

DJAM GENDER SPECIFIC STATE CONSULTATION VERIFICATION

As a follow-up to the NIFM gender specific meeting in Khartoum held in September, a gender-specific meeting determined the gender priorities as expressed by female Darfuri during the State consultative workshop process. Generally, women raised concerns that the DDPD is not wholly gender-inclusive, and felt there was a need for more attention to the topics they raised.

1.1. Governance, Peace and Security and Rule of Law

The majority of women reiterated that security provision is the absolute priority. Noting that the first prerequisite is security and subsequent enhanced access to education, health, justice and economic development can only come after a safer environment is created. The participants expressed that they don't currently feel safe moving between locations.

One of the priorities women listed under rule of law was the need for renewed legislation and laws to reflect women's needs and rights. Specifically, it was mentioned that women should always have access to justice, to both the traditional justice system and the formal justice system. It was emphasised that sometimes women feel unfairly treated due to the traditional justice system where women are marginalised. Moreover, without adequate rules and standards to determine the process of cases being transferred between the Native Administration and formal judicial system, there is a risk that this empowering native administration could negatively affect women's access to justice.

Additional priorities:

- Increased women's involvement in the various DDPD Commissions; the DDPD should have articulated clear quotas on how many women are part of the Commissions;
- Increased women representatives in the police, judiciary and native administration;
- Codes to be revised to ensure that all people can have access to both the traditional and the formal justice system;
- Separation between adults and children in prisons;
- Need civilian disarmament, labour and work opportunities for ex-combatants; and
- Women to be trained and play a role in conflict resolution.

1.2. Health

- Establishment of mother and childcare hospitals at State and Locality levels;
- Need for individual compensation and psycho-social support for rape victims; need an improved system to deal with community consequences of rape and resultant stigma;
- Midwives should be trained and be available in every community;
- Awareness-raising on HIV/AIDS is needed;
- Need for developmental centre for psycho-social counselling and support; and
- Need for health and education services in prisons.

1.3. Education

- Better access to education for women and girls; allocation of State budget to specifically women's education projects;
- Need to review policy on women's access to education; and

- Need for awareness-raising on girls education; for women to know about their right to education.

1.4. Livelihoods

- Better access to micro-credit for women;
- Equal job opportunities for women, including enhanced technical training;
- Training for women on conflict resolution;
- Provision of agricultural tools and equipment for women;
- Need for centre for street children, orphans and widows; and
- Need for localities to be linked with roads and better access to Khartoum.

1.5. Media and Culture

During the DJAM workshops, media was highlighted as a mechanism that could play a vital role in the process of recovery and peace building, in parallel with promotion of the culture and history of Darfur.

1.5.1. Media

- Utilisation of radio as an educational tool for broad ranging information-sharing regarding:
 - o Peace-building and awareness of the DDPD;
 - o Progress of the DRRDS and significant milestones both achieved and on the horizon;
 - o Agricultural and livelihoods-focused information, including market prices to help producers get fair value; extension services and planting advice, seed availability; stock routes conditions.
 - o Health promotion: information regarding importance of vaccinations and nutrition; hygiene messaging and water treatment methodologies;
 - o Environment and conservation: impact of deforestation, overgrazing and over-cultivation; importance of using environmentally-sensitive building technologies;
- Expanding mobile phone coverage and utility to increase messaging on above topics, and possibility of providing community radios to encourage a broad audience; and
- Engaging the private sector in expanded media development, including TV, radio, newspaper and internet services. Suggestion that Khartoum-based enterprises can establish satellite offices in the Darfur region.

1.5.2. Culture

Culture was highlighted as a tool for peace-building, and the above-referenced media outlets could play a role in disseminating culture-focused information. It was suggested that culture centres be established in all state capitals, in tandem with a promotion of indigenous cinema and theatre and mobile cinema to reach rural areas. Training in arts and culture to preserve and sustain traditional culture was also emphasised.

1.6. Youth and Sports

Given the fact that many displaced and conflict-affected youth have not experienced traditional livelihoods and lack appropriate vocational training, sports were highlighted as useful tool for

engaging them productively. DJAM participants referenced the improved mental and physical health that results from engagement in sports, in addition to enhanced capacities in teamwork and coordination. Sports were seen as a vital tool for reintegration of ex-combatants.

DJAM participants suggested that Olympic-oriented facilities be established to engage youth, and that public spaces and community centres should be designed and provisioned with sports fields/facilities, and existing sports facilities rehabilitated.

It was suggested that the DRA expand cooperation with the five Darfur offices of the Ministry of Youth and Sports.