ENDLINE EVALUATION
Strengthening Women and Youth-led Approaches to Reconciliation and Conflict Prevention in South Kordofan and Blue Nile

AUGUST 2022

Natalie I. Forcier
Gatmai Mathiang
Caroline Morogo
Umair Ali

Contact:

Entisar Abdelsadig
Country Director - Sudan
Search for Common Ground
eabdelssadig@sfcg.org

Rebecca Besant
Regional Director - Central & East Africa
Search for Common Ground
rbesant@sfcg.org
# Table of Contents

Acknowledgements .............................................. 3  
Abbreviations .................................................... 4  
Executive Summary .......................................... 5  
  Socio Political and Economic Context ...................... 10  
  Project Beneficiaries ....................................... 11  
2. Methodology .............................................. 13  
  Objectives .................................................... 13  
  Evaluation Design .......................................... 13  
  Data Collection ............................................ 14  
  Limitations ................................................... 15  
3. Findings .................................................... 16  
  3.1 Overall Assessment ..................................... 16  
  3.2 Key Objective 1: Build the capacity and confidence of a diverse cadre of women and youth leaders to drive local reconciliation efforts during the transition. .......................... 17
    R1.1. Targeted women and youth have increased knowledge of conflict transformation and related skills. ......................................................... 18
    R1.2. Targeted women and youth have increased self-confidence and psychosocial well-being. ................................................................. 21
  3.3. Key Objective 2: Contribute to a more supportive social and economic environment for women and youth’s sustained and meaningful participation and resilience throughout the transition. ...................... 24
    R2.1. Vulnerable women and youth have increased economic resources and independence to participate in peace and reconciliation efforts and resist manipulation. ........................................ 25
    R2.2. Male family and community actors have increased awareness of the real and potential contributions of women and youth to peace & reconciliation (in line with UNSCR 1325 and 2250). 27
    R2.3. Radio professionals have increased skills to shift negative community perceptions and attitudes that contribute to discrimination and violence against women and youth. .................................................. 33
  3.4 Key Objective 3: Create opportunities for women and youth to lead initiatives that contribute to peace and stability. .......................................................... 34
    R3.1. Effective small initiatives contributing to local peace and reconciliation are implemented. ............................................................... 34
    R3.2. Communities see tangible benefits of improved reconciliation and stability in their areas, underlining the concrete value of peace .............................................. 36

Programming and Targeting .................................. 40  
Effectiveness ..................................................... 40
### Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lessons Learnt</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future Programming</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Appendix</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Acknowledgements

This evaluation was undertaken for Search for Common Ground Sudan (Search) funded by the European Union and conducted successfully by Asante Research Institute.

First, Search would like to thank the Government of Sudan, governmental officials in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states who generously gave their time and perspectives to nourish the study especially during a time of uncertainty and upheaval in the country who were instrumental at all levels in making this study a reality. In Particular, the Ministry of Social Welfare and Humanitarian AID Commission for their continuous support to search.

Sincere gratitude goes to the European Union team led by Ms Lea for their continuous guidance and support.

Search appreciates the efforts of the local partner teams in Badya Center, and Umserdiba Association for Development.

Search is immensely grateful for the civil society organizations, religious leaders, academics researchers, women, youth and. A special thanks to the ILT team for their various contributions in this report.
Abbreviations

FGDs - Focus Group Discussions

KII – Key Information Interviews

Search – Search for Common Ground

IDPs – Internally Displaced Persons

PASS – Paralegal’s Association

IcSP - Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace
Executive Summary

This is an endline evaluation of the project titled “Strengthening Women and Youth-led Approaches to Reconciliation and Conflict Prevention in South Kordofan and Blue Nile”. In partnership with local partners Badya Centre for Integrated Development Services (Badya), Um Ser Diba Association for Development (Um Serdiba), and Paralegal’s Association (PASS); Search for Common Ground (SEARCH) ran this project over a period of 30 months in the states of South Kordofan and Blue Nile, targeted towards youth and women. The project aimed to support women’s and youth’s engagement and ownership of peace, security and reconciliation initiatives in the region. There were three key objectives of the program:

- Build the capacity and confidence of a diverse cadre of women and youth leaders to drive local reconciliation efforts during the transition.
- Contribute to a more supportive social and economic environment for women and youth’s sustained and meaningful participation and resilience throughout the transition.
- Create opportunities for women and youth to lead initiatives that contribute to peace and stability.

Methodology

A mixed methods evaluation approach was followed for this project. Given the nature of the program objectives, the project was evaluated using a mix of quantitative surveys, in-depth key informant interviews (KIIs) and focus group discussions (FGDs). Across both states, while the quantitative household surveys and focus group discussions were conducted with project beneficiaries and communities at large – the key informant interviews were specifically targeted across relevant stakeholders such as local authorities, community leaders, implementing staff and social influencers.

Using purposive sampling, which ensured equal attention across states and more focus on females and youth as key program beneficiaries. A total of 590 respondents across both states (290 from South Kordofan, and 300 from Blue Nile) were reached via a detailed quantitative survey. In terms of demographics, 85 males from South Kordofan, 122 males from Blue Nile, 205 females from South Kordofan, and 178 females from Blue Nile were interviewed. 294 participants were between 18-34 (192 females, 102 males), and 296 were more than 35 years old (191 females, 105 males). The survey asked questions on key demographics, personal agency, as well as their views and experiences with their own inclusion, and the role, space, agency and acceptance for women and youth in peacebuilding and conflict-resolution dialogues, actions, and initiatives. This quantitative data is analyzed relying on a basic before-after comparison where possible. Specific attention is directed towards comparing the differences within the endline data, underscoring differences across different outcomes across the two states of intervention, i.e. the South Kordofan and the Blue Nile states.

After a few hypotheses have been drawn from the quantitative survey, the qualitative data is analyzed using thematic analysis to further test and confirm those analyses. Qualitative data was collected through purposive sampling using Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), which was then
analyzed using thematic analysis, that offered triangulation and brought richness and details to the program evaluation.

**Key Findings**

The project was relevant to the needs of the local communities in the target geographies. Across the quantitative and qualitative surveys, respondents confirmed and acknowledged that the program spoke to the needs of the local population in both states. Overall, the programming was suitable, demonstrated by a wide array of program objectives that were successfully achieved. The program was appropriately targeted towards youth and women, given that the region has history of gender violence and discrimination.

In terms of programming, the project was successful on two fronts. First, the capacity building aspect of the program was well received, with the relevant indicators and endline data suggesting tangible gains in terms of skill acquired by participants which helped them contribute and lead in conflict resolution, conflict analysis, negotiation, reconciliation, and peacebuilding. For example, the percentage of respondents who can cite their own experience in transforming conflict went from 17.75% to 41.11%, while the percentage of respondents who feel confident to lead peace and reconciliation efforts went from 32.5% to 75.92%. Participants across both states report gaining confidence in their personal as well as conflict resolution skills. They also report improved knowledge on important topics such as individual and collective agency, identity, empathy, bargaining, and acceptance of diverse populations. Participants cited their ability in acting towards and leading peace initiatives. Community stakeholders cited increased acceptance of women and youth leadership, and some of the respondents in the focus group discussions were also able to cite examples of women and youth-led initiatives. In summary, women and youth reported better visibility and voice in decision making circles and highlighted their increased abilities towards maintaining peaceful coexistence and local reconciliation among diverse tribes.

Second, the peace journalism part of the program was also well received – almost all respondents saw this as a meaningful and relevant initiative for them. Each respondent reported that they had an increased knowledge on the associated skills that would equip them to influence and change social behaviors towards violence and discrimination. Most respondents displayed an increased ambition for further learning around those skills.

The final part of programming was targeted towards livelihoods support. Although 50-70 percent women and youth reported at the endline that they were able to support themselves and their families, in qualitative components of evaluation, they repeatedly reported that the communities are economically struggling, and believe that next programming could focus more on livelihood support. This might have occurred because the budget dedicated to livelihood support activities was not as high as other activities, since livelihoods are of secondary context to the intervention.

