

# 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

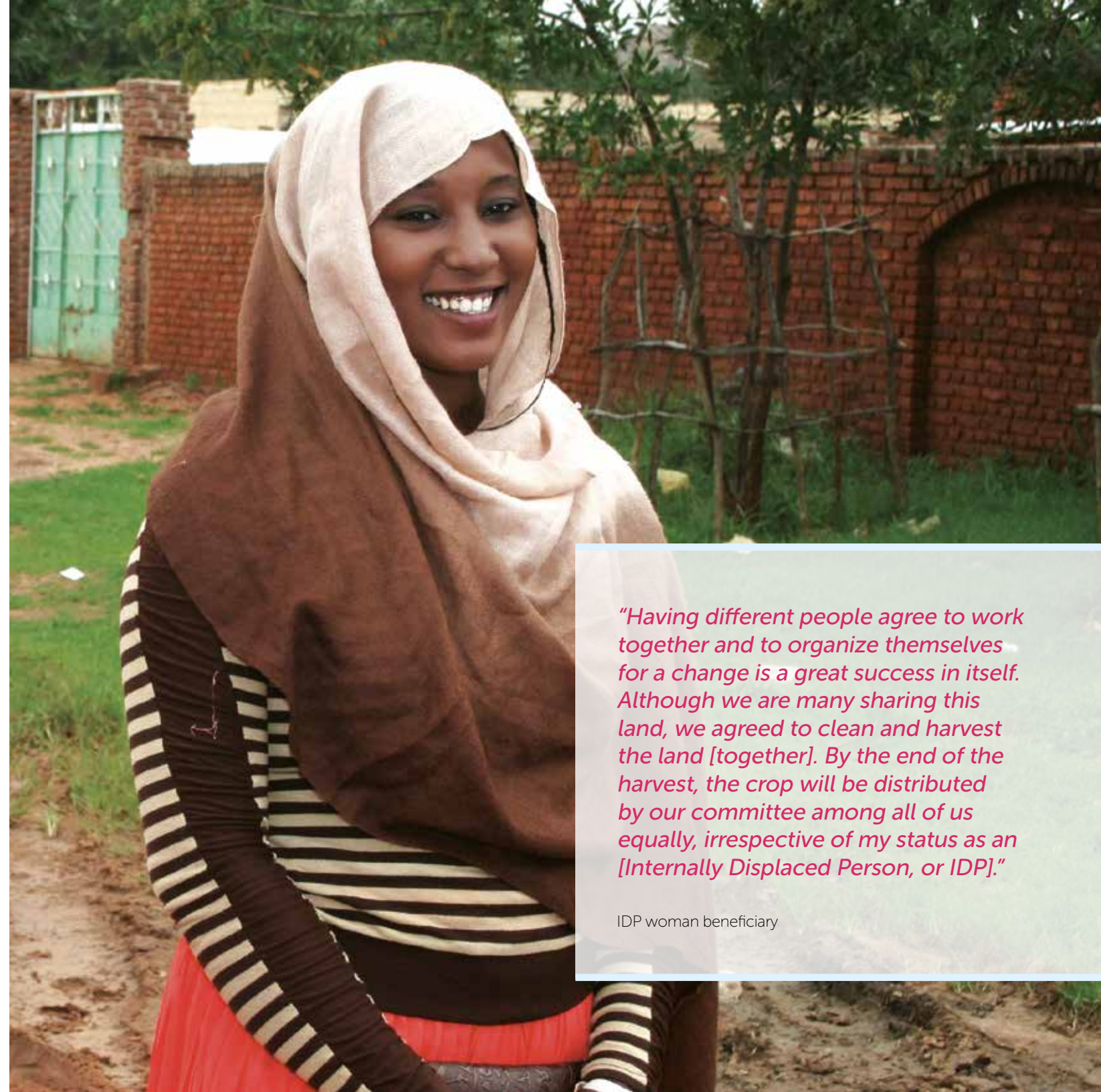
23 Economic empowerment programmes

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

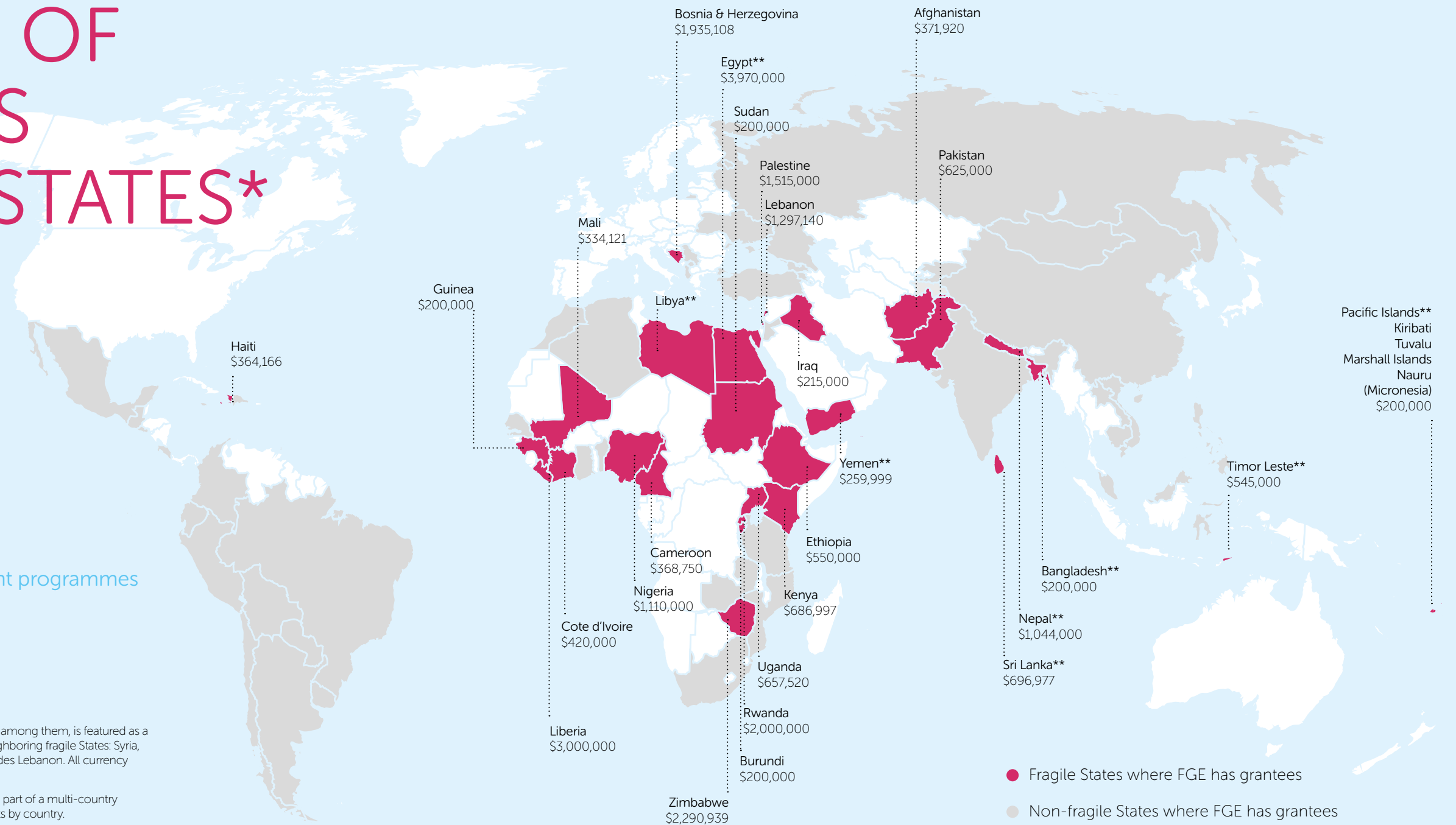
civil society organizations

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.



- Fragile States where FGE has grantees
- Non-fragile States where FGE has grantees

# 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

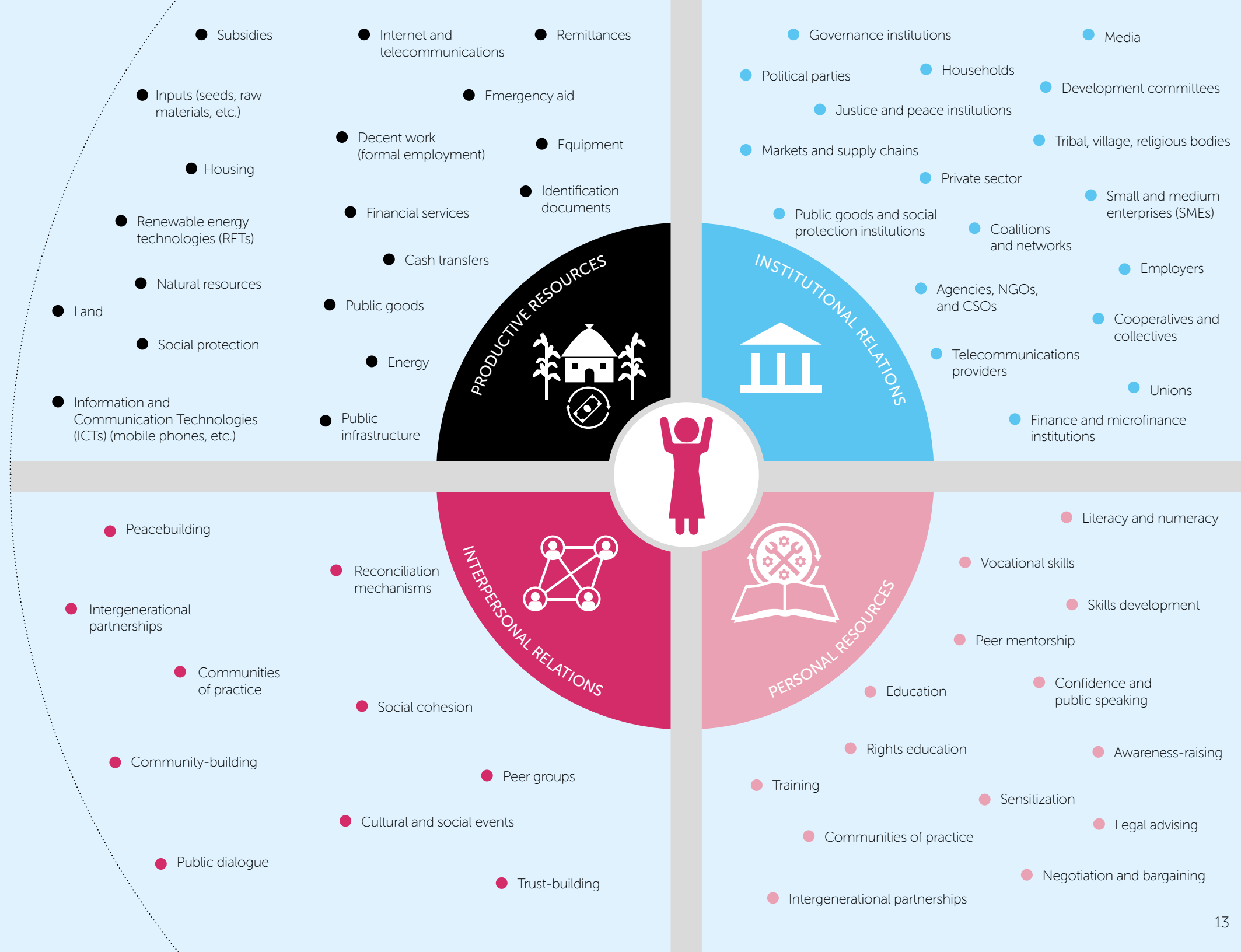
interventions that strengthen relations and commitments between individuals and the formal and informal institutions that shape their lives and opportunities.

## ● 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 13 percent of the population was targeted for humanitarian assistance in 2015 (8).

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 third largest emergency worldwide by number of internally displaced persons (IDPs), after Syria and Iraq (11).

Rural women and girls contribute more than half of Sudan's export-oriented labour (12) and make up over 60 percent of the country's most vulnerable poor (13).

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.

## AT A GLANCE



2<sup>nd</sup>

most gender unequal State in Africa (14)

3<sup>rd</sup>

largest economy in Africa  
US\$ 73 billion (15)

31%

women's labour force participation rate  
[Men's rate: 76%]

US\$ 1,500

Gross National Income (GNI) per capita (17)



# RESEARCH METHODS

206

adult women in Habila, Al Qoz and Dilling localities were surveyed.

For this brief on Sudan, UN Women's FGE and Sudan Country Office partnered with the Badya Centre, a grantee organization based in South Kordofan, Sudan.

With support from the Badya Centre and Sudan-based research consultants, the FGE:

- Undertook desk research and data gathering
- Reviewed grantee reporting documents
- Commissioned an area-based gender research report
- Conducted survey and focus group interviews with 206 adult women in three of South Kordofan's most under-served localities: Habila, Al Qoz and Dilling (18).

