for watchmen of the vegetable farms and CDC maintenance and for emergency cases such as repairing of the water pumps and land preparation of the vegetable farm.
- SRC mobilizers/volunteers are from the community and are well trained and they will continue as SRC volunteers with SRC Gedaref branch.
- The CDC is the venue for the host community and former refugees to meet and discuss issues pertaining to community services. CDC is also place for conducting national events that will strengthen the peace co-existence among host community and former refugees.

Lessons learned

The following are the lessons learnt during the implementation of the project. The project also benefitted from the previous projects implemented in the same localities in Gedaref state:

- Ø The VCA is an important study that helped SRCS and GRC in the development of the project activities plan
- Ø The establishment of CDC and formation of joined PCC from host communities and former refugees strengthened the peace co-existence between beneficiaries in host communities and former refugees.
- Ø Selection of SRC mobilizers/volunteers from the same locations targeted by the project and trained them assisted the PCC and the project to communicate well with the community in training sessions and distribution of project inputs.
- Ø There is good coordination between the SPMC and the project. The project benefitted from the experience of SMoA in designing and establishing of the community vegetable farms.
- Ø Diggings of three bore wells for irrigation of the community vegetable farm contributed in provision of vegetable to the beneficiaries with cheaper prices and in solving the problem of water shortage.

- Ø The installation of the solar panels for generation power to pump out water from the bore wells for irrigation of the community vegetable farm and drinking water is a good example of using environmental friendly clean power.
- Ø Distribution of female pregnant sheep is in line with baseline survey and VCA to increase animal ownership and is more rewarding than goats.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project has made significant investment in the human capital through provision of technical training and awareness session and distribution of inputs especially in the area of women empowerment in food processing and tailoring. The outcomes of such integrated activities, resulted in generation of income of beneficiaries and improvement in the food security and nutrition of the families. The joint committees and regular meeting between host community and former refugees is reflected in better understanding of community needs and peaceful coexistence between the host and former refugee communities.

Below are some of the recommendations for the project:

- Linking the PCC with the concerned state ministries and departments at locality and state levels for continuation of technical support to community after phasing out of the project.
- The community farms are great investment is run by the PCC and attention will be necessary for the management of the farms to avoid any possible disputes regarding the investment operation and returns use.
- The PCC to coordinate with the ministry of welfare regarding the identified disables to support ministry initiative.
- Proper handing over notes to PCC indicating assets of the project in CDC and vegetable farms to avoid conflicts among community i the future.
- Linking the PCC with the bank authorities for the payment of insurance money paid by the project as insurance fees for sheep to compensate the affected beneficiaries who lost their animals.
- SRC mobilizers/volunteers in the community who are key catalyst for implementation of the project activities and sustainability of benefit has to be awarded incentive from the income generated from the vegetable farm and selling of water to stay in the community.