One final space for improvement lies in the need for longer workshops and training. Across women, youth, implementation partners, community leaders and radio professionals, the respondents found that training helped them improve their knowledge on conflict resolution, peace enhancing and enhancing social cohesion. Sensing the success and importance of the awareness training, they suggested that the duration of training was shorter and longer training sessions could really benefit the cause.
Limitations

Search uses before-after comparison of statistics, triangulated with qualitative data from Focus Groups and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs). While we have made every possible effort to do purposive sampling and select relevant respondents, quantitative data might offer insights but without much detail and context. But these limitations are however mitigated using in-depth qualitative data such as Focus Groups and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs). The use of a detailed qualitative approach and triangulation ensures that the findings from quantitative surveys are not only triangulated, but are further probed with targeted, designed questions. In most cases, the qualitative data brings nuanced details to the front.

Recommendations

The assessment of sociodemographic as well as socioeconomic conditions of the region at the baseline stage really helped program and target the intervention appropriately, which led to the program being considered relevant and useful among participants. This was one of the highlights of the intervention, and a key positive lesson going forward.

Capacity building workshops and training were successful – participants acknowledged gains in confidence and knowledge of relevant skills. Since the region has historically suffered from poor socioeconomic conditions, political instability as well as security issues, the participants appreciated being offered the opportunity to be introduced to concepts such as identity, empathy, prejudice, and agency – which help them understand and relate to their contextual situations. A basic understanding of these concepts is vital to the success of programs which rely on capacity building for peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

Most women and youth were able to successfully apply their knowledge and skills to real world actions and initiatives, even when they found the training and workshops to be relatively shorter in duration. For example, participant women later trained their peers on their own and would educate them on soft-skills and concepts. This suggests that relatively minimal investment in workshops and training can have far-ranging results. It can be useful to reconsider the training and workshop intensity and training, since participants indicated the need for more training.

In terms of lessons learned, the program did acknowledge that both women and men need to be financially independent within their households, to have enough personal agency over their household members as well as other community members. The evaluation finds that this assumption needs to be given more attention and significance. This is perhaps one of the most relevant programming decisions when it comes to allocation of resources, since gender discrimination and violence often stems from financial dependence and poverty.
1. Background Information

The project was managed by Search for Common Ground (Search) in partnership with local implementation partners Badya Centre for Integrated Development Services (Badya), Um Serdiba Association for Development (Um Serdiba), and Paralegal’s Association (PASS). Conducted over a period of 30-months targeting the state of South Kordofan and Blue Nile, the primary objective of this project was to increase engagement of women and youth in peace, security, and reconciliation initiatives, besides creating opportunities for their livelihood support, financial independence and economic development.

Program Objectives

The goal of the action is to strengthen women and youth-led approaches to reconciliation and conflict prevention in South Kordofan and Blue Nile. The action has three interrelated objectives and corresponding outcomes, as follows:

1. **Build the capacity and confidence of a diverse cadre of women and youth leaders to drive local reconciliation efforts during the transition.**
   - R1.1. Targeted women and youth have increased knowledge of conflict transformation and related skills.
   - R1.2. Targeted women and youth have increased self-confidence and psychosocial well-being.

2. **Contribute to a more supportive social and economic environment for women and youth’s sustained and meaningful participation and resilience throughout the transition.**
   - R2.1. Vulnerable women and youth have increased economic resources and independence to participate in peace and reconciliation efforts and resist manipulation.
   - R2.2. Male family and community actors have increased awareness of the real and potential contributions of women and youth to peace and reconciliation (in line with UNSCR 1325 and 2250).
   - R2.3. Radio professionals have increased skills to shift negative community perceptions and attitudes that contribute to discrimination and violence against women and youth.

3. **Create opportunities for women and youth to lead initiatives that contribute to peace and stability.**
   - R3.1. Effective small initiatives contributing to local peace and reconciliation are implemented.
   - R3.2. Communities see tangible benefits of improved reconciliation and stability in their areas, underlining the concrete value of peace.
### Socio Political and Economic Context

The year 2011 marked the secession of South Sudan from Sudan after a civil war that lasted for 50 years. The year also signaled the beginning of a new armed conflict in the states of South Kordofan and Blue Nile. The Sudan People Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N), which is the northern affiliate of the rebel group that fought for South Sudan's independence, took up arms against the Sudanese government in these states due to disputes over resources, political power, and self-determination. The conflict then extended to inter-communal disputes over resources between various tribes. After the ousting of the regime of Omer Al Bashir through a popular uprising in 2019, the new transitional government of Sudan led peace talks with the rebel movements. The negotiations culminated with the signing of the comprehensive peace agreement in August 2020 with most rebel movements except the SPLM-N and the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLA-AW). Following that, an agreement was reached between the transitional government and SPLM-N which enforced a cease-fire until a final peace agreement was reached.

Livelihood across both states depend mainly on agricultural activities and pastoralism, due to their geographic locations, natural resources, and the modes of life. The issue of accessing livelihoods can be described as a direct cause of the conflict but also a direct consequence of the conflict. Even well before the conflict erupted, government spending on both states was weak, resulting in a lack of basic infrastructure and services such as education, health, access to clean water, paved roads, etc. The economic crisis that hit Sudan in 2011 also contributed to the adverse economic situation in these states. Hence, access to these meager resources became even more difficult after the onset of the conflict.

One in every 3 people in South Sudan in an Internally Displaced Person (IDP). The number of IDPs was 76000 in 2013, that rose to 2 million in 2019. While the conflict affected the whole population, vulnerable groups were exposed to more danger. For example, young men and boys were targeted since they were expected to join the struggles. Women and girls were exposed to sexual violence and rape. It can therefore be concluded that women and youth groups suffered the brunt of the war. In addition to their existing high unemployment rates, the conflict narrowed their chances to earn livelihoods due to the lack of security and instability. This negatively impacted the enrolment of children and youth in schools which meant that they lacked basic skills that could help them earn livelihoods. While some youth were, and continue to be enlisted in the army or warring factions, others opted to flee these states. Blue Nile State is known to be a back garden for youth and child soldier’s recruitment and many areas in South Kordofan are characterized by high youth migration trends. Many women lost their husbands in the war and became the breadwinners of their households which also

---

4 Ibid.
5 Ibid.
decreased their access to education. The conflict exacerbated the gender-based violence and discrimination that women suffered and often, they became targets of rape when travelling far distances to earn their livelihoods.

Prior to the outbreak of the armed conflict, peace and security in the area was maintained by the community as whole and through effective local reconciliation methods carried out by community elders including youth. Youth were economically empowered and could therefore play an active role in preventing the escalation of conflict. However, one of the main consequences of the conflict was the destruction of the social fabric and the deterioration of the economy which hugely weakened these local reconciliation mechanisms. While women played different roles in maintaining peace in their communities depending on the community they lived in and the power relations between them and men, the gender-based discrimination they suffer, lack of education and self-reliance limits their ability to fully participate as leaders in resolving conflict.

In April 2019, a coup d'état threw the then President Omar-al-Bashir out of power, upon which the SPLM-N ceased fire in hopes of higher stakes in power. In 2020 and 2021, multiple peace agreements were signed between the SPLM-N and the transitional Sudanese government, which to some extent reduced armed conflict and violence in the region. However, the power struggles in Sudan still persist, with two military coup attempts in September and October of 2021, the latter of which was successful. A recent review by ReliefWeb reports that the South Kordofan state is still prone to tribal conflicts, particularly in the eastern corridor areas. This led to the displacement of yet another 13,000 people in 2021. There are state and non-state armed actors present in the region. In Blue Nile, the government is run by two factions of SPLM-N – and conflicts on a dam with Ethiopia means that cross-border trade is limited, which severely impacts livelihoods and farming activities. Although both states are in a volatile security condition, South Kordofan state remains a relatively more challenging geography when compared to Blue Nile state, because the tribal conflicts never ceased to exist in the South Kordofan state.