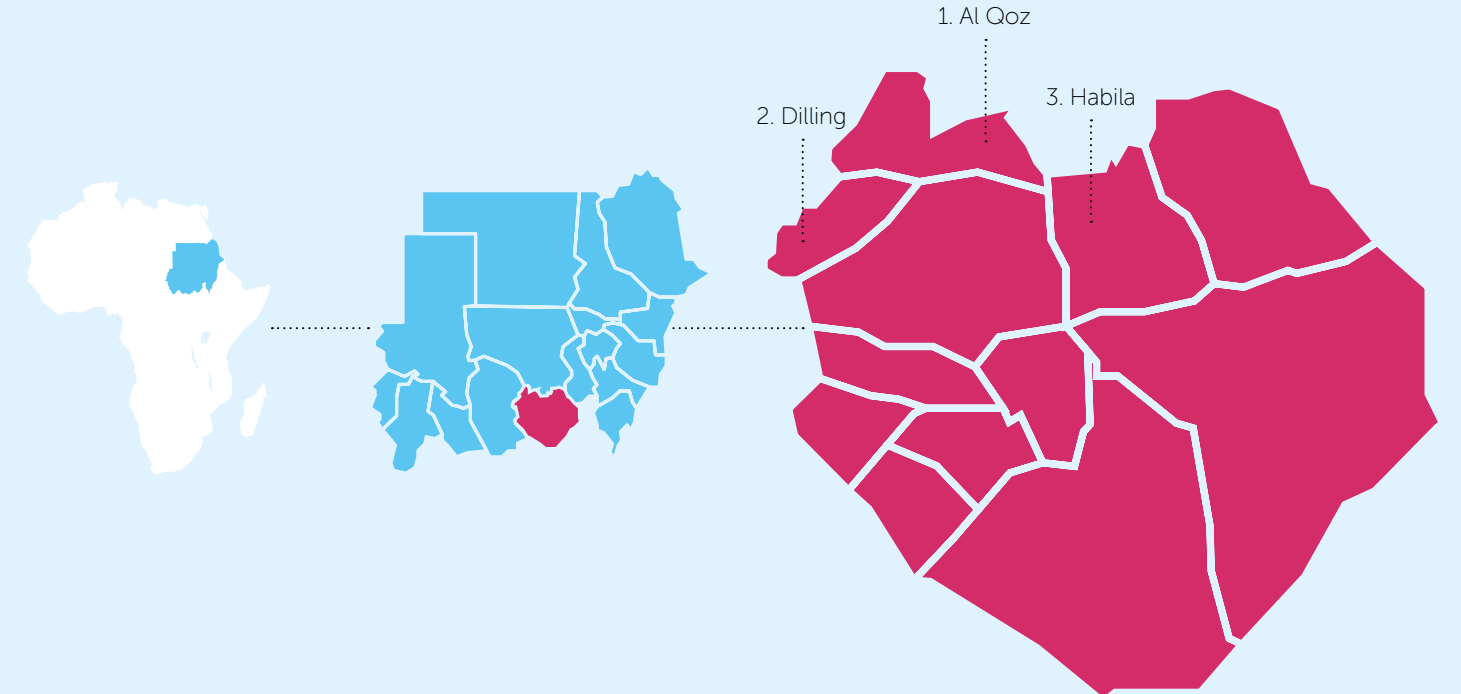
Localities were selected given their proximity to the Badya Centre programme. Communities and individual respondents were chosen using random sampling techniques. The surveyed sample included both programme beneficiaries [129] and non-beneficiaries [77], as well as IDP and non-IDP women.

A 17-question perceptions survey was developed collaboratively from FGE HQ and administered in Arabic by a local research team in August 2015.

The survey and area-based research findings are presented under the four components of empowerment: productive resources, personal resources, institutional relations and interpersonal relations.

All data are based on material uniquely produced for this series unless otherwise noted.

# SOUTH KORDOFAN, SUDAN



# GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT: BADYA CENTRE FOR INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT SERVICES



Badya Centre received an FGE grant of US\$ 200,000 in 2012 to implement a gender-integrated livelihoods and peacebuilding programme with rural and IDP communities in Sudan’s southern-most state: South Kordofan.

Through literacy and personal empowerment training and community-building events, the programme has helped strengthen social cohesion and cooperative income generation strategies

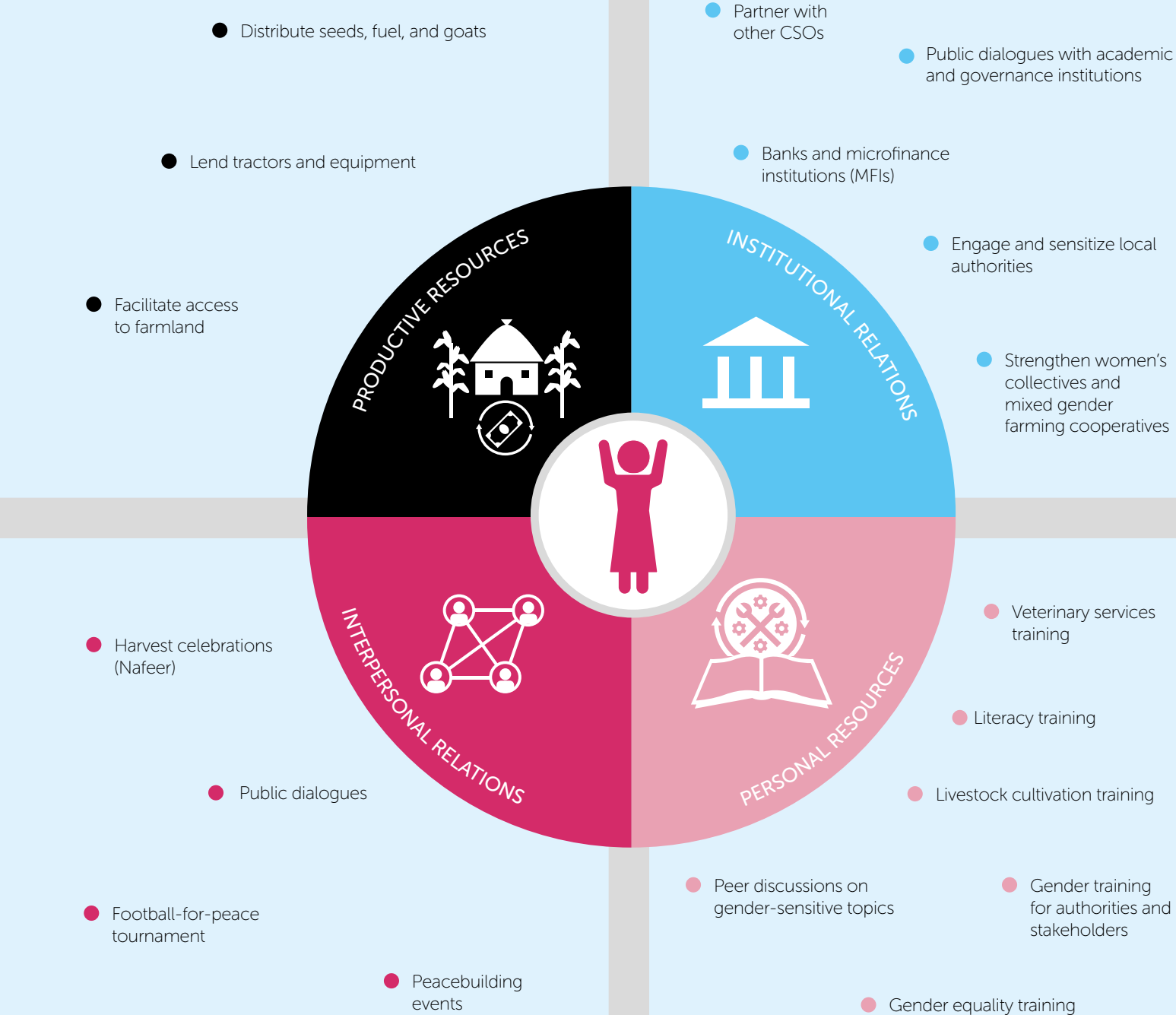
between IDP and host communities and with local authorities.

