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Dar Al-Salam Association for Women's Development - North Darfur



The Dar Al-Salam Association for Women's Development is part of a network of 13 women's associations in different rural areas of Darfur. It organizes workshops for leaders of the civil administration and members of the People's Committees. These workshops improve communication and encourage the sharing of good practices in the various regions. It also protects the members against assault and robbery through their active mobile phone network.

In 2013, there was an influx of displaced people who settled in Dar-Al-Salam County in North Darfur. There followed an increase in violent clashes in the neighbourhood and it soon became apparent that many of the displaced persons were in fact armed fighters. They claimed that they were the only reason that resources were being allocated to Dar-Al-Salam. They further

argued that if they were not accepted, Dar-Al-Salam would no longer receive any aid. This position caused tension and conflict between the residents and the refugees.

The Dar Al Salam Association for Women's Development organized a training project targeting 200 women, 100 from each group (villagers and refugees). They divided the trainees into groups to learn skills in the small scale manufacturing of various utensils and they also organized literacy classes and training on health and religion. Gradually, the trainers moved to a position where the workshops consisted of a mix of residents and displaced women in the same group. Good relations developed and women from different groups started to visit each other.

The instructors of the Dar Al-Salam association facilitated the discussion of problems raised by those within the different groups; for example some women spoke about the shortage of water and the deterioration of wells. The Dar Al-Salam Association made contact with UNAMID (the UN/African peace keeping forces) to find a solution for this specific issue. The Dar Al-Salam Association formed a committee for social peace and mediation in 2015, composed of 50 women and 50 men. The mission of this committee was to solve problems arising from the group discussions, and to do what was necessary to prevent them from escalating.

The Association replicated the program in neighbouring villages. They started to ask for contributions from the participants and members (11 Sudanese pounds per person) for a special transport fund. The fund can be used to pay for transportation and food for the organizers, when moving from one village to another, thus spreading the program over as large an area as possible.