Project Beneficiaries

(i) **Youth & Women:** The program realized that women & youth were at the forefront of demonstrations against the government and hence were also subjected to ill-treatment, torture, and discrimination at the hands of authorities. Youth & women are also not allowed enough space across communities to safely express themselves, were often excluded from important decisions and were generally discriminated against. This situation was worse in rural and far-flung areas. The project thus aimed at empowering youth & women from all walks of life, including urban and rural populations, those who are marginalized and those who have been socially active in demonstrations in the past. The program realized that youth & women need to continue and enhance their role in peacekeeping and reconciliation in both states.

(ii) **Male Adult Stakeholders:** Often, women and youth are not empowered because their male adult counterparts refuse to allow them enough space for empowerment. Local government authorities and traditional community leaders are prone to not accept women or youth leadership and were not particularly likely to be happy when women and youth took part in demonstrations and protests. They also provide for families in many cases and can influence the ability of women and youth to actively

11 Ibid.
participate or lead initiatives. It is critical that their views towards women & youth are transformed, so that women & youth do not have to face resistance within households or communities.

(iii) **Social Influencers**: The program also targeted social influencers and radio professionals. Given the mass outreach that radio and media presents, and the local popularity enjoyed by these professionals, their agency is often greater than other traditional mechanisms. Informed journalism and peace friendly journalism practices along with championship for the role of women & youth in peace enhancing was identified as a strong mechanism for change.

(iv) **Target Communities**: The final beneficiaries of the program are indeed target communities. They will benefit from the inclusion and activism of women & youth, since women & youth inclusion is likely to directly influence the conflict situation across both states.

**Program’s Theory of Change**

The theory of change that if a wide array of women and youth in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states have the capacity, confidence and opportunities to drive peace and reconciliation locally and if there is a more supportive social and economic environment to this participation then women and youth will effectively contribute to communities that are more resilient to possible escalation of conflict during the transitional period because there will be better analysis and response within diverse populations that reinforce the common goal of unity, stability and peace in a new Sudan. 

A brief narration of action plan etc. are attached in the appendix.
2. Methodology

Objectives
The overarching goal of this evaluation report is to produce an accurate and relevant picture of the project performance, ensuring that all objectives and relevant indicators of the project are considered, measured, analyzed, and presented accurately. The following key objectives are evaluated through this evaluation:

1. Measure the extent to which the project achieved its planned goal and outcomes by establishing endline values of key indicators.
2. Map out the key findings:
   a. Assess how this project contributed to increased capacity and confidence of targeted women and youth to drive local reconciliation
   b. Assess how this project contributed to the improved economic environment for women and youth’s sustained and meaningful participation.
   c. Assess how this project has changed the perceptions of community stakeholders on women and youth’s role in peace and security
   d. Map locally led peacebuilding initiatives conducted as part of the project and/or by the women and youth.
3. Define the main recommendations and lessons learned for future programs and assess the interventions sustainability.

Evaluation Design

The project followed a mixed-method approach for evaluation.

The evaluation starts with the analysis of quantitative data collected from a survey of key indicator outcomes obtained from a total of 590 households across both states. The detailed statistics of respondents are included in the table 1 below, illustrating summary outcomes and graphs generated (using Stata software). The summary statistics are then compared to the baseline statistics, within and across states and gender/age groups. This is further followed up by triangulation of each finding with KIIIs and FGDs and anecdotal information contained within the qualitative data. For this purpose, the transcripts of the KIIIs and FGDs have been carefully analyzed using thematic analysis to identify common themes. Further, if it was felt that quantitative findings needed more explanation, the qualitative instruments and surveys were reviewed. As summarized below under data collection, KIIIs and FGDs are targeted towards a variety of stakeholders including women, men and youth beneficiaries as well as community leaders, implementation partners and government authorities. In addition, a separate quantitative survey was administered to 13 radio professionals (8 females, 5 males), and the data is analyzed in the relevant section.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Total Respondents</th>
<th>Male Respondents</th>
<th>Female Respondents</th>
<th>Youth Respondents (Included in Males + Females)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Total Respondents by State, Gender Disaggregated
In summary, the evaluation design strives to find a balanced view considering all forms of available evidence and advise on program success and future recommendations.

**Data Collection**

The following data collection methods have been used:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Methods</th>
<th>Source/ Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literature Review</td>
<td>• All available project and donor documents including project proposal, log frames, theory of change, baseline results, and any other relevant documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Relevant secondary data and literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Informant Interviews (KII)</td>
<td>• Relevant local authorities (2 KIIs per state)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 KII Total</td>
<td>• Community leaders (2 KII per state)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Implementing staff (2 KII per state)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Social influencers - radio professionals, journalists etc. (2 KII per state)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus Group Discussions (FGD)</td>
<td>• Women - project beneficiaries (1 FGD per state)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 FGD Total</td>
<td>• Youth - project beneficiaries (1 KII per state)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Male community members (1 FGD per state)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative Smartphone Household Survey</td>
<td>• Project beneficiaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300 Survey from Blue Nile, 290 from South Kordofan (590 surveys total)</td>
<td>• Community members at large</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Limitations**

Like any other evaluation design, the current design is not without limitations. Data collection was challenging, because of ongoing conflict in many areas and higher immigration rates. Youths were harder to find since immigration rates are higher across both states. While women representation was ensured, reaching out to youth respondents in South Kordofan state was more difficult due to the contextual situations. Since South Kordofan is an area of active conflict, youths are considerably more engaged in activities that ensure safety for themselves and their families.
3. Findings

The project being evaluated had three key aims, i.e. (i) To build the capacity and confidence of a diverse cadre of women and youth leaders to drive local reconciliation efforts during the transition, (ii) To contribute to a more supportive social and economic environment for women and youth’s sustained and meaningful participation and resilience throughout the transition, and (iii) To create opportunities for women and youth to lead initiatives that contribute to peace and stability. The quantitative as well the qualitative endline data suggests that the program has been broadly able to contribute towards all three aims listed above, albeit to varying degrees of success. The summary findings and the subsequent information that follows, serves to elucidate the project’s contribution towards achieving each aim outlined by the research questions conceived early in the program. However, before the findings are discussed in terms of each research question and each indicator, a summary of findings is presented below.

3.1 Overall Assessment

As indicated by the over-time change in the indicators captured by the survey data triangulated with qualitative data from focus groups and key informant interviews, the program was broadly successful across both states. Respondents found the project useful and relevant to their needs. Both women and youth participants reported increased capacity to lead conversation and dialogue around peace and security, as well as increased capacity to lead peace & reconciliation. Quotes from KIIs confirm this. Two examples are quoted below:

“As for there are a number of exercises that have been implemented, and I am one of the participants in one of the training workshops, and it was about conflict analysis and resolution, and I benefited a lot from them even in the discussion with my fellow heads of society from other groups, and it built my abilities and knowledge a lot and gave me confidence” – KII with program participant in South Kordofan.

“It is the activities and training that we needed, and we still need more because it addresses many problems for us, builds capacities and raises awareness.” – KII with program participants in Blue Nile.

In specific the KIIs with community leaders, influencers and implementation partners suggests that the intervention was the most successful in transferring and improving soft skills such as initiative-taking ability,
the ability to start and lead dialogue, the ability to discuss identity, conflict and agency issues, increased empathy, and understanding acceptance and diversity. Across the quantitative and qualitative surveys, the respondents felt that the program addressed the needs of the region and community. They felt that the program was well targeted and well needed, in the context of violent and volatile contemporaneous socio-political history of both states. Participants did not feel that any relevant stakeholders were deliberately excluded though there were some instances when participants felt that more women, or more urban citizens could be recruited for the program. On average, participants agreed that the program was well targeted to the concerned communities, and it addressed their needs. Most surveys indicate that both women & youth benefited which led to them taking active leadership roles in conflict resolution and peacebuilding initiatives.

