



PROMOTING GENDER-RESPONSIVE APPROACHES TO NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FOR PEACE IN NORTH KORDOFAN, SUDAN

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

CEAP	Community Environmental Action Planning
CMC	Community Management Committee (C2SP)
C2SP	Community Security and Stabilization Programme
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
JP	Joint Project
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PBSO	United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office
UN	United Nations
UNAMID	African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN Environment	United Nations Environment Programme
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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The Joint Project “Promoting Gender-Responsive Approaches to Natural Resource Management for Peace” was the first pilot project established by the global Joint Programme on Women, Natural Resources and Peace, which aims to promote natural resource-based interventions as a tool for women’s political and economic empowerment in peacebuilding contexts.

The pilot project, which built on interventions conducted under the UNDP’s Community Security and Stabilization Programme (C2SP), started in October 2016 and ended in October 2018. It was supported with a USD 300,000 grant* from the Government of Finland, and jointly managed and implemented by the Sudan country offices of UNDP, UN Environment and UN Women.

Climate change, conflict and increasingly female communities

The Joint Project of UNDP, UN Environment and UN Women on Promoting Gender-Responsive Approaches to Natural Resource Management for Peace was implemented in the locality of Al Rahad in North Kordofan State, Sudan, a community beset by climate-related environmental degradation and increasing conflicts over natural resources.

The effects of climate change have generally been reflected in increasing temperatures, significant variability and uneven distribution of rainfall, wind storms and localized drought, which have contributed to crop failure, soil degradation and water scarcity. In addition to undermining agricultural productivity, these factors have impacted pastoralist movements. Along with the closure of cattle routes in South Kordofan due to conflict and the expansion of mechanized agriculture, resource depletion has concentrated cattle in Al Rahad and increased the length of time that pastoralist groups stay in the area.

While other drivers of conflict play an important role as well, escalating tensions between different groups of resource users making demands on an increasingly degraded environment have contributed to the outbreak of violent conflict in the area with increasing frequency and worsening outcomes. According to Al Rahad's Conflict Mediation and Peacebuilding Center, the area witnessed 9 violent conflicts between July 2016 and April 2018, resulting in 24 deaths. Five of those events and 15 of those deaths took place in a single month, between 11 March and 13 April 2018.

In addition to violent conflict, the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation

migration can now extend far longer, especially for young and unmarried men. This has resulted in a significant increase in female-headed households, a phenomenon largely recognized by traditional leaders and elders as the "new normal".

This feminization of the resident population is further compounded by the increasing sedentarization of some of the pastoralist groups, which are not only staying in the area for longer periods of time, but often also splitting, leaving women and children behind in Al Rahad while men continue along their migration route. Sedentarized pastoralist groups – largely women – typically turn to the land to generate income, renting fields from the local community to graze their sheep and goats or to produce small crops.

Despite their significant roles in natural resource management, women (across all socio-economic and ethnic grounds) have generally been marginalized economically and politically, and have not been engaged in the existing conflict resolution mechanisms that address disputes and grievances over natural resources. Community-level structures that are typically involved in the management of natural resources and resolution of conflicts, such as the traditional native administration and the popular committees have either not included women at all (native administration) or included them to some degree (popular committees), but not on matters related to conflict resolution. For example, women have traditionally not been part of the *Jodeya* or mediation mechanisms set up by communities to address conflicts and tensions at their level. The roles of nomadic women in formal decision-making

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