

SUDAN

SUPPORTING WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY IN FRAGILE STATES

RESEARCH BRIEF



CHANGING WITH THE TIMES

Most [Official Development Assistance] to gender equality in fragile situations goes to education and health; financing gaps remain in the peace and security sector and in economic and productive sectors. Integrating a gender perspective ... does produce better peacebuilding and statebuilding outcomes.

It makes state institutions more inclusive, enhances state legitimacy, fosters justice and security, and helps to unlock women's potential to contribute to economic recovery Donors could also further invest in dedicated gender equality programmes.

OECD, States of Fragility: Meeting Post-2015 Ambitions (1)

43%

of the world's people who live in severe poverty today are located in fragile States. Among them, women, youth and children account for over 70 percent.

2015 marked a turning point for the international community with the global adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The stand-alone goal on gender equality (SDG5) is a major step forward, as are gender indicators linked to the other 16 SDGs.

Yet overcoming today's challenges will require more than law and policy commitments. Real change requires sophisticated tools and innovative strategies that accelerate women's empowerment, and enable men and women to work together towards growth, recovery and collective well-being.

Closing gender gaps and eliminating inequality upholds women's rights, and leads to more cohesive societies

and robust economies. This is especially true in fragile States, home to 43 percent of people living in severe poverty (2). Among them, women, youth and children account for over 70 percent (3).

Given significant knowledge gaps on women's aspirations, needs, and contributions in fragile States, the following research aims to offer a more nuanced analysis of the opportunities available to women.

It also recommends steps to help development partners and local communities tackle some of the most urgent barriers to gender equality and inclusive development.

LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE

The FGE has awarded grants to 50 programmes in fragile States since 2009, including:

27 Political empowerment programmes

23 Economic empowerment programmes

In seven years, UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality (FGE) and its grantee-partners have developed strategies for making gender equality and women's empowerment programming smarter and more responsive to national and local needs.

With 63 grantee organizations operating in 30 of the 50 countries considered fragile by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (4), the FGE has conducted research based on case studies in Guinea, Lebanon and Sudan to help development practitioners understand:

- The gender dimensions of fragility specific to different places and contexts

- Empowerment as a suite of capabilities that together lead individuals and communities towards greater resilience, recovery and security
- The urgent need for more gender-responsive policies, services and gender disaggregated data, particularly at the sub-national level

"Having different people agree to work together and to organize themselves for a change is a great success in itself. Although we are many sharing this land, we agreed to clean and harvest the land [together]. By the end of the harvest, the crop will be distributed by our committee among all of us equally, irrespective of my status as an [Internally Displaced Person, or IDP]."

IDP woman beneficiary



PORTFOLIO OF FGE GRANTS IN FRAGILE STATES* 2009-2016

\$25
million in grants to fragile States

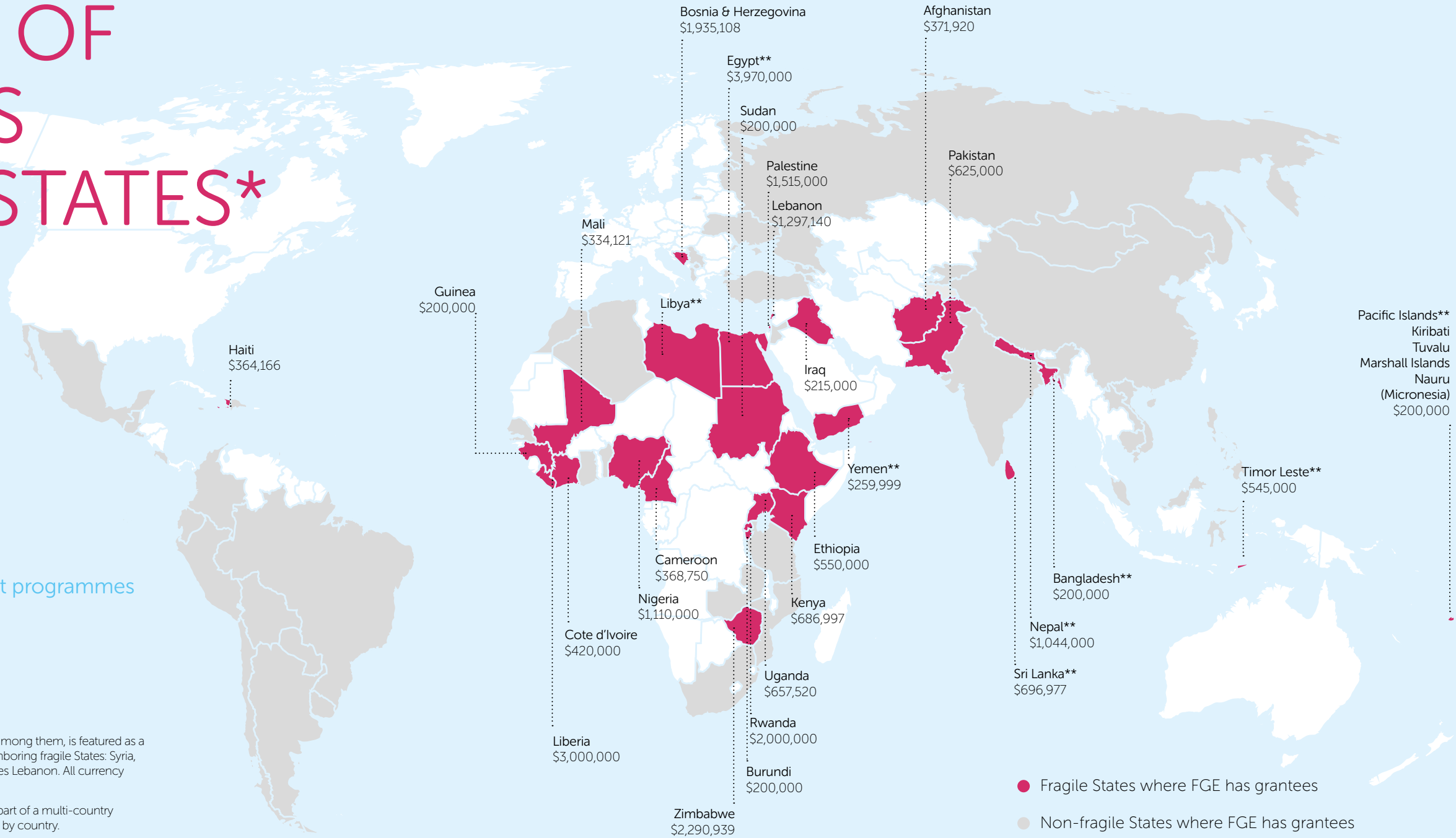
50
gender equality and women's empowerment programmes