It does however appear that the participants were not fully satisfied with the economic/ livelihood aspect of the programming. In many cases, respondents felt that the economic support was far from enough and was not helpful in aiding sustainable livelihoods. Most respondents would have preferred if the livelihood part of the intervention was of greater magnitude. Another common concern among participants was regarding the shorter duration of capacity building workshops. Again, a majority said that more time in training would have equipped them better. Finally, a key takeaway from the findings is that respondents including program participants, implementing agencies and government agencies think that economic and livelihood woes are deep-rooted issues, which further lead to crime, violence and subsequent tribal conflicts. It can be worth giving a thought that maybe tribal or other forms of violence are directly related to the economic conditions of the region, and a direct economic intervention might be as much successful as a social intervention would be in reducing violence.

Program evaluation also suggests that the intervention was more successful in the Blue Nile state as compared to the South Kordofan state, which is explainable given that the contemporaneous as well as historical political / tribal conditions of the South Kordofan region are persistently worse than the Blue Nile state.

3.2 Key Objective 1: Build the capacity and confidence of a diverse cadre of women and youth leaders to drive local reconciliation efforts during the transition.

The primary goal of the project was to prepare women and youth leaders, who could act as drivers for peace by engaging and leading the community in local reconciliation efforts. To achieve this, the capacity building program proposed that women and youth learn and improve skills relating to conflict transformation, gain confidence in themselves, and have good psychological support. These objectives are then measured through a series of indicators, as follows:

This objective aimed to improve women/ youth knowledge on conflict transformation and related skills. This would result in women and youth who actively participate in transforming conflict,
and lead peace and reconciliation efforts and initiatives. The objective also involved psychological support of vulnerable community members.

At the endline, these program objectives are measured using a mixed methods approach, while some of the objectives are measured primarily by either of the quantitative survey or the qualitative surveys, others are measured through both approaches.

**R1.1. Targeted women and youth have increased knowledge of conflict transformation and related skills.**

The evaluation for this sub-objective starts with a self-reported measure of the share of women & youth who can report at least 1 incident of transforming conflict themselves. At the baseline no more than 22.5% of women or youth participants could report an incident where they were able to transform conflict themselves. The percentage of youth who had earlier transformed a conflict was a little higher at baseline, as compared to women. Similarly, the youth in the Blue Nile State appeared to be a bit more successful in transforming conflict. The descriptive evidence at the endline (Figure 1) suggests a noticeable positive difference among both women and youth across both states. For the overall sample, in South Kordofan this statistic increased from 16% to 35%, while for Blue Nile it increased from 18% to 51%. Among women across both states, only 10 percent had reported ever transforming a conflict situation at the baseline, at the endline the same measure was close to 40% for South Kordofan, and 55% for Blue Nile. Qualitative data suggests that this disparity is attributable to sociopolitical and security situations. However, perhaps an unintended effect of the intervention, while women and youth groups improved capacity across both states on average, the disparity across both states also grew as the intervention appears to be more successful in the Blue Nile state.
Besides a self-reported measure of the ability to transform conflict, an indicator measuring community perception of women and youth being able to lead conflict transformation is considered next. This has been measured through key informant interviews administered to community members, men, implementation partners, and government officials. Across both states, community leaders as well as implementation partners acknowledge that both women and youth have gained confidence and the ability to take successful initiatives. Across the focus group, respondents on average were able to recall 3-4 activities/actions taken by women or youth that involved coffee circles, meetings, conflict resolution meetings. From South Kordofan state, an example quote goes as follows:

“...but the project came and the level of awareness of young people and women on it increased, and the percentage of confidence in the capabilities of young people and women increased, and thus the society began to deal with young people, especially as they are an essential element in construction and have an effective role as well, as that of women. They can all contribute significantly to change.”

It is logical that this positive change would have some mechanisms and drivers which explain a change of this magnitude. The third and final indicator for this sub objective intended to capture these mechanisms. Mostly this is gauged through the FGDs and KIIs where women and youth are asked about the skills that they acquire. Across all the FGDs and KIIs, some common soft skills are identified by participants and community alike. These skills include understanding identity and prejudices, learning empathy and acceptance, conflict analysis, understanding and finding commonalities, resolving conflict resolution. Participants reported increased knowledge and awareness of these concepts, and cited instances where their newly acquired or improved skills
are helpful. Table 2 summarizes the respondents’ answers on whether they have seen women and youth take initiative. Most respondents can report at least once initiative taken by women or youth. In the KIIs, participants confirmed that they were able to improve their skills on solving conflicts as the activities helped them realize identity issues, diversity, acceptance, and understanding. They provided how they found these skills useful to be able to lead and influence peace. They also thought that realization of differences and celebrating those led them to embrace other cultures, which increased social cohesion in communities. The KIIs among implementation partners also suggest that the trainings helped participants establish networks and forums. Across all FGDs/ KIIs, participants could cite women and youth-led initiatives. Participants were asked if they had personally received training on any peacebuilding concepts and were subsequently asked if they had a solid understanding of concepts presented in Table 3, which summarizes the share of respondents who received training and felt confident on a particular concept in peacebuilding.

Table 2: Share of Participants who can cite women or youth led peace initiatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>South Kordofan</th>
<th>Blue Nile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solve conflicts</td>
<td>78.7%</td>
<td>76.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influence peace</td>
<td>79.4%</td>
<td>62.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Induce social cohesion</td>
<td>74.5%</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voice in decision making</td>
<td>49.6%</td>
<td>64.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Established networks/ forums</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table summarizes the mean share of respondents who can cite women & youth led instances where they take one of the above initiatives.
R1.2. Targeted women and youth have increased self-confidence and psychosocial well-being.

The second sub objective is first measured through analyzing the share of participants who gained self-confidence. Across both states, women & youth display increased patterns of self-confidence, and a higher proportion now believes that they can act and initiate peace & reconciliation efforts. Against a baseline mean of 30% of individuals across both states who were confident in their abilities, an overall increase from 30% to 70% for South Kordofan, and from 37% to 84% (Figure 2) is observed in the percentage of individuals who are now self-confident about their abilities to act in peace & reconciliation situations. Among youth, the South Kordofan state trails a bit behind on this indicator as well.
### Table 3: Share of Participants who reported having confidence in soft-skills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Received Training on</th>
<th>South Kordofan</th>
<th>Blue Nile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identity</td>
<td>59.5%</td>
<td>72.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict</td>
<td>76.3%</td>
<td>87.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence</td>
<td>80.2%</td>
<td>86.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict Stage &amp; Dynamic to Intervention</td>
<td>42.0%</td>
<td>64.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict Styles and Strategies</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>79.0%</td>
<td>86.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sympathy</td>
<td>72.8%</td>
<td>77.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Dignity</td>
<td>86.2%</td>
<td>89.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-violent communication</td>
<td>71.2%</td>
<td>74.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict Analysis</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>0.66.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Ground Approach</td>
<td>43.5%</td>
<td>65.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View Points</td>
<td>39.2%</td>
<td>53.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prejudice</td>
<td>53.0%</td>
<td>63.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table summarizes the mean share of respondents who received a particular type of training across both states. The data is limited to those who chose yes when asked if they had received any training in the first place.

---

12 This comes with a caveat, almost 75% of the respondents chose not to answer the questions. 71.81% respondents in the quantitative survey said that they never received any training on peacebuilding concepts.
In conflict-ridden and economically challenged socioeconomic conditions, it is of prime importance that participants have access to and seek psychological support for themselves. Given the stigma around mental health in Sudan in general, this was a particularly tough indicator to achieve. On the baseline (Figure 3), 18% among both women and men respondents were receiving any form of psychological support. For the Blue Nile state, the increase in the share of participants who do receive psychological support is evident, where the percentage of respondents receiving psychological support increased to 37%. The gains in the South Kordofan region are however a bit lower, increasing to 28% across all groups. Given that South Kordofan remains one of the more volatile and conflict-ridden geographies, the lack of change on this indicator is a point of concern and warrants further attention. Unfortunately, this measure does not come up often in the qualitative data as well, and the only time participants mention any form of psychological support, they are based in Blue Nile state.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are a group of concern – since they are prone to having mental health challenges given that they are virtually or in many cases literally homeless in the current conditions. For this reason, this is one group that needed to be independently evaluated for availability and use of psychological support and the programming did acknowledge this. This data is presented in Figure 2, across both genders and states. The key observation here is that while the positive change on this indicator in the Blue Nile State is evident, and is higher in magnitude among men, the opposite is the case for the South Kordofan state, where although now more men seek psychological support, the endline statistic is still around 12 percent which is considerably low when compared to other gender/state groups.
3.3. Key Objective 2: Contribute to a more supportive social and economic environment for women and youth’s sustained and meaningful participation and resilience throughout the transition.

