



CARE Every Voice Counts Program Quarterly Report – 2nd Quarter

Period Covered: 1 April to 30 June 2017

COUNTRY: SUDAN

Executive Summary:

CARE Sudan with partner National NGOs Great Family Organization – (GFO), Global Aid Hand (GAH), AlSawahda AlKhadra Organization (AAO) and State Ministry of Social Affairs (SMoA) and other government sector ministries, community structures and with support from CARE Nederland have made significant progress in pushing forward the planned EVC project objectives and activities in the past quarter.

The main achievements include conducting re-alignment workshop which gave more ground and momentum to the project, assignment of the Country Office Program Quality Team Coordinator to lead the project, placement of project manager in the field, engaging eight seconded staff from line ministries, and startup of project activities in South Darfur. The visit and support from CARE Nederland, Cornelia from 9 to 19 April 2017, was also timely and motivated the intensive implementation of the project. The main challenge faced were the effect of staff turnover from the previous quarter and starting activities in South Darfur. Both are solved in the reporting quarter. Furthermore, changing one of the challenging operational area, Gereida, which has been pending for more than a year is resolved and strategically important area Bielel was selected by active participation of stakeholders.

Activity Update

1. **Based on your Annual Plan for 2017 (Year 2), please describe the key activities implemented and key outputs/outcomes achieved per Domain of Change during the reporting period (1 April 2017– 30 June 2017).** Please report activities and outputs only once and do not repeat them in other domains.

NOTE: Please also describe and report on *key outputs* and *outcomes* in **your MEL Plan** that were not captured in the table below.



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Main Activities per Domain of Change	Key Outputs / Outcomes	
	Capacity Building	Lobby and Advocacy
<p>Domain 1:</p> <p>Main Activities:</p> <p>1. Awareness raising about EVC in particular about women's and youth rights and responsibilities</p>	<p>CARE EVC team, partner staff and ministries representatives conducted field visits to South Darfur Kass and Bielel operational sites and most community leaders and community members were familiarized to the project objectives, introducing new staff members and explaining the kind of support the project needs from Community Leaders and other stakeholders. An awareness session conducted in each of Bulbul, Gemiza-lagaro, Singitta, and Khirwa villages in Kass locality. The awareness sessions were complemented with four discussions between women, youth and community leaders about lack of participation and involvement of youth and women in decision making processes. Both the awareness sessions and discussions took place between 10th and 14th of May 2017</p> <p>In East Darfur, sessions on the importance of women's participation in decision making processes in six communities were held: Algalabi, Um Labanaia, Malie, Eshairaya, Sherya and Khazan Jadid. 20 Imams (religious leaders), 20 local leaders and 12 CBTs were reached through these sessions.</p>	<p>EVC objectives are gaining increasing acceptance and support at both community and locality level, as more contacts with key stakeholders are created. The importance of human capital development and the recognition that the participation of everyone matters in community development is getting reception. The youth, women and people that are internally displaced and reside with the host communities are now starting to attend meetings, mainly in East Darfur where EVC has been more active in the past quarters than in South Darfur.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ZERO women/peer/youth groups have established communication channels with local/provincial/national CSOs. 2. ZERO initiatives were undertaken to engage men and boys. 3. No men were identified as potential role models/advocates during reporting period.



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<p>12 VDCs and Village council members and community based trainers trained on planning, leadership, negotiations, representation, public speaking, access to information, accountability, transparency and institutionalization</p>	<p>CBT training was conducted for 12 trainers (6 female and 6 male) in South Darfur, Kass, from 14 to 17 June 2017 by the EVC team, national partner Great Family Organization (GFO) and seconded government staff from the MoSA. The CBTs were selected by the communities of six villages. The selection process included interviews as well as written exam while in the community. This was a very good lesson for all as it was a transparent and participatory process where community leaders also took part.</p> <p>The same CBT training was conducted for 12 trainers (6 female and 6 male) in East Darfur – from 21 to 24 June 2017 by the EVC team, national partner Alsawaid Alkhadra Organization (AAO) and seconded government staff from the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA).</p> <p>The training was designed to help the CBTs learn how to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Manage, report on and document the highlights of community meetings.- Facilitate discussions at their respective communities- Mobilize community members	
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<p>Group organisation and community structures</p>	<p>SIX women/youth groups and six Village Development Committees (VDCs) were established in Gaza, Hashaba, Kharwa, Bronga, Tabafito and Singitta in Kass locality, South Darfur.</p> <p>6 new VSLAs were established in Gemiza-lagaro, Hashaba, Khirwa, Bronga, Tabafito and Singitta in Kass locality in South Darfur. The total number of women in the groups is 60. 3 Youth committees were formed in Hashaba, Khirwa and Bronga. Each of the committee has 9 members, 4 of which are women.</p> <p>Links are being made between the VDCs in East Darfur and South Darfur. However, this is still in initial stages at the moment. Further concrete information will be available next report.</p>	
<p>Domain 2</p> <p>A.2.2.1 Organize monthly meetings with partners to discuss progress and challenges and define required actions</p> <p>A.2.3.1. Organize dialogue training for 10 NGOs partners staff (1 training for both SD and ED)</p> <p>A 2.5.1 Organize 2 trainings for VDCs and popular committees members, and village councils</p>	<p>All activities for 2.2.1, 2.3.1 and 2.5.1 started in July 2017. There were delays in their implementation in South Darfur due to issues with the signing of the Technical Agreement with the government, and subsequent delays in signing partner agreements. However, actions have been achieved with regards to 2.5.2.</p> <p>A national consultant was recruited and initial assessment was conducted on key aspects of exclusion of youth and women and policy gaps. Although more work needs to be done to better unpack this issue as project implementation continues, important insights were obtained from this</p>	