By providing productive inputs such as seeds, farming equipment, fuel and access to credit, the programme enabled IDP and host community women and men to improve their crop yields and pilot good practices for gender-inclusive cooperative farming and livestock care.

Badya Centre helped launch the area’s first ever football for peace

tournament in 2014, bringing over 500 community members and local authorities together in celebration of shared goals.

The Women’s Empowerment Framework on page 19 outlines where Badya Centre’s programme interventions have helped strengthen the local conditions and opportunities for women’s empowerment in each of the four areas.



# RESEARCH FINDINGS



# KEY FINDINGS SUMMARY

## ● Productive resources

96%

Women's unpaid time burdens are significant. An overwhelming majority of local women (96 percent) said they spend over 40 hours per week on unpaid household activities such as child care, cooking, cleaning, wood and water fetching and so on. The local average was 87 unpaid hours per week.

41%

Women want more and better opportunities for paid work and income generation. Only two out of five women (41 percent) said they had been paid for work outside the home within the previous month, despite working long hours on unpaid household work and subsistence farming for household food supply.

79%

High demand for land and credit are not being sufficiently met. Four out of five women (79 percent) said access to credit would greatly increase their opportunities for income generation, yet only one in five (23 percent) had had an opportunity to access a credit within the previous six months. An overwhelming majority – 88 percent – also said better access to land would greatly increase their opportunities for income generation.

79%

Women's ability to ensure household food security is strained. Four out of five women (79 percent) said they borrowed money at least once in the previous six months to afford food for the household, and fewer than 6 out of 206 surveyed women were able to access emergency food aid despite being in an active emergency context.

83%

Women show a high readiness to engage in mobile financial services. More than four out of five women (83 percent) said they are currently using mobile phones to send or receive funds, including remittances. Many said they feel safer using mobile money transfer than a formal bank account or line of credit.

## ● Institutional relations

73%

Women feel local authorities do not understand their economic needs, indicating scope for further sensitizing local authorities to the rights and needs of women and to the benefits of gender-inclusive development strategies. Nearly three out of four women (73 percent) said local authorities do not understand their economic needs.

34%

Women are significantly more satisfied with their influence over economic decisions in the household than in the community. Women said they are 34 percent more satisfied with their ability to influence economic decision-making in the household than in the community, suggesting households are an important space where women see themselves as having comparatively more voice and agency.

74%

Women's collectives and mixed-gender farming cooperatives serve a number of economic, social and political functions. Nearly three out of four women (74 percent) said they have gained access to land through membership in a women's group, collective and/or mixed-gender farming cooperative.

## ● Personal resources

700

Women and men see training activities as opportunities for skills development and safe spaces where community building and personal growth take priority. Over 700 women, men, youth and local authorities gained access to vocational and literacy training and rights education through the Badya Centre programme. Women said they look forward to Badya's literacy courses as more than just a learning opportunity, but also as a space to forge friendships and address sensitive issues.

## ● Interpersonal relations

95%

Interpersonal relationships are key for strengthening resilience and helping communities transform and adapt to issues of concern. An overwhelming 95 percent of women said conflict is greatly affecting their lives today, while 83 percent also said environmental changes over the previous 10 years are affecting community life. Through interpersonal activities and gender-inclusive events, host and IDP communities are able to strengthen social cohesion and bolster economic resilience in the face of such common challenges.



*Integrating empowerment activities into programme interventions in fragile States can strengthen resilience and facilitate recovery, especially among the most underserved communities (19).*



# PRODUCTIVE RESOURCES

96%

Percentage of women who said they spend more than 40 hours per week on unpaid household activities.

## Time burden

- As household managers, local women invest significant time in unpaid household activities: child care, cooking, laundry and cleaning, water and wood fetching, and caring for family members and livestock.
- Because cooking and laundry require a fuel source and/or water, they impose double burdens on women and girls, who are primarily responsible for fetching wood, charcoal and water in most households.
- Time spent on unpaid household work reduces time for other activities, such as to earn income, improve education, engage in the community, participate in political activities and so on. This dynamic is sometimes referred to as “time poverty”.
- Nearly half of women (46 percent) said they spend more than 80 hours per week on unpaid household activities – the equivalent of two full-time jobs, according to international standards (20).

59%

Percentage of women who said they had not been paid for work outside the home within the previous month.

## Paid and unpaid work

- Women in South Kordofan juggle paid and unpaid work in their daily lives. Agricultural work is one area where the lines between the two blur. The family or community farm, usually a small or medium plot of land, provides food for the household and cash crops for income.
- In Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda, the gender gap in agricultural productivity has been quantified and associated in part with women's use of lower quality inputs and equipment (21). This research suggests low productivity among women in South Kordofan is similarly reinforced by their unequal access to quality inputs, exclusion from decision-making and significant time burdens inside the home.
- Agriculture, horticulture and livestock make up over 90 percent of local subsistence activities (22). In practice, this means all women and men need skills related to rain-fed agriculture and livestock, as well as improved technologies for rainwater collection and distribution, greenhouse production and the drying of agricultural products.

79%

Percentage of women who said they borrowed money at least once in the previous six months to afford food for the household.