The second program objective was aimed at creating a supportive social and economic environment for women & youth so that they can sustainably participate in resilient communities. To achieve this a series of subobjectives were considered which included providing the youth & women with better economic opportunity, ensuring community acceptance including men, and enlisting the support of journalists/ radio professionals to dissipate negative perceptions that lead to discrimination and violence against women and youth. For the purposes of evaluation, the respective indicators with measurements are as follows:

The second objective targeted to improve the social and economic environment for women and youth that enabled their sustained and meaningful participation in communities. This would mean that women and youth would be more capable of providing for themselves and their families, and the community would perceive women and youth as capable of leading peace and reconciliation.
Endline Evaluation | Strengthening Women and Youth-led Approaches to Reconciliation and Conflict Prevention in South Kordofan and Blue Nile

R2.1. Vulnerable women and youth have increased economic resources and independence to participate in peace and reconciliation efforts and resist manipulation.

The ability to work toward peace and reconciliation efforts are particularly impacted by the economic circumstance of individuals, since the individual’s agency can be severely hampered in the absence of financial freedom. This indicator was however not recorded during the baseline study. At the endline, 79.62% respondents in South Kordofan and 70.24% respondents in Blue Nile reported that they do have the ability to provide for their families. 77.20% women in South Kordofan, and 61.54% in Blue Nile reported the same. In youth, the share of those able to support themselves was 76.19% in South Kordofan, and 68.42% in Blue Nile. The trends across both states are equal, though the share of men with economic stability is higher when compared to youth and women.

Economic stability is one of the primary concerns in participants across both states and gender/age groups. During the focus group discussions and key informant interviews, this repeatedly came up when participants said that the livelihood support was not enough to sustain these activities, even when quantitative data suggested otherwise. Across women, youth, implementing partners, and government agencies – all respondents thought the economic initiatives and livelihood components of the program were not sustainable beyond the short run. They argued that they needed consistent livelihood support until they became self-dependent. In the key informant interviews, participants reported that they use the livelihoods support to invest into cattle, livestock, small shops, or small-scale machines etc.

Figure 5 – Endline Statistic: Percentage who are able to provide for their families
R2.2. Male family and community actors have increased awareness of the real and potential contributions of women and youth to peace & reconciliation (in line with UNSCR 1325 and 2250).

The abilities and space for women and youth in peace & reconciliation efforts are likely to be influenced by the community perceptions around the role of women and youth. At baseline across both states, both women and men were not much likely to remember if women and youth had any positive contribution to peace & reconciliation. Around 10% men and women respondents in the Blue Nile state and 20% men and women respondents in the South Kordofan state could cite the positive role of women and youth in peace & reconciliation efforts at baseline (Figure 6). At the endline, across both states, 50% of women and men respondents thought that women and youth can positively contribute to peace & reconciliation. In focus groups as well, respondents thought that the space and acceptance for women’ contribution had been increasing in the society. An excerpt from one of the KII (Blue Nile, Male, Implementation Partner) showcases this:

“There were practices that made women especially excluded, and these were customs and traditions that kept women away from participating in bodies, meetings, and decision-making centers. Now, after a number of projects that support and empower women and are based on awareness, women have become clearly involved,”
The next indicator is a measure of women leadership perceptions among respondents, a step ahead of contribution. In figure 7, at the baseline measure, 35% respondents across women and men groups thought that women can take leadership roles in peace & security initiatives. This number was close to 82% for South Kordofan and 84% for Blue Nile at the endline. This indicates a clear increase in positive perception relating to women leadership in peace & security initiatives. Figure 8 reports similar baseline and endline measures for youth. At baseline, 39% of women participants from South Kordofan, 40 percent women from Blue Nile, 43% of men from South Kordofan, and 44% men from Blue Nile participants believed that youth had an ability to take leadership roles in peace & security initiatives. At the endline the statistics for men were 92% and 95% for South Kordofan and Blue Nile respectively. During KIIs, multiple community leaders cited that they did not use to trust youth to do anything meaningful, particularly towards sensitive topics such as peace & security issues. But they observed that adequate trainings and workshops carried out under the program led them to indeed observe these youth in action, and now they believe that youth can actively, positively contribute towards peaceful, secure communities.

“Because of the project, there are women and youth who have become more able to lead and influence the community, and they can play individual roles, and they can also mobilize the community, youth or women to create collective programs or do initiatives as well.”
- an excerpt from FGD with women in the South Kordofan state.

Figure 8: Percentage of respondents who believe that youth can lead peace and security initiatives
As suggested during the baseline study, both states had a culture of discrimination towards women, with defined gender roles outside of which women had little space. This was an objective under the program to change this. In particular, it is important that men acknowledge that women do have the capacity to lead projects and initiatives and accept them in leadership roles. In figure 9, the direct response to this question from male respondents is documented. At the baseline 40% male respondents in the South Kordofan state and 45% male respondents in the Blue Nile state were open to accepting women as leaders. At the endline, in the South Kordofan state this share increased to 65% for men who accept women as leaders, while the Blue Nile state saw the share of men who accept women as leaders to 78%. To put these descriptive statistics in perspective, this increase is meaningful in the sense that the intervention almost doubled the share of men who accept women as leaders. In focus group discussions, female youth and men beneficiaries confirmed that community perception towards accepting women as leader had changed positively.

The next two indicators measure the perceived role of women and youth from a slightly different perspective. The questions ask if women and youth can contribute to resilient societies. Figure 10 summarizes the responses for women while figure 11 summarizes the perception for youth roles. Across both states, both genders and both indicators, figures 10 and 11 show more than twofold increase in the perception that women and youth can contribute to more resilient communities. In figure 12, a similar increase is shown in terms of the share of

---

13 Probably an omission in the endline data collection, there is no question of acceptance for youth leaders. The share of men who would accept youth leaders at baseline was 46% and 49% across the South Kordofan and Blue States.
respondents who believe that youth can lead peace and reconciliation efforts. The increase is comparable across genders and states. Finally in figure 13, an endline statistic is presented which captures the share of respondents who can cite their own role in increasing peace & reconciliation.

Figure 10: Percentage of respondents who believe that women can contribute to resilient communities
Figure 11: Percentage of respondents who believe that youth can contribute to resilient communities

Figure 12: Percentage of respondents who believe that youth can lead peace and reconciliation
R2.3. Radio professionals have increased skills to shift negative community perceptions and attitudes that contribute to discrimination and violence against women and youth.

A quantitative survey was designed to gauge if there was any impact on radio professional’s abilities and skills that would allow them to shift perceptions and attitudes towards women and youth. A total of 13 radio professionals were surveyed (6 from Blue Nile and 7 from South Kordofan, 8 females, 5 males). The radio professionals were asked if the training was relevant to improving their knowledge and skills. In the Blue Nile region, 3 thought it was “very relevant” and 3 found the training “somewhat relevant”. In the South Kordofan region, 1 thought it was “very relevant” and 4 found the training “somewhat relevant” and 2 found the training to be “not at all relevant”. All but 1 respondent across states thought that the training improved their knowledge of conflict sensitive reporting and journalism.