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<p>members on CSC methodology</p> <p>A 2.5.2. Identify issues to be discussed in the CSC process</p>	<p>assessment to build the capacity of the change agents of the project agenda. The report raised the following key issues: 1. The participation of women and men in formal and informal decision-making structures varies between the two targeted States, with especially low numbers in East Darfur, which is considered as a new state and the institutions are not well established yet, but in general there is a gender bias. 2. Institutional as well as cultural, economic and societal factors limit women’s opportunities and abilities to participate in decision-making. 3. There are no national forums for discussing issues related to youth and women participation at the states and localities level.</p>	
<p>Domain 3</p> <p>Seconded staff engagement</p>	<p>MOSA was requested to assign two women and two men to support project implementation and after repeated discussion, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed and staff were assigned and trained. They currently support the implementing partners in delivering the trainings facilitation discussions and dialogue.</p>	<p>A discussion was conducted with the seconded staff so that they understand the project concept and lead the process as members of a government body. The discussion enabled the project to gain the commitment of the supervisor of the seconded staff from the ministry to support project implementation. This is like a door opener to our journey.</p>
<p>There is constructive and transparent engagement with the power-holders from the beginning of the project</p>	<p>In order to be able to influence informal power holders, such as community level actors as well as formal stakeholders such as local authorities, the basic skills required by the implementing staff was discussed, enriched and developed in a one day session on 5 June 2017 at Nyala for both States. This event targeted staff of implementing partners, the</p>	



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	CARE EVC team and staff of MoSA.	
Domain 4: Organize bi-annual learning event with key stakeholders	Agreement was reached to conduct lessons sharing conferences by the end of the year that will be showcasing evidence from the EVC program and other relevant programs from CIS and IPs to influence and advocate for increased inclusion. This line item is listed in the subcontract agreement signed by the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC). No actual learning event has taken place yet.	

2. Please describe key lessons learnt regarding the implementation of activities described in item 1.

Lessons learned should be based on an analysis of the context, challenges, and correctives measures taken.

<i>Reflection on context/challenges/corrective measures taken</i>	<i>If you have to do Q 2 implementation again in another inclusive governance program, what would you change in your interventions?</i>	<i>What would you do the same? And are the interventions worth replicating elsewhere?</i>
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<p>Challenge: Report produced on Exclusion of youth and Women study was low quality despite the detailed field assessment done.</p> <p>Corrective measure: Repeated feedback and support to reflect their field observation which helped improvement of the report.</p>	<p>Having one person as Community Based Trainer per village gives less chance to promote gender equality and inclusion efforts. If we have at least two, we can mix youth female, youth male, or a woman and a man.</p>	<p>The identification of Community Based Trainers (CBTs) is one of the good lessons in this quarter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing clear criteria and getting the views of youth, women and leaders on the qualities/selection process of a CBT or on what is critical both on the criteria and the identified trainers - Having one woman and a man per village is an innovative approach and reflects commitment to gender equality
<p>Challenge: The officer in East Darfur and the PM in Khartoum left CARE at critical times around mid-quarter I period which challenged the follow up and reporting through Q II.</p> <p>Corrective measures: Through frequent discussions with CARE NLD and several efforts by CARE Sudan, a new officer was recruited to East Darfur and he has received appropriate orientation at Khartoum office and in the field. David Hampson, Advisor of South Kordofan Consortium, was assigned to lead the project from February 2017 and then the Program Quality Coordinator, Moges, was tasked to lead the project until the new PM was recruited.</p>		<p>The CBT Training package was developed for partner staff and successfully cascaded down to the CBTs. A one day session was carried out including all partners and the documents were enriched and process of translation into Arabic will begin soon. The CBTs have now something concrete in their hands to refer to and use.</p>



