

Mahasin Ali Abdelgadir

Al Ruhah Foundation for Development
Nyala, South Darfur



Al-Ruhal established centres for women, housing them in facilities made from local material. Women from different tribes now co-operate, working in harmony together at various crafts in the centres. Al-Rahul was the first organisation to bring women together from different tribes in the region. The first centre, which included a kindergarten, was funded by a Turkish organization and UNAMID. After that, Al-Rahul established another centre especially for a nomad group in Domaya (a suburb town of Nyala). The team started establishing and encouraging reconciliation committees led by *sheikhat* (women rulers of tribes) from different tribes. The centre at Domaya was also funded by UNAMID and serves 300 women from different tribes, who work together on crafts and other types of work that can provide them with an income. The mayor of Nyala then funded five more temporary centres in Domaya, a locality extending to Nyala. Later on, these temporary buildings were replaced by brick buildings and serve women from 28 villages around Nyala.

The centres were very active in the Abu-Ajura reconciliation and the strenuous efforts made by the meetings of Al-Rahul for reconciliation and mediation resulted in the successful reconciliation of a lady with her family. She returned to her husband and children after a dispute that lasted for eight years, during which time she had been separated from her family. Based on that experience, the Al-Rahul team took the initiative in an attempt at reconciliation between two tribes, the Al-Mahadi (nomads) and the Al-Four (settlers). The meetings included representatives of local groups and government representatives, and they resulted in a solution to disputes, so that the Al-Mahdi and Al-Four tribes are now living in peace. *Al-Ruhal* means “nomads”, for that reason the organization has been described by many as a foundation that can be trusted to intervene on behalf of nomads.

An American organization called DDR supported Ayah, which is a partner organisation of Al-Ruhal. They acknowledged that the Abu-Ajura reconciliation is an effective methodology for civil society organizations to use when reconciling disputing parties. At this moment, the Al-Rahul organization is regularly called on to join conciliation committees involved in solving disputes.