Then the respondents were asked questions on their knowledge of peace journalism and related concepts. First, they were asked about their knowledge on highlighting stories that seek to promote the conditions of peace, justice and equity. The mean score on this question was 4.23 (5= comprehensive knowledge, 4=Good knowledge). Next, they were asked about their knowledge on giving voice to forgotten stories, instead of

---

This was a question about overall relevance of training.
limiting themselves to dominant and powerful stories. The mean score on this question was 4.23 (5= comprehensive knowledge, 4= Good knowledge). Third, they were asked about their knowledge on offering counter narratives to transform stereotypes, myths and misperceptions. The mean score on this question was 3.92 (4= Good knowledge, 3= Some knowledge). Fourth, they were asked about their knowledge on choosing and carefully analyzing the words that they use, being very aware of their power. The mean score on this question was 4.07 (5= comprehensive knowledge, 4= Good knowledge). And finally, they were asked about their knowledge on judiciously selecting the images they use, knowing that they can give a false image of an event, exacerbate an already difficult situation and inflict new victimization on those who have suffered. The mean score on this question was 3.61 (4= Good knowledge, 3= Some knowledge). These scores indicate that these journalists were well trained on peace journalism and did retain a significant portion of knowledge. But the hunger for more training was also noted. 54% respondents said they need more training on linking peace journalism with the concept of positive and negative peace, 38% said they need further training on giving voice to forgotten stories, 46% said further training is needed on journalism that counters narratives, 69% felt further training is needed for careful choice of words, and 54% felt the need for training on selecting images judiciously.

### Table 4: Peace Journalism Training

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Mean Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Peace journalism as being closely linked to the concept of positive</td>
<td>4.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and negative peace, as peace journalists are expected to fight for the</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>promotion of positive peace, by highlighting stories that seek to promote</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the conditions of peace, justice and equity.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Peace journalism gives voice to forgotten stories, instead of</td>
<td>4.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>limiting itself to dominant and powerful stories.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Peace journalism offers counter narratives to transform stereotypes,</td>
<td>3.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>myths and misperceptions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 The peace reporter chooses and carefully analyzes the words they use,</td>
<td>4.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>being very aware of his power.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 The peace journalist judiciously selects the images he or she uses,</td>
<td>3.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>knowing that they can give a false image of an event, exacerbate an</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>already difficult situation and inflict new victimization on those who</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have suffered.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.4 Key Objective 3: Create opportunities for women and youth to lead initiatives that contribute to peace and stability.

The third and final key objective aimed at creating opportunities for women and youth to lead initiatives that lead to peace and stability. To measure the success there are two sub objectives identified. First, to look at the actual number of initiatives undertaken by women and youth, and second, to the degree to which the
communities see tangible benefit of improved reconciliation and stability in their areas. The sub objectives and their relevant measures are summarized here:

The third objective targeted the conception of effective small initiatives that lead to local peace and reconciliation, measured by the number of reconciliation initiatives set up by women and youth. This objective also had a goal that communities see tangible benefits of improved reconciliation and stability, indicated by community surveys.

**R3.1. Effective small initiatives contributing to local peace and reconciliation are implemented.**

This indicator is perhaps best answered by an in-depth examination of KIIIs with participants and implementation partners. Across both states, only one participant said that they did not know about any women or youth led initiative. Other than this anomaly, all respondents could recall 3-4 initiatives in their districts (or state in the case of implementation partner). In the Blue Nile state, participants were able to narrate these initiatives more elaborately. The cited initiatives included the following: (i) conflict resolution among local children, women, families or neighbors, (ii) local awareness and training meetings, (iii) peer education, and (iv) capacity building of other individuals. In the Blue Nile state, the implementation partner reported at least 10 such initiatives. Here is an excerpt from one of the KIIIs:

“We heard that a dispute occurred between some families, and the conflict continued for 3 days. We took an initiative with the sheikh of the village and some men of the area, and in fact it was resolved, and reconciliation was made.”

Similarly, in the South Kordofan state participants could each recall 3-5 initiatives on average, while the implementation partners cited 11 to 13 initiatives. An example response from South Kordofan is quoted here:

“Approximately 5 or 6 initiatives, because the city alone has 2 youth initiatives that were moved by young people who were participating in these exercises. There are two in Kadugli, while in the neighboring regions and villages there are approximately 4 initiatives.”

Another similar excerpt from KII of an implementation partner in Blue Nile is quoted here:

“Yes, there are youth initiatives in the locality of Bau, Al-Rusairis, and even Al-Damazin, in about 3 initiatives, and they have become a form of community forums. These initiatives, such as the initiative of Shahid Effendi to make the mill, are initiatives that seek to reduce and address differences, combat violence, and create rapprochement between people.”

A social influencer from South Kordofan quoted the following:
“Intellectual Cultural Movement, and its idea came from the history of the last war 6/6 and became a history associated with horror and fear of ruin, destruction, and war. We were trying to change the bad mental image into a better one through awareness, education and Learning, developing thought, and doing accompanying cultural activities that create a beautiful image. The important thing is that the project qualified us to play this role and reach the goal in a good way. There are also a number of initiatives that participated in the training, as for the financial support for the inch, and I do not know. There are also women's sessions conducted by the women who trained with us in these trainings."

The citation of these initiatives indicates that there were initiatives from women and youth, and the community is well aware and receptive of those. These initiatives led to increased social cohesion, acceptance, and celebration of diversity in addition to serving the purpose of enabling peace and reconciliation. The relative success or importance of the individual initiatives is however not possible to measure.

R3.2. Communities see tangible benefits of improved reconciliation and stability in their areas, underlining the concrete value of peace

The measures for this sub objective are extracted from the quantitative data and have been already discussed in relation to figure 6 above. To summarize again, around 20 percent respondents at baseline saw positive contribution from women and youth in peace & reconciliation. This share rose among all participants, with almost 60% respondents at the endline reporting that they saw positive contribution of women and youth towards peace & reconciliation. Among men respondents, the share of respondents who saw positive contribution of women and youth in peace & reconciliation at baseline was around 20%. This number also rose to around 60 percent on average at the endline.
### Table 5: Indicators, Baseline, Target, and Endline Measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>South Kordofan</th>
<th>Blue Nile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **R1.1** % of targeted women and youth who can cite at least one instance when they have transformed conflict or participated in reconciliation efforts in the past 6 months | Overall: 33%                    | Youth: 35%  
Women: 33%      
Overall: 34% | Overall: 38%                    | Overall: 60%  
Women: 55%      
Overall: 61% |
| **R1.1** # of peace and reconciliation initiatives led by women and youth during the project that are recognized as successful | 0                              | All KIIIs suggest 4-5 initiatives per locality as successful. | 0                              | At least 14  
All KIIIs suggest 4-5 initiatives per locality as successful. |
| **R1.1** % of trained women and youth who demonstrate knowledge of basic conflict transformation concept                                        | N/A                             | KII indicates more than 60% of respondents are well trained. | N/A                             | 85%  
KII indicates more than 60% of respondents are well trained. |
| **R1.2** % of targeted women and youth who report feeling confident leading peace and reconciliation initiatives                                  | Overall: 63%                    | Youth: 72%  
Women: 70%      
Overall: 74% | Overall: 67%                    | Overall: 90%  
Women: 83%      
Overall: 84% |
### R1.2 % of community members (women, youth, refugee, migrant, displaced) receiving psychosocial support (IcSP Core Indicator)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Overall: 18%</th>
<th>Overall: 60%</th>
<th>Men: 24%</th>
<th>Women: 29%</th>
<th>Overall: 27%</th>
<th>IDPs overall: 10%</th>
<th>IDPs overall: 25%</th>
<th>Overall: 38%</th>
<th>Overall: 60%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Men: 24%</td>
<td>Women: 29%</td>
<td>Overall: 27%</td>
<td>IDPs overall: 10%</td>
<td>IDPs overall: 25%</td>
<td>Overall: 38%</td>
<td>Overall: 60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IDPs overall: 10%