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<p><u>Challenge:</u> Absence of reporting format and low reporting capacity by the field staff and national partners</p> <p><u>Corrective measures:</u> Simple formats were produced, enriched and then a half day orientation provided to all staff on these forms. The formats are simple so that when a discussion session is conducted important issues are captured, such as age and sex disaggregated participants list, key points discussed, interesting quotes, challenging questions and youth, women and men's views.</p>		
<p><u>Challenge:</u> Some project areas don't have other projects to complement with this project, which would have helped to link with hardware activities that community leaders and local authorities usually request.</p> <p><u>Corrective measures:</u> Efforts are being made for incoming projects to be aligned with EVC while some budget is planned to be requested for unreached areas.</p>		



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<p><u>Challenge:</u> High expectations by Ministry of Social Affairs on EVC outputs.</p> <p><u>Corrective measures:</u> Open discussions were held during the process of signing the project Technical Agreement and MoU. Involving SMOA staff in monitoring activities gives them an opportunity to better understand the project.</p>		
<p><u>Challenge:</u> Some of the activities are planned to take place during the rainy season. Most of the community members leave their villages for farming activities during the beginning of this season, which makes it difficult to conduct the planned sessions</p> <p><u>Corrective measures:</u> Rescheduling of some of the activities.</p>		

Lessons:

Drafting important topical training and skills-building packages to implementing partners, community facilitators and others is critical to ensuring proper and consistent implementation of project planned activities. Once important gaps are identified to enhance inclusion of the youth and women in decision making, creating the required skills and capacity should immediately follow. This is not to mean nothing was done in this regard but all of these should be formally established and familiarized to all levels of staff. The training packages and formats were put to use as of June 2017. They will be reviewed in September 2017. The package and format will be adjusted based on the feedback of the users and analysis of information collected.

For maximum participation of local communities and better impact on local governance systems, norms and values, a thorough analysis of context has to be done with female and male youth, women, men, religious and traditional leaders, in addition to different ministerial offices and NGOs. The one day focus



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group discussion and community visit in April 2017 to East Darfur has proved that there are a lot of unknowns behind activities’ successes or failures. The exercise has identified that there are hundreds of families who are internally displaced and settled in the localities where EVC works but never take part and benefit in any community activities. The priorities and needs obtained from different groups have also indicated other wider but unseen issues that are being incorporated into the project implementation.

3. Please describe key highlights of trainings conducted by The Hague Academy. What are the key issues/concerns raised and agreed action points/follow-up?

No training in this quarter. The following is a reflection from the last quarter training.

While the training was much appreciated as it was reported in the last quarter report, the main concern is implementation of learnings and knowledge gained. A strategy needed to be established is how to link class work with field testing and action plans are developed for participants to engage in the practical work. Otherwise, people will forget what they have gained and they may also change their job before transferring to their own colleagues.

4. Please describe activities implemented in relation to the Capacity Strengthening Plan agreed during the ACAT workshop(s) held in Y1 with CARE staff and with partners

<i>Priority Area and agreed Actions (short and long-term)</i>	<i>Activities Implemented related to the agreed actions</i>	<i>Reasons why Actions were NOT YET implemented</i>
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<p>Realignment workshop conducted at East Darfur, Ed Deian from 15 to 17 April 2017 (Facilitators: Cornelia from CARE NL; Emad from the national NGO GFO, David, Sara, Abdelwahab and Moges from CARE Sudan)</p>	<p>19 participants from CARE Netherlands, CARE Sudan and National partners attended the workshop. The main topics covered during the workshop were: EVC Theory of Change (ToC), Challenges and Lessons Learned from the past 15 months, Year 2 plan and complementarity between EVC and other CARE projects in East and South Darfur.</p> <p>The objectives were: Develop a workable state-based intervention for ED and SD which takes into account the felt needs of beneficiaries and the opportunities/constraints of EVC program and other programs with hardware components (we would look for the overlap of the three)</p> <p>The workshop was successful as it allowed to discuss challenges and seek solutions from the past months effort; the field community discussion sessions helped to see who are excluded, and the views of women, youth, men and leaders. The project will make sure these outputs are used in the subsequent planning and implementation stages.</p>	
<p>Implementing staff - NNGOs, CARE, government staff meetings and workshops</p>	<p>A two day meeting was held in East and South Darfur to discuss and finalize the recently developed training models and monitoring formats. It has been agreed that CARE, seconded staff of MoSA and the implementing partners will have monthly coordination meetings to review the work done and plan for the next month.</p>	



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5. Meetings with Dutch Embassy (please attach notes of meeting, if you have them): Please describe agenda of meeting, discussions points and agreements / action points made, if any.

Cornelia de Winter from CNL met René Kersten from the Dutch Embassy in Khartoum during her monitoring visit in Mid-April 2017. The meeting's main purpose was to get to know each other since there has been turnover at the Embassy, and explain about CARE Nederland, CARE program priorities for Sudan in general and EVC in particular. The action points coming out of the meeting has been to arrange for a follow up meeting with the Sudan desk at the MFA in The Hague, which took place in May 2017, and to share the Value Chain study coming out of the Resilience in the Horn project.