## Food security

- Foraging for edible and tradable goods in local forests is still fairly commonplace. It gives families, especially women-headed households, a "plan B" in case their crop fails or they cannot afford food in the market. Growing interest in Sudan's southern forest reserves to drive economic growth (23) may negatively affect household food security in an already food-stressed environment.
- Renewable cooking and/or washing technologies can improve health and reduce women's time burdens, while also promoting greater food security. Mainstream energy interventions like the smokeless stovetop offer women key benefits but are cost prohibitive for most households and do not eliminate the additional time burden for gathering fuel.
- Less than three percent of women said they had received emergency food aid within the previous six months.

### PROGRAMME LESSON LEARNED

In Hajar Jawad village in Habila, local authorities worked with the Badya Centre on allocating a large plot of land for members of the community to farm. The farm was located far away from beneficiaries' homes and separated by a stream that could be difficult to cross. As a result, many beneficiaries—especially local women—did not join a collective harvest celebration, weakening productivity and undercutting social cohesion.

In Tokma village, also in Habila, the Badya Centre supported a smaller collective farm by providing a tractor, fuel and seeds. The farm produced nearly 10 times the normal crop. Collective members decided for themselves the size of the land plot they were able to take on, a difference that contributed to the higher productivity. Members selected a smaller plot knowing they would be able to work together in a more coordinated and efficient way.

79%

Percentage of women who said access to a loan or other forms of credit would greatly increase their opportunities for income generation.

## Credit and savings

- A majority of surveyed women said they distrust formal lending institutions. It is unclear if this is due to personal experience, anecdotal knowledge or other sources of information.
- Only one in five respondents (23 percent) said they had an opportunity to access credit within the previous six months.
- Research from 2014 suggests women tend to:
  - › Prefer savings over credit
  - › Borrow and save in collectives or small groups rather than as individuals
  - › Request money management and business development trainings and services as part of working with microfinance institutions (24)
- Sudan's rural microfinance infrastructure is still highly underdeveloped. Both accompaniment services and the diversity of clients need to expand.

1/3

of household income is spent on energy needs: typically wood, charcoal, or petrol.

## Energy

- Foraging in unsafe and faraway forests is one alternative for women unable to afford wood or charcoal, but transportation can be cost-prohibitive. Local gender norms in some communities discourage women from travelling far from home.
- South Kordofan is not connected to the national electricity grid. Nine cities in the state are semi-powered by diesel generators.
- Use of any renewable energy technology in South Kordofan must take into consideration the issue of property theft, a growing concern.
- Private vendors who can charge mobile phone batteries and provide small-scale energy for other everyday needs should be encouraged. Renewable technologies might fill some energy gaps in this area.

88%

Percentage of women who said owning, controlling or accessing land would greatly improve their opportunities for income generation.

## Land

- Land management affects the lives and livelihoods of everyone in South Kordofan. It defines abilities to farm, cultivate livestock, forage for food and energy resources, and participate in social and cultural events such as harvest festivals. For IDPs, access to land may also mean the difference between life in a settled community or a refugee camp.
- Unlike Sudan's northern states, South Kordofan is dominated by rain-fed agriculture, whose good practices (25) include decentralized decision-making and resource management. Planning and governance institutions, even informal ones at the community level, should build on these practices.
- Local land tenure systems are complex and informed by existing social hierarchies. Land and property tend to pass through patriarchal lines by inheritance. Some 12 percent of state land is informally "owned" by women although tenure is often customary and difficult to enforce (26). The degree to which local women consider it beneficial to own rather than to regularly access land may be worth further investigation.

83%

Percentage of women who said they are currently using mobile phones to send or receive funds.

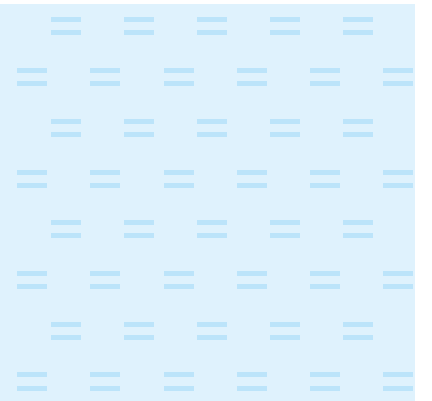
## Mobile connectivity

- A strong majority of respondents said they have daily access to a mobile phone. via mobile phones, with similar methods having been effectively scaled up in Kenya (*M-Pesa*) (27).
- Basic mobile phone skills are important for reinforcing literacy and numeracy, enabling information exchanges, strengthening interpersonal relationships and supporting money management skills.
- Most local people have experience with electronic funds transfers
- Women consider mobile transfers safer than a formal savings account or credit line.
- Many women-headed households receive remittances from spouses or family members living and working in other parts of the country or abroad, indicating demand for smart transfer technologies.

### GOOD PROGRAMME PRACTICE

Heavy rains this year in many parts of South Kordofan flooded crops and spurred widespread pest infestation. The Badya Centre was not able to continue its seed bank cultivation activities at all programme sites. In Habila, where conflict has been ongoing, combatants looted the local stock of seeds and other agricultural products.

The Badya Centre established a partnership with the Agricultural Bank in Habila to provide seeds at a nominal price, with the Centre serving as a guarantor. A similar arrangement was established between women in 30 Dilling-based farming collectives and a local savings bank.



## GOOD PROGRAMME PRACTICE

According to local gender norms, women farm primarily in their home gardens, known locally as *jobraka*, as many are not allowed to travel far from home on their own. Women tend to produce early maturing crops for household consumption, while men are more likely to grow cash crops. When serving as heads of household, women do both.

When women produce crops for sale, they tend to grow cash crops that sell for a lower market price due to their limited access to high quality seeds and equipment.

After hearing from local women about their need for income and speaking with local men and community leaders about strengthening local cash crop production, the Badya Centre began supporting women in Tokma locality with improved seeds for both domestic and cash crops.







# INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

74%

Percentage of women who said membership in a cooperative or collective currently enables them to have access to land.

80%

Household

Percentage of women who said they are very satisfied with their ability to influence decision-making in the household and in the community, respectively.

53%

Community

## The household

- Women ranked their ability to make and influence decisions in households over a third (34 percent) higher than in the community.
- Households are important social and economic institutions where a strong majority local women

- perceive themselves as having a voice and influence.
- At least one in three South Kordofan households are headed by women, given high rates of male labour migration to work in mining or manufacturing.

- Lines of communication and action could be strengthened between households, women's collectives and local governance institutions, both formal and informal.