Overall: 18%

IDPs overall: 25%

Overall: 38%

**R2.1 % of trained women and youth who claim they can provide for themselves and for their families (ICSP Core indicator)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>N/A</th>
<th>80%</th>
<th>Men: 87.5%</th>
<th>Women: 76%</th>
<th>Youth: 76%</th>
<th>Overall: 77%</th>
<th>N/A</th>
<th>80%</th>
<th>Men: 83%</th>
<th>Women: 60%</th>
<th>Youth: 70%</th>
<th>Overall: 71%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Men: 87.5%</td>
<td>Women: 76%</td>
<td>Youth: 76%</td>
<td>Overall: 77%</td>
<td></td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>Men: 83%</td>
<td>Women: 60%</td>
<td>Youth: 70%</td>
<td>Overall: 71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**R2.2 % of community members interviewed who report that communities view women as capable of effectively contributing to communities that are more resilient to escalation of conflict**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Overall: 73%</th>
<th>80%</th>
<th>Men: 82%</th>
<th>Women: 84%</th>
<th>Overall: 83%</th>
<th>Overall: 75%</th>
<th>80%</th>
<th>Men: 82%</th>
<th>Women: 78%</th>
<th>Overall: 80%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overall: 73%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>Men: 82%</td>
<td>Women: 84%</td>
<td>Overall: 83%</td>
<td>Overall: 75%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>Men: 82%</td>
<td>Women: 78%</td>
<td>Overall: 80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**R2.2 % of community members interviewed who report that communities view youth as capable of effectively contributing to communities that are more resilient to escalation of conflict**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Overall: 84%</th>
<th>90%</th>
<th>Men: 92%</th>
<th>Women: 88%</th>
<th>Overall: 90%</th>
<th>Overall: 87%</th>
<th>90%</th>
<th>Men: 94%</th>
<th>Women: 90%</th>
<th>Overall: 92%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overall: 84%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>Men: 92%</td>
<td>Women: 88%</td>
<td>Overall: 90%</td>
<td>Overall: 87%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>Men: 94%</td>
<td>Women: 90%</td>
<td>Overall: 92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R2.2</td>
<td>% of community members who believe that women are prepared to lead peace and reconciliation initiatives</td>
<td>Overall: 81%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>Men: 82%</td>
<td>Women: 80%</td>
<td>Overall: 81%</td>
<td>Overall: 82%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>Men: 84%</td>
<td>Women: 82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R2.2</td>
<td>% of community members who believe that youth are prepared to lead peace and reconciliation initiatives</td>
<td>Overall: 93%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>Men: 90%</td>
<td>Women: 88%</td>
<td>Overall: 89%</td>
<td>Overall: 91%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>Men: 96%</td>
<td>Women: 94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R2.2</td>
<td>% of community members who report that women act as leaders on peace and security in their communities</td>
<td>Overall: 75%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>Men: 82%</td>
<td>Women: 80%</td>
<td>Overall: 81%</td>
<td>Overall: 71%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>Men: 84%</td>
<td>Women: 82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R2.2</td>
<td>% of community members who report that youth act as leaders on peace and security in their communities</td>
<td>Overall: 85%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>Men: 92%</td>
<td>Women: 90%</td>
<td>Overall: 91%</td>
<td>Overall: 87%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>Men: 94%</td>
<td>Women: 92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R2.2</td>
<td>% of male community members surveyed who report acceptance of a leadership role for youth in their community</td>
<td>Male 46%</td>
<td>Male 65%</td>
<td>Male 96%</td>
<td>Male 49%</td>
<td>Male 65%</td>
<td>Male 95%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Endline Evaluation | Strengthening Women and Youth-led Approaches to Reconciliation and Conflict Prevention in South Kordofan and Blue Nile**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R2.2</th>
<th>% of male community members surveyed who report acceptance of a leadership role for women in their community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male 41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male 65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male 66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male 47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male 65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male 78%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R2.3</th>
<th>% of trained radio professionals who have knowledge of key principles in conflict sensitive reporting and journalism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>83.33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R3.1</th>
<th># of Reconciliation initiatives set up (Iesp Core Indicator) by women and youth in South Kordofan and Blue Nile during the project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15 total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All KIIs suggest 4-5 initiatives per locality as successful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15 total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All KIIs suggest 4-5 initiatives per locality as successful.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R3.2</th>
<th>% of community members surveyed who can cite one positive impact of the women or youth-led peace and reconciliation initiatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overall: 53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Men: 48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women: 49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overall: 48.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Men: 58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women: 59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overall: 58.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R3.2</th>
<th>% of male community members surveyed who can cite examples of positive contributions to peace and reconciliation by women and youth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male 32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male 50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male 51.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male 14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male 50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male 57.69%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Conclusions

Programming and Targeting

The program was well planned. Actions spoke to the needs and priorities of targeted women and youth in the targeted locations. These women and youth needed capacity building and confidence in terms of leading peace, reconciliation, and stability in the region. As previously noted, the participants have had fewer prior opportunities to learn about identity and agency, and how to apply these ideas towards finding empathy, acceptance, and agreement within diverse communities. On the other hand, it is also visible that the participants were otherwise capable of applying themselves. Training sessions, workshops, and some follow up support offered by the intervention facilitate achievement. The program actions that were successful in inducing this change included training workshops, exposure to decision making circles, mentorship by community leaders and influential people, as well as ongoing support for their initiatives. Further, the economics and livelihood cash grants were also well accepted though it can be inferred that this aspect of the program could have been expanded.

The endline findings also highlight that the program was able to reach its intended primary audience. In particular, the participants were satisfied to be included and felt that they needed this exposure. On the same note, almost all respondents stated that they do not think that any other relevant stakeholders from society were excluded from the project. Notwithstanding participant bias, these findings indicate that the program targeting was quite successful. The same can be said about male stakeholders (as indicated by community leader KII e.g). In current Sudanese socioeconomics, radio professionals have greater outreach than all other media mechanisms and they were targeted as social influencers which was an integral part of program success.

Effectiveness

The program indicators at the endline signal that the program was effective. A significant portion of the surveyed participants reported increased knowledge and skills when it comes to soft skills for conflict resolution and peace reconciliation. Several sources from quantitative as well as qualitative data indicate that women and youth equally benefited in terms of capacity development. However, across the two locations, the Blue Nile state consistently outperformed the South Kordofan state. There are two reasons for that. One, there were differences across both states at the baseline, as the situation of capacity, violence, discrimination, and acceptance was much better in the Blue Nile State. Second, even during the program, the South Kordofan state remained an area of concern with active tribal and social unrest. South Kordofan has experienced violent events such as the coup d’état of 2019, tribal conflicts, killings, and violence in 2021, and more recently another tribal conflict between Hawazma and Kenana tribes in 2022. All these events harm livelihoods, mental health, social well-being, health, and infrastructure in the region, among other things. This sociopolitical context coupled with political activities such as demonstrations and contests not only hurt the programming part, but the beneficiaries also struggled throughout the project.
Data from KIIs and FGDs cite multiple examples of women/youth-led peace initiatives. The quantitative questions from community members, and male stakeholders mirror the claim, as the comparison of endline with baseline data suggests that the number of those who can cite at least one instance of women/youth-led initiatives leading to peace and security grew more than doubled over the project period. The report has quoted how the perceptions around women’s and youth’s involvement in peace and reconciliation processes changed over time. For both women and youth, community perceptions of their abilities have changed to some degree, social barriers have reduced, and awareness levels have increased over time.

In terms of implementing partners, the partnership for social actions such as training, workshops, as well as program support for peace initiatives has been successful. Implementing partners have raised concerns about timely communication and delay in funds release which needs to be confirmed. Also, as per a majority of FGD and KII respondents, the cash grant was insufficient, however the implementing partner indicated that in-kind economic support also existed which included distribution of tables and vegetables etc.

Given the highly volatile security situation, particularly in South Kordofan, as well as Covid-19 happening during the program implementation, Search has been successful in adapting and delivering the program. For example, implementing partners did make efforts to reach vulnerable people by changing schedules if conflicts or Covid-19 lockdowns were in place.