63
civil society organizations

31
fragile States

* This map is based on OECD's 2015 list of fragile States. Lebanon, while not listed among them, is featured as a case study in this series for its role in managing ongoing emergencies in three neighboring fragile States: Syria, Iraq, and Palestine. For the purpose of this series only, the term fragile States includes Lebanon. All currency values are US\$.

**States in which grantee civil society organizations have received an FGE grant as part of a multi-country programme. See Annex A for a full list of awarded organizations and grant amounts by country.



KEY RESEARCH LESSONS LEARNED

STRENGTHEN LINKAGES

between normative commitments and gender equality programme interventions; between humanitarian response and longer term recovery efforts



CONTEXT MATTERS

for understanding the gender dimensions of fragility and the relevant opportunities worth seizing



MAKE PROGRAMMING SMARTER

by building on successes and lessons learned to scale up projects and achieve greater impact



LEVERAGE WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

to harness the full power of response and recovery interventions for gains that empower whole communities



GENDER EQUALITY IS A STRATEGY

not a boutique issue for women and girls; it can be used to transform the position and capacities of all people seeking real change



LOCALIZE GOOD PRACTICES

as pathways towards recovery and prosperity using area-based research, knowledge exchange and partnerships



GENDER DIMENSIONS OF FRAGILITY

In 2015, the OECD introduced a new framework for understanding fragility which aligns with the SDGs. Its report, *States of Fragility: Meeting Post-2015 Ambitions*, outlines five broad, overlapping dimensions that weaken national and local capacities to thrive and recover from shocks (5).

They include:

- Economic foundations
- Capacity to adapt to social, economic and environmental shocks and disasters
- Effective, accountable and inclusive institutions

- Violence and peaceful societies
- Access to justice for all

Focusing primarily on economic dimensions, the FGE’s research explores:

- How programmes supported by the FGE use gender equality and women’s empowerment strategies to strengthen resilience and counter various gender dimensions of fragility, and
- Key gaps and entry points for strengthening gender equality and women’s empowerment interventions to contribute to these goals

This series of research briefs present the findings of the FGE case study research and describe the unique gender dimensions of fragility addressed by FGE grantees in underserved localities of Guinea, Lebanon and Sudan.

Each grantee is using different kinds of empowerment programming to help counter fragility by strengthening women’s position, opportunities and participation in all areas of life.

COUNTERING FRAGILITY THROUGH EMPOWERMENT

To make gender equality and women’s empowerment programming in fragile States smarter and more targeted to women’s real needs, the FGE research defines a framework for empowerment based on four components, as detailed on pages 12-13:

- productive resources
- institutional relations
- personal resources
- interpersonal relations

Together, the four components increase individuals’ influence over

economic structures and decisions that shape their lives by:

- Expanding their agency to make and influence decisions at all levels
- Enabling them to enjoy greater command of and control over resources

While the FGE continues to support programmes that use mixed-gender empowerment strategies, this research series attempts to better understand the unique barriers and opportunities for women’s empowerment in fragile States worldwide, using all four components as areas for investigation.

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT FRAMEWORK

FGE's empowerment framework helps programme practitioners approach women's needs as more than just political and economic gains (6). Needs also include improved capabilities, opportunities and relationships as part of an engaged and empowered life.

The four components of empowerment include:

● PRODUCTIVE RESOURCES

interventions that improve access and control over the inputs needed for sustainable income generation and safe, secure livelihoods.

● INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

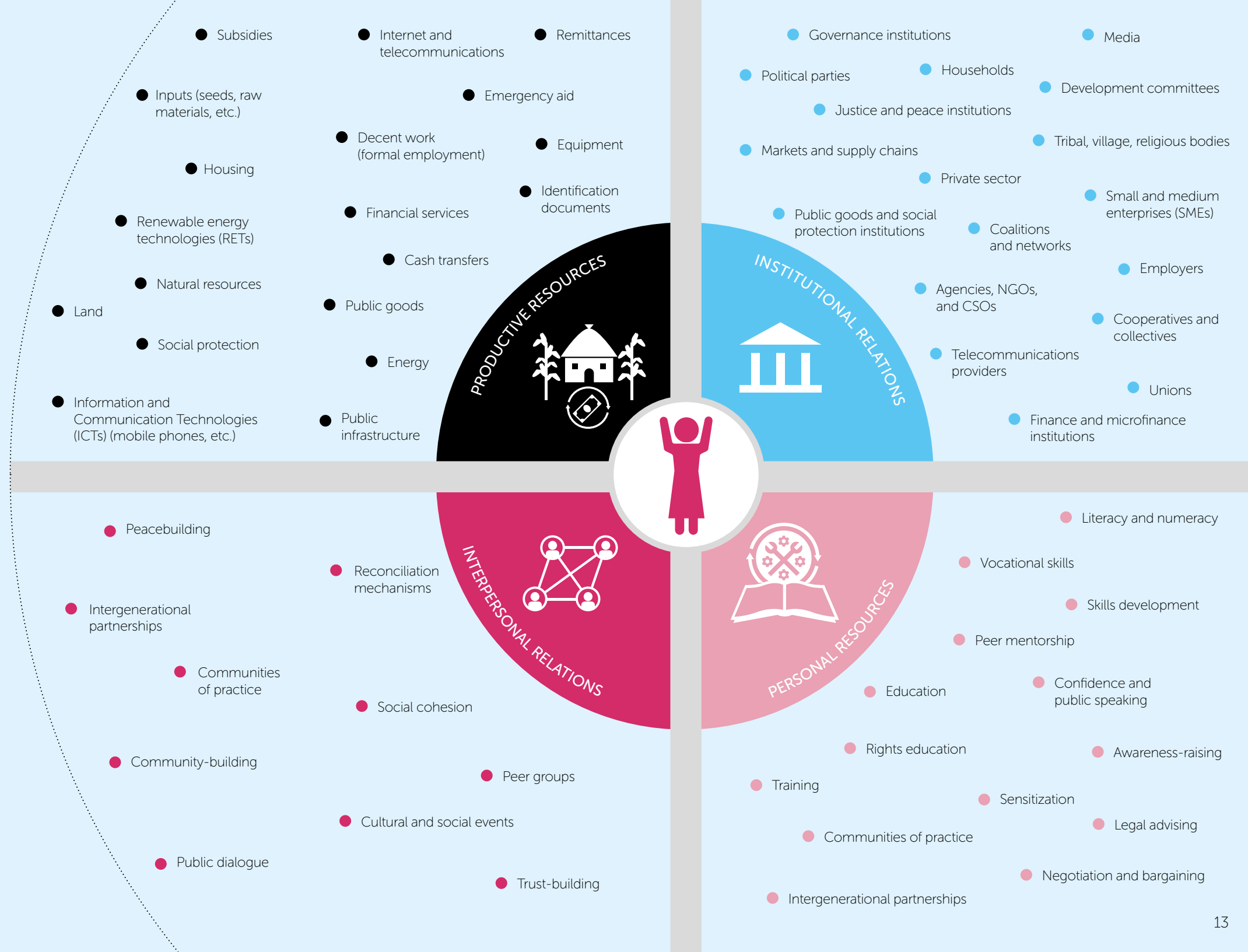
interventions that strengthen relations and commitments between individuals and the formal and informal institutions that shape their lives and opportunities.

● PERSONAL RESOURCES

interventions that increase and expand life skills, knowledge and information, social capital, and opportunities for confidence, agency and collective action.

● INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS

interventions that improve and expand relationships between individuals and communities, and help shift norms and expectations about the roles people can play in society.



REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN

59%

Percentage of Sudan's
total population living
in multidimensional
poverty (7). Some

Sudan is highly diverse in natural
resources, cultures and demographics.
It is also the site of protracted conflicts
(9) that fuel displacement, reinforce
social and environmental shocks, and
undermine growth in rural areas.

Notably, Sudan is one of the five
remaining UN Member States
to not ratify the Convention on
the Elimination of All Forms of
Discrimination against Women
(CEDAW) (10). It is also considered the

Improving economic and social well-
being will require a transformation of
labour, technology and governance
practices in rural states like South
Kordofan.

Given women's significant social and
economic contributions, achieving
more sustainable outcomes will also
depend on their full inclusion and
participation in all aspects of public life
and decision-making.



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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_22106

AT A GLANCE