67%

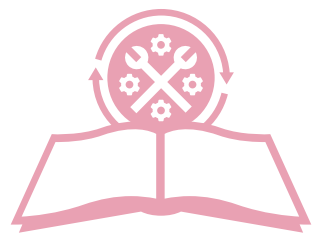
Percentage of women who said local authorities do not understand their economic needs.

## Cooperatives and collectives

- Women's groups serve a number of economic, social and political functions. They can be farming cooperatives, savings and loan groups, literacy and vocational training peer groups, child-care and social service providers, and agenda-setting institutions that negotiate on behalf of women and rural communities.
- Given the lack of public institutions operating locally, women's collectives and farming cooperatives provide security, social protection, opportunity and community – all fostering resilience and empowerment. They offer a culturally resonant organizing model that promote self-governance and help communities transition towards greater productivity, participation and cooperation.

## Governance

- Due to the non-inclusive, non-participatory nature of most formal institutions operating at the local level, informal institutions such as organizations and village or tribal authorities strongly influence day-to-day matters that affect women's choices and opportunities.
- Customary and Islamic norms inform tribal and village decision-making and legal proceedings. They may offer women certain opportunities and protections unavailable through formal institutions or legal mechanisms.
- Lines between the economic, social and political realms are less clearly demarcated in informal institutions, suggesting, for example, that economic issues can be decided by seemingly non-economic authorities such as tribal elders or Islamic judges.



# PERSONAL RESOURCES

700  
women, men and youth participated in Badya Centre trainings, including awareness-raising sessions on reproductive health.

40%  
Very satisfied

Women indicated mixed levels of satisfaction with their current ability to read and write.

25%  
Not satisfied

## Literacy

- Many organizations in South Kordofan offer literacy and numeracy training for women and youth. Promoting local ownership of literacy initiatives by linking them to other areas of learning, skill-building and income generation is key for innovation.
- Women beneficiaries said they looked forward to the Badya Centre’s literacy training sessions for more than just learning; the courses also provide a space to socialize, relax and get information about issues that matter to them.

## Training

Good practices from the Badya Centre suggest it is important to:

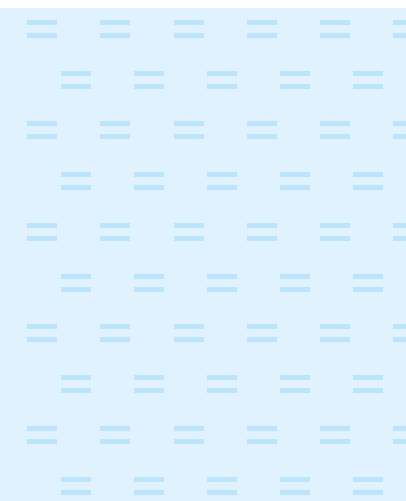
- Build and reinforce linkages between different kinds of training, for instance by integrating literacy and numeracy skill-building into a vocational training course
- Offer gender-segregated trainings, even within mixed-gender programmes, as these demonstrate stronger outcomes than mixed-gender learning activities
- Prioritize small group activities and peer-to-peer learning rather than individualized trainings, as this strengthens interpersonal relationships and supports longer term skill and knowledge acquisition and exchange
- Combine training and learning, for example, by integrating education on livestock vaccination into a training on breeding or milking

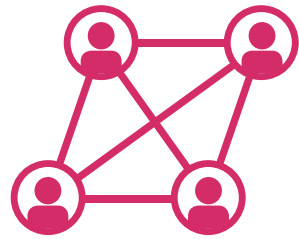
## GOOD PROGRAMME PRACTICE

Coffee ceremonies organized by the Badya Centre have offered safe spaces for over 180 women from different ethnicities to discuss issues and develop skills such as child spacing, money management, and resources for dealing with gender-based violence and public safety concerns.

Discussions on public safety and security resulted in the self-organisation of community women’s groups that escort women and girls by torchlight as they return from the market or go to fetch milk from grazing areas after dark.

Noting high demand for the coffee ceremonies, the Badya Centre helped register several “coffee groups” with the Ministry of Social Development. This gave them formal institutional status and entitled them to rural land allotments, adult education classes, and opportunities to access seeds and credit.





# INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS

500

community members attended the first ever football for peace tournament.

Percentage of women who said conflict, changes to their environment and personal safety, respectively, are greatly affecting their lives.

95% Conflict    83% Environmental changes    67% Personal safety

## Social cohesion

- Conflict, a changing environment and personal safety are urgent economic and political issues in South Kordofan. But at their core they are also interpersonal issues that affect relationships, social cohesion, and overall capacity to adapt to shocks.
- Discussion and dialogue about these issues empowers communities to find solutions.
- The Badya Centre has used a social cohesion approach to help:
  - › Address the changing environment through collective farming and inclusive resource management
  - › Reduce conflict through community peacebuilding
  - › Promote safety through public dialogue on small arms and property theft

1/2

of all surveyed women borrowers said they learned about microfinance opportunities through word of mouth (27).

## Peacebuilding

- Women had no formal peacebuilding role in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that guided South Sudan's transition to independence between 2005 and 2011. This trend of non-inclusion in formal peace and security institutions and strategies has persisted.
- A National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security was developed in 2014, but is pending final endorsement.
- Informal spaces and community events that strengthen interpersonal relations and social dialogue offer women important opportunities to participate in local peacebuilding.

## Networking

- Interpersonal relationships are extremely important in South Kordofan, in part due to high levels of informality and lack of public institutions. They are key to peacebuilding, social cohesion, recovery and economic growth.
- The limited physical mobility of women and girls in some local communities makes word of mouth a major channel for information-sharing. People learn about new opportunities from those they interact with – another reason women's groups and collectives are important for empowerment.
- Non-state institutions like tribal courts, farming cooperatives, women's groups and development committees are centered around interpersonal relationships. The degree to which members cooperate to influence society may depend on trust and familiarity among members.

## GOOD PROGRAMME PRACTICE

In 2014, the Badya Centre held the first-ever football for peace tournament in Korgool village in Habila, an event co-organized with the local Youth Union.

Seventy-two young men below age 20 played three high-profile matches before a crowd of over 500 community members.

Habila is a high-risk locality with persistent conflict, but the Badya Centre did not let this stand in the way of promoting peace. It deliberately sought to engage young men from different villages with a history of tensions. Korgool's home team won the tournament, instilling a sense of pride in the community.

Following a similar tournament in Dilling, youth from the area volunteered to help the local Youth Union construct homes for 30 IDP women. The Badya Centre provided plastic shelters, Dilling's Commissioner offered non-food supplies and the Sudanese Women's Union donated food—a true community effort.