Impact

The project intended to increase personal agency and voice of women and youth around peace and reconciliation. To quite a degree of success, the project was able to achieve this. Women and youth are more confident, are more economically secure, and better equipped to deal with conflicts and violence. This led to an increase in their agency and voice. The acceptance for women as leaders and actors within their community, has been one of the key positive impacts of the project.

The participant feedback on economic empowerment however indicated mixed opinions with a specific need on more programming for economic empowerment being dominant., Youth, women, and implementing partners stressed the need for better livelihood and economic support.

The project did shift attitudes regarding the role of women and youth as leaders and actors on peace and security and this is well backed by data. It appears that the two states are becoming more open and inclusive to women and youth in dialogues around peace and security.

Sustainability

This endline review suggests that the capacity building initiatives, the acceptance and space for women and youth are sustainable changes. On their own, these changes would be sustainable if the socioeconomic situation was to remain constant. But as the programming has indicated, economic freedom is directly linked to personal agency and women and youth believe that their economic freedom and livelihoods might not be sustainable. There needs to be more work done on livelihoods for vulnerable groups, though that lies outside Search’s objectives, and scope. For a wider programming audience, this finding could be useful.
In terms of cultural change and sensitivity towards identity differences, celebration of diversity, and co-existence and acceptance, the change in attitudes of the participants is one key success that will help make the program sustainable. Where respondents have started gaining psychological support, the change would help reduce social trauma and help heal the society.

Capacity building workshops, program targeting, as well as mentorship by influential community stakeholders are some replicable practices.
5. Recommendations

- Include relevant stakeholders including women, youth, and social influencers:

  The first lesson learnt here is that women and youth are relevant targets for future programming for peace and reconciliation. Women and youth participants are ideal targets, given that they are more likely to influence communities from the grassroots. Community members can easily identify with them, as compared to community leaders. The project highlights that grassroots level community interventions can rely on individual agency. Individuals can take ownership and leadership of initiatives, given the right training and opportunity. Under this project, they were indeed able to do so, and were able to influence the community and society around them.

- Increase capacity of community members and local influencers using relevant training:

  Community members found the trainings and sensitization skills around transforming conflict, peace, and reconciliation to be useful in peace transformation and reconciliation. Trainings, awareness sessions, and encouraging local initiatives were successful programming choices and should be utilized in future programming as well.

- Pay special attention to include psychological support component for improving mental health of vulnerable population:

  When encouraged, participants began utilizing psychological support. This is an encouraging finding, since future programming could include psychological support in conflict-ridden areas, which would help support peacebuilding and violence-free environment.

- Analyze Internally displaced persons (IDPs) separately as a vulnerable group which needs additional psychological support:

  Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are a group of concern – since they are prone to having mental health challenges given that they are virtually or in many cases literally homeless in the current conditions. They should be given more attention when programming for psychological support. In specific, IDPs need to be independently evaluated for availability and use of psychological support and the programming did acknowledge this.

- Link Livelihood support with small business initiatives such as livestock and small machines:

  In the key informant interviews, participants reported that they use the livelihoods support to invest into cattle, livestock, small shops, or small-scale machines etc. This information should be utilized for future programming.

- Pay attention to existing inequalities in treatment areas:
Intervention can improve local situations but can also have unintended consequences such as increasing existing gaps in the prevailing economic conditions. While women and youth groups improved capacity across both states on average, the disparity across both states also grew as the intervention appeared to be more successful in the Blue Nile state.

- **Pay attention to economic stability of youth in specific:**

Youth can have lower economic stability in regions with active conflict. In youth, the share of those able to support themselves was 76.19% in South Kordofan, and 68.42% in Blue Nile. The trends across both states are equal, though the share of men with economic stability was higher when compared to youth and women.

- **Adapt and keep programming flexible to the ground situation:**

In areas of active conflict, program implementation is understandably challenging. The flexibility and willingness of implementation partners is crucial. However, despite difficulties – South Kordofan did show improvement across indicators – which suggests that Search’s combination of community trainings & awareness sessions, women & youth empowerment and social influence/journalist training can jointly bring powerful, positive changes in such areas. Challenges related to COVID-19 were mitigated through health & safety precautions, carefully choosing meeting venues, arranging private or isolated transport, and not interviewing elderly or vulnerable populations.

Looking at the current situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, a programming agency could mistake the root cause of conflict to be based in racial, ethnic, or tribal differences. This would lead the programming agency to suggest activities that foster harmonization and peace building, trying to bring communities to realize that differences are to be celebrated or accepted. However, in many cases the racial, ethnic, and tribal issues emerge from a much basic problem, one that lies in access to sustainable income resources and livelihood practices. However, racial, ethnic and tribal differences worsen resource-based conflicts and should still be addressed. If these differences are overcome, communities are more likely to work together to overcome their livelihood concerns.
6. Appendix

Annex I – Intervention Logic & Theory of Change

This action is supported by the *theory of change* that if a wide array of women and youth in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states have the capacity, confidence and opportunities to drive peace and reconciliation locally and if there is a more supportive social and economic environment to this participation then women and youth will effectively contribute to communities that are more resilient to possible escalation of conflict during the transitional period because there will be better analysis and response within diverse populations that reinforce the common goal of unity, stability and peace in a new Sudan.

The intervention logic is articulated in the following graphic that clearly shows how the activities link to the results and fulfill the specific and overall objectives.
This action recognizes the following **assumptions** that underpin the logic:

- The male-dominated political processes will be receptive to the added value of women and youth in rebuilding Sudan as they see their increased participation and leadership. This will ultimately support a more inclusive political process as well as a more representative and legitimate constitutional order.
- The project team will be able to identify and mobilize the key women and youth leaders who are influential, motivated, legitimate, and thus capable of making change in their communities.
- The targeted women and youth from diverse political, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds will be willing to engage with one-another in a collaborative way.
- The co-applicants will engage transparently and reliably, reflecting the values of impartiality and inclusion valued in the project.
- The safety and security of all participants and staff will be ensured throughout the duration of the project, despite the very difficult conditions.

The project team believes that these assumptions are manageable due to our reputation for impartiality, which will help to bring together diverse participants, despite possible initial reticence or resistance, we will be able to get them on board with the objectives of this action. The reputation of the implementation team will also help to ensure government support, an often lengthy process. In addition, our long track record of working in Sudan, and collaborating with local partners has provided us with the necessary networks and contacts to ensure we are able to target the right people and reach the hard-to-access. Lastly, we believe that concerns related to the safety and security of the action’s staff and participants will be effectively managed by the implementation team who have extensive experience continuing implementation of activities in Khartoum and the peripheries (albeit with delays) throughout the worst of the protests and transition. We believe that the initial steps taken in the transition process has provided a window of opportunity to implement this action, however, recognizing that this is a tumultuous time, the implementation team will continuously monitor the situation to ensure the continued safety and security of staff and participants.

**Activities**

The action will deploy three complementary activity streams, each contributing towards one specific objective.

- **Activity Stream 1** will strengthen the skills and confidence of diverse women and youth and reach harder-to-access vulnerable women and youth as well.
- **Activity Stream 2** will seek to give women and youth a chance to reduce their vulnerability to abuses and to forge a path to greater social inclusion that will open the door to their participation in reconciliation and peace efforts.
- **Activity Stream 3** will provide opportunities for targeted youth and women to practice their newly acquired skills and continue to demonstrate the value of their contributions to the whole community.

Unless otherwise stated in the description of the activities below, activities will be conducted across (or bring participants from) 7 communities among the 4 pre-selected localities of Alreif-Alshargi (Kiga Temir, Al-Rosiris, Saori, Aleifeen) and Kadugli (Tilo) in South Kordofan, and Damazeen and Bao in Blue Nile.
Annex II – Survey Tools

Quantitative Survey

FGDs with community members

KIIIs with Community Leaders

KIIIs with Implementing Staffs

KIIIs with Social Influencers

Trained Radio Producers Survey

Annex III – Evaluation’s Terms of Reference