

Riaheen Elsalam for Maternity and Childhood Organization (REMCO) - South Darfur

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The foundation Riaheen Elsalam (REMCO) was established in 2005 to provide educational opportunities, health care for mothers and children and to enable women to make a livelihood. It benefited mainly from international organizations helping Darfur and this year, the name and logo of the organization changed from “Maternity and Childhood Organisation” into “Relief and Mediation Force”.

REMCO became known because of a project called Synergy, a saving scheme providing funds to encourage reconciliation and

cohesion in the community. Groups of beneficiaries were formed to give training in saving money for emergencies. The project was extended to eight areas, where more than 200 saving groups were formed, most of them composed of more than one different tribe. We provided saving boxes, each box containing starting capital and provided with three locks. The beneficiaries opened these boxes at the beginning of the rainy season and then each participant would have a reasonable amount of money, (even after discounting what the savers put in), to be used for agricultural projects. This valuable project proved that people who save money together can live in harmony and benefit from an increase in mutual collaboration and interdependence. REMCO still wants to extend the project and is looking for funds to pay for the boxes, the locks, the books, the calculators, papers, stationary and especially the cost of workshops and transport for monitoring.

After the outbreak of the war between the Fallata and the Salamat tribes in the area of El-Nadief, REMCO participated in the mediation intervention made by the Women’s Alliance for Peace in Darfur. In the meetings held with the women and local leaders, it was confirmed that in the past the land had been inhabited by other tribes like Bargo Alsaliahab, who were now refugees. This tribe had gardens and farms in the region and were known as messengers of peace and not inclined to make problems. For this reason, it was proposed that they return to the area.

The team of REMCO collected more information, contacted the Bargo Saliahab and held meetings with them in Daien of East Darfur, in Assalam IDP camp and in the camp of Gereida. Then they contacted the mayors and thereafter convinced the Bargo Saliahab to return to their villages. The team went to the Nazir (head of the native administration) of the Habania tribe, who assured them that the existence of Bargo Saliahab in the region had been important to local development because of their involvement in agriculture in the El-Nadief area, and he saw their return as a positive move for the region economically.



The team contacted the local government and the Executive Director of the area and they too confirmed the need for the return of the Bargo Saliahab. Consequently, there are now 186 families from Bargo Saliahab who are ready to return to their area in the locality of El-Nadief. These families are only waiting for a signal from the government and from the organization REMCO to return home. REMCO is now working hard on the on renting vehicles, arranging shelter and gathering materials and food while the homes of the Bargo Saliahab homes are being rebuilt.