*“The football for peace tournament represents true solidarity among the two communities of Korgool and Angargo. Since the war in 2011, the relationship between the two communities and relationship with the youth is not good, as hostility ... is dominating the relationship. Now with such activities, we feel refreshed and are able to convey a message of trust and hope to our young generation. I wish we will be continuing this tournament every year.”*

Musa Ajabna  
Tribal Sheikh of Korgool village Habila District, South Kordofan

# CONCLUSIONS: COUNTERING FRAGILITY BY EMPOWERING WOMEN



## Productive resources

Women want more and better opportunities for income generation, such as more sustained access to quality agricultural inputs like fuel-powered farming equipment and smart seeds for high value cash crops (sesame, tamarind, mango, etc.).

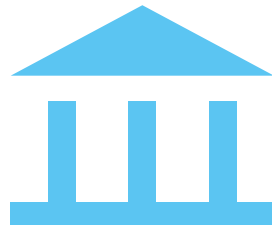
Supporting IDP and host community women to participate in collective farming activities can improve their long-term opportunities in this area, and working with local authorities to ensure cooperatives have access to land and any available subsidies for fuel or seeds can improve sustainability.

Women's unpaid time burdens are significant, particularly their time spent on subsistence farming for household food supply. Helping

women and women-headed households leverage better access to emergency food distributions at the village level can help them move towards greater food security. Strengthening their earning potential through quality inputs and/or vocational skills development can also help.

**Women want better access to credit and potentially mobile banking services.** Yet women also said they are afraid of banking and borrowing from formal institutions and that they need better money management training to engage safely. Many women are currently using mobile technologies to transfer or receive funds, including remittances, suggesting a readiness for mobile savings and/or credit services.





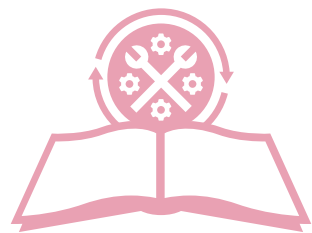
## Institutional relations

Women feel that local authorities do not understand their economic needs, and women are more satisfied with their ability to influence economic decisions in the household than in the community. There is considerable scope to sensitize local authorities and community leaders to the economic needs of women and girls, and to the value of gender-inclusive policies and practices, especially in agriculture and livestock cultivation.

It is also important for local authorities and development practitioners to see women-headed households as a key constituency to engage for future programme interventions in this area.

Collectives and mixed-gender farming cooperatives are important vehicles for women's economic empowerment in the sense that they enable women to access land, productive equipment and potentially safe credit opportunities. Women and authorities can both benefit from better organization, coordination and incentivization of collective activities at the local level.

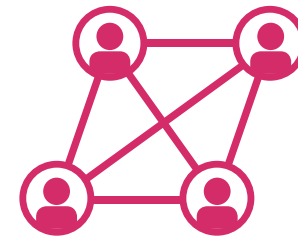
They can also benefit from better lines of communication and action between women-headed households, farming cooperatives and local institutions, for instance through more robust dialogue and consultation that contributes to community-based women's agendas and gender-inclusive development strategies.



## Personal resources

Women and men value vocational trainings and educational opportunities as safe social spaces where friendships can be forged, information exchanged, plans coordinated and sensitive topics discussed in a spirit of safety and confidence.

IDP and host community women can benefit from more coordinated learning opportunities: for instance, literacy and numeracy training that optimizes use of mobile phones, and/or vocational training in niche sectors where women have distinct social advantages, such as livestock services.



Given the significant but still under-acknowledged roles women's groups and mixed-gender farming cooperatives play in furthering women's access to economic

opportunity, it may be worthwhile to strengthen women's organizing and collective decision-making skills as a step towards greater influence at the community level.

## Interpersonal relations

Conflict, a changing environment and personal safety are all highly important issues affecting IDP and host women today. Yet their capacity to help counter these forces at the community level continues to be strained by a lack of gender-inclusive institutions and practices, as well as limited public infrastructure.

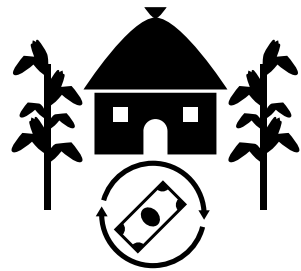
In this context, strong interpersonal relationships – both among women and girls and within the community at large – are essential ingredients for economic and social resilience.

South Kordofan has a tradition of hospitality to IDPs and refugees, and Badya Centre's programme has built on these local strengths by facilitating a variety of gender-inclusive

social spaces and events where all community members can discuss issues of importance and celebrate shared experience.

With limited opportunities to shape decision-making at the institutional and community levels, interpersonal spaces and events also offer women important entry points to participate in and influence society.

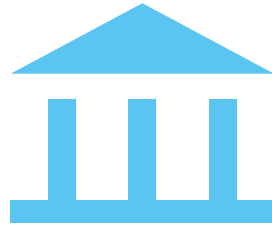
# RECOMMENDATIONS



## Productive resources

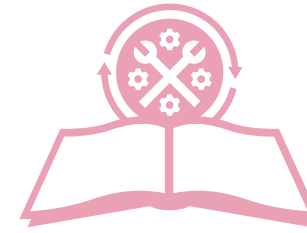
- Forge relationships with development, humanitarian and emergency professionals operating in the area to improve women's access to emergency aid, especially food and health services. Aid is often distributed to village or local authorities who may require sensitization training on how to redistribute aid to the community in a gender-responsive manner.
- Support women, women-headed households and farming cooperatives to leverage long-term access to better quality inputs, including:
  - › Smart seeds, especially for cash crops that fetch a higher market price
  - › Quality farming and livestock equipment
  - › Agricultural subsidies (seeds, fuel, etc.)
- Help women-headed households and mixed-gender farming cooperatives leverage access to land, collective credit opportunities or other long-term agreements for productive inputs. This may require liaising with local authorities and institutions to establish credibility and open lines of communication.
- Help women entrepreneurs and producers identify niche sectors or product markets where they have distinct advantages, and support them to master the relevant skills and knowledge. Plan programme trainings with a long-term production strategy in mind, whether it be to help women launch a small business, dominate a service sector or connect with a supply chain or distributor.





## Institutional relations

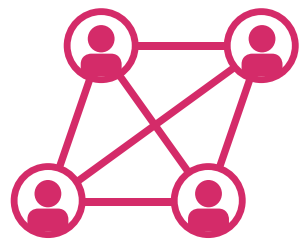
- Optimize knowledge of the local context and culture(s) to identify key powerbrokers and dedicate some effort to sensitizing them to women's economic needs and the value of gender-inclusive and –responsive practices. Focus on informal institutions and authorities (tribal and village elders, Islamic judges, etc.) that influence decisions around food aid; land management; violence prevention and conflict resolution.
- Consider sponsoring women's groups or farming cooperatives for group credit opportunities with financial institutions and provide the complementary money management training; this can reinforce collective resource management and inspire local investment.
- Support women's groups and mixed-gender cooperatives to host recurrent public events that can become social institutions in the long-term. For instance, consider supporting football for peace tournaments multiple times per year and in different localities but with women playing a special role in those events.
- Strengthen and reinforce the capacities of women's groups and farming cooperatives to organize members and coordinate their production activities; and to model, advocate and contribute to local development strategies.
- Recognize and engage women-headed households as an important local institution where women see themselves as having voice and influence over economic decisions.



## Personal resources

- Organize smaller peer groups to deepen the impact of training and skill-building. Consider using gender-segregated training methods to enhance confidence, personal learning and relationship-building. Training of trainers (TOTs) modules strengthen local ownership of skills and knowledge in the long-term.
- Identify applied learning strategies that combine vocational and non-vocational skill-building as often as possible. This may mean, for instance, supporting women's farming collectives to organize daily or weekly literacy trainings that use mobile phones as a learning tool.
- Tailor trainings to complement new economic opportunities and institutional relationships. For instance, train farming cooperatives to organize their members and coordinate production activities, or consider implementing a training module on money management in parallel with new opportunities for safe credit.
- Find ways to make women's rights and gender equality topics less "theoretical" by relating them to everyday realities and experiences in the local environment. Remember that women and girls may also need to see the practical value before considering the training worth their time.
- Bring women into the process of engaging with local authorities rather than acting as their spokesperson in the long-term. Recognize that women want to develop and articulate their own voice within the communities where they live.





## Interpersonal relations

- Engage in discussion and debate on climate change, changing environment, conflict, small arms carry, and other causes of shock and vulnerability as social issues that local communities have opinions about – and want to take action on. Support local women to carve out a unique voice for themselves on gender-sensitive issues that are under-addressed in existing public spaces.
- Sensitizing local authorities depends on strong interpersonal relationships built on some degree of trust and familiarity; this is an important ingredient for ensuring that women and girls enjoy both access to justice and a feeling that they are participating in a just society that recognizes and respects them as equal participating members.
- Mentor women's cooperatives on interpersonal advocacy and dialogue with public and private sector duty bearers. Help women develop the skills needed to manage these relationships as community representatives in the long-term.



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# ANNEX A

## FGE GRANTS IN FRAGILE STATES

### Political empowerment – awarded CSOs

#### Africa

**Burundi:** UNIPROBA | \$200,000  
**Kenya:** GROOTS Kenya Association | \$302,000  
**Kenya:** Uraia Trust | \$384,997  
**Nigeria:** Alliances for Africa (AfA) | \$230,000  
**Nigeria:** BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights & KIND | \$480,000

#### Arab States

**Egypt:** Egyptian Center for Women's Rights | \$545,000  
**Egypt, Libya and Yemen:** Karama | \$565,000  
**Egypt:** Women and Memory Forum | \$200,000  
**Egypt:** Association of the Egyptian Female Lawyers | \$260,000  
**Iraq:** Women's Empowerment Organization | \$215,000  
**Palestine:** Anabta Women Welfare Society | \$200,000  
**Palestine:** Association of Women Committees for

#### Asia and the Pacific

**Afghanistan:** Afghanistan Watch | \$210,000  
**Nepal:** Association of Community Radio Broadcasters Nepal | \$394,000  
**Nepal, Philippines:** Tebtebba | \$250,000  
**Pacific Islands (including Kiribati, Marshall Islands and Tuvalu):** Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat | \$200,000

#### Europe and Central Asia

**Bosnia and Herzegovina:** KULT and BH Experts Association | \$462,768

**Nigeria:** Community Life Project | \$400,000  
**Uganda, South Africa:** Women's Net | \$257,520  
**Zimbabwe:** Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Network (ZWRCN) | \$1,680,939

Social Work | \$450,000  
**Palestine:** Dalia Association | \$200,000  
**Palestine:** Palestinian Centre for Peace and Democracy and Jerusalem Centre for Women (JCW) | \$200,000  
**Regional (including Egypt and Palestine):** Stars of Hope Society | \$265,000

**Pakistan:** Pak Women & Women Association Struggle for Development | \$220,000  
**Sri Lanka:** Women and Media Collective | \$496,977  
**Southeast Asia (including Timor-Leste):** International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAP) | \$545,000

**Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Gender Center of Bosnia and Herzegovina and SNV, BiH Office | \$1,472,340

### Economic empowerment – awarded CSOs

#### Africa

**Cameroon:** Horizons Femmes | \$368,750  
**Ethiopia:** Union of Ethiopian Women Charitable Associations (UEWCA) | \$550,000  
**Cote d'Ivoire:** Organisation Nationale pour l'Enfant, la Femme et la Famille (ONEF) | \$420,000  
**Guinea:** Partenariat Recherches Environnement Médias (PREM) | \$200,000  
**Liberia:** Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Market Women's Fund | \$3,000,000  
**Mali:** Association d'Entraide et de Développement | \$334,121

#### Arab States

**Egypt:** Ministry of Manpower and Emigration and American University of Cairo, Social Research Centre | \$2,400,000  
**Lebanon:** Lebanon Family Planning Association for Development & Family Empowerment (LFPADe) | \$255,000

#### Asia and the Pacific

**Afghanistan:** Women and Children Legal Research Foundation | \$161,920  
**Bangladesh:** Bolipara Nari Kalyan Somity (BNKS) | \$200,000

#### Americas and the Caribbean

**Haiti:** Association d'Entraide et de Développement | \$364,166

**Rwanda:** RCN Justice & Democratie and Haguruka | \$2,000,000  
**Sudan:** Badya Centre for Integrated Development Services | \$200,000  
**Uganda:** Shelters and Settlements Alternatives: Uganda Human Settlements Network | \$200,000  
**Uganda:** Uganda Women Concern Ministry | \$200,000  
**Zimbabwe:** Basilwizi Trust | \$200,000  
**Zimbabwe:** Ntengwe for Community Development | \$410,000

**Lebanon:** Amel Association | \$325,000  
**Lebanon:** Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon | \$280,000  
**Palestine:** Mother's School Society in Nablus | \$200,000

**Pakistan:** Thardeep | \$405,000  
**Sri Lanka:** Centre for Women's Research (CENWOR) | \$200,000  
**South Asia (including Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka):** Feminist Dalit Organization | \$400,000

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